



Philosophy and Best Practices for Academic Advisors

Degree Planner (DP) is a tool shared by students and academic advisors for creating and managing academic plans, monitoring progress towards graduation, and facilitating more productive advising meetings.

As stated in the College Catalog, “the student has a personal responsibility for ensuring that all graduation standards and requirements will be met during their program of study.” Consequently, **students are the primary authors of their degree plans**, which includes building and updating their plans on a regular basis (e.g., in preparation for semesterly advising meetings).

Academic advisors serve in an editorial capacity by assisting students in refining their degree plan and guiding them in the decision-making process. DP does not replace the advising relationship because only advisors can:

- Offer suggestions based on the student’s academic background, interests, and educational and career goals
- Provide insight about future course offerings and opportunities that are outside the program’s published requirements and guidelines

In the context of course registration advising, plans may be approved on a semester-by-semester basis. However, **it is recommended that plans be reviewed and revised (if necessary) for the subsequent 2 years (4 semesters)** to align with and support academic departments’ planning for the Schedule of Classes.

DP (and Spartan Success Network more broadly) is the preferred “home” of academic advising documentation because it ensures that such information is accessible by multiple stakeholders who may support the student in a consistent, appropriate manner.