### Your First Semester At BGSU
- Schedule and attend your Mandatory Advising appointment with your Academic Advisor. All first-year students must meet with their Academic Advisor before they can schedule classes for spring semester.
- Learn how to run and track your Degree Audit Report (DARS). DARS is a computer-generated report that tracks your various graduation requirements. DARS reviews all BG Perspective, major, minor, and university-wide requirements.
- Check your mid-term grades and make sure you are on track for academic success. If you are struggling academically, think about scheduling an appointment for tutoring at the Learning Commons in the Jerome Library.
- Solidify your choice of major or ask your advisor about exploring other major options.
- Begin refining a four-year graduation plan and mapping out a long-range outline of classes and experiences. Discuss experiential learning opportunities with your advisor (undergraduate research, civic and community engagement, internships, and study abroad).
- Explore extra-curricular activities, clubs, intramural sports, and think about joining a student organization.

### Your Second Semester At BGSU
- Check your GPA from Fall Semester and discuss any concerns with your Academic Advisor.
- Schedule and attend your Mandatory Advising appointment with your Academic Advisor and begin planning your classes for fall semester.
- Review your DARS and make sure you are on track with your general education and degree requirements.
- Explore extra-curricular activities, clubs, intramural sports, and think about joining a student organization.
- Begin planning for summer if you need to take any summer classes to stay on track towards graduation or get ahead.
**Advisor Responsibilities – What You Can Expect**

- As an advisee, you can expect your advisor to:
  - Understand and communicate the curriculum, graduation requirements, and university and policies and procedures.
  - Support you as you gain the skills to develop clear and attainable educational plans.
  - Assist you in determining higher education and personal goals.
  - Be accessible for advising via office hours, telephone, e-mail, or web access.
  - Assist you in decision making skills for your educational plans and achievements.
  - Maintain confidentiality.
  - Stay in touch with your advisor each semester.
  - Be prepared for each appointment.
  - Engage fully in the advising experience.
  - Keep a personal record of your progress towards your goals.
  - Become knowledgeable about college programs, policies, and procedures.
  - Become your own self-advocate.
  - Invest completely and accept responsibility in the educational process.

**The Role of Advising**

Effective advising fosters critical thinking and informed decision making which supports meaningful living in a global society. Like teaching, advising is a learning-centered process that challenges the student to:

- clarify attainable goals,
- create effective strategies to realize personal, academic, and career expectations,
- foster independence and accountability that results from accessing and utilizing accurate information.

(Adapted from National Association for Academic Advising (NACADA) resources)

**Expected Student Learning Outcomes for the Academic Advising Experience**

Through the academic advising experiences at Bowling Green State University,

- Students will demonstrate the ability to make independent and effective decisions concerning their degree and career goals.
- Students will take ownership to develop an educational plan for successfully achieving their goals and select courses each semester to progress toward fulfilling that educational plan.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the value of the general education requirements.
- Students will utilize the resources and services on campus to assist them in achieving their academic, personal, and career goals.
- Students will make use of referrals to campus resources as needed.
- Students will be able to accurately read and effectively utilize DARS Report, a degree audit, in their educational planning.
- Students will graduate in a timely manner based on their educational plan.