Undergraduate Advising and Research

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Undergraduate Advising and Research upholds the mission, standards, and requirements of the University, introduces students to the full intellectual richness of undergraduate study at Stanford, supports students in their academic and intellectual pursuits, and instills within them a sense of identity within and belonging to our community of scholars at Stanford. UAR is responsible for facilitating new students’ transition to Stanford, academic advising, academic policy and progress, and undergraduate research opportunities.

Transitioning New Students

UAR is responsible for the Approaching Stanford program, which guides new students through the process of coming to Stanford from their admission to the University until the first day of class. This process culminates in New Student Orientation which is required for all new freshmen and transfer students. See the Approaching Stanford (https://approaching.stanford.edu) web site for additional information.

Advising

UAR pairs each freshman with two advisers: a pre-major adviser and a UAR academic advising director. Freshmen are matched with their pre-major advisers (faculty and academic staff) according to their preliminary academic interests and residence. Pre-major advisers are well suited to help students understand the University and are the first of many mentors students find at Stanford. The UAR academic advising directors in the undergraduate residences complement the role of the assigned pre-major advisers with a comprehensive understanding of the curriculum. They advise students broadly on their courses of study and long-term goals and can answer questions about academic policy. The UAR advising staff also includes professional advisers in Sweet Hall who specialize in research, fellowships, and pre-professional and coterminal advising, as well as advisers in the Athletics Academic Resource Center (https://undergrad.stanford.edu/advising/about-advising/advising-student-athletes) (AARC), who support varsity athletes.

See the Advising web site (https://undergrad.stanford.edu/advising/) for more information about academic advising, programming, and support for undergraduates.

Academic Policy

UAR oversees the implementation of University academic policies, including petitions for exceptions to academic policy and monitoring students’ academic progress. There are professional advisers in Sweet Hall who specialize in supporting students who are on academic probation, provisional registration, or suspension. For more information about academic policies that UAR advisers and academic advising directors help students navigate, see the Academic Policies (https://undergrad.stanford.edu/planning/academic-policies) web site.

Undergraduate Research and Fellowships

UAR encourages undergraduates to work with faculty on independent projects in research, the arts, and senior synthesis. UAR facilitates these close relationships by providing advising and funding to undergraduates across all disciplines and at all stages of developing an idea into a research project. See the Research and Independent Projects (https://undergradresearch.stanford.edu) web site for more information. For current deadlines, grant types, and program details, see the Student Grants (https://studentgrants.stanford.edu) page. Faculty or departments interested in applying for funding to support undergraduates in their working groups can learn more on the For Faculty (https://undergrad.stanford.edu/opportunities/research/faculty) page.

Together with advisers at the Overseas Resource Center (http://stanford.edu/dept/icenter/orc) and the Haas Center for Public Service (http://haas.stanford.edu), UAR advisers help prepare students to compete for nationally competitive fellowships. UAR also administers the campus nomination process for several U.S.-based fellowships. See the Fellowships (https://undergrad.stanford.edu/opportunities-research/fellowships) web site for more information on fellowship opportunities.

UAR offers workshops and individual consultations on planning for graduate or professional studies (e.g., business, education, law, and medicine) and on general application procedures, including how to write personal statements, how to solicit letters of recommendation, and how to prepare for interviews. See the Planning for Graduate and Professional School (https://undergrad.stanford.edu/opportunities-research/steps-planning-graduate-and-professional-school) web site for more information.

Courses

UAR 10. Intellectual Journeys. 1 Unit.
Stanford speakers share their research as well as their intellectual and life paths, including how they chose their undergraduate major, how they found mentors, and what their field offers undergraduates.

UAR 42A. LSP First Year Seminar. 1 Unit.
For freshmen who participated in the Leland Scholars Program. This seminar supports LSP students in the first year in the areas of institutional engagement, academic empowerment, their sense of belonging to Stanford, and builds their cohort identity.

UAR 42B. LSP First Year Seminar B. 1 Unit.
For freshmen who participated in the Leland Scholars Program. This seminar supports LSP students in the first year in the areas of institutional engagement, academic empowerment, their sense of belonging to Stanford, and builds their cohort identity.

UAR 46. Challenges Facing First-Gen Students In Their Transition To College. 2 Units.
This course will focus on the multiple perspectives relating to why women and first generation students experience challenges to successfully navigating paths in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) professions and majors. Students will explore how such constructs as power, privilege, and identity play a role in their academic and future careers. Connections to theoretical works of stereotype threat, cultural capital, and belonging will also be emphasized. Throughout the course, students will learn and enhance foundational skills aimed at supporting their trajectory in STEM majors and ultimately, STEM careers.

UAR 56. Building a Successful Academic Career. 1 Unit.
For freshmen in expanded advising programs. Techniques for honing academic skills for college, and applying those skills to better define intellectual identity in academic pursuits. May be repeated for credit.
UAR 60. Engaging, Exploring, and Reflecting on Alumni Career Worlds. 1 Unit.
This course helps students access and navigate the professional world with tools such as e-Portfolios, Strengths Quest, and alumni shadow visits. Assignments and discussions will encourage deep reflection on the values, philosophies, and backgrounds that can help shape each student’s long term goals.