Every department coordinates advising of its honors students through the Honors College.

Every student should meet with an advisor to plan a program of study. This meeting should cover the following:

- Review of requirements for the degree and major the student has chosen.
- Review of the student’s record including any deficiencies which must be corrected.
- Discuss career or graduate study options open to the student enrolled in such a program.
- Assess the student’s suitability to major in the chosen discipline.

Students changing majors are encouraged to meet with an advisor in the new major. They may change majors by filing a Change/Declaration of Academic Program Form available from the Office of the University Registrar. These are minimal advising procedures to be followed in all undergraduate segments of the university; individual units may require additional advising sessions.

**Student Academic Affairs – Advising, Retention, and Transitions (StAAART)**

**Web:** caart.gmu.edu (https://caart.gmu.edu)

StAAART supports students to thrive in transitions. The unit provides students with the tools and guidance to help them achieve their academic and personal goals. StAAART contributes to student success and degree completion by teaching, supporting, and connecting students to curricular and co-curricular experiences relevant to becoming an exemplary Mason Graduate: an engaged, reflective citizen and well-rounded scholar who is prepared to act.

We value each student as a distinct individual. Our interactions are guided by an understanding of college student development, campus resources, and are designed to support student learning. We focus on students’ academic engagement and performance, well-being, and interpersonal connections. Our collaborations are characterized by a comprehensive commitment to student success.

StAAART collaborates widely with campus colleagues to promote successful student transitions. Through our work we provide effective academic and transition advising, offer transition courses, develop student leaders, design and implement retention initiatives, identify and solve problems, improve communication, and influence policies related to academic success and degree completion.

Center for Academic Advising, Retention, and Transitions (CAART)

Academic Advising
CAART staff members assist students making the transition to Mason, including advising those who have not yet declared a major or are exploring or changing a major as well as those terminated from their academic program. Students are encouraged to make an appointment for information about Mason Core requirements, programs, policies, procedures, and other academic concerns. Advising is available by appointment; consult the website (https://advising.gmu.edu) for hours of operation. The Center also processes student appeals for undergraduate undeclared (exploratory) and non-degree students. http://advising.gmu.edu/current-student/student-appeals/.

Health Professions Advising
Web: prehealth.gmu.edu (http://prehealth.gmu.edu)
Health Professions Advising is committed to collaborating with campus colleagues to assist degree-seeking students achieve success in their pursuit to postgraduate work in a medical field (allopathic and osteopathic medicine, dentistry, optometry, physician assistant, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and veterinary medicine). The Health Professions Advising Coordinator provides information and tools which will help pre-health students achieve success in the application process to a professional school.

Retention and Student Success
Web: retention.gmu.edu (http://retention.gmu.edu)
Retention and Student Success provides leadership on planning and implementing campus-wide retention and degree-completion efforts in collaboration with academic colleges, the Division of University Life, and other campus stakeholders. Together with academic advisors, faculty, and staff, we aim to identify challenges to students’ success and provide resources and support to ensure a more seamless path to degree completion. Specifically, the Retention and Student Success team manages key retention and advising technologies and supports academic units in leveraging these systems to support retention and degree-completion goals. Retention and Student Success also engages in research, direct outreach to students at risk for leaving the university, assessment of student success initiatives, and provides support in assessing academic advising and professional development among academic advisors campus-wide.

Transitions - UNIV Courses and Programs
Web: transitions.gmu.edu (http://transitions.gmu.edu)
The Transitions functions within CAART include academic UNIV courses, student leadership development, and Project Peak (an outdoor extended orientation program for new students). UNIV Courses and Programs’ mission is to assist and mobilize students to craft a successful college experience and prepare for their future. Our courses serve all undergraduate students as they transition into college, determine their major/solidify their career path, become strong scholars and student leaders, and prepare for life after college. The curriculum in the first year is supported by Peer Advisors who co-teach UNIV 100 Introduction to Mason and facilitate learning experiences through Project Peak.