Advising by YOU!: Blackboard for Advising

Purpose

Blackboard is one way for advisors to have asynchronous, specific, and unique interaction with their students. It is not just a place to store information, but a dynamic, relevant site to share information with advisees. Blackboard for advisors provides consistency of information and access across campuses and advisors. The Blackboard template is consistent across the advising system to enable advisors to edit and personalize their space within agreed upon guidelines.

Students have 24/7 access to posted resources, discussion boards, and advising information. There is an ability to frequently post updated, current information and announcements. Advisors create virtual space to set up study groups and answer general advising questions. Several components of the site are the same across the WSU system to provide consistency for students when they switch advisors; however, much is customizable.

Blackboard

- Provides real time information to students in a place they are already visiting for their academic courses.
- Allows for more time during appointments for meaningful advising.
- Connects with students in an interactive manner and provide resources like TedTalks and links to other websites.
- Elevates academic advising to a "teaching and learning" opportunity.

Guidelines

- Blackboard is most useful using the three 'Cs:' Content, Consistency, Clarity
    - robust, dynamic Content keeps students engaged
    - Consistency in format helps students access and navigate any assigned advisor's site
    - Clarity of language does not target individuals and encourages professionalism
- Contact ACG Technology Sub-Committee colleagues below first, do not contact Online Registrar to create a space initially.
- Maintain the consistency of the Blackboard space by using only the modules provided. If new modules are needed, contact ACG Technology Sub-Committee first.
- Be mindful of language used in Blackboard space; because all students will be accessing the site it is impossible to tailor the conversation to individual students.
- All Blackboard communications are university communications and may be subject to FOIA inquiries and review by the State of Washington.
- Content for sharing across advisors should be sent to the ACG Technology Sub-Committee for feedback and then uploaded to the Advising Resources site.

Contacts

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