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# **NSSE 2018 Topical Module Report**

## **Academic Advising**

St. Olaf College

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## About This Topical Module

This module examines students' experiences with academic advising, including frequency, accessibility, and types of information provided. It also asks students to identify their primary source of advice. The module complements a question on the core survey about the quality of students' interactions with academic advisors. Complementary FSSE set available.

## Comparison Group

This section summarizes how this module's comparison group was identified, including selection criteria and whether the default option was taken. This is followed by the resulting list of institutions represented in the 'Advising - Carnegie' column of this report.

Group label	Advising - Carnegie
Date submitted	5/15/18
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this group by selecting institutional characteristics as follows:  Basic Classification (Bac/A&S); Sector (Priv nfp)
Group description	No description provided

## Advising - Carnegie (N=40)

Allegheny College (Meadville, PA)*	Rhodes College (Memphis, TN)*
Alma College (Alma, MI)*	Sewanee: The University of the South (Sewanee, TN)*
Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, VA)	Siena College (Loudonville, NY)
Bucknell University (Lewisburg, PA)*	Southern Virginia University (Buena Vista, VA)
Centenary College of Louisiana (Shreveport, LA)*	Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX)
Colgate University (Hamilton, NY)*	Thiel College (Greenville, PA)
College of Idaho, The (Caldwell, ID)*	Ursinus College (Collegeville, PA)
Concordia College at Moorhead (Moorhead, MN)	Wabash College (Crawfordsville, IN)
Connecticut College (New London, CT)	Warren Wilson College (Swannanoa, NC)*
Cornell College (Mount Vernon, IA)	Wofford College (Spartanburg, SC)
Davis & Elkins College (Elkins, WV)*	
Denison University (Granville, OH)*	
Doane University (Crete, NE)	
Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown, PA)*	
Franklin College (Franklin, IN)	
Furman University (Greenville, SC)	
Gettysburg College (Gettysburg, PA)*	
Grove City College (Grove City, PA)	
Hope College (Holland, MI)	
Lafayette College (Easton, PA)	
Lake Forest College (Lake Forest, IL)*	
Lewis & Clark College (Portland, OR)	
Lycoming College (Williamsport, PA)	
Lyon College (Batesville, AR)	
Millsaps College (Jackson, MS)*	
Monmouth College (Monmouth, IL)	
Moravian College (Bethlehem, PA)	
Occidental College (Los Angeles, CA)	
Pitzer College (Claremont, CA)	
Randolph-Macon College (Ashland, VA)*	

## First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				St. Olaf		Advising - Carnegie		St. Olaf	Advising - Carnegie	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>1. During the current school year, about how many times have you and an academic advisor discussed your academic interests, course selections, or academic performance?</b>										
	ADV01	0	0	5	2	119	2	<b>2.7</b>	2.9 **	-0.15
		1	1	34	10	643	12			
		2	2	124	38	1,570	30			
		3	3	102	31	1,434	27			
		4	4	38	12	743	14			
		5	5	6	2	293	6			
		6	6 or more	19	6	494	9			
			Total	328	100	5,296	100			
<b>2. During the current school year, to what extent have your academic advisors done the following?</b>										
a. Been available when needed	ADV02a	1	Very little	22	7	250	5	<b>3.0</b>	3.1 *	-0.14
		2	Some	65	20	909	17			
		3	Quite a bit	125	38	2,071	39			
		4	Very much	104	32	1,927	36			
		—	Not applicable	13	4	136	3			
			Total	329	100	5,293	100			
b. Listened closely to your concerns and questions	ADV02b	1	Very little	22	7	272	5	<b>3.0</b>	3.1	-0.11
		2	Some	61	19	923	17			
		3	Quite a bit	126	38	1,912	36			
		4	Very much	112	34	2,046	39			
		—	Not applicable	7	2	138	3			
			Total	328	100	5,291	100			
c. Informed you of important deadlines	ADV02c	1	Very little	58	18	636	12	<b>2.6</b>	2.8 **	-0.20
		2	Some	90	28	1,233	23			
		3	Quite a bit	84	26	1,736	32			
		4	Very much	83	25	1,524	29			
		—	Not applicable	12	4	165	3			
			Total	327	100	5,294	100			
d. Helped you understand academic rules and policies	ADV02d	1	Very little	60	18	620	12	<b>2.5</b>	2.8 ***	-0.26
		2	Some	98	30	1,250	24			
		3	Quite a bit	74	23	1,774	33			
		4	Very much	75	23	1,449	27			
		—	Not applicable	21	6	196	4			
			Total	328	100	5,289	100			
e. Informed you of academic support options (tutoring, study groups, help with writing, etc.)	ADV02e	1	Very little	77	23	652	13	<b>2.4</b>	2.8 ***	-0.41
		2	Some	101	31	1,224	24			
		3	Quite a bit	65	20	1,709	32			
		4	Very much	60	18	1,468	27			
		—	Not applicable	25	8	232	5			
			Total	328	100	5,285	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

## First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				St. Olaf		Advising - Carnegie		St. Olaf	Advising - Carnegie	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
f. Provided useful information about courses	ADV02f	1	Very little	47	14	540	10	<b>2.7</b>	2.9 ***	-0.23 ▽
		2	Some	88	27	1,091	21			
		3	Quite a bit	99	30	1,838	35			
		4	Very much	83	25	1,711	32			
		—	Not applicable	11	3	106	2			
		Total		328	100	5,286	100			
g. Helped you when you had academic difficulties	ADV02g	1	Very little	60	18	715	14	<b>2.5</b>	2.7 ***	-0.25 ▽
		2	Some	62	19	1,098	21			
		3	Quite a bit	72	22	1,412	27			
		4	Very much	50	15	1,291	24			
		—	Not applicable	84	26	770	15			
		Total		328	100	5,286	100			
h. Helped you get information on special opportunities (study abroad, internships, research projects, etc.)	ADV02h	1	Very little	80	24	962	18	<b>2.4</b>	2.6 **	-0.18 ▽
		2	Some	71	22	1,205	23			
		3	Quite a bit	64	20	1,280	24			
		4	Very much	58	18	1,130	21			
		—	Not applicable	55	17	703	13			
		Total		328	100	5,280	100			
i. Discussed your career interests and post-graduation plans	ADV02i	1	Very little	63	19	1,021	19	<b>2.5</b>	2.5	-0.08
		2	Some	103	32	1,413	27			
		3	Quite a bit	76	23	1,310	25			
		4	Very much	64	20	1,185	23			
		—	Not applicable	20	6	353	7			
		Total		326	100	5,282	100			
<b>3. During the current school year, how often have your academic advisors reached out to you about your academic progress or performance?</b>										
	ADV04	1	Never	141	43	1,512	29	<b>1.8</b>	2.1 ***	-0.27 ▽
	_15	2	Sometimes	121	37	2,293	43			
		3	Often	46	14	1,056	20			
		4	Very often	19	6	420	8			
		Total		327	100	5,281	100			
<b>4. During the current school year, which of the following has been your primary source of advice regarding your academic plans? (Select one.)</b>										
	ADV03	—	Academic advisor(s) assigned to you	94	29	1,967	37	<b>2.5</b>	2.5	-0.08
		—	Academic advisor(s) available to any student	13	4	251	5			
		—	Faculty or staff not formally assigned as an advisor	62	19	791	15			
		—	Online advising system (degree progress report, etc.)	16	5	91	2			
		—	Website, catalog, or other published sources	24	7	228	4			
		—	Friends or other students	57	17	847	16			
		—	Family members	52	16	869	17			
		—	Other, please specify:	3	1	105	2			
		—	I did not seek academic advice this year	7	2	131	3			
		Total		328	100	5,280	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				St. Olaf		Advising - Carnegie		St. Olaf	Advising - Carnegie	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>1. During the current school year, about how many times have you and an academic advisor discussed your academic interests, course selections, or academic performance?</b>										
	ADV01	0	0	8	3	308	6	<b>2.7</b>	3.0 ***	-0.21 ▽
		1	1	58	24	765	16			
		2	2	68	29	1,229	25			
		3	3	45	19	901	18			
		4	4	21	9	596	12			
		5	5	11	4	261	5			
		6	6 or more	28	12	978	19			
		Total		239	100	5,038	100			
<b>2. During the current school year, to what extent have your academic advisors done the following?</b>										
a. Been available when needed	ADV02a	1	Very little	14	6	256	5	<b>3.2</b>	3.2	-0.04
		2	Some	29	13	697	14			
		3	Quite a bit	90	38	1,688	34			
		4	Very much	100	41	2,292	45			
		—	Not applicable	6	2	110	2			
		Total		239	100	5,043	100			
b. Listened closely to your concerns and questions	ADV02b	1	Very little	9	4	275	5	<b>3.2</b>	3.2	-0.02
		2	Some	34	14	671	13			
		3	Quite a bit	84	35	1,536	31			
		4	Very much	102	42	2,372	46			
		—	Not applicable	10	4	184	4			
		Total		239	100	5,038	100			
c. Informed you of important deadlines	ADV02c	1	Very little	25	10	616	12	<b>2.7</b>	2.9 **	-0.21 ▽
		2	Some	78	33	1,073	21			
		3	Quite a bit	60	25	1,434	28			
		4	Very much	53	22	1,679	33			
		—	Not applicable	23	9	241	5			
		Total		239	100	5,043	100			
d. Helped you understand academic rules and policies	ADV02d	1	Very little	32	13	688	14	<b>2.6</b>	2.8 *	-0.16 ▽
		2	Some	64	27	1,111	22			
		3	Quite a bit	52	22	1,332	26			
		4	Very much	46	20	1,417	28			
		—	Not applicable	45	19	492	10			
		Total		239	100	5,040	100			
e. Informed you of academic support options (tutoring, study groups, help with writing, etc.)	ADV02e	1	Very little	37	15	940	19	<b>2.4</b>	2.5 *	-0.15 ▽
		2	Some	65	27	1,231	24			
		3	Quite a bit	41	18	1,048	21			
		4	Very much	27	12	1,100	22			
		—	Not applicable	69	28	716	14			
		Total		239	100	5,035	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				St. Olaf		Advising - Carnegie		St. Olaf	Advising - Carnegie	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
f. Provided useful information about courses	ADV02f	1	Very little	20	8	488	10	<b>2.8</b>	2.9 *	-0.15 ▽
		2	Some	63	26	987	20			
		3	Quite a bit	81	35	1,628	33			
		4	Very much	54	23	1,713	34			
		—	Not applicable	21	8	221	4			
		Total		239	100	5,037	100			
g. Helped you when you had academic difficulties	ADV02g	1	Very little	28	12	597	12	<b>2.7</b>	2.9 *	-0.19 ▽
		2	Some	42	18	849	17			
		3	Quite a bit	47	20	1,165	23			
		4	Very much	45	19	1,586	31			
		—	Not applicable	77	31	839	17			
		Total		239	100	5,036	100			
h. Helped you get information on special opportunities (study abroad, internships, research projects, etc.)	ADV02h	1	Very little	39	16	889	18	<b>2.6</b>	2.7	-0.08
		2	Some	47	20	987	20			
		3	Quite a bit	58	25	1,146	23			
		4	Very much	51	21	1,494	29			
		—	Not applicable	43	18	516	11			
		Total		238	100	5,032	100			
i. Discussed your career interests and post-graduation plans	ADV02i	1	Very little	27	11	675	13	<b>2.8</b>	2.9	-0.04
		2	Some	59	25	1,070	21			
		3	Quite a bit	68	29	1,233	24			
		4	Very much	78	33	1,900	37			
		—	Not applicable	6	3	159	3			
		Total		238	100	5,037	100			
<b>3. During the current school year, how often have your academic advisors reached out to you about your academic progress or performance?</b>										
	ADV04	1	Never	97	40	1,630	33	<b>1.8</b>	2.0 ***	-0.27 ▽
	_15	2	Sometimes	110	47	1,988	39			
		3	Often	21	9	961	19			
		4	Very often	9	4	450	9			
		Total		237	100	5,029	100			
<b>4. During the current school year, which of the following has been your primary source of advice regarding your academic plans? (Select one.)</b>										
	ADV03	—	Academic advisor(s) assigned to you	53	22	1,804	36			
		—	Academic advisor(s) available to any student	14	6	292	6			
		—	Faculty or staff not formally assigned as an advisor	72	30	1,082	21			
		—	Online advising system (degree progress report, etc.)	10	4	156	3			
		—	Website, catalog, or other published sources	16	7	194	4			
		—	Friends or other students	29	12	537	11			
		—	Family members	22	10	604	12			
		—	Other, please specify:	10	4	132	3			
		—	I did not seek academic advice this year	12	5	230	5			
		Total		238	100	5,031	100			

## First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
	St. Olaf	St. Olaf	Advising - Carnegie	St. Olaf	Advising - Carnegie	St. Olaf	Advising - Carnegie			
ADV01	328	2.69	2.91	.07	.02	1.25	1.47	375	.002	-.15
ADV02a	316	2.98	3.10	.05	.01	0.90	0.86	6,596	.017	-.14
ADV02b	321	3.02	3.12	.05	.01	0.90	0.88	6,588	.055	-.11
ADV02c	315	2.61	2.81	.06	.01	1.07	1.00	342	.001	-.20
ADV02d	307	2.53	2.79	.06	.01	1.06	0.99	333	.000	-.26
ADV02e	303	2.36	2.77	.06	.01	1.07	1.00	329	.000	-.41
ADV02f	317	2.69	2.91	.06	.01	1.02	0.97	345	.000	-.23
ADV02g	244	2.46	2.72	.07	.01	1.07	1.04	5,721	.000	-.25
ADV02h	273	2.37	2.56	.07	.01	1.12	1.08	5,836	.005	-.18
ADV02i	306	2.46	2.54	.06	.01	1.04	1.07	6,317	.185	-.08
ADV04_15	327	1.83	2.07	.05	.01	0.88	0.89	6,763	.000	-.27



## Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
	St. Olaf	St. Olaf	Advising - Carnegie	St. Olaf	Advising - Carnegie	St. Olaf	Advising - Carnegie	Comparisons with: Advising - Carnegie		
ADV01	238	2.65	3.04	.11	.03	1.66	1.86	268	.000	-.21
ADV02a	233	3.17	3.21	.06	.01	0.88	0.88	4,892	.554	-.04
ADV02b	228	3.22	3.23	.06	.01	0.84	0.89	4,798	.799	-.02
ADV02c	216	2.65	2.87	.07	.02	0.98	1.03	4,748	.002	-.21
ADV02d	194	2.59	2.76	.07	.02	1.03	1.05	4,485	.029	-.16
ADV02e	171	2.36	2.53	.08	.02	1.00	1.09	187	.037	-.15
ADV02f	218	2.80	2.95	.06	.01	0.91	0.98	4,764	.026	-.15
ADV02g	164	2.67	2.88	.08	.02	1.06	1.07	4,115	.017	-.19
ADV02h	195	2.61	2.71	.08	.02	1.08	1.12	4,448	.258	-.08
ADV02i	230	2.85	2.89	.07	.02	1.02	1.07	4,829	.574	-.04
ADV04_15	236	1.77	2.03	.05	.01	0.78	0.93	270	.000	-.27

## Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Counts are unweighted; column percentages cannot be replicated from counts.
- b. All statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Unless otherwise noted, statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent  $t$ -tests. Items with categorical response sets are left blank.
- c. These are the values used to calculate means. For the majority of items, these values match the codes in the data file and codebook.
- d. Effect size for independent  $t$ -tests uses Cohen's  $d$ ;  $z$ -tests use Cohen's  $h$ .
- e. Statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Categorical items are not listed.
- f. The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus or minus 1.96 times the standard error of the mean.
- g. A measure of the amount individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.
- h. Degrees of freedom used to compute the  $t$ -tests. Values differ from  $N$ s due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.
- i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent  $t$ -tests or  $z$ -tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the students in the comparison group is due to chance.
- j. Statistical comparison uses  $z$ -test to compare the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes" with all who responded otherwise.
- k. Mean represents the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes."

### Key to symbols:

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- △ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

Note: It is important to interpret the direction of differences relative to item wording and your institutional context.