

The conceptual evolution of a student-centered peer advising program

What is a possible conceptual process behind creating and establishing a student-centered Peer Advisory Program (PA Program)? More importantly, how do you train students to become your institution's first ever Peer Advisors (PAs) while simultaneously instilling an intuitive sense of how peer advising benefits both the Peer Advisors themselves and their future student advisees? This poster presentation highlighted ongoing preliminary research illustrating the process behind the foundational year of the PA Program at AYBU-SFL. The poster briefly examined the PA Program's inspiration, and the role and importance of the founding PAs. Additional details include the unexpected positive benefits arising from overcoming an initial lack of an advising culture, as well as the creation of the training handbook. Finally, feedback obtained from the PAs via mentoring sessions reveals the impact PA training had, as well as their perspective concerning how peer advising could benefit students.

