



ARTS AND SCIENCES
ADVISING

CASAC MONTHLY

"ADVISING: OUR PASSION. YOUR SUCCESS: OUR REWARD."

College of Arts and Sciences Advising Center Newsletter

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Welcoming Our New Academic Advisors!

The CAS Advising Center welcomed two new academic advisors to the team over the summer! Please join us in welcoming them. They've been training with stakeholders all across campus to gear up for advising season.

They can't wait to meet you!



DRAKE DYE

What does it mean to you to work at UAFS?

I believe that education is the key to a better future and expanding one's opportunities. UAFS gave me that opportunity while I studied here and I'm excited to give that to other students. I'm proud to work for an affordable institution that allows more equitable access to education for people of all backgrounds.



JOURNI GOFORTH

What does it mean to you to work at UAFS?

It has been a goal of mine for quite some time to work in higher education. As a first-generation college student, being able to afford my education and continue to become a contributing member of society was always a priority to me, and UAFS's mission and vision closely align with my personal values. UAFS is not only an institution that is accessible and affordable for students, it also gives me the opportunity to work with individuals from my home community.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CENTER?

Priority advising begins October 2nd!

Advising campaigns will be sent by faculty and college advisors during the week of September 25th. Please check your email for a message from your faculty or college advisor requesting an appointment. Keep in mind you can't register for classes until you meet with your advisor! Registration begins on November 13th.

Check out the last page of this newsletter for helpful tips on preparing for your advising appointment!

Graduating in May of 2024?

If the answer is "Yes!" it is time to make an appointment for a graduation audit and application. Chances are you may have already heard from us! Schedule an appointment with one of our advisors ASAP. Not sure if you've completed your graduation application?

Contact us at CASadvise@uafs.edu or call 479-788-7677.



Faculty Advisor Spotlight

Dr. Janine Chitty



**Professor and Director of English with Teacher Licensure Program
English Rhetoric and Writing and Media Communication**

Introduction

Hi! I am Dr. Janine Chitty. This is my 12th year with UAFS. No life experience is wasted. Prior to coming to UAFS, I worked in corporate business as a Human Resources specialist, and then transitioned to teaching French and English in the public schools for 15 years. It was in these environments that I began to grow my passion and develop skills to support others in fulfilling their educational and career dreams.

Describe Your Passion for Advising Students

I think Rita Pierson says it best in her TedTalk "[Every Kid Needs a Champion](#)." I want to be that champion and advocate for all students to succeed. I give students a real-life picture of what it is like in the classroom as a teacher: the challenges, the successes, the joy, and the heartbreak. I want them to know they have the greatest opportunity to make a difference in someone else's life by being a teacher. I want to be the difference for my students; I want my students to see and experience that overwhelming passion to champion for others success. "[What Do Teachers Make](#)." Teachers are world changers and I want my students to be world changers by making a difference.



Your Philosophy on Faculty Advising for Student Success

I work primarily with English with Teacher Licensure students, but I don't hesitate to offer my thoughts and advice to other disciplines. Navigating the degree and licensing requirements can be somewhat challenging. I jokingly tell teacher candidates they are white water rafting while performing acrobatic maneuvers. Advising is more than selecting courses each semester. Effective advising is an opportunity to build relationships with students that not only develop while at UAFS, but relationships that continue post-graduation. In the role of advisor, I promote effective communication and problem solving with the students. I like to be actively involved in guiding students with course selections, field placements, and various admission and employment applications. It is important to engage with students as real people, and be empathetic towards the students with real-life situations, families, and challenges. It is important to listen to what the student is saying, and what they are not saying. Listen with an open mind without judgement. For me to be most effective in advising, I need to be knowledgeable of degree plans, course rotations, resources, and licensing exams and requirements that align with students' academic and career goals. Advising is not confined to the "office." I seek out opportunities to share advising considerations in the classroom, in the community, and in UAFS organizations. I have recently accepted the role as Faculty Advisor for the UAFS BCM (Baptist Collegiate Ministries).

Your Advice for Students

- Know that you can do whatever you choose to do with your degree, but you must first complete that degree. Stay resilient and persevere through the challenges.
- Stay on top of your degree requirements and course offerings/rotations. You do not want to come to your last semester needing a class that is only offered alternating rotations and you missed the rotation.
- Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone to explore new classes. Diversity adds to your employability, creativity, and network.
- Know that your advisor and faculty are there to support you. Don't be afraid or embarrassed to reach out when you need help, resources, an empathetic ear, or a broad shoulder to cry on. You are not alone on this journey. Many of us have been down this same path and are here to walk alongside of you.
- Be confident! You got this! Take care of yourself physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Establish a good balance of work, study, play, and relaxation. Pursue with conviction, passion, and purpose.

Your Interests and Hobbies

- Read, read, read.
- Watch my favorite movies, tv shows, and musicals: Hamilton, Why You Were Sleeping, anything CSI, FBI, and Numbers, just to name a few.
- Listen to contemporary Christian music.
- Cross stitch, paint by number, crochet
- Can and freeze the harvests from our garden (salsa, Pico, jalapeño jelly, okra are some of my favorites)
- Laugh at the shenanigans of my 3 cats: Lucy (aka: DC "darn cat", Lola (aka: tri-pawed Diva), and Ginny (aka: Squirt, the smartest cat in the world).
- And, sit on the beach with friends engaging in relaxing conversation and listen to the waves crash against the shore.

PREPARING FOR YOUR ADVISING APPOINTMENT

You should receive an email from your professional or faculty advisor the week of September 25th to schedule your advising appointment for the spring semester. Just like it's important to prepare for class, it is also important to prepare for your advising appointment. We compiled a list of tips to make the most of the time you spend with your academic advisor!

- 1 **Review your degree plan** and select a list classes you think you want to take in the Spring/Summer semester(s). We recommend picking out a couple extra courses in case one of the options isn't available.
TIP: The spring and summer 2024 schedules will be available on Sunday, October 1.
- 2 **Evaluate your career goals.** Reflect on how your degree will fit with your long term career goals. Do you need to make any adjustments? Do you have any questions for your advisor about your career plan?
TIP: Write your questions down and take them with you so you don't forget to ask!
- 3 **Be honest!** Be open about your dreams, struggles, opportunities, and areas of weakness.
TIP: Your advisor wants you to succeed and is equipped with tools to help you do so! Just ASK!

Set a goal to leave your appointment knowing your next steps. Make sure you know when you can web register, what you need for future semesters, and what the next steps are to achieving your goals!

CASAC'S COMMITMENTS TO STUDENTS

- Provide specific and accurate information relating to the curriculum, institutional policies and procedures, course sequencing, learning outcomes, pedagogy, and requirements for majors, minors, and concentrations in CAS.
- Assist students in developing their academic goals and career targets while maximizing their gifts and talents to foster learning and growth.
- Recognize and respect diverse identities and perspectives.

- To be accessible to advisees via face-to-face engagement, video chat, telephone, or email.
- Encourage advisee interaction and questions outside their typical transactional advising needs.
- Appreciation for students' perspectives and maintaining a student-centered posture.
- Help students confidently develop their educational/career paths based on their interests, gifts, skills, and abilities.

Stay in touch with us!



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