

*Do you have questions about Advising Day?* Here are some things you might consider as you prepare to meet with your professional advisor, faculty advisor, or before attending a departmental meeting.

*Have you declared your major?* Students at Western Carolina are required to declare a major at 45 hours so if you are close to reaching that number and are still confused about what direction to take, talk to your advisor in the advising center and consider the following opportunities as well. You may be closer to a decision than you think!

*Are you wondering what to talk to your advisor about on advising day?* It's not just about what class to take next. Your advisor wants to know about your goals in life and how they can help you meet them through your educational experience at WCU. So think about what you want to do in life and talk to your advisor about that. And don't limit yourself, dream big!

*Have you ever thought about study abroad?* Ask your advisor about study abroad opportunities. There's a good chance that there are courses offered through WCU that you could take toward your degree that will provide opportunities you may not have considered. And don't forget to check out the International Programs web page at <http://www.wcu.edu/9237.asp> or stop by their office in the Camp building. They can give you all kinds of information about how study abroad can enhance your education and broaden your experience!

*Have you ever wondered how you can get experience in a career field while still in college?* Ask your advisor about internships and other opportunities in your major like research projects to get that experience while you are still completing your degree. And check out the information on the Career Services office web page, <http://www.wcu.edu/6661.asp>. Or better yet, stop by their office on the second floor of Killian Annex and let them show you how you can enhance your post-graduate job prospects through the opportunities you take advantage of now!

*Do you enjoy helping others?* Ask your advisor about Service Learning options within the Liberal Studies or your major course offerings. Or check out the Center for Service Learning website at <http://www.wcu.edu/9815.asp> to learn more about how you can be involved in both local and national service organizations. Tutoring is another great way to establish relationships with professors in your department while helping your peers. The Writing and Learning Commons (WaLC) at <http://www.wcu.edu/29229.asp> hires students each semester to work with a range of classes. Talk to your advisor and professors about recommending you as a tutor; the tutor application and recommendation form are available online at <http://www.wcu.edu/9444.asp>. Class-related learning opportunities and volunteering are excellent ways to gain valuable experience; to develop relationships with faculty, staff, and community members; and to build a solid resume for when you hit the job market.

*Do you know what a degree audit is?* Do you know how to do a degree audit? Your degree audit, or degree evaluation, is a tool in [My Cat](#) that helps you track your progress to a degree. It lists your Liberal Studies and degree program requirements and tells you what you have met and what you have remaining. To get to the degree audit, log in to My Cat, click on the "personal Services" tab, click on "Student Records", click on "Degree Audit/Evaluation", select the appropriate term if asked and click submit. You will then see current program information including your major. To run the degree audit, click on "generate new request" in the middle of the page at the bottom. Select the button next to the program you wish to run and click the

Generate Request button. It may take a moment for the request to fill, when it does select "Detail Requirements" and click submit. Your degree audit will display, courses and/or requirements remaining will appear with a red "no" next to them.

*Are you on track to graduate?* Before asking your advisor, you should run a degree audit to determine how many courses/requirements you have remaining. You can then discuss remaining requirements and the appropriate sequence with your advisor and address any discrepancies in what you think you have left and what the degree audit says.

*What unique educational opportunities do you have at WCU?* Some of those unique opportunities are addressed in the previous questions, but this is an excellent question to consider when talking with your advisor. Earning a degree isn't just about making sure you've taken all of the required courses. It is a synthesis of all of your experiences here at WCU, both inside and outside of the classroom. Look for ways you can intentionally connect those experiences and talk to your advisor about your ideas. It could lead to your defining a unique opportunity that benefits not only you, but your fellow students as well!