HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR ADVISING VISIT?

Once you have scheduled a time to meet with your advisor, here are some aids you will want to bring with you to have a meaningful visit:

♦ A copy of your Advising/Degree Progress Report. To get this document log on to www.usm.edu/soar. Login to your account using your password and student id. Should you need help retrieving your password, contact the Help Desk at 266-HELP (4357). Once logged click on “Self-Service”. Then, click on the “Student Center” logo. To retrieve your progress report click on the dropdown box in the “Other Academic” section. Here you can get a copy of various reports you may need.
♦ Have an idea of where you are in your program. Be prepared to ask questions and open to receive guidance and or suggestions.
♦ It is helpful to have a mock schedule of classes and times that you wish to take. Because the elementary education is very course specific with little to no electives, depending on your program, you can determine your schedule fairly easy.
♦ Be prepared to be honest and willing to share any obstacles that may be hindering your progress.

Here are some suggestions that can begin a dialogue between you and your advisor:

- What are some questions or topics you would like to discuss with your advisor?
- Discuss what are some of your goals for the current semester and future
- What are some obstacles you think may interfere with your transition or progress of academic success?
- Discuss some of the resources that you may need such as tutors or preparation for Praxis, or volunteer work…
- Discuss your timeline to graduate from the university
- Share any accomplishments or participation in events that you are proud of in your field
- Share your concerns regarding doubts about choice of program, if any
- Discuss the different grade point averages that comprise the education programs
- Ask about the Gold Card and how to obtain one
- Discuss career opportunities or even if this is the right major or “fit” for you.
- Discuss difficulty (if any) in transitioning to the university.
- Discuss or arrange future meetings with your advisors, professors, support staff etc.