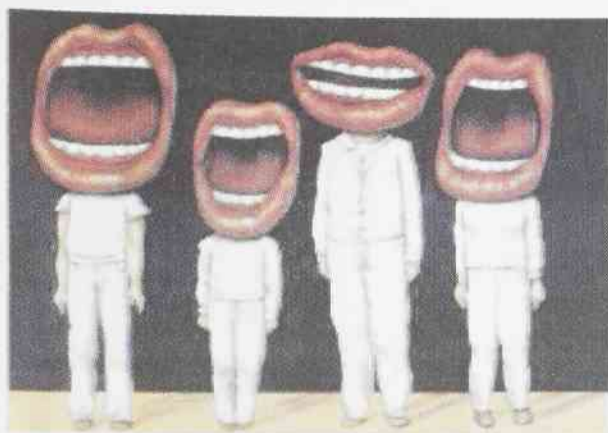


# WISE ADVICE?



Courtesy of moviefortwo.com

By Kangi Downing

Does your academic advisor advise you in a way that is significant to you? Is your academic advisor your only source of help? Do transfer students need special assistance?

According to the overall fall 2011 advising survey of all departments at Fayetteville State University, the department of communication was ranked number one for best advisement. On a 100 percent scale they received 97.14 percent, Chancellor James Anderson announced at the winter commencement.

The Communication Department has six advisors for approximately 150 students. Therefore, each advisor averages 25 students.

Many would say, having 25 students per advisor is way too many for sufficient results, but Dr. Frobish said, "I do think that's a lot of students to advise, but we must be doing something right because we have the best results with advisement."

Dr. Frobish, chair of the Communication Department, oversees advisors by organizing advisor workshops, answering all necessary questions and occasionally sitting in during scheduled appointments with other advisors and their students.

Transfer students are advised by the Transfer and Advisement Center, until they declare a major and are assigned an advisor within their department. Advisors, who help transfer students,

are recommended to do a complete degree audit and check for required courses to ensure good advisement for students.

Transfer student John Atkinson, a senior and communication major said, "he thinks his advisor at FSU is Dr. Almeida," but his main advisor is Dr. Everett, his previous advisor from Coastal Carolina University. How is that possible? Atkinson will transfer back to CCU next semester to graduate, so he said Dr. Everett can advise him best.

All transfer students have someone in place to advise them at FSU, but if ever in a situation like Atkinson, there are other options as well.

Loosing old and gaining new advisors can be very difficult for students, especially if a relationship is developed.

Brooke Vann, a junior and communication major says she had "four advisors in three years."

However, Vann said she examines her transcripts and program require-

ments to make sure she is heading down the path toward graduation.

Students can consult with their assigned advisor, other faculty members within their chosen major, department chairs and/or deans for academic advisement. The Registrar's Office website also contains valuable information and additional resources that can assist the student with having a successful stay at FSU.

For students who are about to graduate, a visit to career advisement services, which offers mock interview sessions, assists in job interview preparation, resume and cover letter writing might not be a bad idea.

Fall 2013 is already approaching, so the best advice is to be prepared!

## Where oh where have my credits gone?

By Sabina Gurung

The credit transfer process, especially for foreign students, can be cumbersome. The lengthy process involves a great deal of effort and paperwork.

As one of the 16 constituent institutions under The University of North Carolina, Fayetteville State University follows that state's guidelines.

Under the UNC system, a transfer student has to complete 44 core credits and 80-85 major credits in order to graduate.

Even though it explains how credits are transferred from within the US, it is vague in regard to transferring foreign credits.

"We do have books and catalogs which we can reference to when calculating credits for transfer for students from certain countries. But we do not have a catalog of every country," said La'Vette Fairley, student service specialist for FSU's Registrar's office.

Transferring foreign credits can be a confusing process because each foreign country has its own education system that may not necessarily coordinate with the American education system.

There are many international students at FSU that have a bachelor's degree from their respective countries but must study two to three more years

in order to earn a second degree from FSU.

FSU student Emilia Boudhu already has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from a university in Africa. She could only transfer 30 credits to FSU, resulting in an additional three more years to complete her bachelors at FSU.

"I have already studied most of the subjects that I am taking this semester," Boudhu said. "But I have to study them again because those credits could not be transferred."

FSU student Naamdi Hill is a biology major who has to repeat eight courses because he could not get credit for most of the science courses.

"We have students from countries where the medium of instruction is not English and it is very hard for us to determine where such students fit when they come here to the US," Fairley said.

Without a better way of credits from foreign universities, students can lose valuable time and money repeating courses that they have already studied.

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