

Advising

All degree and certificate students are assigned an advisor by the Assistant Dean for Academic Programs. The core faculty at PSR serve as student advisors in all degree and certificate programs. Advisors are key to each student's progress through their program and are a great source of support, direction, and academic counseling. For programs that have milestones, you will usually be advisor consult with you on your milestone as needed.

For programs that have a thesis/project defense of some kind, your advisor will usually be the primary committee member for your defense.

Incoming student advisors or changes to advisor assignments are usually processed and emailed to students around the summer for incoming Fall students and in winter for incoming Spring students. If any urgent and necessary advising needs come up in the interim, the Assistant Dean for Academic Programs may assist students during these transitional periods.

Students find their advisor and advisors find their advisees by logging in to WebAdvisor. They may also find each others' contact information that way or through the PSR website. For stability reasons, we try to encourage maintaining the same advisor assignment throughout a students' program, but in the case that a student wishes to change advisors, after the first semester at PSR, they may apply to switch advisors by submitting a [Change of Advisor form](#) to the Assistant Dean for Academic Programs & Registrar.

In cases of advisor retirement or sabbatical, students will be reassigned another advisor.

Sometime during your first semester, make an appointment with your advisor to acquaint yourselves with each other and review your plans for your program. Your advisor is there to support and mentor you through your program, so make sure that you meet with your advisor at least once a year to check in.

For some students especially those in the MA and DMin programs, it may be in your best interest to have regular more frequent conversations with your advisor, including those about course selection, since those programs may be more flexible yet require more specialization. For all other programs, it may be sufficient to meet with the Assistant Dean for Academic Programs for course selection questions.

While your advisor oversees your program, you are responsible and expected to take the initiative in communicating with your advisor regularly and in understanding and fulfilling the requirements for your program.

Note that in the MA program, students are assigned the core faculty person overseeing the area you choose on your application. If you change areas or school of affiliation, your advisor will likely change and vice versa.

Resources for Choosing Classes

Worksheet: Your program worksheet will be one of the most valuable resources for you as you plan your coursework and make course selections each semester. All course requirements are listed for you to follow on your worksheet. Using this document will ensure that you meet your program's requirements. If you have any questions regarding your course selections, review this document with the Assistant Dean for Academic Programs.

Assistant Dean for Academic Programs: For some programs such as the MDiv, the recommended course selection each semester is fairly clear by consulting the MDiv worksheet and Suggested Sequencing for 3-Year Plan, Alternatives to Basics, as well as all other guides located on the MDiv page. For all other programs, consult your program page for planning guides then feel free to email the Assistant Dean for Academic Programs for any uncertainties you may have in your course selection or to make an appointment to discuss your course selection further.

Faculty: Read your PSR Viewbook or the [PSR faculty web page](#) and their areas of interest and expertise. Choose classes taught by people whose work and approach interest and challenge you. In most cases you can read about other GTU faculty on the web sites of their affiliate schools.

GTU Courses: Consult the [GTU Course Catalog](#) and read the course descriptions carefully to ensure they are not restricted to students from the host school or denomination.

Student recommendations: Ask students for their recommendations. Choose not only the content, but the style of class in which you learn best. Each faculty member has a particular style of combining lecture, discussion, student participation, etc.

Syllabi: Faculty prepare syllabi for each course which they distribute at the first class and upload on [Moodle](#) through the Office of Academic Affairs for your perusal. Referring to these syllabi will give you a good idea of the required readings, lecture or class discussion topics, and method of evaluation for each

class. Looking at these syllabi and their reading lists is a helpful way to discover whether the reading material for a course is of interest or help to you in your program. The GTU library holds a reserve of all available syllabi from all consortial schools. Otherwise, log into [Moodle](#) and enter the class “PSR Syllabi” to view all the syllabi we have on file for our courses.

Attend a class: The best way to determine whether or not a class suits your needs is to attend the first class. Most professors use this class to introduce the course, discuss the syllabus, course requirements, evaluation, and pedagogical method. Once classes start, you have the first two weeks of the semester to “shop around” for classes, which is a good time to attend all the courses you are considering before you make your final decision. Note that limited enrollment classes can be closed prior to the first week of classes.

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