

# ACADEMIC ADVISING NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024



## Did you know we have a test student account for MyDrury?

Utilize our test student, Edith Crawley, for demonstrations over how to register for classes. Please don't make any changes to Edith's records.

You can find a tutorial in the DU Faculty Advising Canvas page.

## ADVISING STUDENT ATHLETES

There are several things to keep in mind when advising student athletes and it can be difficult to know where to begin. The majority of our student athletes find their rhythm within the first year of college. Others may take a little longer to successfully find that balance between student and athlete.

Take time to check in and gauge how they are transitioning, especially within the first year. Some students may need some help with time management, study skills & prioritizing obligations. Alison Brown, Academic Advisor, is offering one-time, weekly, or even monthly check-ins for students and will work with them on perfecting these skills and more.

For more details on athlete requirements, check out "[Advising Athletes](#)" document on MyDrury under the Advisor Tab. This is a tedious process, but by keeping the following in mind during advising sessions, we can ensure our athletes stay on track not only academically but in their sport as well.

## Fall Registration is around the corner

Does your department have an updated [4-Year Graduation Plan](#) posted?

### **Student athletes are ok if:**

**GPA:** 2.0 or higher, CUM & Term

**FR & SO:** Pass a min. of 12 hrs. every FA & SP

**JR & SR:** Pass a min. of 12 hrs. of degree requirements every FA & SP

**Goal:** Graduate in time expected

If students aren't meeting these guidelines feel free to reach out to academic advising with help for how to proceed.

# IS A BLOCK COURSE THE ANSWER?

We have all encountered a student in a tough situation where withdrawing from a course is in their best interest. In order to remain at 12-hours, (necessary for a variety of reasons including, financial aid, housing, & athletics, etc.) often adding a B-Block course is sought after. While this is a great way for students to “make up” those hours they will be losing, it is not always the best solution. Here are some questions to ask students looking to add a block course.

**Will adding a B-Block course put them over 17 credit hours?** After the change of schedule period, the amount of credit hours a student is registered for is the amount of hours they are billed even if they withdraw from a course. Any additional courses could lead to overload fees if this will put them over 17 hours. This maybe okay, but for some we must make sure the student is aware of the additional charges.

**Example:** John Doe registered for 15 hours but is struggling in a 3-hour course in February. He has decided to withdraw and hopes to add a 3-hour B-Block course. BUT it is past the change of schedule period, so this will put his total at 18 credit hours. This is 1-hour over the max of 17-hours and will result in an overload fee of \$675.

**Is the student already struggling academically?** If a student is struggling in multiple courses, a B-Block class may not be the best fit. It is always a good reminder to students that block courses are very fast paced compared to full-term courses. Do they feel they can handle this work in addition to their current load? For many this is okay, but some students would be better served focusing on their remaining courses to earn the best GPA they are capable of receiving.

**Can the student handle a fully online course?** Remind students that block courses are fully online. This might be a perk for some students but others struggle with fully remote course work and the self-motivation it takes to be successful.

**Will this course count for a degree requirement?** In some cases, there won't be any courses that will count as a specific degree requirement and will be awarded as elective credit. Some students need this but others must be in at least 12 hours of degree applicable courses. Student athletes and those using financial aid are great examples of students who could be negatively affected by taking unnecessary electives.

As we know, every student is unique! Block courses are a great way for a student to make up credit hours. Student athletes who are out of season for their sport, and international students often seek out these courses because of their flexibility. Please keep the above questions in mind when discussing block courses as it may not always be the right fit.