Academic Advising Approaches: Strategies that teach students to make the most of college

Chapter 8 - Self-Authorship

Reader Learning Outcomes

Self-authorship is a theoretical perspective on human development that focuses on an individual’s balancing of external factors with internally defined beliefs, goals, and sense of self. An individual who is self-authored uses his or her internally defined sense of self to direct decision-making and knowledge construction.

Readers will:

- Understand the basics of self-authorship theory
- Become familiar with the Learning Partnerships Model (LPM) that includes how to validate students as knowers, situate learning in the students’ experience and define learning as mutually constructing meaning
- Translate theory to advising practice with examples of self-authorship practice and advising scenarios

Aiming for Excellence Discussion Questions/Activities

- When in your advising practice have you observed students lacking problem-solving skills? How could you use elements of the Learning Partnerships Model to engage students in a dialogue that would enhance their skills for problem-solving and self-reflection? Is there provocation in your academic advising practice? When and how do you harness this concept to push students toward a richer way of thinking about academic decisions?

- In addition to a major choice, what are situations you have experienced with your advisees that have required you to assist them by situating learning through their experiences and co-constructing meaning? Describe this advising situation and the strategies you used. How did the student respond?