eAdvisement for Online Students

Introduction

Does this sound familiar? What classes in are you offering next semester? When does registration start? When is graduation? Do I need two electives for my program? What happens if the course I need to graduate in the fall fills before my registration time? I’m new at this online stuff. How do I register for online courses?

Face-to-face professors have can stand in front of their class before registration starts and answering these types of questions. 20+ students hear 10+ or more advisement questions and 10+ or more advisement answers at one time.

Or the professor schedules a time when students come to their office for advisement… say from 2-5 on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. They come, they are advised, they leave.

As online professors we have the opportunity to answer ALL of these individual questions via e-mail messages that come in 24/7 during the advisement period! And each initial e-mail message usually involves several e-mail exchanges per student in order to provide comprehensive advisement.

Does this also sound familiar?

A Better Way to Provide Electronic Advisement

Manageable and effective electronic advisement or eAdvisement is possible. This presenter designed, developed and implemented three eAdvisement components that have proven to be very successful with online students and have been very time efficient for the presenter.

The three eAdvisement components include

• Opening a eAdvisement chat and discussion room within WebCt;
• Designing and developing a Word document to be used as an eAdvisement form;
• Redesigning a program Web site to include pertinent advisement information.

Each component required considerable upfront planning and support from a Web Master and WebCt programmer. Once the three components were in place, online students were instructed to complete an online orientation to prepare them for the new eAdvisement procedures.

The End Results
Online students using the eAdvisement procedures quickly adapted to the new format. They expressed appreciation for the timely and effective manner in which advisement information was available.

For the online professor, time on task for advisement has been reduced and the quality of advisement has improved.