



University Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria Academic Advising “Houses”

Academic, Personal Advising and Counseling services at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria are structured to provide medical students with a multi-dimensional system of support that provides academic, career and personal guidance and supports the professional development of each individual, as well as the collective community of students.

This system is comprised of faculty, staff and peer advisors that can function individually and collectively on behalf of each student's journey through the medical school experience. The elements of this overall system of support are listed at the end of this document.

Academic Advising Houses were established at UICOMP in 2014 to capitalize on the benefits gained by having students connect with each other and with faculty through groups that span class years and academic disciplines.

The goals of the Academic Advising Houses are to

1. Optimize general advising and mentoring of medical students
 - a. in their transition from basic science to clinical training
 - b. in their development of skills necessary to succeed academically
 - c. in their transition from student to physician
2. Optimize the teaching of professionalism
3. Better integrate students along the three years of medical school spent in Peoria.

Through the “House” system, each incoming student is assigned to one of 12 to 15 houses with which the student will maintain affiliation over her or his entire medical school career. Each house will thus consist of 4 or 5 medical students from each class. To each house are assigned 3 or more faculty members who, collectively and/or individually, collaborate with the students in the house to provide mentoring, counseling, and support to help students achieve academic success and prepare for the transition to residency.

Students within a house are encouraged to provide peer support to one another. Therefore, whenever possible, incoming students are assigned to houses that include their Student Advocates.

In the inaugural year Houses were designated by numbers. The members assigned in 2014 had the prerogative, as “founding” members, to propose unique names for their Houses.

Houses enjoy considerable autonomy to plan and structure meetings, sub-group meetings and other activities that the members deem appropriate for their needs and schedules. Advisors will make themselves available to students for individual appointments upon request. Each house is asked to have at least three group meetings yearly:

1. An introductory full group meeting. ***The first meeting will be a lunch in August at the UICOMP building. All students and advisors assigned to each group are asked to attend.***
2. A meeting focused on M2 students to address strategies for managing the M2 year and preparing for Step 1.
3. A meeting focused on M3/M4 students to discuss specialty selection and strategies for finding specialty advisors/mentors, and preparing for transition to residency.

In addition to structured group meetings, student members of the houses are both urged and expected to reach out individually to their assigned advisors whenever they have concerns or questions.

Advisors are not necessarily expected to be experts on policy matters or to act as “approvers” of student plans or schedules. Rather, advisors are expected to provide counseling, guidance, and – when appropriate – advocacy in order to meet the goals outlined above.

Faculty advisors for each group will have access to basic confidential information about entering advisees’ grades and qualifications. Thereafter, advisors are provided access to advisees’ grades and progress reports. House advisors may meet or confer as necessary to review student progress and discuss plans for supporting student success. Confidential student information may be discussed among advisors to the extent necessary to fulfill their roles.

The Advising House system grows and evolves in accordance with the needs and experiences of our students and faculty.

On behalf of the offices of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, Welcome Home!

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