

# Advising in the English Department

## AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

This page describes academic advising works in the English Department. Please read it carefully, and take note of important changes.

- **ALL ENGLISH MAJORS MUST HAVE AN ADVISOR WHO IS A FULL-TIME MEMBER OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY.**

- **WHAT DOES ‘ADVISING’ MEAN TO ME, AND WHAT ROLE DOES MY FACULTY ADVISOR PLAY?**

Advising means reviewing and discussing your academic program in some detail on a regular basis (that is, once or twice a term) with someone who knows you, your academic career and your idiosyncrasies, and who perhaps even shares your specific academic interests. Such discussions may include matters of all sorts, from concerns about how particular courses (within and outside of the major) might best work together to projections about a possible double major or the benefits of applying to the writing concentration, and even talks about your plans for life after Yale. Your advisor may also be someone with whom you wish to share certain successes and frustrations, someone, in short, in whose office you are always welcome and whom you may ask for letters of recommendation without trepidation. Advising, then, does not equal schedule signing. Nor is it something that you seek out only during shopping period.

- **HOW DO I FIND A FACULTY ADVISOR?**

It’s your responsibility to choose your faculty advisor. You may ask someone with whom you have worked before or someone with whom you might like to work in the future. You may ask the DUS, ADUS, and English Department Representative in your residential college. The name of the Departmental Representative in your college appears in the YCPS and on the English Department website. In choosing your advisor, you may wish to consult the online information about English Department faculty at ([www.yale.edu/english/faculty](http://www.yale.edu/english/faculty)), and you may ask the DUS or ADUS for advice. Contacting a potential advisor in person often works better than posing the question via email. Please be aware that there is a limit to how many majors one faculty member can advise, and do not be upset if someone turns you down. Ideally, you will have the same advisor throughout your time in the major, but that may not be possible for a variety of reasons, including faculty leaves. If you have trouble finding a replacement, ask the DUS or ADUS for help.

- **WHEN MUST I CONSULT WITH THE DUS OR ADUS?**

1. You must have a meeting with the DUS or ADUS to confirm your schedule **at the beginning of your 7th term** (first semester senior year).
2. You must contact the DUS office for all special permissions.
3. All majors are obliged to have a meeting **during their 5th term** (or first semester junior year) with the DUS, ADUS, or Departmental Representative to confirm their progress in the major.