

2026-2027 HEDS Pre-Advising Survey

This is a PDF representation of the online version of the survey. It includes all questions and response options, as well as notes (in italics) about how questions will display to survey takers.

[Institution Name] would like you to take this short survey to help you prepare for your upcoming meeting with your academic advisor, [Advisor Name]. The survey will ask what you hope to get from your college degree, what you're worried about, what your long-term goals are, and what experiences at [Institution Name] are helping or slowing your progress. Your responses to this survey will be shared with your advisor to give them a chance to think about things in advance that could support your progress and address your concerns.

The survey will take you 5-10 minutes to complete.

Your responses to this survey may also be shared with a handful of other people at [Institution Name] who are working to help [Institution Name] students succeed and improve teaching and learning. They are obligated to keep your responses confidential.

The [Institution Name] leader(s) of this survey effort [is/are] [name(s)], and [he/she/they] can be reached at [email address(es) and/or phone number(s)].

By clicking "Next," you acknowledge that you are at least 18 years old, have read the information above, and agree to participate in the survey. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. We appreciate it.

[Students see a "Next" button here.]

We have “[Student’s First and Last Name]” as your name in our records. We apologize if this isn’t right. If you’d like to revise your name for your meeting with your advisor, please enter the name you prefer here: _____

1. For you, what are the most important reasons to stay in college and complete your degree? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ To get a job that provides financial security
- ☐ To get a job that helps me start a meaningful career
- ☐ To learn new things and expand my horizons
- ☐ To become a more thoughtful and better-informed citizen
- ☐ To make life-long friendships
- ☐ To prepare for post-graduate education
- ☐ To make my family proud
- ☐ To build a good life for my children and/or family
- ☐ To improve my ability to give back to my community
- ☐ To be better prepared to make a positive impact on the world
- ☐ Other: _____

2. Imagine some point in the future, after you’re done with school and you’re leading a successful life. What does your life look like? What are you doing? How are you living? Don’t be afraid to think big!

3. What goals do you have for next term at [Institution Name]?

4. Which of the following things do you worry about most often? (Select up to three)

- ☐ Doing well academically in college
- ☐ Financial concerns (e.g., finding ways to pay for college, questions about my financial aid or on-campus jobs)
- ☐ Thinking about what I’m going to do immediately after college (employment, graduate school, etc.)
- ☐ Getting the right courses, internships, and experiences in college to set me up for my career
- ☐ Getting into the graduate school I need to build my career
- ☐ Paying off my student loans after college
- ☐ Finding a job that’s meaningful
- ☐ Finding a job that gives me the resources I need to be comfortable
- ☐ Maintaining my mental health and well-being
- ☐ Creating balance between work, family, friends, and my personal interests/hobbies
- ☐ Knowing how to do “life stuff” (e.g., managing my finances, finding a good place to live, getting the right kinds of insurance)
- ☐ Having enough to eat day-to-day
- ☐ Having a safe and secure place to sleep every night

5. Has anything at [Institution Name] slowed your progress towards success? If so, what?

6. Overall, how satisfied have you been with your undergraduate education at [Institution Name]?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied

7. How confident are you that you will continue your education at [Institution Name] next term?

- ☐ Very confident
- ☐ Confident
- ☐ Somewhat confident
- ☐ Not confident

8. As we noted at the beginning of the survey, your responses will be sent to your academic advisor, [Advisor Name], before you meet with them to plan your classes. Is there anything else you want your advisor to be aware of before your meeting?

[If your institution chooses to add supplemental questions they will be inserted here, preceded by an introduction stating they are provided by your institution. You may customize this introduction. If you do not, we will use the following statement.]

You're almost done! [Institution Name] has just a couple more quick questions for you.

[This statement appears after the last survey question.]

Please click the "Submit" button below to send your survey responses to your advisor and yourself, so you can discuss them when you meet.

[The following message appears after students click the "Submit" button.]

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. We hope that your next term in college is rewarding and helps you move toward your goals for life.

Your responses have been sent to your academic advisor in preparation for your upcoming meeting. We've also sent you an email copy of your survey responses.

The [Institution Name] leader(s) of this survey effort [is/are] [name(s)], and [he/she/they] can be reached at [email address(es) and/or phone number(s)]. He/She/They can answer any additional questions you may have about the survey.