

Your Adviser and Advising: A Guide for English Majors

Are you declaring a Major in English? Read this guide for information on finding an adviser and how to get the most out of your academic advising experience.

What is the Advising System About? What Role Does my Adviser Play?

In order to declare a major in English you must select a major adviser from among the full-time members of the department. Your adviser will discuss the requirements for the major, give you advice about course selection, and be a resource for you as you think about your career as an English major at Tufts and your career options after graduation.

You must check in with your adviser every semester in order to register for courses the following semester. It is your responsibility to find out your adviser's office hours and make an appointment to see your adviser when you wish to discuss things like classes to take, distribution requirements, career possibilities, graduate school admissions, or other academic matters.

Your adviser can also assist you if you find yourself facing difficulties of any sort while you are at Tufts. She or he can inform you of available services and can be a valuable resource as you try to negotiate the various challenges that college can present.

Who Can Be My Adviser? How do I find one?

Your adviser must be a full-time faculty member of the Department of English. It is your responsibility to select an adviser. Most students will select a member of the department with whom they have already worked and whose opinions and advice the student respects. You should choose an adviser with whom you feel comfortable and who seems to be a good "fit" with you both intellectually and in terms of personality.

Although some professors will take on advisees they haven't had as students, it is best all around to select your adviser from among those professors with whom you've studied. If that is not possible for some reason, then you should get the names of some professors in the English Department with whom you plan to study in the future (usually because their interests coincide with yours) and make appointments to talk with them during their office hours. This will enable you to see if they are taking on new advisees whom they haven't had in class and whether or not they seem to be people with whom you could establish a comfortable relation as an advisee. You can view a list of full-time faculty and their areas of specialty online at <http://ase.tufts.edu/english/faculty/>.



The Crucial Thing is...

Your major adviser is available to assist you, but it's your job to seek out your adviser, not your adviser's job to track you down! So find out your adviser's office hours each semester and then be sure that you make use of them!

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