



WALTERS STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Advising FAQ

1. Does my Admissions file have to be complete (submission of test scores and transcripts) before I can meet with an academic advisor?

It is recommended that students have test scores (ACT, SAT, *ACCUPLACER Placement Scores, SAILS scores) and college transcripts on file with Walters State Admissions prior to meeting with an academic advisor.

*Students that would like to improve their entrance placement status in reading, writing, and mathematics can take the ACCUPLACER Next Generation exam. Learn more at <https://ws.edu/student-services/counseling-testing/testing-info/>.

2. What is advising?

Advising is a conversation providing students guidance, support, and encouragement. You will have an appointment with an advisor in-person, by phone, or virtually for your selected major. During the appointment, you will select classes for your major and create a class schedule.

3. Who is an advisor?

An advisor may be a professional advisor, faculty member, or staff member who provides you with academic advice or guidance. Each semester, you will meet with your advisor who will guide you through your education at Walters State. You may schedule an appointment with your advisor at any time if you have questions or need assistance.

4. Why do I need to meet with an academic advisor?

Your advisor will support you in the development of your educational plan as you strive to reach your future goals. In addition, your advisor will assist you in determining the appropriate classes each semester that meet your degree requirements.

5. How do I connect with my advisor?

All first-time degree or certificate-seeking students will complete online New Student Orientation. Upon completion of Orientation, an advisor will contact you to schedule an advising appointment.

Transfer, re-admitted, non-degree seeking, and continuing students can schedule an advising appointment directly with an advisor. Visit <https://www.ws.edu/senators-central/advising/> to find the appropriate advising contact or contact the Student Success Center at 423-318-2337.

6. Do I have to be advised every semester before registering?

Yes. You will see an Advising Hold each semester when you log into your MYWS account. An Advising hold will prevent you from registering for courses until you meet with your advisor. Your Advising Hold will be removed by your advisor.

7. Will my advisor help me register for my classes in MYWS?

Your advisor will assist you with selecting classes to complete registration through your MYWS account. If you need further assistance with class registration, refer to <https://ws.edu/admissions/registration/> or contact Senators Central at senatorscentral@ws.edu or the Student Success Center at student.success@ws.edu

8. What is a Program of Study?

Program of Study is a guide that students follow to know what courses they will take toward their major/degree. This can be found in the College catalog at www.catalog.ws.edu.

9. What do different degrees mean?

- (AA, AFA) - Associate of Arts and Associate of Fine Arts degrees are designed to transfer to a university and require a foreign language.
- (AS) - Associate of Science degrees are designed to transfer to a university and do not require a foreign language.
- (AST) - Associate of Science in Teaching degrees are designed for students to transfer to a Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) teacher education program. They follow a common curriculum. With the AST, students are able to finish at any community college and enroll in any TBR teacher education program. Students intending to transfer to the UT system or private institutions should consult with their academic advisor on the appropriateness of this program for transfer.
- (AAS) - Associate of Applied Science degrees are not designed to transfer to a university. If you complete an AAS degree but want to attend a university, you may have more general education requirements to complete either at Walters State or at the university level. AAS degrees prepare students for careers in the field of study.
- Certificate Programs – Prepare students for careers in the field of study and are not designed to transfer to a university.
- (TTP) Tennessee Transfer Pathways degrees are associate degrees designed to transfer to a public university in Tennessee in any one of 50 different majors. Learn more at <https://www.tntransferpathway.org/>.
- Learn more about Walters State's degrees at www.catalog.ws.edu.

10. Will I earn an associate's degree with a Tennessee Transfer Pathway (TTP) program

Yes, as long as you complete all of the program requirements.

11. Can I minor at Walters State?

Students do not minor at WSCC. If interested in a minor at a 4-year university, please discuss with your advisor. '

12. What if Walters State does not offer the degree I'm hoping to pursue?

You can discuss this with your advisor. Often the A.S. General Studies major is selected with guided course selection based on the intended program of study at the four-year institution.

13. How many classes do I need to take to complete a degree/certificate?

See the College catalog for the complete list of classes and program hours required for your program of study. Go to www.catalog.ws.edu, click the link, and select the catalog year based on the year you started. Consult your advisor if you have questions about the catalog year or you started more than eight years ago.

14. What if I am a non-degree seeking/transient student?

Non degree seeking and transient students are not required to meet with an advisor before registering. You may choose this pathway because you are interested in taking a class of interest or a class to transfer to your home four-year university. Students should remember to submit a college transcript for prior completed courses and/or placement scores if you are taking a course that has a pre-requisite or college level placement.

15. What is a change of major?

A change of major is when you change your program of study. Changing your major may mean you have a new advisor and can affect your academic progress toward graduation. You will need to contact the advisor for your new program of study and complete a Change of Major form. The Change of Major can be found at <https://ws.edu/admissions/forms/>. Students may contact their current advisor for assistance in contacting the new advisor.

16. What is a co-requisite?

A co-requisite is a course that you need to take with another course in the same semester. For example, if you need to take a science course, then you will also need to take the co-requisite lab course.

17. What is a pre-requisite?

A pre-requisite is a course you need to complete before taking another course. For example, you must earn credit for ENGL 1010, English Composition I, before taking ENGL 1020 English, Composition II.

18. How do I know if a course has a co-requisite or pre-requisite?

Your advisor will provide guidance on your course selection. Course descriptions can also be found in the college catalog and will include co-requisite and pre-requisite required courses. www.catalog.ws.edu

19. What is a Degree Evaluation (Degree Works)?

Degree Works is a degree evaluation progress tool accessible through your MYWS account. This tool provides your current GPA, a list of classes required for your selected degree program, and a progress meter indicating how close you are to completing your degree program at Walters State. Keep in mind, if your major is incorrect, your progress is incorrect, your list of required classes and progress meter are incorrect as well. Find more information at <https://www.ws.edu/dw-help>.

20. What is Student Profile?

Student Profile is a resource where you may access advising notes from the meetings with your advisor. You can access this through your MYWS.