

Strengthening Advising Seminar Series

Frequently Asked Questions

How will this program benefit my college?

Advisors are key stakeholders in the retention of students on our campuses. An asset-based, holistic approach to advising supports students both in and out of the classroom and helps colleges embed an equitable approach into their student success work. This program will help your advisors leverage evidence-based strategies to support students holistically.

Can I register as an individual or must my college send a team?

This program seeks to advance broad institutional change by helping colleges adopt and implement a holistically supportive advising practice for their students. To this end, the program is designed to support collaborative team efforts. Colleges can include up to 20 participants on their team.

Who should we include on our team?

This series is designed for advising staff including professional advisors, faculty advisors, counselors, success coaches, and other student affairs professionals who advise and support students. Additionally, the team often includes mid-level and senior leaders who are directly connected to this work.

What's the time commitment for participating team members?

Beginning in late September 2026, this program will include nine virtual synchronous seminar meetings (two hours each) involving goal setting and actionable steps to strengthen advising and adopt practices that increase student success metrics. College teams also engage in seven one-hour implementation sessions with a dedicated holistic student supports coach. Team leaders who ensure that participants are aware of this active commitment to learning and contributing to the planning process will find it easier to reach team goals.

What's the role of the team leader?

In addition to taking part in all program activities, team leaders should be prepared to:

- Coordinate the work of their teams
- Invite campus teams to scheduled sessions and ensure they are registered
- Schedule and facilitate team meetings (virtual or in-person)
- Coordinate with holistic student supports coaches
- Ensure that campus leadership is kept aware of the team's progress.

What will individual members of the team get out of this experience?

Team members will have the opportunity to develop new skills and knowledge that advances their advising practice, including evidence-based, student-centered holistic advising practices and strategies. They will collaborate with other practitioners in structured peer learning opportunities and discussions in a virtual setting and help advance strategic goals of the institution.

What deliverable will come out of this experience for my team?

Participants will leave the series with a portfolio of resources and action items to inform team meetings and the college's transformation process. These resources are designed to support ongoing planning efforts to improve advising and holistic student support structures and processes. At the conclusion of the seminar series, teams will deliver a presentation that highlights their work over the course of the year and outlines next steps for continued improvement.

Is there a fee to participate in ATD's Strengthening Advising Seminar Series?

Yes. In addition to time commitment, there is a financial investment to participate in the series. For pricing, please email the Holistic Student Supports team at HSS@achievingthedream.org.

