

# Welcome to the College of Liberal Arts at RIT!

## Academic Advising

Maximize your advising support!

### Every Student Has Two Advisors

#### Professional Advisor

1

This is your go-to person for questions about your major, transfer credits, and general academic planning. They're available all year and can help you stay on track.

#### Faculty Advisor

2

This advisor is part of your major's department. They're here to help with questions about your field of study, internships, co-ops, and career goals.

### What do you need to know before meeting with your advisors?

#### How to Find Them?

SIS

You can find your advisors' names and emails in the Student Information System (SIS). Just log in and click the "Advisors" section. You'll also see how to contact them on your academic department's website.

#### Be Prepared



Advisors can help more when you come to meetings with questions or goals in mind. You might need to fill something out, bring paperwork, or look up info ahead of time to get the most out of your meeting.

#### Set Up a Meeting

Want to talk to your advisor? Great!



- Schedule an appointment with your professional advisor through SIS or MyCourses (look for the Starfish icon).
- Email your faculty advisor directly to set something up.

Let them know what you want to talk about so they can be ready. Show up on time, and if you need to cancel or reschedule, give them a heads-up.



#### Don't Wait Until There's a Problem

Your advisors aren't just for when you're struggling — they're also great for bouncing around ideas, talking through your goals, or figuring out your next steps. They're here to support you — academically and personally.

As a new student, you've got a strong support team ready to help you succeed — both in the classroom and as you plan for your future career.

# How can your advisors help you?

## If You're Struggling...



Reach out early. Your advisors can help you find resources, study strategies, tutoring, or ways to improve your grades. The more honest you are about what you're going through, the better they can help.

## Changing Your Mind is OK



Not sure about your major? That's normal. Your interests might shift as you take classes or gain experience — and your advisors can help you explore new paths without getting off track for graduation.

## They'll Help You Build Key Skills



Your faculty advisor can help you build skills that employers love — like communication, critical thinking, and teamwork. They'll also point you to awesome opportunities like:

- Electives or double majors
- Clubs and campus involvement
- Internships or co-ops
- Leadership roles
- Study abroad
- Part-time or summer jobs

## Interested in Exploring Majors?



If you're still deciding what to study, check out the Liberal Arts Exploration Program — a flexible, undeclared option that lets you explore different majors while working on required courses. You can stay in this program for up to two years without falling behind. Ask your advisor if this sounds like a good fit for you!

**Bottom line:** You're not alone in this journey. Your advisors are here to help you grow, learn, and figure things out — step by step. Reach out early, stay in touch, and make the most of these relationships. **You've got this!**

# Who is your Professional Advisor?

### Marcia Beattie ([mabcce@rit.edu](mailto:mabcce@rit.edu))

- Criminal Justice
- English
- History
- Philosophy
- Political Science

### Kristen Simmons ([klrgla@rit.edu](mailto:klrgla@rit.edu))

- Advertising & Public Relations
- Communication
- Communication  
*with Journalism track*
- Psychology

### Jennifer Gaylord ([jmggla@rit.edu](mailto:jmggla@rit.edu))

- Liberal Arts Exploration
- Pre-Education
- Pre-Law

### Tammi Wiley Wickson ([tlwgla@rit.edu](mailto:tlwgla@rit.edu))

- Applied Modern Language and Culture
- Humanities, Computing, and Design
- Economics
- International & Global Studies
- Museum Studies
- Sociology and Anthropology
- Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies