

Lafayette Advising newsletter

February 2021 edition

Greetings from Scott Hall as we prepare for the start of a unique spring 2021 semester. We invite you to read below some news and announcements from the Office of Advising. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at deanofadvising@lafayette.edu if you have any questions or need additional information. You can also find us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).



Declaration of Major process launching!

February 1, 2021

The Declaration of Major survey for all Sophomores will open shortly. This process presents an opportunity for all current sophomores to formally declare or confirm their academic major(s) and if necessary, be assigned to a new advisor in their selected major. Students may also use this process to declare a second major, or an intention to complete a dual degree. Please note that an [Academic Petition](#) is also required for dual degrees and declaration of minors.

The results will be compiled and forwarded to academic departments for advisor assignments in two waves. The first wave will be released to departments once 75% of the class has

completed the survey, and the second will be sent shortly after the survey deadline on March 21st.

First-year advisors are still an important part of this transition! Second semester sophomores may still need advice during the add/drop process or pass/fail deliberations, and they can certainly use all of the support and encouragement that they can get during this challenging time. We expect that all sophomores will be settled in their new department by early April, allowing ample time for the important discussions surrounding the pre-registration for the Fall 2021 semester. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the sophomore class dean, Chris Selena - selenac@lafayette.edu or 610-291-6488.



Important announcement from the Hub - Letters of Accommodation

Dear Instructors,

Welcome back! We hope you had a relaxing break. As a means to streamline the accommodation process and provide continued access to your students' accommodation plan, Accessibility Services has made the following adjustments to our Letter of Accommodation procedure for the Spring 2021 semester.

- We have updated the formatting and language on the Letter of Accommodation
- We have updated the [student Letter of Accommodation Request Form](#)

Letters of Accommodation

In the past, Letters of Accommodation were provided directly to students, who were then tasked with distributing the letters to faculty. Accessibility Services will now deliver Letters of Accommodation directly to faculty via a shared Google Drive folder for the Spring 2021 semester.

Accessibility Services will create a Google Shared Drive Folder for each professor to view Letters of Accommodation for students in their courses with approved academic accommodations. Faculty members will receive an email when new Letters of Accommodation are added to their Google Shared Drive Folder. Please review each letter upon receipt.

Because students will not be physically delivering their letters, we are encouraging the student to contact you or utilize office hours to discuss their accommodations and how it relates to the specific course.

Please feel free to contact Accessibility Services at resourcehub@lafayette.edu with any questions. We look forward to working with you this semester.

Sincerely,

Martha Lee Sullivan M.Ed

Assistant Director of the Academic Resource Hub for Accessibility Services

Amy Arnold, M.S., CRC

Accessibility Coordinator



Lafayette Forensics News!

The competitive forensics circuit in the Fall of 2020 was unlike any other before it. The realities of COVID have cancelled tournaments and pushed the remaining online. Tournaments are both synchronous (live) and asynchronous (recorded videos). Most of our team is competing from bedrooms, offices, and living rooms across the country. Despite these challenges, Lafayette Forensics has had a remarkable semester. In order to celebrate these accomplishments we will be profiling the success of some of our most senior competitors before celebrating the team's accomplishments at the end of the semester! We at Lafayette Forensics hope that you are all coping with the COVID-19 pandemic to the best of your ability and hopefully these stories will brighten your day.

Luisa Gunn ('21) had a remarkable first semester of her senior year!

September: To kick off the year, Luisa was invited to compete in the prestigious Alexis Elliott Memorial Round Robin. It was the first time in 4 years that Lafayette had an entry in this tournament. Luisa represented Lafayette well and the pressures of this competition prepared her for the semester ahead.

October: At the first Northern Tier Debate Conference (NTDC) of the year, Lafayette came ROARING out of the gate. The team was led by Luisa who finished as co-champion, top speaker, and helped earn the team a first place finish. It was a phenomenal performance by the team and happened in no small part due to Luisa's unparalleled leadership and peer coaching skills.

November: In November Luisa grabbed some more success, this time in individual events. As an exemplary competitor in limited preparation events, Luisa recorded videos for submission to the California Baptist University's asynchronous tournament. She finished 2nd in extemp! The very next weekend at the third NTDC tournament, Luisa continued her winning ways and was again tournament co-champion and 2nd speaker at the tournament. Two weeks later, Luisa led a small contingent at the Illinois State University's fall tournament. This national circuit tournament was a bloodbath, but Luisa managed to navigate the prelims to a 4-2 record and an octofinalist finish.

December: The debaters attended one last tournament, the Fall Finale. Co-hosted by Lafayette and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the tournament had a national draw and marked the end of the semester. Luisa finished as a semifinalist and was the 4th place speaker! It was a great end to a very strong semester that involved 3 tournament championships and two more elimination round appearances.

Her success builds upon HOURS of hard work every week. She leads the team through research assignments, organization, and motivation. We are very excited to see what comes next for Luisa and the entire squad. With four or five more tournaments left before the National Tournament, Luisa has helped build a team ready for success on a national level! Congratulations!

Notifications to in-person instructors - isolation/quarantine

For the spring 2021 semester, if a student is assigned to isolation or quarantine housing due to COVID-19 testing or precautions, the Office of Advising will notify the student's **in-person** faculty via email that they are not cleared to attend in-person classes. This notification will not include any information regarding the student's specific health status, simply that they are not able to attend in-person classes. The student will be directed to contact their instructor to ask about ways to participate remotely. As long as the student's health allows, they will be directed to plan on continuing to participate remotely in their classes while in quarantine or isolation. Upon release from isolation or quarantine, the student's in-person faculty will be notified via email that they are cleared to resume attendance.



Student-Athletes fall 2020 academic achievement

As a whole, Lafayette's student-athletes compiled an impressive 3.43 GPA for the fall 2020 term.

You can read more details in [this press release](#) from the Athletics Department. We are grateful for the excellent support provided by all academic advisors and staff members, including Carly Riepenhoff, assistant athletic director for student athlete development!



Important upcoming dates for advisors!

February 8 - Spring Classes begin

February 19 - Deadline for adding/dropping courses; conversion to pass/fail; declaration of audit (Schedule changes during the week of February 15 will be by permission of the instructor and processed through the Registrar's Office)

February 19 - Interim grades due

March 30-31- Spring Break

April 2 - Mid-term grades due

April 26 - Last day to withdraw from courses; WD recorded



A wealth of advisor resources by NACADA

NACADA, the Global Community for Academic Advisors, has [a tremendous number of resources](#) on their website to support the multi-faceted work of academic advisors.

This particular page contains a vast number of articles, essays, and tip sheets on advising. But there are plenty of recorded on-demand webinars on [NACADA's YouTube channel](#).



Advising staff anniversary!

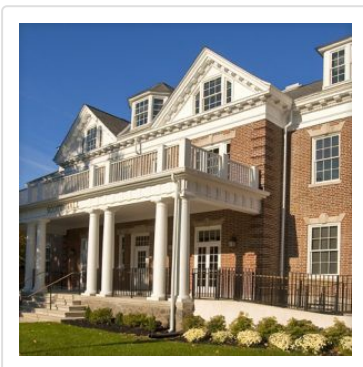
Donna Heagele, the Dean's Assistant for the Office of Advising, has her one-year Lafayette and Office of Advising anniversary coming up on February 20th. The office is thankful for Donna and all our wonderful support staff, which includes Brandy Bianco, Amy Rutt, Chelsea Emerick, and Connie McDermott!

Donna says, "I feel grateful and blessed to be a part of this wonderful team!"



Did you Know? Advising Resources for Faculty

Did you know that the Office of Advising website has [a number of useful resources](#) for academic advisers, including Lafayette-specific advising information, advising resources, and advising-related articles? We also have information on [advising basics](#), [academic coaching](#), [first-generation student support](#), and other topics. More information will be added and updated soon!




Office of Advising & Co-Curricular Programs

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