

**YALE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE POLICY**

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Background

Yale School of Medicine recognizes the special importance of academic advising and career counseling for medical students. The Academic Advising Program provides academic and career guidance to medical students while contributing to their professional development. Academic advisors are knowledgeable about the Yale System of Education, as well as curriculum and graduation requirements. They are informed and up to date about student assessment, board examinations, residency application processes, extracurricular opportunities at Yale, 5th year options, joint degree programs and the thesis requirement. Advisors are a valuable resource who will follow academic and professional performance, offering guidance and feedback throughout students' time at Yale.

Policy

Every Yale Medical School student is randomly assigned a faculty academic advisor. The six advisors are highly regarded faculty members who have demonstrated dedication to and interest in students and their undergraduate medical education. Each advisor has 20 percent of his or her effort supported by the dean for this role. The advisors meet periodically with their advisees one-on-one and in groups to offer advice on navigating the journey through medical school and beyond and to help students having academic difficulties or questions. They are responsible for writing their advisees "deans letters" or MSPEs and other letters of support. A student may "opt out" of having his or her "deans letter" written by the assigned academic advisor in which case it will be written by the associate dean for curriculum. In addition, the associate dean for student affairs is available to all students to assist with problems of any nature, especially personal issues that students may wish to keep separate from their academic progress. The associate dean meets one on one with every first-year student and any student requesting a meeting throughout medical school. The associate dean meets weekly with the academic advisers to discuss themes that may emerge regarding students' academic problems in order to bring broader attention to these themes and issues.