

Academic Advising

CASA is the academic advising and academic support center for undergraduate students at Mines. Through professional advising services, CASA staff guide students through the core curriculum and major coursework while assisting students in considering signature pathways to personalize their educational journey at Mines, through including options such as minors, double degree programs, 4+1 programs, and more. Students who work with their CASA advisor can discuss various academic topics including course sequence, semester planning, planning for minors and more. CASA advisors offer virtual and in-person appointment options which are scheduled online by students in addition to helping folks who walk-in with questions.

CASA over the 2021 – 2022 academic year offered advising for first-year students, declared students, transfer students and students returning to Mines through individual and coaching appointments along with group advising sessions. Over 4,617 students were supported through individual advising appointments with their CASA advisor. Sixty students contacted CASA for academic coaching, over 400 first year students attended group advising sessions held by the first-year advisors, and over 1,300 declared students attend their departmental group advising sessions often led together by the faculty mentor and CASA declared advisor. Additionally, our main CASA inbox received and responded to over 2,000 e-mails helping students, faculty, and staff with advising and academic support needs. Further, CASA assisted students and families through walk-ins and 1,200+ phone calls. Over 550 students also received support through our *Tawkto* chat service managed by our front desk assistants.

Academic Support Services

CASA offers a wide variety of support services designed to assist students throughout their undergraduate degree. All CASA services are free and available to undergraduate students and impacts are listed below for the 2021 – 2022 year.

Tutoring was offered Sunday through Thursday in the CASA Study Hall and Arthur Lakes Library. Online tutoring is also available for some courses. Tutor services were utilized 740+ times by students this year.

Core Review is an academic support program that provides peer-led study sessions for students enrolled in Calculus, Chemistry, and Physics. Core Review offers support through regularly scheduled weekly Office Hours and Core Reviews Sessions throughout the semester. Over 1,250 students participated in Core Review through the sessions or office hours.

End-of-the-semester academic support wraps up with CASA's Pre-Finals Workshop, held back in person for spring 2022, on the day before finals begin. CASA tutors and Core Review Session facilitators came together to offer exam preparation support with 28 students participating.

Faculty in CASA is an award-winning program where faculty hold their office hours in CASA. Through this program, students meet with faculty for extended office hours in our study space. Four faculty participated each semester and provided over 550 hours of academic support to students. We are grateful and thank Professors Christian Westhof, Amanda Jameer, Holly Wenham, Vincent Kuo, and Jonathan Miorelli from the fall 2021 semester and Professors Kristine Callan, Christian Beren, Amanda Jameer, Holly Wenham for their support in making Faculty in CASA a successful program.

Bounce Back is an academic recovery course coordinated by CASA. Interest and referrals to this course continues to grow. Two sections were taught in fall with 26 students enrolled and three sections of the course were taught in spring with 45 students enrolled. Between fall and spring additional interest in the course was expressed by 29 students. Due to the strong interest for fall 2022 three sections of the Bounce Back course are planned to be offered.

New in the spring semester, CASA sponsored a Declaration Day event; this event was designed as intentional outreach to first-year students inviting them to officially declare their major and become declared students. Over 740 students attended the event, declared, and will be assigned their declared advisor and departmental faculty mentor by the start of their sophomore year. With the success of over 700 students participating Declaration Day will become an annual event held by CASA.

Major Exploration Fair was held on March 9th and was open to all current undergraduate Mines students. It assisted students who were undecided, reconsidering their major, or students unclear about what career paths are connected to their degree explore their expansive options at Mines. All 17 departments and the QBE program had representation to share information with students and answer questions. Given the positive feedback from faculty and students the major fair, with some changes, will be held again in spring 2023.

Outreach is continued to be supported by CASA through following up with students who are on probation or suspension, preparing for readmissions and/or needing hold removed.

CASA Collaboration Efforts

Over the 2021-2022 academic year CASA has collaborated and/or volunteered with various offices across campus including the Career Center, Disability Support Services, New Student and Transition Services, Admissions, Multicultural Engineering Program, Dean of Students office, Registrar, Commencement and Mines broadly. Collaborations to highlight were with the Career Center assisting with the role out of Focus 2, with NeST having 10 staff members teaching CSM101 and 8 staff members support Launch sessions, with the Registrar's office in bi-weekly collaborative meetings discussing processes, and with MEP's Challenge Program where CASA provides a daily 1hr courses about transition to college.