

Conversation guide for HEDS New Student Survey

We are partnering with HEDS (the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium) to give the HEDS New Student Survey to our students starting the first full week of classes in First-Year Foundations (September 1-9). This survey focuses on the goals, vision of success, and worries of our new students as they think about college. More about the survey can be found at the [HEDS website](#).

This guide is intended to highlight aspects of your advisee's survey responses and think about ways you could start a conversation about their goals and concerns. You don't need to have all the answers; you just need to listen and be supportive. You can also refer the student to resources at Juniata; some of these are mentioned below. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kristin Camenga, Director of Advising at camenga@juniata.edu.

First, review your advisee's answers.

1. Approaches to learning (Questions 1-3, 7): Are there areas that concern you regarding the student's academic habits, confidence or growth mindset? (Remember that some of these areas can be differences rather than weaknesses!)
2. Goals (Questions 4, 8, and 9): What goals does your advisee have, what next steps can they take toward the goals, and what can you do to support those goals?
3. Concerns (Questions 5 and 6): What concerns does your advisee have and what resources might support them? If there are some advisees for whom you notice areas of significant concern (e.g. worrying very often about mental health or lack of motivation), please prioritize talking to these advisees!

Based on what you read, identify areas you want to discuss with each advisee. While areas below are listed to match the order above, you may want to address their concerns first to remove any barriers to learning; other areas could be partially addressed and be discussed more in future meetings.

1. Approaches to learning: build on the kinds of discussions you regularly have with students in your classes. At this point in the semester these discussions are proactive and can prevent problems!
 - a. What do you think will be your biggest challenge in learning? What work habits can you develop to address this challenge? (related to Questions 1 and 3)
 - b. What is an area where you didn't succeed at first, but later were able to? What helped you succeed and how can you apply that to academic challenges you will face this semester? (related to Question 3 and growth mindset)
 - c. Why are you so confident (or not confident) in your choice of Juniata? in your choice of POE? (Assure first-year students that it is OK to not know what you want to study yet and discuss how they can explore – not just through classes, but co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities) (Question 2)

- d. (If they disagree that academic experience as the most important (enjoyable) in Question 1) What do you think will be the most important (enjoyable) part of college and why?
2. Goals (This is one focus of First Year Foundations)
 - a. (Reflect what you see your advisee expressing as their goals for college and confirm your understanding). Which are your most important goals for college? What can you do in the next two weeks (semester/year) to help meet those goals? (Question 4) Can be repeated with vision for the future. (Question 8)
 - b. Discuss how your advisee would like you to support them (Question 9).
 - c. Share any resources or opportunities the student might consider and how they could support those goals, especially HIPS – study abroad, internships, research opportunities, community engagement, connections with alumni, department events, etc.
 3. Concerns and Supports (Questions 5 and 6)
 - a. Understand your advisee's concerns, e.g. "I see that you worry frequently about maintaining your mental health and well-being. Can you tell me more about that concern?"
 - b. Share appropriate resources:
 - i. [Learning Services website](#): Academic Coaching, Peer Mentoring, Peer Content Tutoring, and Student Accessibility Services (most of these are their own separate areas now, but still accessible from this website as of 8/30/21)
 - ii. [Responding to Students in Distress](#) poster: Counseling, Health & Wellness, SPOT, Dean of Students Office, Faith supports, etc.
 - iii. [Co-curricular activities list](#) (may not be fully up-to-date)
 - iv. Financial: Dean of Students Office, Financial Planning
 - v. Food insecurity/safe place to sleep – Dean of Students Office
 - c. If the student has significant concerns or distress, submit a Notice of Concern through Basecamp.