

# Process for Finding a New Primary Advisor

In order to get you connected with a new Primary Advisor, we suggest the following:

- Reach out to the **department chair** of your intended major as they can refer you to professors who can serve as advisors,
- Contact a professor from a previous course you took in the department of your new major to see if they are accepting new advisees,\*
- Review webpages for faculty in the department of interest to find someone working on a topic in you are interested,
- Ask your friends for their favorite professors in your new major department and then reach out to that faculty member to ask if they are able to work with you,
- Once you have a new advisor confirmed, **send Academic Advising the email chain between you and your advisor** so we can add your new advisor to your record. Having approval from the new advisor is required.

\*Note: New professors may not be accepting new advisees as they generally need to be on faculty for two years before they can become an advisor. It doesn't hurt to check with them!

## Frequently Asked Questions:

- How do I know if a professor is currently accepting new advisees?  
Answer: [Students often reach out to the professor they would prefer to work with first and ask them if they are taking new advisees. Another route is to email the department chair to inquire about which professors are able to take new advisees.](#)
- Do I need to get a professor's permission before declaring them as my advisor?  
Answer: [Yes.](#)
- If I don't request an advisor, will I be assigned one at random?  
Answer: [We don't like to do this as your relationship with your advisor is key to your support at Puget Sound. The only placement that the university provides is for incoming freshman or transfer students only. After your first year, it works best to find your own advisor in your new major.](#)
- Should I have an advisor for my minor as well?  
Answer: [This is not necessary but you are welcome to add one when you declare your minor ...or not at all. Education minor students are automatically assigned an advisor from the education department.](#)
- I have a really good relationship with my current first-year advisor. Would I be able to keep them as a secondary advisor even though they are not a member of the department I plan to major in?  
Answer: [Absolutely! This is great news. You can indicate that you want to keep your current advisor as a secondary advisor on the online form.](#)
- I am declaring my second major in a different department from my first major. Do I need to add a secondary advisor in that new department?  
Answer: [While not officially required to have a secondary advisor, we highly recommend it,. Some students like to have one advisor in each major so they can ask questions about each. It is also nice around registration periods to ensure good choices in all of your requirements.](#)

- I am an international student. Will my advisor in the International Programs Office continue to be my advisor if I need to change my primary advisor for the major I am declaring?  
Answer: [Yes, we will keep this person on as a secondary advisor.](#)
- I want to declare my minor in education. I heard that there is someone specifically that I am supposed to have as my advisor. Is this true?  
Answer: [If you are declaring your minor in education, you will be assigned a faculty member from the Education Studies department as a secondary advisor.](#)
- I am hoping to eventually go to Med/ Dental/ Pharmacy/ Nursing/ Veterinarian school after I graduate. Is there someone I am supposed to have as my advisor for this?  
Answer: [Yes, Nova Fergusson is the Health Professions Advisor for Puget Sound. She would love to speak with you. Contact her at \[nfergueson@pugetsound.edu\]\(mailto:nfergueson@pugetsound.edu\).](#)
- I am thinking of Law school after I graduate. Is there someone that I am supposed to have as my advisor for the Pre-Law track?  
Answer: [Yes, Chris Kendall in Politics and Government is the pre-law advisor. Contact him at \[ckendall@pugetsound.edu\]\(mailto:ckendall@pugetsound.edu\). Additionally, you can review the \[Pre Law webpage\]\(#\) for more details on advisors available to direct you along the right path to prepare for law school.](#)
- I have been declared as a Physics major for a semester but I am really thinking about wanting to do the Dual Degree Engineering program that is offered here. When I am declaring this, do I need to switch my primary advisor to the director of that program?  
Answer: [No, but you should contact Rand Worland at \[rworland@pugetsound.edu\]\(mailto:rworland@pugetsound.edu\) in the Physics department to discuss your DDE interest and to make plans.](#)