



FAR

To advance use “→” or “Enter”

The Freshman Advising Resource
A Web-based Advising Tool

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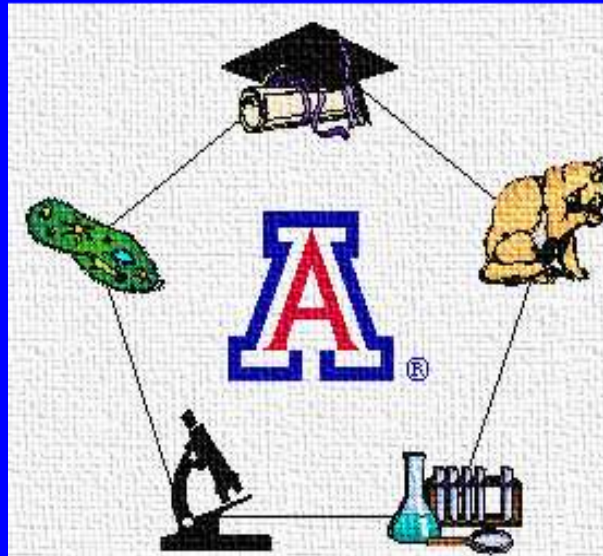
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New Student Success

- Advising lays the foundation for new students' success
- Advising is crucial for transition from high school or 2-year college.
- Quality of first meaningful personal contacts with members of educational institution are instrumental for student retention and graduation (NACADA).
- Academic advisors often are the first institutional officials with whom students spend quality time – and who they will continue to meet during their education.



FAR: The Problem

The reality, however, looks bleak:

- The first contacts between Freshmen and advisors are often limited and not conducive to building meaningful relationships nor providing a sound basis beyond hastily putting together a first-semester schedule.



FAR: Limitations Without FAR

Because:

- Freshmen often meet with their advisors in groups of 5-20 students.
- Limited opportunities for immediate individual follow due to rushed summer orientation events.
- Meeting time used for explaining the system and to help students put schedule together.
- Time too short to work with students through the frustrating experience of not being able to enroll for courses they envisioned they would take.
- No time for starting to build relationships.



***FAR* delegates the repetitive
aspects of first-semester
scheduling to the Web.**



FAR: Benefits

FAR

- Improves advising efficiency.
- Increases advising accuracy.
- Frees time for personal interactions.
- Replaces scheduling with advising.
- Fosters student bonding.



Components of Course Scheduling

- Degree/Major Requirements
- Academic Preparedness
- Personal Preparedness
- Course availability
- Course coordination

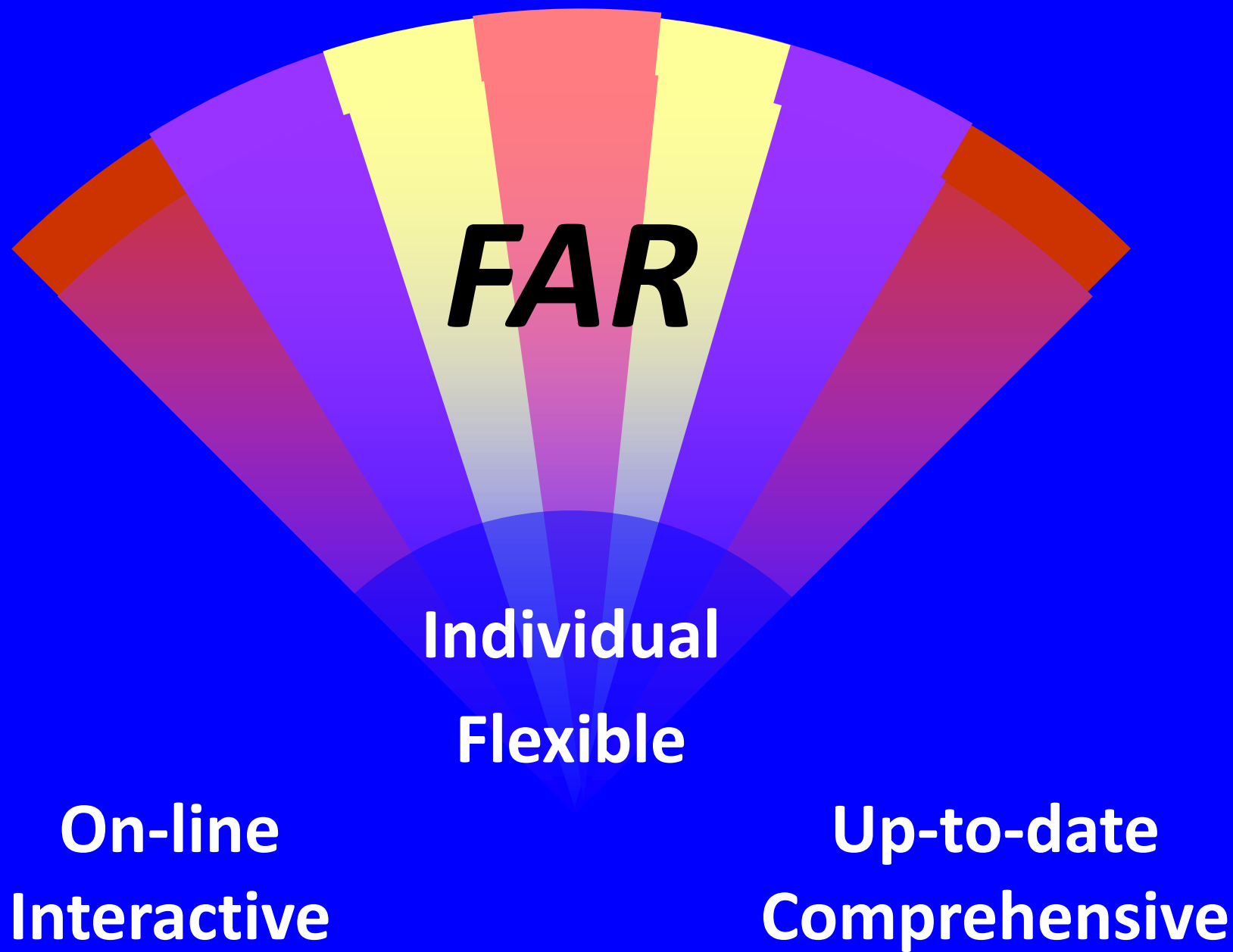


FAR: Individualized

FAR empowers each student to compose a schedule in accordance with her/his

- current program requirements,
- preparation as determined by entrance tests,
- personal sense of readiness.





FAR: What Is It?

FAR Structure

- Branched Web-pages
- Multi-leveled
- Decision-dependent navigation



FAR: 1 - Selecting Major

FAR Level 1: Major

Start

FAR: Select (click) your major:

- **ANTH**
- **EXSS**
- **MICR**
- **SPAN**



FAR: 2 - Selecting Math Test Results

FAR Level 2: Math Test Results

Previously selected: MICR Major

FAR: Click on your MATH result:

- Pre-Algebra
- Algebra
- Calculus



FAR: 3 - Selecting Desired Load

FAR Level 3: Desired Load

Previously selected:

- 1) MICR Major***
- 2) Calculus eligible***

FAR: Click on your preference:

- **Calculus + Bio + Chem**
- **Calculus + one of (Bio, Chem)**
- **Calculus, no lab science**
- **Bio + Chem, no Calculus**
- **Bio or Chem, no Calculus**



FAR: 4 – Compose Appropriate Schedule

FAR Level 4: A list of courses for the first fall:

Previously selected:

- 1) MICR Major*
- 2) Calculus eligible*
- 3) Calculus, no lab science*

FAR: Compose schedule from:

- **Calculus (4 credits)**
- **General Education (3 credits)**
- **Communications (3 credits)**
- **Foreign Languages (3 credits)**



FAR: From Clueless To Scheduled

FAR

**From “Clueless” to “Scheduled”
in less than 30 min.**



FAR: Outcomes

FAR Success: *FAR* has exceeded all expectations:

- Using *FAR* students quickly and efficiently create accurate and optimal course lists.
- Students have their schedule ready when they meet their advisor.
- *FAR*-assisted scheduling 90% appropriate.
- *FAR* minimizes time necessary for scheduling.
- *FAR* frees time for developmental advising and relationship-building.
- ***FAR fosters student bonding.***



FAR: Advantages

Advantages of using *FAR*

- *FAR* frees advisor's time to talk about course of study, preparedness, and goals, and to tend to questions,
- *FAR* supports less experienced advisors,
- *FAR* minimizes waiting and advising time for students, AND...



FAR: Before FAR

Without FAR



Students wait to talk to an advisor

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FAR: With FAR

With FAR



Students work on their schedules, then see advisor

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FAR: SURPRISE!

Unexpected benefit of using *FAR*



Indeed, students connect through *FAR*

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FAR: Quality Time



Advising time freed to talk about important issues

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FAR: Summary

Summary

FAR

- Delegates repetitive scheduling aspects to IT;
- Frees advising time to focus on other important concerns;
- Allows advisor to spend quality time with student;
- Fosters group work among students;
- Supports student bonding.





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