Professional Identity Checklist for Advising Professionals

This checklist is designed to assess your current thinking/behavior as it relates to the advising profession and your professional identity. This list is not exclusive and is intended solely to stimulate self-reflection.

**Knowledge of the Profession**

- I know the origins of the advising profession.
- I am knowledgeable about the origins of the advising profession and the important events and milestones (e.g., establishment of NACADA) in advising history.
- I am knowledgeable about standards and guidelines that relate to advising (e.g., CAS Standards for Academic Advising).
- I am familiar with professional advising associations (e.g., NACADA: The Global Academic Advising Association) and their roles and accomplishments in the profession.
- I am knowledgeable of professional advising journals (e.g., NACADA Journal, AAT: Academic Advising Today, journal(s) relevant to my specialty area) and their contents’ foci and purposes in the profession.
- I am able to distinguish similarities and differences between my profession and other higher education professions.
- I am familiar with laws and regulations related to the advising profession.
- I am familiar with theories related to advising (e.g., student development and learning theories).
- I am knowledgeable about the core values of academic advising.

**Professional Roles & Expertise**

- I value various professional roles (e.g., advisor, administrator, educator, consultant, and advocate) that an advising professional can hold.
- I recognize an advising professional’s roles and duties vary depending on settings, diverse populations served, and the person’s specialty.

*Erin Justyna, September 2016*

I believe an advising professional should value the importance of advocacy for the populations that the person serves.
I believe an advising professional should value the importance of advocacy for the profession that the person belongs to.
I have reflected on and created my own advising philosophy.
I have completed professional training and standard education to perform my duties in my roles.
I have professional knowledge and practical skills required to successfully perform my roles.
I am familiar with which resources to refer to when I need professional help.
I consistently self-evaluate and self-reflect my effectives and performances in my chosen field.

**Professional Attitude**

- My profession has a well-established theoretical body of knowledge.
- My profession provides unique and valuable services to society.
- I value the advancement and the future of my profession.
- I recommend my profession to those who are searching for a new career related to helping professions.
- I am comfortable having discussions about the role differences between advising and other higher education professions (e.g., counseling, teaching, etc.).
- My personality and beliefs are well matched with the characteristics and values of my profession.
- I am satisfied with my work and professional roles
- I have a solid work-life balance and feel congruent.
- As an advising professional, I share my positive feelings (e.g., satisfaction) when working with people in other fields.

*Justyna, 2016*
Engagement Behaviors

- I have memberships of professional advising associations (e.g., national, state-wide, and/or regional).
- I actively engage in professional advising associations by participating in conferences and workshops every year.
- I have contributed to expanding my knowledge base of the profession by participating in advising research (e.g., by being interviewed, taking surveys).
- I have conducted advising research.
- I have published research findings in my field.
- I follow up with theoretical, practical, and technical advancement in my profession by keeping up with literature (e.g., professional advising journals, books) in the field.
- I engage in or seek opportunities to serve in non-required leadership positions (e.g., advising association, committee work, etc.).
- I educate the community and public about my profession.
- I advocate for my profession by participating in activities associated with legislation, law, and policy on advising on behalf of the profession.

Professional Interaction

- I seek feedback/consultation from professional peers as a form of professional development.
- I regularly communicate with a mentor who is interested in my professional development
- I regularly communicate with a mentee who is interested in his/her professional development.
- I keep in contact with advising professionals through training and/or professional involvement in advising associations.
- I participate in ongoing discussions with advising professionals about identity and the vision of my profession.

Justyna, 2016