“Design Thinking: A Creative, Solutions-Focused Approach to Advising Major-Changers”

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Agenda

1. Define ‘major-changers’ and their specific needs. Identify key reasons for why students change majors.

2. Introduce Design Thinking as a framework for advising major-changers, including parallels to Appreciative Advising.

3. Apply Design Thinking model to student examples and provide strategies for student exploration and academic planning.

4. Engage in short, interactive exercises that can be utilized with major-changers in advising appointments.

Learning Goals

As a result of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Identify defining characteristics and key issues related to major-changers.

2. Understand framework of Design Thinking and its connections to Appreciative Advising.

3. Reframe common dysfunctional beliefs about majors and careers.


5. Implement exercises into their advising practice that foster more creative, introspective thinking in major-changers.

6. Assist students in creating a personalized academic plan that accounts for student and institutional goals.
Bibliography


Coyle, J. K. (2018). Design for strengths: Applying design thinking to individual and team strengths. The Art of Really Living LLC.


