

# Professional Academic Advisors And Program Directors: What is the difference?

---

## Professional Academic Advisors:



- Are professional Elliott School staff assigned by program
- Serve as experts in navigating academic policies, procedures, program requirements, and campus resources
- Help with necessary paperwork including, but not limited to, policy exceptions, transfer requests, continuous enrollment or leave of absence, and registration transaction forms (RTFs)
- Assist with general program related questions
- Assist in tracking your progress toward degree completion
- Offer advising by email, appointment, and drop-in hours:  
<https://elliott.gwu.edu/graduate-advising>

---

## Program Directors:

- Are full time Elliott School faculty members
- Serve as experts in your specific field of study
- Review and approve content of your academic program
- Must sign off on your initial/updated plan of study before you send it to your academic advisor
- Provide feedback regarding courses related to your overall academic goals and career interests
- Are available by appointment only; please contact your program office

