



What is LEEP Center Advising?

LEEP Center Advisors help students:

- 1) Discover a path – What do I want to do?
- 2) Explore ways to gain experience that make sense for said path – How will I get there?
- 3) Plan and prepare for life after Clark – Where do I want to go next and how can I best prepare?

<i>How are LEEP Center Advisors different from Faculty Advisors (FAs)?</i>	<i>How are LEEP Center Advisors different from other advisors?</i>	<i>How is a LEEP Center Advisor different from staff in the LEEP Center?</i>
FAs help students make progress toward the degree, which includes registering for classes. LEEP Center Advisors help students gain experience and connect that experience to their personal and academic interests.	Clarkies have lots of support —RAs, PAs, PLAs, program directors, coaches, you name it! While it is up to you to make sense of all of the advice and direction you'll receive, your LEEP Center Advisor can help make sure your decision-making is in line with your personal and professional goals.	They're the same people, but now you have a dedicated advisor who can help guide you to experiences, give you advice, and coach you on preparation before you make a decision to pursue an opportunity. Once you do decide, you'll work with the appropriate staff member to make that plan a reality!

A LEEP Center Advisor can help students:

Explore interests, possible majors, and new directions

While some students know exactly what they want to do, many spend time exploring, discovering, and reconsidering their options as they are exposed to new ideas and opportunities. The LEEP Center Advisor can help students make sense of their options by introducing the student to unfamiliar opportunities, suggesting alternate strategies, directing the student to untapped resources, connecting the student to new people, and talking through options and answering questions.

- ⇒ The staff in Career Services can administer interest inventories.
- ⇒ The staff in the Writing Center can assist with guided reflection.

Decide on the best way to gain experience

The LEEP Center Advisor and student discuss the best options—perhaps it is an internship or competitive program during the summer, or maybe it is a volunteer experience or part-time job during the academic year. Their LEEP Center Advisor would work with them to identify opportunities (including how to search for such opportunities, keep track of them, and how to prepare applications). Either their LEEP Center Advisor or staff in Career Services would help them craft their résumé, cover letter, or any supporting materials. Both the LEEP Center Advisor and staff in Career Services could help prepare students for interviews—phone, virtual, or in-person—as well.

- ⇒ If the student needs help finding a volunteer placement, they would work with the Community Engagement Office.
- ⇒ If the student wanted to receive academic credit for an internship they had already secured, they would work with Career Services.



Determine whether an experience is right for them

If a student thinks that study abroad might be appropriate, the conversation with the LEEP Center Advisor might focus on: Why should I study abroad? Is it right for me? When should I study abroad, and where should I go? Are there other opportunities I should take into account (i.e., study abroad programs with research/internship/service options)?

- ⇒ Once the student has decided to study abroad, the conversation with the Study Abroad Office would focus on the logistics—does it fit in with their planned curriculum, could they still graduate on time, financial aid concerns, and the specifics of the application to the study abroad program.

Prepare for a program, opportunity, or the next stage in life

If a student wants to apply to graduate school, their LEEP Center Advisor would advise them to work with their faculty mentor to identify appropriate programs in terms of degree and department/university. Their LEEP Center Advisor would help the student with strategy: Who are you asking for letters? How will you fund your degree? The LEEP Center Advisor could help with their personal statement and other application materials, but the student would also be advised to work with the Writing Center on their personal statement. The LEEP Center Advisor is also available as a sounding board when it comes time for the student to make a decision after acceptances have gone out.

Strategize about an idea, experience, or opportunity

The LEEP Center Advisor also serves to provide information about opportunities that a student may not have previously considered or known about. For example, a student wants to travel to India to complete a photography project. She asks: How can I make this work? The LEEP Center Advisor asks: When does it make sense for you to go? How much funding do you need? What's the connection to your academic program? From there, the LEEP Center Advisor works with the student to craft a plan—why to go, when to go, how to make connections there, how to identify funding sources and prepare applications for them, etc.