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DENISON

ABOUT DENISON

- **Small, private liberal arts college**
- **Granville, Ohio**
- **2100 students; 18-22 year olds**
- **1300 SAT; 31 ACT**
- **10-1 Student/Faculty Ratio**
- **90% First–Year Retention Rate**
- **85% 4-Year Graduation Rate**

MISSION STATEMENT

- **Autonomous Thinkers**
- **Discerning Moral Agents**
- **Active Citizens of a Democratic Society**

▪ *We envision students' lives as based upon rational choice, a firm belief in human dignity and compassion unlimited by cultural, racial, sexual, religious or economic barriers, and directed toward an engagement with the central issues of our time.*

ADVISING SEMINAR GOALS

- **Structure for engaged advising**
- **Discussions about campus community, especially issues of diversity and difference**

LOGISTICS

- **1 credit**
- **Residence halls**
- **10 students, advisor**
- **1 hour per week**
- **Pass/Fail**
- **Light reading/writing**

▪ **Non Seminar Student:**
"My friend was telling me about the discussion group she was involved in. It sounds so awesome I want to register for one."

ADVISING AT DENISON

- Faculty model
- The place where students learn about the meaning of being liberally educated
- Essential to the relevance of small liberal arts colleges

ADVISING SEMINAR CURRICULUM

- Engaging the Mission:
  Course Selection in Achieving the Mission Statement
- Women's Studies ⟶ Questionable Party
- Value Card Exercise
- Shadow Day
- "10 Things" List
- Meal Account

ASSESSMENT: CONTACT

"About how many times, and for how many hours, did you meet with your academic advisor this fall?"

Yes Seminar	16 times	15 hours
No Seminar	3.3 times	1.7 hours

ASSESSMENT: CONTENT

"Did you and your academic advisor have substantive conversations about the school's [mission statement] and its relation to your own educational goals?"

Category	Yes Seminar	No Seminar
[Mission Statement]	95%	30%
[Liberal Arts Education]	95%	65%
[Diversity and Education]	91%	25%
[Diversity and Social Environment]	95%	15%

OUTCOMES

- Millennials, Engagement and Maturity
- Campus Ambassadors
- First Gens
- Socio-Economic Diversity

- Seminar Professor:

"These are the best advising relationships I've ever had. I got to know all my advisees as real people in just the first few months."