

Selecting your Academic Advisor in Earth Systems

Earth Systems students should select an Academic Advisor for the Earth Systems major by Winter quarter of their junior year. Once an Academic Advisor has been secured, students should notify Kristin Tewksbury (ktewks@stanford.edu) to get the advisor added to their academic record. Students can view the [Earth Systems Academic Advisors list](#) for more information on recommended advisors. Hard copies of the list are available in the Earth Systems office, Y2E2, Room 131.

Academic advisors are extremely important for Earth Systems students to help foster intellectual development as future environmental leaders and to connect to resources and expertise in their fields of interest. Students should discuss their course plans and progress and any other academic interests with their advisor during quarterly meetings.

An academic advisor can offer support regarding:

- Course selection
- Career and graduate school advice
- Recommendation letters
- Research and grant opportunities
- Honors mentoring (an Honors advisor must also be secured, if pursuing honors)

When initially contacting a potential advisor, students should schedule a time to meet in person. Discuss the following points with prospective advisors so that both parties will be clear about goals and mutual expectations.

- Proposed Curriculum, track, and interests in the field. What resources can your advisor provide?
- A schedule for advising meetings. Discuss the following: How often should you meet to discuss your degree/research progress? What should be done in preparation for these meetings?
- Internship and research interests.
- Career and/or graduate school aspirations.
- Is this advising relationship a good fit? If so, ask the faculty/lecturer to serve as your Academic Advisor for Earth Systems.
- If the potential advisor is unable to take on new students at this time, ask for suggestions for other potential advisors with similar academic interests.