NEW ADVISING STRATEGIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY ADVISING GUIDE
JoAnn Moriarty-Baron, PT, DPT, Lecturer
Ann Bratton, MA, EP Program Administrator

Learning with Purpose
“At UMass Lowell we deliver high-quality educational programs, challenging experiential learning opportunities and personal attention from leading faculty and staff.”

The Puzzle:
How to Provide “High-Quality” Advising in a Rapidly Expanding Department?

- Increased Enrollment in the Exercise Physiology Program
  - 106 new Freshman admitted to the Exercise Physiology program Fall 2013 (53% increase since 2010)
  - 449 total students currently enrolled in the EP program (55% increase since 2010)
- 2 new faculty (novice advisors)
- 12 established faculty/staff advisors
- Advisor’s familiarity with policies and procedures differ
  - Web resources and policies change
- Advising philosophies vary
- Student’s needs are highly individualized
- Recruitment and retention is a priority of the University, the College of Health Sciences, and the Exercise Physiology Program

Our Solution:
Exercise Physiology Advising Guide

- Based on the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Core Values of Academic Advising
- Provides a common starting point in the advising process
- Creates an informational hub for both University and Exercise Physiology Program policies including:
  - General Education Requirements
  - Academic Policies
  - Academic Standing
  - Academic Honesty
  - Exercise Physiology Course of Study
- Provides a centralized location for forms with links to University webpages including:
  - Change of Major/Declaration of Minor
  - Off Campus Study
  - Course Deletion
  - Degree Intent to Graduate for EP Major
  - Student Consultation Advising Form
- Presents considerations specific to Freshman / Sophomores, and Junior / Seniors
- Each section of the Guide includes Helpful hints
- Contains resources for novice advisors including:
  - NACADA New Advisor Checklist
  - Links to University student support services and relevant websites

The Purpose of the Guide
The purpose of the Exercise Physiology Advising Guide is to enhance the ability of Department of Physical Therapy faculty/staff to perform the multifaceted duties associated with undergraduate academic advising. The document is meant to serve as a guide to assist with navigating through departmental and university policies and procedures with acknowledgement that the process is highly individualized to each student and their advisor. This document should be viewed as dynamic in nature and expected to evolve according to the needs of students and their advisors, as well as the policies of the Exercise Physiology Program, Physical Therapy Department, the College of Health Sciences and the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.