

# Choosing an Advisor and Advisory Committee

M.S. Building Construction Science & Management (BCSM)

Ph.D. Environmental Design & Planning (EDP)

The academic advisor and Advisory Committee play a significant role in shaping each student's graduate experience. The academic advisor is a member of the Advisory Committee and serves as its chair. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to support each student in achieving his or her goals of study through working with the student to design and approve a Plan of Study, providing advice, conducting required examinations, and regularly assessing the student's progress and accomplishments. Advisory Committee members indicate their commitment by signing the student's Plan of Study.

At the M.S. level, a student's choice of track (Industry or Research) determines who will serve on their advisory committee and the role of the committee in working with the student. Industry Track students are advised by a standing faculty committee, whereas Research Track students select and recruit a committee customized to support their specific research interests. Specific requirements for each track can be found in the [M.S. Process Requirements](#) section of the Graduate Guidebook.

At the Ph.D. level, students are paired with a faculty champion who commits to serve as their advisor during the admissions process. The advisor and the student then work together to identify and recruit members of the advisory committee to support the student's choice of topic and research methods. Specific requirements can be found in the [Ph.D. Process Requirements](#) section of the Graduate Guidebook.

## Committee Selection Requirements and Conflicts of Interest

Faculty are not permitted to serve as major advisor or committee member for individuals with whom they have a personal or professional conflict of interest (e.g., spouse, son, daughter, business associate, etc.). Non-faculty personnel may be recommended for inclusion on a graduate student committees, but not as committee chairs. Such personnel should meet the standards of academic training and research experience expected of faculty members serving on such committees. Approval of the inclusion of non-faculty committee members is requested by the student's major advisor to the dean of the Graduate School. Graduate School approval is required of all non-faculty committee members, and particular advantages of such a nomination should be cited in the request to the Graduate School. Non-faculty personnel shall make up no more than one-third of the total committee membership, may share thesis/dissertation supervision responsibilities, and enjoy voting rights and privileges. Non-faculty committee

members will be listed by their professional titles and affiliations. Graduate students may not serve on an advisory and/or examining committee.