



Campus Advisors

Purpose and Impact

Campus Advisors serve a vital function in the campus ministry of CMDA. Generally our Campus Advisors are Christian medical or dental faculty or local practitioners, who are willing to share their lives with students as they journey through medical or dental school.

As students face the lengthy and demanding years necessary to become a doctor, they appreciate interacting with Campus Advisors who have successfully completed the training process with their faith still intact.

Attending a student meeting sends a profound message to busy students that their ministry is important. When Campus Advisors involve themselves with students and their CMDA meetings, it is a powerful affirmation of their own commitment to Christ and the spiritual needs in their own life. To students, doctors practically walk on water. They have mastered all that academics and medical or dental training could throw at them and survived. Yet for all their achievements, when Campus Advisors place a priority on time with the Lord, their example may someday influence a busy practitioner to take time to pray over his day and patients because a professor modeled the heart of a humble disciple.

A Campus Advisor's timely word of encouragement and concern, or offering to pray with a student may be the one thing students might need to fight back the waves of doubt and fear. Further, for a CA to invite students into their home sends a message of friendship. It becomes a refuge away from the demands of training – a place to relax and discover that there is more to oneself than being a student. Marvin Jewell, MD invited students from Wayne State Medical School in Detroit to bring their musical instruments to his home. Amid good food, laughter, and rich fellowship, students played their instruments and for awhile medical school was a distant memory.

Drs. Charles and Loraine Kelly have invited clinical students and residents from Indiana University into their home for over thirty years. They have chosen to invest their lives in the countless men and women that have passed through their doorway. And the Lord has allowed their example to influence many to consider career or short-term medical missions.

Rick Donlon, MD, a Campus Advisor for the University of Tennessee medical students, decided to move his family to the inner-city of Memphis so that he could earn the trust of the patients he sought to reach with the gospel. His example has influenced many to consider the needs of America's third world.

The Campus Advisors role may be summarized as follows:

- **Role Model** A spiritually healthy person, who models the character of Christ.
- **Mentor / Discipler** A motivator, who shows students how to manage the challenges of academic, clinical, and personal life, while pursuing academics and/or medicine and dentistry as a ministry.
- **Guidance** Provides the all-important wisdom and guidance student leaders need as they lead their campus ministry.

Qualifications

- An interest in ministering to students
- Committed to personal spiritual growth
- Receptive to direction from CMDA staff or Local Councils
- Servant attitude
- Good reputation among Christians and non-Christians
- Seeks to integrate faith in Christ into their personal and professional environment
- May be on faculty or in private practice
- Member of the Christian Medical & Dental Associations

Job Description

- Commitment to the spiritual development of students
- Willing to meet periodically with student leaders, Campus Staff, Local Councils or the Regional Director to assess the progress of the campus ministry
- Regularly attends weekly student CMDA meetings and Bible studies (when possible)
- Makes every effort to attend the annual Campus Leadership Conference with new student leaders
- Willing to attend a regional or national CMDA conference for Campus Advisors
- Available to meet with students one-on-one

While being a Campus Advisor is not for everyone, the rewards of investing in the future of students are well worth the sacrifice of time. CMDA urges students and CMDA members to become aware of medical and dental faculty, in particular, whose lives have demonstrated a heart for students and a heart for the Lord.