



Avelina Rivero
Assistant Professor

This advising statement is a working document, meaning it is constantly changing and evolving as I meet and interact with new students. I firmly believe that for a relationship to function, there must be mutual exchange. I will learn from you, and you will learn from me. We all have unique experiences and perspectives, and each one is valid. Below, I describe my advising style and the expectations I have for my students.

Communication:

The best way to communicate with me is via email, and you can generally expect a response within one day. If your request is urgent and requires a quicker reply, please include "Urgent" in the subject line. If you haven't received a response after one day, feel free to resend the email. Please note that I **do not** respond to emails on weekends. If my door is open, you're always welcome to stop by and say hello.

Feedback:

You can **always** expect timely and constructive feedback from me. Please allow me a couple of days to provide quality feedback. I love offering detailed feedback on your work. For example, I use track changes and add comments throughout your document. I will always ensure to include praise along with suggestions for improvement. If you receive a document with extensive track changes, please note that I do not think your work is bad; instead, it may reflect that we think differently. I do not expect you to accept all the changes. Please take the time to reflect on the feedback, and if anything is unclear or contradictory, feel free to reach out. Writing is a process! There may be multiple drafts. However, please keep my feedback documented so I don't repeat the same suggestions or highlight the same issues. Also, be mindful of the timelines I provide, as I expect you to submit your work on time.

Resolving Conflict:

We are humans and misunderstandings are bound to happen. If there is ever an instance where there is conflict that cannot be resolved between us, I will involve the DGS, Department Head, College HR Lead, or Office of Student Conflict Resolution.

Meetings:

As a research team, we will meet weekly to discuss updates related to ongoing projects. During these research team meetings, I expect students to come prepared to participate and be engaged. For example, there may be times when we provide each other feedback on conference proposals or manuscripts. On an individual level, we will also meet weekly to have time for connection and check-ins.

Program Requirements:

We will meet at the beginning of every semester to discuss your program requirements and degree progress. In these meetings, we will talk about the progress you've made and growth opportunities. We will develop a plan for the semester to ensure you stay on track to meet your end goal. You will be responsible for reading and familiarizing yourself with the graduate handbook. I expect you to be familiar with all the form requirements.

Publications:

By the time you graduate, I expect you to have multiple first-author publications. You will also have many opportunities to join manuscripts as a co-author. I expect you to collaborate with other faculty in the department and outside of the department, as well as with your peers. This is crucial because it will help you learn to work well with others and manage several projects. It will also help you learn how to navigate authorship and how to negotiate and advocate for yourself.

National Meetings (Conferences):

I expect that you will find a professional space (conference) that you will attend and present your work regularly. You do not need to attend the conferences I primarily attend. At conferences, I expect you to be engaged and attend sessions relevant to your work and professional development. It is also a great opportunity to network and meet new people in your field. I also expect you to seek volunteering opportunities, such as reviewing conference proposals.

Career Path:

I **will** always support the career path you choose, whether that involves pursuing a career in academia or a non-academic career (e.g., government, NGOs, industry). I understand that your career plans may change, and that's perfectly okay. I will be here to support you throughout the entire process. In your first year, I will ask you to create a five-year career plan that includes a list of your short-term goals. This will help keep you on track. At the beginning of each semester, we will review and update the career plan as needed. Additionally, I will provide feedback on your CV and job market materials.

Personal Life:

I believe it is critical to maintain a balanced life. I have a personal life, and I expect you to have one too. Please make it a priority to engage in self-care and prioritize your mental health. Taking care of your well-being is essential in preventing burnout. I want you to be happy and healthy. You cannot engage in the meaningful work you are passionate about if you are struggling mentally. Sometimes, it can be hard to manage many roles at once. If you are struggling to balance your responsibilities, we can work together to create a plan that works for you. I also understand that life happens, and family needs may arise that could impact your work. Should that happen, please communicate with me so we can adjust your responsibilities accordingly.

Ethics:

I expect all my students to abide by the [University of Minnesota](#) code of conduct, and all ethical standards of research as outlined by the [APA](#) and [Society for Research in Child Development](#).

Equity and Inclusion :

I expect that my advisees will share a commitment to anti-racist scholarship in all aspects of their research (i.e., questions, methods, data analysis, interpretation of findings, dissemination, and application) to promote the well-being of BIPOC children, youth, and families locally and globally. We are committed to using strength-based (versus deficit-based) frameworks, grounding the research in appropriate cultural contexts and being aware of and considering when possible racial and structural inequalities constrain opportunities and affect outcomes.