UofL Advisor Guide





GradesFirst

7/1/2011



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Introduction

Advisors: Welcome to GradesFirst, your home for staying connected with other advisors and students! We truly hope you enjoy using GradesFirst and find it essential to helping you manage your daily activities. Within the application you will find a powerful combination of programming functionality that focuses on helping advisors more effectively succeed on student retention and communication. In other words, GradesFirst will put the power of information at your fingertips as you use our diverse set of tools to help maximize the effectiveness of your daily student activities.

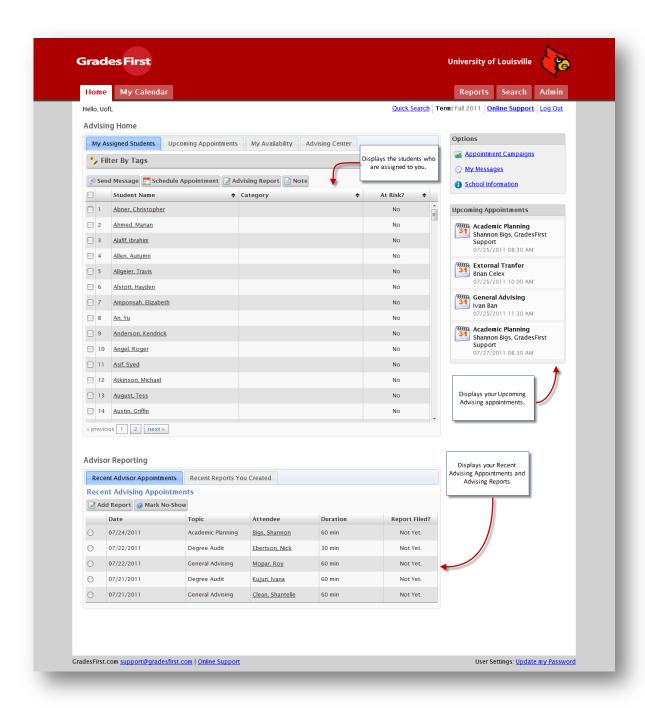
The scope of this document is to provide you with a source of information that will help you understand and use GradesFirst. Since GradesFirst is a very flexible application, this document will instruct you on the basics of using the system. However, keep in mind, these instructions will be general in nature as universities will have a varying degree of needs.

Support

How do I contact technical support? You can log a support ticket by emailing Neil Gibbs, GradesFirst Administrator, at neil.gibbs@louisville.edu. We will also log a support ticket to track the progress of your support request. We will then work with GradesFirst, if needed, to troubleshoot and fix any technical problems.

Advisor Home Page

This is where you, the advisor, will be spending the majority of your time. From the Home page advisors can do a wide variety of tasks. This is the default page that appears each time the advisor logs into GradesFirst.



Areas of Interest:

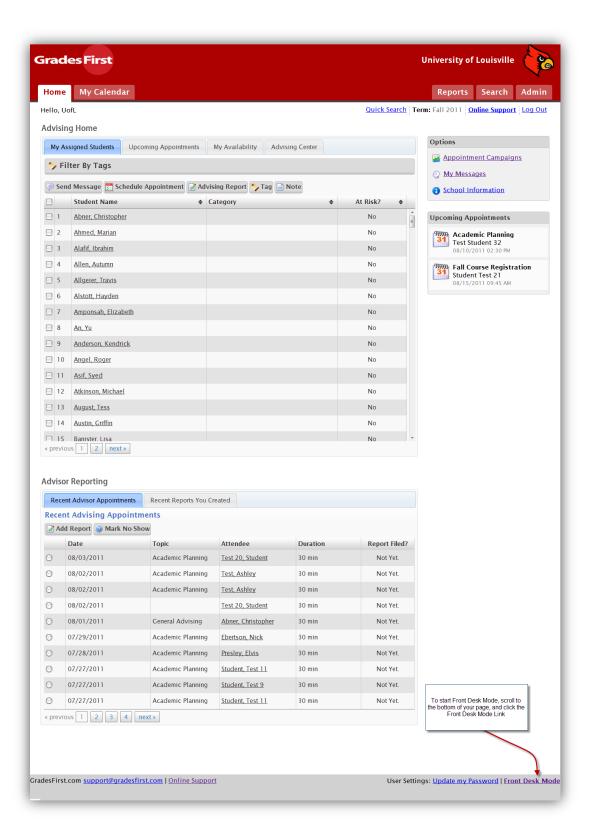
My Assigned Students: Displays the students that have been assigned to you.

Advisor Reporting: Displays your most recent past appointments and advisor reports.

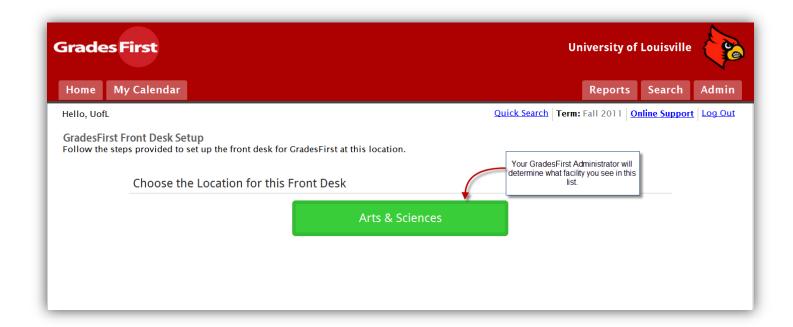
Upcoming Appointments: Displays, in order, your upcoming appointments.

Creating a User in GradesFirst

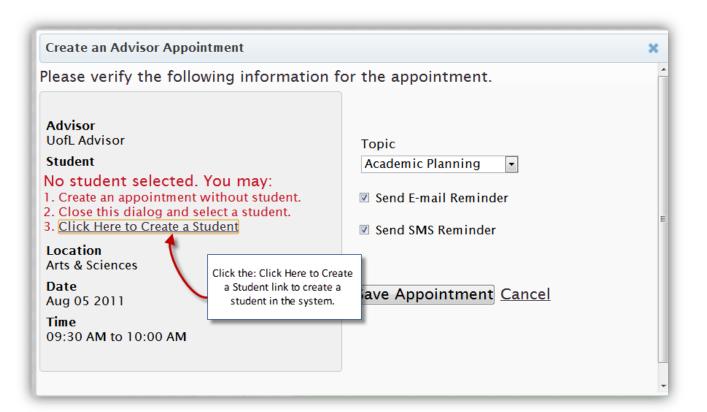
Once you have completed the Quick Search and have determined that the student is not in the system, your first step will be to start Front Desk Mode. The Front Desk Mode is located in the bottom right corner of your Home page.



Your GradesFirst Administrator will determine what Facilities or Centers you see in this list. Typically you will only see one facility. This will be the facility you work with on a daily basis.



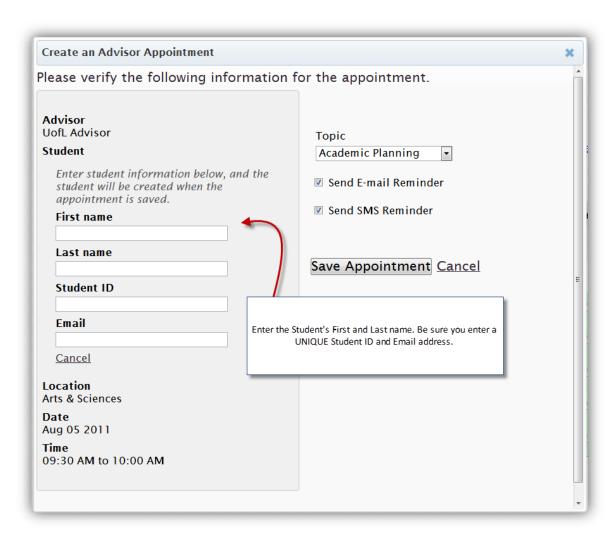
Pick the **Advisor, Date and Time**. When you attempt to save the appointment, you will see an option that allows you to create a student.



Upon clicking the Click Here to Create a Student Link, a small form will appear. The student's First and Last name can be the same as another student. However, the **Student ID and E-mail address** <u>must</u> be unique. GradesFirst will not allow you to create a student with the same Student ID as another student in the system.

If the student knows his/her UofL Student ID, you may enter it. If the student does not have or does not know their student ID, use this naming convention: **999 + the last 4 digits** of the student's social security number.

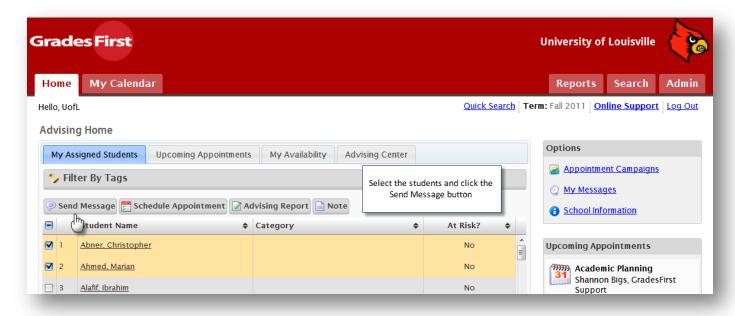
If the 999 + the last 4 digits of the student's social security match another user in the system, simply add a digit to make the number unique.

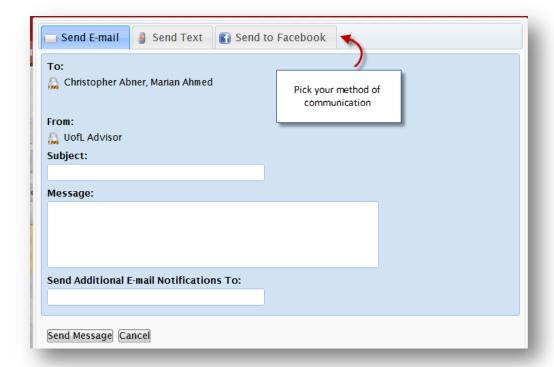


Once you have completed the Student Information form, verify the details of the appointment. Finally, save the appointment. Once you save the appointment, the student will be created in the system.

Communication

Sending messages with GradesFirst is simple. First select one, some or all of your students. Then click the Send Message button. Pick your form of communication: Email, Text or Facebook, and click the Send button.

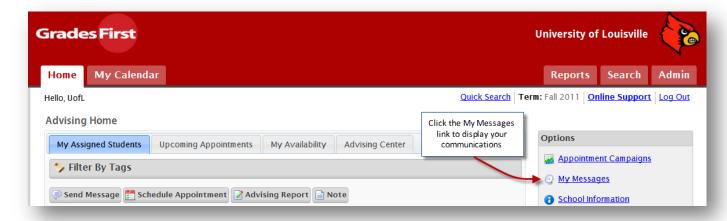


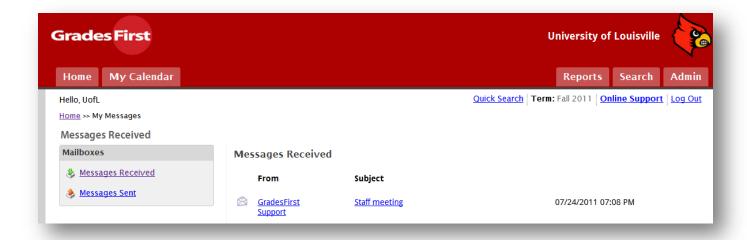


If you select multiple recipients for your message, the message will send individually. You must pick one form of communication. You can't send multiple forms of communication at once.

My Messages

Track the messages you send through GradesFirst by clicking on the My Messages link. From here you can see who you have sent messages to and whom you have received messages from.

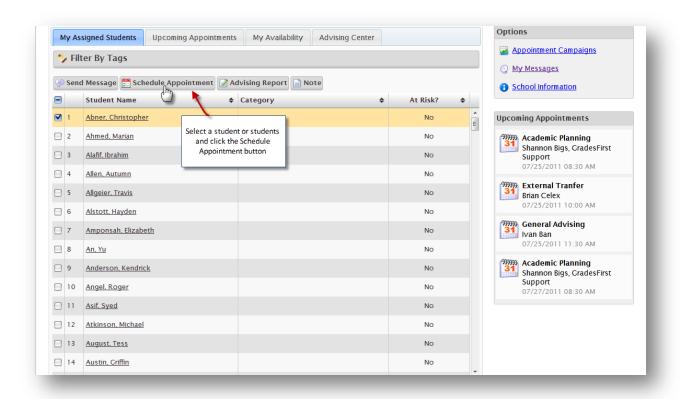




Click on the Messages Received or Messages Sent link to display your messages within GradesFirst. GradesFirst will display the type of message and the date and time the message was sent or received.

Appointment Scheduling

From your Home page, it is simple to schedule an Advising appointment. Simply select the student(s), then click the Schedule Appointment button.



Once you have selected a student, you will complete the appointment scheduling form. Take a look at the screenshot below of the appointment scheduling form.

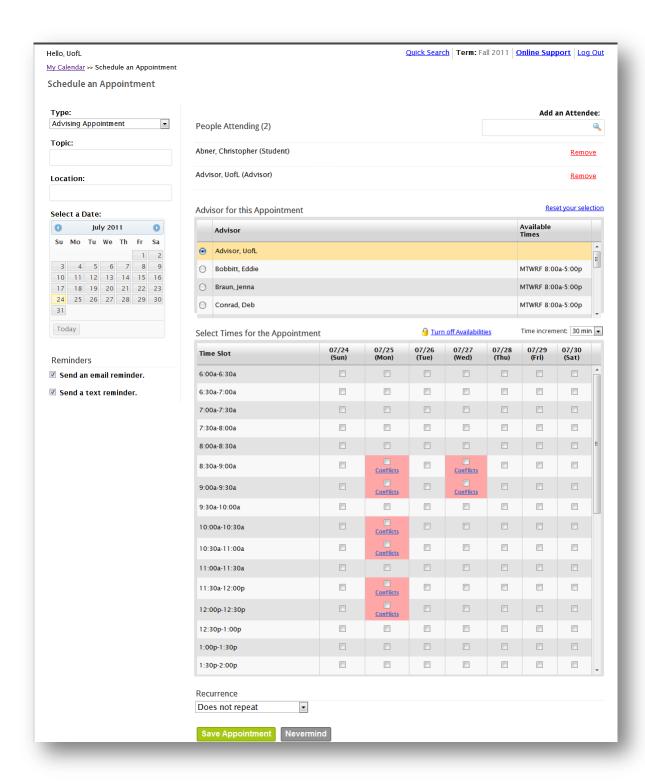
Areas of Interest when scheduling an appointment:

Type: Choose Advising from the drop down for the type.

Topic: Fill in the topic of the Advising appointment.

Location: Fill in the location of the Advising appointment.

Attendees: Add additional attendees for the appointment if necessary.



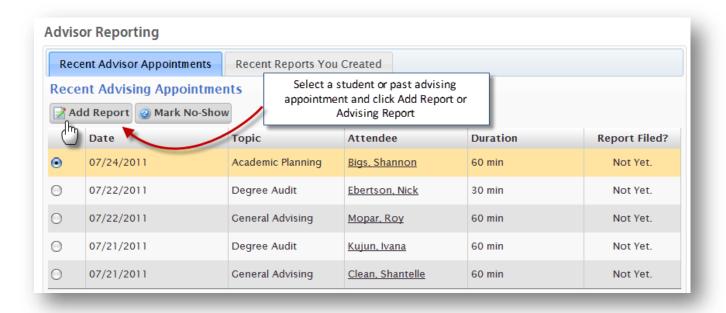
Areas of Interest:

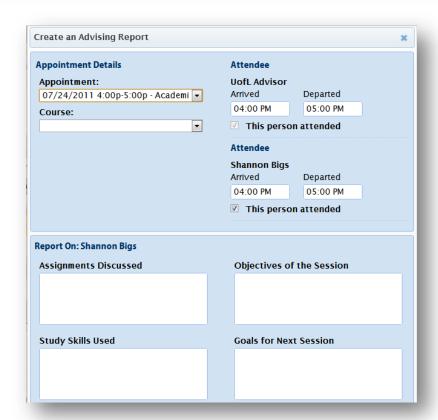
Conflicts: Scheduled events of the attendees of the appointment will display in red. Click on the link to display information regarding the conflict.

Recurrence: Determine if the appointment will be a recurring event. Choose the recurrence information and save the appointment.

Advising Reports

Advising reports or evaluations summarize what was discussed in an advising appointment. GradesFirst provides a standard form that provides a combination of yes/no questions with areas for subjective information input. To add an advising report simply select either a student or a recent event and click the Advising Report button.



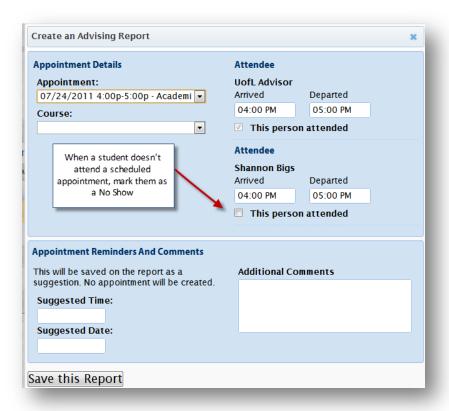


Notes on Advising Reports

- Adjust the time in the Arrived and Departed fields to represent the exact duration of the appointment.
- The fields on Advising Reports are not required. Complete only the portions you feel apply to your appointment.

Mark as No Show

If a student doesn't attend a scheduled appointment, you may mark them as a No-Show by un-checking the box next to 'This person attended'. This report resembles an Advising Report. However, an area of the report that says if the student attended the appointment is marked.

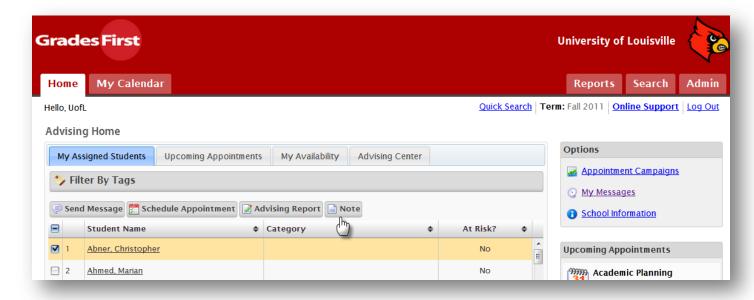


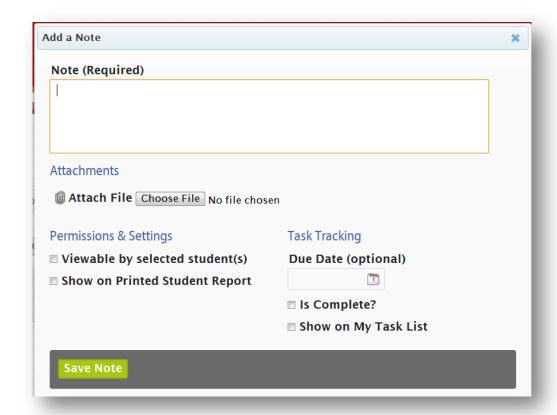
Depending on your school's settings, once a student is marked as a No-Show, GradesFirst will send an email to the student, the student's advisor or the student's coach.

Adding Notes

Adding notes to a student's profile is an effective way to communicate pertinent information internally to other faculty and staff or to the student. You can attach a document to a note.

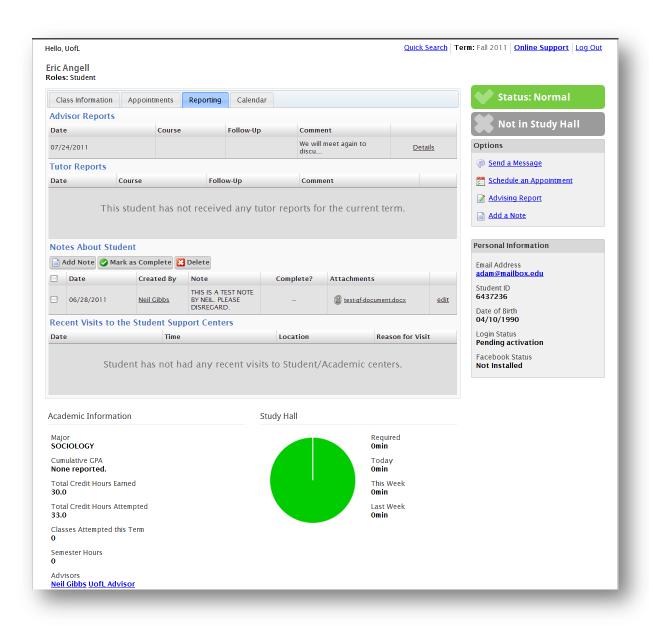
To add a note, simply select a student or students and click the Note button.





Student View

By clicking on a student, you will be taken to the student's profile page. A student profile page displays Advisor Reports, Notes, Course Information and much more. The student's profile page has four tabs: Class Information, Appointments, Reporting, and Calendar. You will probably spend the majority of your time reviewing the Reporting tab. See a screen shot of the Reporting tab below.



Areas of Interest

Advisor Reports: Display all advising reports about a student.

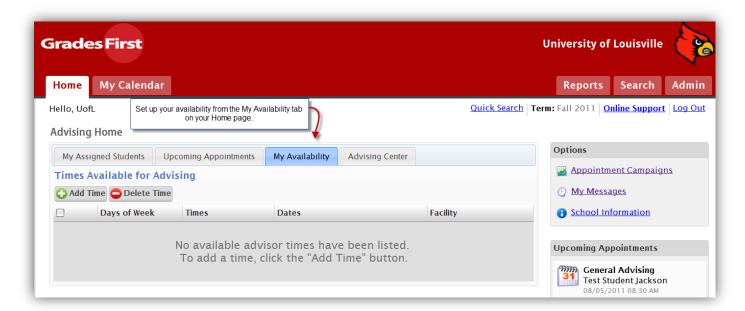
Notes: Displays notes written about the student.

Recent Visit to the Student Support Centers: Displays visits a student had to facilities set up in GradesFirst.

Academic Information: Display student information including Major, Cumulative GPA, Total Credit Hours Earned, Total Credit Hours Attempted, Classes Attempted this Term and Semester Hours. Typically, this information is imported from your school's Student Information System.

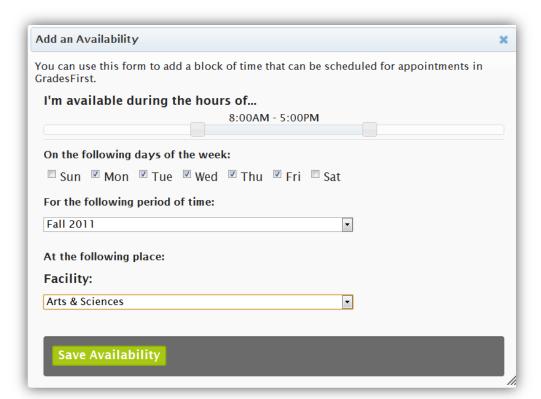
Setting up your availability within GradesFirst

Setting up your availability within GradesFirst is VERY important. This is how other users including Students, Support Staff and Advisors will schedule appointments with you. Setting up availability is simple. First click the My Availability tab from your Home page.



Adding Time

To add time, simply click the Add Time button. Select the **Time Range**, **Days of the week**, **Time period and the Facility** you work with.



Adding Time

Areas of Interest:

<u>Time Range</u>: To set up 'blocks' of availability, simply move the time slider to the first block of time you'd like. For Example: 8AM – 12PM. Save the days of the week, time period and facility. Then click the Add Time button again and save your next 'block' of time such as 1PM – 4:30PM.

<u>Days of the week</u>: Select the days of the week you are available. If you aren't available on Wednesdays, leave the box next to Wednesday blank.

Period of time:

Term: The term time will display the current term for your school, which is set-up by your GradesFirst Administrator. If you are in the Fall Semester (Term), you will see Fall Semester in the drop down here. If you select this period of time, you will need to re-define your availability when the term changes.

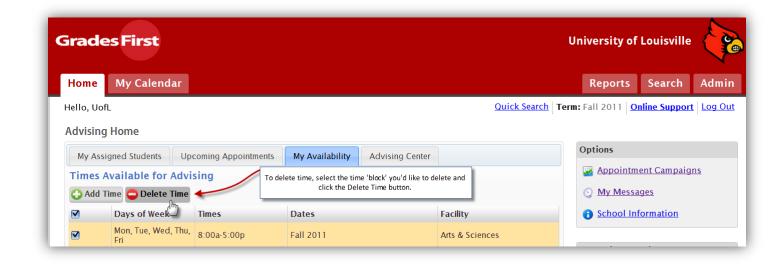
Range of Dates: Choose the specific dates for which the time and days of the week you defined earlier apply. This works well if you know in advance that you will be out of town or that your schedule will change from week to week. *Please note: it's best to use the Range of Dates period of time alone. Combining it with the Term availability or the Forever availability may produce unintended results.

Forever: Choose this availability if you know your availability will not change from semester to semester or term to term.

Facility: It is very important that you select the correct facility for which you are associated.

Deleting Time:

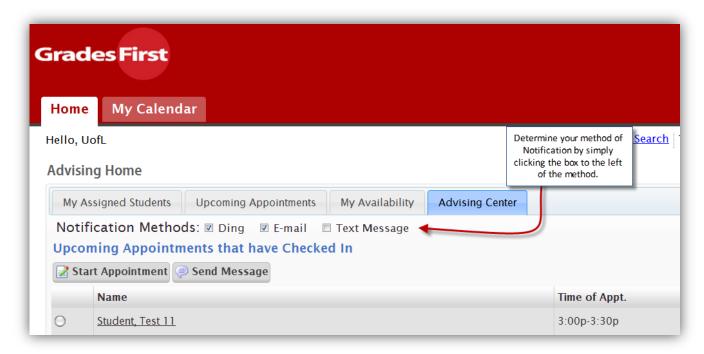
To delete times from your availability, select the availability and click the Delete Time button.



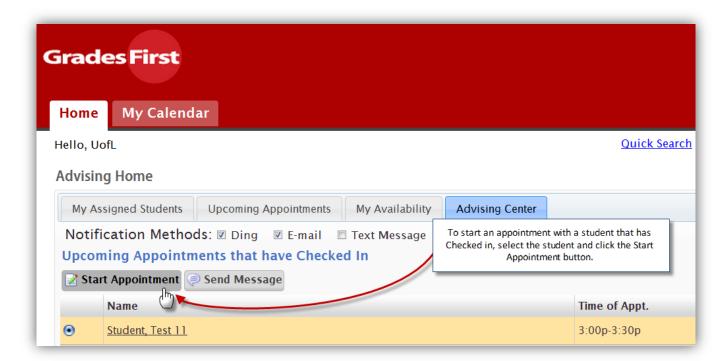
Advising Center Tab

The Advising Center tab provides you with the ability to select your method of notification and initiate an appointment with your students. The Advising Center tab will refresh every 60 seconds.

First, you'll need to select your method of notification. Choose from an audible Ding, an Email or a SMS text message (*Note you will want to verify UofL's text messaging policy before selecting the text message option).

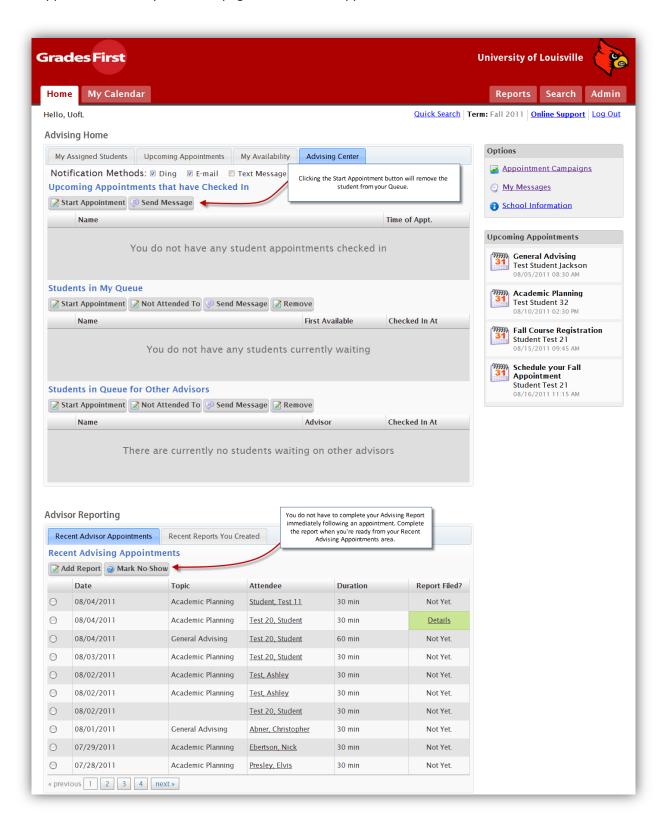


To begin an appointment with a student who has checked in, select that student from the Upcoming Appointments that have Checked In area and click the Start Appointment button.



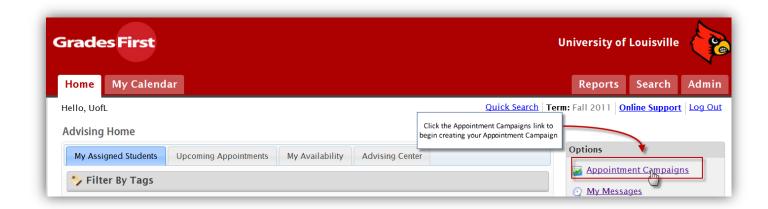
After clicking the Start Appointment button, an advising report will display. You **do not** have to complete the advising report right away. If you'd like to log your notes later, simply click the "X" at the top right of the report.

The appointment will appear at the bottom of the Advising Center tab with your Recent Appointments. You can also access the appointment from your Home page in the Recent Appointments area.

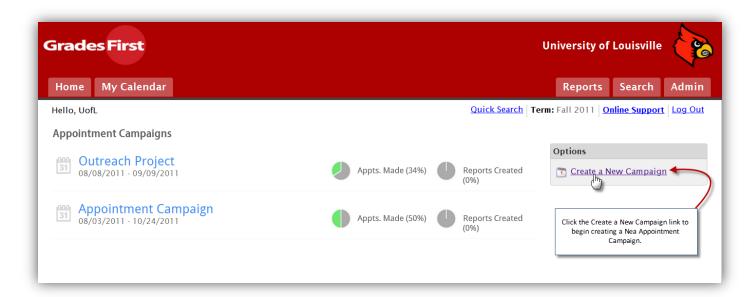


Appointment Campaigns

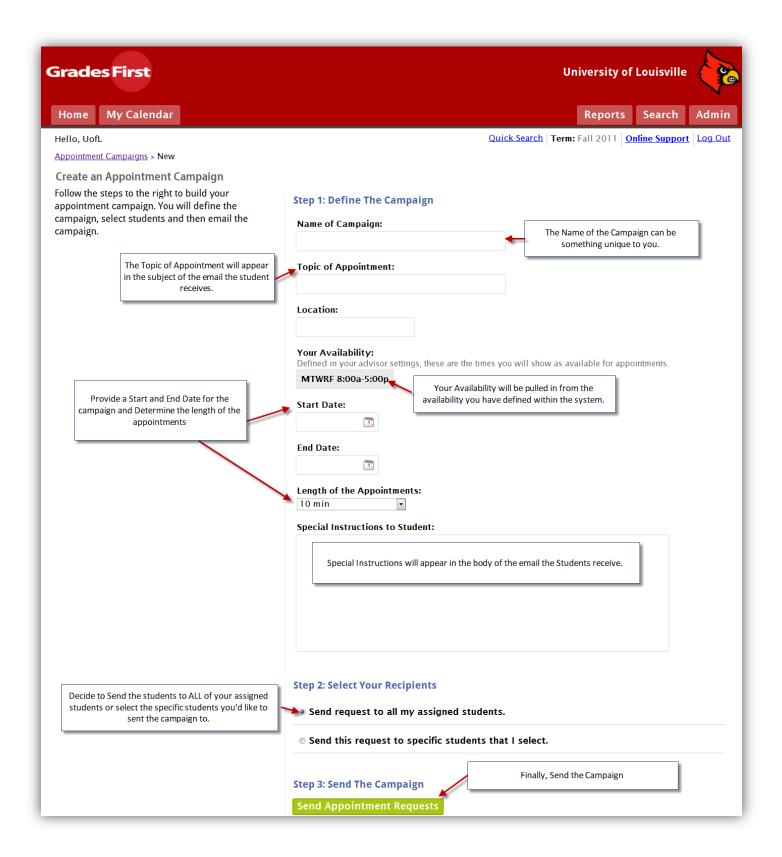
Appointment campaigns allow you to send an email request to your students informing them of when you would like them to schedule an appointment with you. To create an appointment campaign, simply click the Appointment Campaign link in the Options box on your Home page. From there, simply define the parameters of your campaign and send it to your selected students.



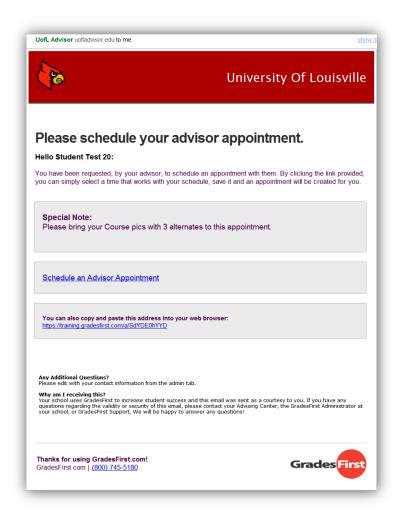
By clicking the Appointment Campaign link you will be redirected to your Appointment Campaign Dashboard. We will discuss this Dashboard a bit later in this document. To create a new Appointment Campaign, click the Create a New Campaign link.



Once you click the Create a New Campaign link, you will need to complete the 3 steps listed on the Appointment Campaign creation page.

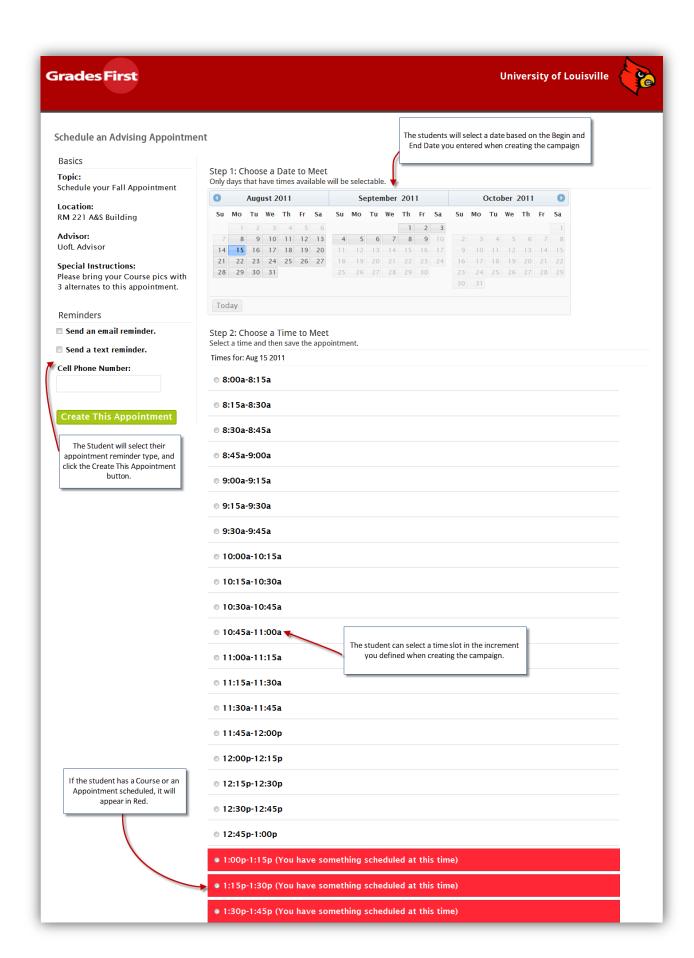


Now that you've filled out the information for your Appointment Campaign and clicked the Send Appointment Requests button, your students will receive an email. Within the email, they'll have a link to click to complete the Appointment Campaign. Review the screen shots below.



When the student clicks the link included in the email, they will be taken to an appointment scheduling screen. The student will pick the day and time along with the type of reminder they would like to receive regarding the appointment.

Review the screen shot below of the student's view of scheduling an appointment from an Appointment Campaign.

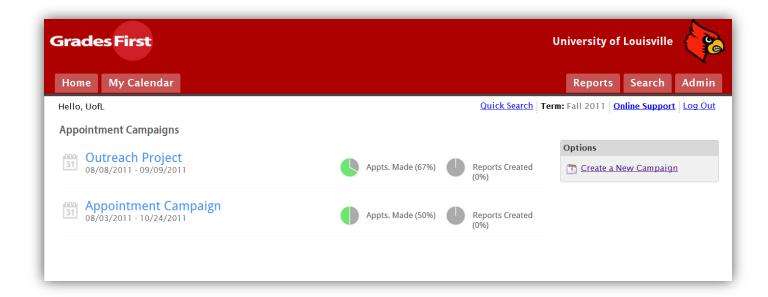


Once the student has scheduled their appointment, an appointment confirmation page will appear. The link in the email from the appointment campaign is no longer active once an appointment had been scheduled. This will prevent students from creating duplicate appointments within the same appointment campaign.



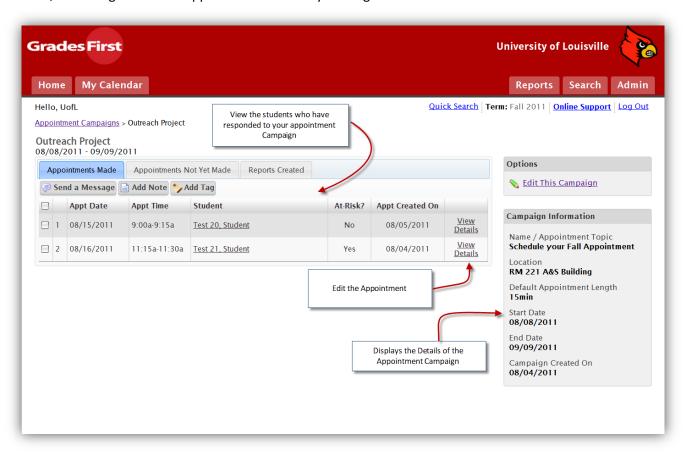
Appointment Campaign Dashboard

Once you have sent an appointment campaign, you can observe and track the results from your Appointment Campaign Dashboard. To access the dashboard simply click the Appointment Campaign link in your Options box. You will first be presented with a visual representation of: a) How many students have responded to your request and b) How many reports you have created that are linked to this Appointment Campaign. Clicking on the Name of the Appointment Campaign will display more details regarding the campaign. We will discuss these details below.



Appointments Made tab

This displays the students that have responded to your Appointment Campaign. From this tab you may: Send a Message, Add a Note, Add a Tag or edit the appointment details by clicking the View Details link.

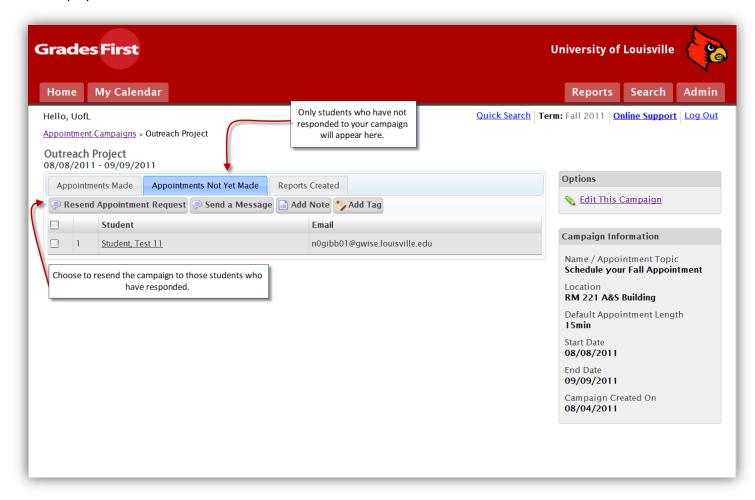


Edit This Campaign

By clicking this link, you have the ability to Edit/Alter the campaign to send to additional students. This will not affect the students you have already sent the campaign to. However, you can send the campaign to additional members of your student populations. Refer to page 19 to observe what this page will resemble.

Appointments Not Yet Made tab

This tab displays the students who have not yet responded to your Appointment campaign. You may quickly send those students a message or resend the request. Students who have already responded to your Appointment Campaign will not be displayed here.



Reports Created tab

From the Reports created tab you can view any reports you have created that are linked to your Appointment Campaign.

