SOAR 2026 CCAS Keynote Kickoff Transcript

NO SLIDE: Hello & Welcome

- Hello everyone! Welcome to your CCAS Virtual SOAR Advising Experience. My name is Gayle Viney-Goers and my pronouns are she/her. I'm the Communications Director with Cross-College Advising Service.
- Thanks for joining our Keynote Presentation. All of us at CCAS look forward to engaging with you in a variety of ways throughout this week.

SLIDE 1: Welcome to Virtual SOAR Week CCAS

- Our Virtual Advising Week includes a variety of activities – both live and on your own.
- Throughout the week, we also provide many ways to connect with UW students and staff while learning about campus.
- Our goal is to help you set the foundation for your first semester at UW.

SLIDE 2: The Run Down -

- This short video is going to go over **3 things:**
  1. Our Cross-College Advising Service office and what it means to advise with CCAS
  2. What to expect this week, and the opportunities to take part in
  3. How to stay connected to CCAS

SLIDE 3: At CCAS WE…

- Before I get started, I do want to acknowledge that when I introduced myself, I shared my pronouns. If sharing pronouns is something new for you, sharing and correctly using someone's pronouns is a way to show respect for each other's identities.
- At CCAS, we are committed to supporting our students and staff from all identities and backgrounds. We strive to create an inclusive environment where all feel heard, valued, and included.
- When we try hard to get the words right, it's an important way to show we care.
- This statement is a mindset that we work hard to integrate into every part of our advising practice…
  - **At CCAS we…**

    Care about you

    Honor your identities

    Celebrate your exploration

    Empower your decisions

    Support your voice

    …are a team.

SLIDE 4: First – What is CCAS and How will we help you explore & enroll?

SLIDE 5: CCAS - Where you can...

- Our CCAS office is the **leading campus resource** for students who are **exploring**, **considering, and deciding on** different majors and careers. These three capitalized words on the screen help guide our advising practice…
  - **BELONG. EXPLORE. BECOME.**

- Our goals are to help you:
    - feel a sense of **Belonging** to UW-Madison and our ccas community
    - to **Explore** your college path and the major options available
    - **And** empower you to **Become** who you want to be!

- We work with undergraduate students interested in majors in **any UW-Madison** school or college.
- A CCAS student is **anyone** who is exploring their academic options!

SLIDE 6: The Start of your UW Journey

- Everyone in this zoom room is probably starting in different places….. some of you might:
    - Have a lot of majors in mind and are unsure how to choose a specific path.
    - Are deciding between a couple majors (possibly in different schools and colleges)
    - Are completely undecided about what major to pursue.
    - Are interested in applying to a limited enrollment program like Business, Nursing, or Journalism. Or maybe you're planning on applying to the College of Engineering when you get to campus.

SLIDE 7: So what does it mean to advise with CCAS?

- UW-Madison is made up of (now) 9 undergraduate schools and colleges and each of these schools and colleges have specific advising units that serve their students.

- All UW undergraduate majors fall within one of these schools/colleges.
- Our CCAS office is an **independent UW advising office.**
- While we're an independent office, all student who start with CCAS do initially start in the College of Letters and Science.
- We don't have an alliance with any school or college. We think they all are great! Our focus is to help you find your path to the specific school or college that is best for you.
- We've been working with students for 32 years, and each summer at SOAR, we see almost 1,500 incoming students.
- Because there are so many of you that start with our CCAS Advising Office, we are fortunate to have a LARGE team of advisors for you to work.

SLIDE 8: TEAM CCAS

- Here's a snapshot of our CCAS Team! We have a very large team of professional academic advisors.
- Our CCAS advisors are knowledgeable about **all of the majors and programs** offered though the eight UW schools and colleges.
- Our advisors bring with them a wealth of knowledge, background, educational experiences, and identities!
- By the end of the week, each of you be assigned your own CCAS advisor, AND, we also want you to know that our entire team is able to help you, too.
- In addition to our CCAS Pro Advisors, we also have a wonderful group of Guest Star Pro Advisors helping us out this summer.

SLIDE 9: CCAS Peer Advisors

- We also have highly trained peer advisors who are current students. We have a great team with us ready to help YOU out!
- They will be leading a lot of our group chats and drop-in zoom opportunities this week.
- Please ask them questions and engage. They are here to support you! Together, we're going to help you find the path that best suits your interests, abilities, and goals.

SLIDE 10: CCAS Support

- Generally, CCAS students stay on track to graduate in 4 years…and often declare their major between their sophomore and junior year…
- Meeting with your advisor on a regular basis is a great way to stay on track for a timely graduation.
- A common – and valid – concern we sometimes hear from students is that if they begin without a major in mind, will they be able to graduate in 4 years?
- We have years of data that shows students who begin their college career with CCAS as exploring students, and meet with their assigned advisor regularly, graduate on time **or sooner** compared to their peers.
- We'll work together to plan out next steps and help you begin to **strategically explore** the many unique options and directions available at UW-Madison.

SLIDE 11: Inter-LS 139 – Belong, Explore, Become: Discovering your UW Paths

- In addition to meeting with a CCAS advisor to explore your major options, we also offer a 1 credit course specifically designed for YOU, our first-year, exploring students.
- Course taught by our own academic advisor and instructor, Dr. Laura Stephenson.
- In this course students will examine self, community, and the liberal arts education while progressing through a major exploration framework.
- The goal is to develop knowledge, confidence, and tools to navigate the University's opportunities and resources.
- Talk to your advisor about whether this course is right for you!

SLIDE 12: #2 - What to expect THIS WEEK – MUST DO & Encouraged

SLIDE 13: Your CCAS Virtual Week:

- Your Virtual Advising Week will help you begin your academic experience at UW-Madison with confidence and support.
- Most importantly, **you'll have your SOAR 1:1 Academic Advising Appointment a CCAS Advisor** which allows you to enroll in Fall 2026 courses.
- You will also schedule and complete a variety of other activities during the week to help you connect with UW students and staff while learning about campus.
- We grouped the activities together into two categories – **Must Do and Encouraged to Do**

SLIDE 14: Your CCAS Virtual Week – MUST DO

- **At the end of this video you'll receive a website that has links to ALL of these things!**
- Schedule and attend your SOAR 1:1 Academic Advising Appointment
- Review the CCAS SOAR Academic Advising Canvas course
- Attend your Keynote Kickoff
- Participate in one Group Chat of your choice
- Enroll in at least 12 credits *(**after** your SOAR advising appointment)*
- Complete your Post-Enrollment Reflection form *(**after** you enroll in courses)*
  - **We strongly recommend scheduling your advising appointment first, and then sign up for other live activities.**
- Schedule your Student Life & Transition Sessions (you can find these activities by downloading the UW Events App or by visiting the virtual student landing page on the SOAR.wisc.edu website)

SLIDE 15: Your CCAS Virtual Week – Encouraged to do

- Participate in more than one Group Chat
- Visit our Zoom drop-in advising when you have questions after your SOAR advising appointment
- Use our campus exploration resources to look forward to your first year at UW-Madison!

SLIDE 16: – Career Exploration Center

- Here you'll find information about our partner office, The Career Exploration Center, "the CEC." The CEC is a career services office that works with you to help you explore your career interests and options…
- Students often find it helpful to connect with CEC career advisors when they're making academic decisions and wondering how career ideas might be part of the decision…
  - *For example, if you find yourself thinking that you're interested in a certain major and are wondering what career it might lead to – the CEC is a great office to help you learn about options!*
- We want you to think of academic advising and career advising as two things that go hand-in-hand. You should connect with your academic AND career advisors early and often, and this will really help you achieve your goals here at UW.

SLIDE 17: Your Week Schedule is UP to YOU!

- What your Virtual Advising Week schedule looks like is up to you!
- We provide flexible options for advising appointments and all our live activities.
- Urge you to take some chances, get involved and meet some new people! You never know unless you try!

SLIDE 18: #3 – How to stay connected with CCAS – All Questions Welcomed

- If you think of any questions AFTER SOAR, we encourage you to reach out to us!

SLIDE 18: #3 – Keep in Touch!

- You can call or email us – Questions@ccas.wisc.edu, or contact your assigned CCAS Advisor Directly
- No question is too big or too small!
- Follow us on social media for updates and photos! Our Instagram handle is @CCASUW.

SLIDE 19: Drop In Zoom Advising

- **After your SOAR advising appointment**, you can attend our drop-ins on Zoom if you need more help! Our Peer Advisors host these drop-in advising sessions for advising and enrollment questions.
- Peer Advisors are current UW students who are highly-trained in academic advising information. You can also attend more than one drop-in session if you have more questions throughout the summer. We are here to help you during your transition to UW-Madison!
- Common topics for Zoom drop-ins include:
  - Help with selecting and enrolling in courses
  - How to add, swap, or drop a course
  - Understanding waitlisted courses
  - Help using Course Search and Enroll
  - Learn where to find exam schedules and textbooks
  - Discuss location of courses
  - Any other academic questions!

SLIDE 20: CCAS SOAR Virtual Advising Website

- Visit the CCAS Virtual Advising Week (Online SOAR Advising) webpage for more information and instructions. (QR Code on Screen)
  - ccas.wisc.edu/onlinesoar
- This page serves as **THE PRIMARY RESOURCE** for our Virtual Advising Week, as part of your online SOAR experience.
- **Our webpage includes:**
  - An overview of what to do during your Virtual Advising Week session
  - Activity descriptions for each part of the program
  - How to contact us when you have any questions

SLIDE 21: Bucky I HEART CCAS!

- We are all excited to work with you – meet you – and learn more about you and your story!
- On behalf of our CCAS Advising Team - Welcome to your UW-Madison - SOAR Virtual Advising Experience!
- We look forward to working with you and supporting you through your UW academic journey.
- Have a good week and we'll talk to you soon!