



University Achievement Awards

California State University, Long Beach

Distinguished Faculty Advising Award

Dr. Virginia Binder

Psychology

Since Dr. Virginia Binder became the Psychology Department's undergraduate advisor in the late 1980s, she has worked tirelessly to ensure psychology majors stay on track for graduation and are well prepared to find a job or continue their studies after graduation.

Dr. Binder has brought structure to the advising program, creating checklists and a handbook highlighting graduation requirements. She modified course requirements to better prepare all psychology majors for graduation and make it easier for Enrollment Services to track psychology majors. In addition, she established an online advising course that all students must take to learn about careers, graduate school, and ways to be successful as a psychology major.

In 1992 with 1,400 students pursuing psychology degrees, Dr. Binder began a peer advising program with two student volunteers who offered advice in a small office in the Psychology Building. The program quickly expanded and within a few years there were 14 to 16 peer advisors who were recruited from among the top students in the department. These advisors dispensed basic information about requirements and careers and were able to serve as role models. The peer advising program has been lauded as a model of advising in a large major. It has attracted interest from faculty on other campuses and been praised by external reviewers at the department's last two evaluations.



Ever conscientious, when Dr. Binder entered the Faculty Early Retirement Program in 2005, she began training her successors to ensure a smooth transition.