

Advanced FAT Program

The AFAT curriculum was based was developed based on feedback from FAT participants over two years and from a review of Student Affairs literature. It was approved by the FJCCSGA Advisers Association in June 2009.

The AFAT topics are split in six core topics and five elective topics. Advisers must attend the six core courses and three of the five electives, plus present a FAT or AFAT session, and must attend each of the following five FJCCSGA events (summer, fall, and spring Presidents Assembly, District Leadership Retreat, and State Conference) to receive a certificate of completion.

The AFAT courses are:

Liability, Negligence, & Risk Management in Student Activities (AFAT #1 - Core)

This session builds on the basic Legal Issues session and focuses on aspects of risk as related to SGAs and student activities in general. Beyond clarifying the differences between Liability, Negligence, & Risk Management, the sessions will explore how each is applied to student activities. Attendees will learn sources of risk and how to detect areas in need of management, plus what departmental policies are needed in regards to these. Advisers will also learn how to minimize liability for department and institution and how to shield the Student Activities staff from personal liability. Specific examples and case studies will be used whenever possible.

1st Amendment Issues (AFAT #2 - Core)

This session builds on the basic Legal Issues session to more deeply explore what the 1st Amendment means as it relates to student activities & student government. Advisers whom attend this session will learn how “freedom of assembly” affects student organizations, the rights of religious-based and political student organizations, and the rights of a “free press” associated with the College. The concept of free speech will be examined in terms of its overall impact on campus activities, and advisers will learn about the limitations of free speech and how free speech fits into student government elections. This session will also include a discussion on how Florida’s Sunshine laws affect student government & student activities.

Effective Lobbying (AFAT #3 - Core)

Advisers attending this session will learn the role of lobbying in Florida’s legislative process, including state statutes related to lobbying and the role of legislative staffs. Lobbying etiquette will be examined as will Legislative timelines. Lastly, the sessions will focus on a series of “Best Practices” and will explore how to teach lobbying to SGA membership.

Conflict Management (AFAT #4 - Core)

This session explores the nature of conflict and theories for conflict management among individuals and within groups. Strategies for conflict resolution will be discussed along a examination of the adviser’s role in the process.

Collaborations with Academic Affairs (AFAT #5 - Core)

Advisers attending this session will learn the role Student Activities plays in a learning environment. In examining effective strategies that can be used to ignite a new partnership with Academic Affairs, the discussion will allow advisers to learn how to develop and implement programs, events, and activities that encompass an academic component. The sessions will also include an overview of the benefits that result in an effective partnership with Academic Affairs.

Assessment (AFAT #6 - Core)

This session will introduce advisers to core facets of assessment in student activities. The discussion will examine different types of assessment, establishing specific outcomes, and assessment strategies aimed at determining if the initiative/program was successful in meeting those outcomes.

Student Development Theories (AFAT #7 - Elective)

This session allows advisers to closely examine cognitive development theory, psychosocial development theory, and social identity theories from the perspective looking at how advisers can help students succeed using a theory-based approach. Discussion will center around identifying students' developmental status and helping them program through developmental steps.

Group Development Theories (AFAT #8 - Elective)

Focusing on an organization, advisers attending this session will examine how groups form and function. A focus will be on the adviser's role in helping an organization progress through the stages to achieve maximum effectiveness, both in terms of the organization meeting its goals, and to allow for maximum student development.

Dealing with Institutional Politics (AFAT #9 - Elective)

Beyond simply assessing the political environment at an institution, this session will develop allies across the institution, marketing and self-promotion, and restructuring department objectives to meeting institutional priorities. A discussion of best practices will be encouraged to foster learning from one another.

Retreat planning for SGA Executive Boards (AFAT #10 - Elective)

Advisers attending this session will learn the definitions of a Retreat and about a variety of different types of retreats. They will examine how to establish learning & organizational outcomes for a retreat, and how to create a setting to achieve the desired outcomes. Finally, the group will discuss a series of Best Practices that could be implemented on any campus.

Trends & Topics in the Florida College System (AFAT #11 - Elective)

This session is a "wild-card," as the topics will change depending on the state of State and of the Florida College System. Special topic sessions will be implemented based on the current needs and issues, or as requested by the Advisers Association. Presenters may include experts in the field, whom may or may not work in Student Activities.