



Overview of Advisor Link's Flex Scheduling Functionality

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What is Flex Scheduling?

The new Flex Scheduling functionality includes enhancements to managing the **locations** where you provide advising as well as the seasonal aspects of advising on certain **topics and sub-topics**.

Location-based Availability:

<https://powerofus.force.com/s/article/SAL-Set-Up-Location-Based-Advising-Availability>

Location-based availability allows advisors to designate blocks of time to meet with students, and associate those availability blocks with one or more locations. For example, say an academic advisor, Adrian Morges, works from home three days a week. When he's home, he can meet with advisees by phone (his mobile phone) and virtually, using the university's approved web-conferencing tool. One day a week he's on campus, where he can meet with advisees in-person in his office, by phone (his office or his mobile phone), or virtually. And on Fridays, he has to juggle childcare and he never knows where he'll be, so scheduled appointments must be voice calls on his mobile phone. Adrian and advisors like him rely on the flexible scheduling made possible by associating their availability with specific locations—including virtual locations.

Topic-based Availability:

<https://powerofus.force.com/s/article/SAL-Set-Up-Topic-Based-Advising-Availability>

No one likes to talk about Christmas in June, and advisors typically don't advise about graduation audits in September. Help advisors optimize their scheduling through the seasons by using **Topic-based availability**, which lets them associate their recurring availability blocks with appointment Topics and Subtopics.



For example, advisors can set up a recurring block during August and September dedicated to scheduling, and a different block for March through May dedicated to graduation audits. They can add additional Topics to those availability blocks as desired, so they can also be available to discuss study abroad planning, for example, whenever it's a hot topic with advisees.

What is Changing in the Advisor Link Interface?

The primary change for Advisors will be in how they set up their Appointment Availability.

The **Current Location Setting feature is one text field** in which you define everything that the Student needs to know about the location.

LOCATION SETTINGS

* Appointment Locations ⓘ

Where you meet with advisees. For example, "Porter Hall 1113B" or "By phone: (310) 555-1131"

In person: Coda Building, 10th Floor	Remove
By phone: 404 385 2550	Remove
Web Meeting: Teams Meeting https://something.com	Remove
<input type="text"/>	Remove

Add A Location



The new Location functionality provides a more structured way to **define location attributes by type of location: In-Person, Phone, Virtual, and Other**. See screenshots below for the fields associated with each type.

New Appointment Location

Basics

* Type
In Person

Name ⓘ

Details

Campus

Building

Room

Additional Details

New Appointment Location

Basics

* Type
Phone

Name ⓘ

Details

Phone

Additional Details



New Appointment Location

Basics

*Type
Virtual

Name ⓘ

Meeting Link

Additional Details

New Appointment Location

Basics

*Type
Other

Name ⓘ

Additional Details



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The **current** Availability setup screen:

New Availability

Available For
-- Select One --

Subject ⓘ

TIMES (EASTERN STANDARD TIME)
Start Time End Time

REPEAT ON

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday

REPEAT EVERY
1
weeks

RECURRENCE DURATION
Start On End On
Feb 2, 2021

Cancel Save

Appears on Advisor Calendar ONLY

Available or Drop-in

No mention of Topic or Location for the Availability time period

The



The **new** Availability setup screen:

The screenshot shows the 'New Availability' setup screen. At the top, the title 'New Availability' is centered. Two callout boxes are positioned above the form: 'Appears on Advisor Calendar ONLY' on the left and 'Available, Drop-in, or Group' on the right. Arrows point from these boxes to the 'Basics' section. The 'Basics' section contains four fields: 'Subject' (text input), 'Type' (dropdown menu with '-- Select One --'), 'Topic' (dropdown menu with 'All Topics (By Default)'), and 'Location' (dropdown menu with 'All Locations (By Default)'). Below this is the 'Date and Time' section, which includes 'Start Date' (Feb 2, 2021), 'End Date' (empty), 'Start Time' (empty), and 'End Time' (empty). Two callout boxes are positioned here: one on the left pointing to the 'Topic' dropdown with the text 'Select one or more Topics you are available to discuss during this time period - defaults to All Topics', and one on the right pointing to the 'Location' dropdown with the text 'Select one or more locations where you are available to meet during this time period for the selected Topics - default to All Locations'. Below the 'Date and Time' section is the 'Recurrence' section, which includes 'REPEAT EVERY' (1 weeks) and a row of days (Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu). At the bottom right, there are 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons.

Appears on Advisor Calendar ONLY

Available, Drop-in, or Group

New Availability

Basics

Subject ⓘ

Type

-- Select One --

Topic ⓘ

All Topics (By Default)

Location ⓘ

All Locations (By Default)

Date and Time

Start Date

Feb 2, 2021

End Date

Start Time

End Time

Recurrence

REPEAT EVERY

1 weeks

Mon Tue Wed Thu

Cancel Save

Select one or more Topics you are available to discuss during this time period - defaults to All Topics

Select one or more locations where you are available to meet during this time period for the selected Topics - default to All Locations



From the Student's perspective, there will not be much change in the appointment scheduling experience.

Example of the **current** Student appointment scheduling screen, which shows the text defined in the Location field:

Where would you like to meet?	
By phone	>
Web Meeting	>

From here, the student selects the topic that he/she wants to discuss. Once scheduled, the basic information appears on the Student's Home page of Advisor Link.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT	
	Academic Planning TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020 2:30 PM to 2:55 PM Leslie Ross WEB MEETING

With the **new Flex Scheduling functionality**, the Student will select their advising topic of interest and then will see which locations are available by time period.



When would you like to meet?

May 2021  

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM EDT
AVAILABLE 
IN PERSON | PHONE | VIRTUAL

1:35 PM - 2:05 PM EDT
AVAILABLE 
IN PERSON | PHONE | VIRTUAL

Where would you like to meet?

 **In Person** 
Atlanta
Coda Building Room 1015

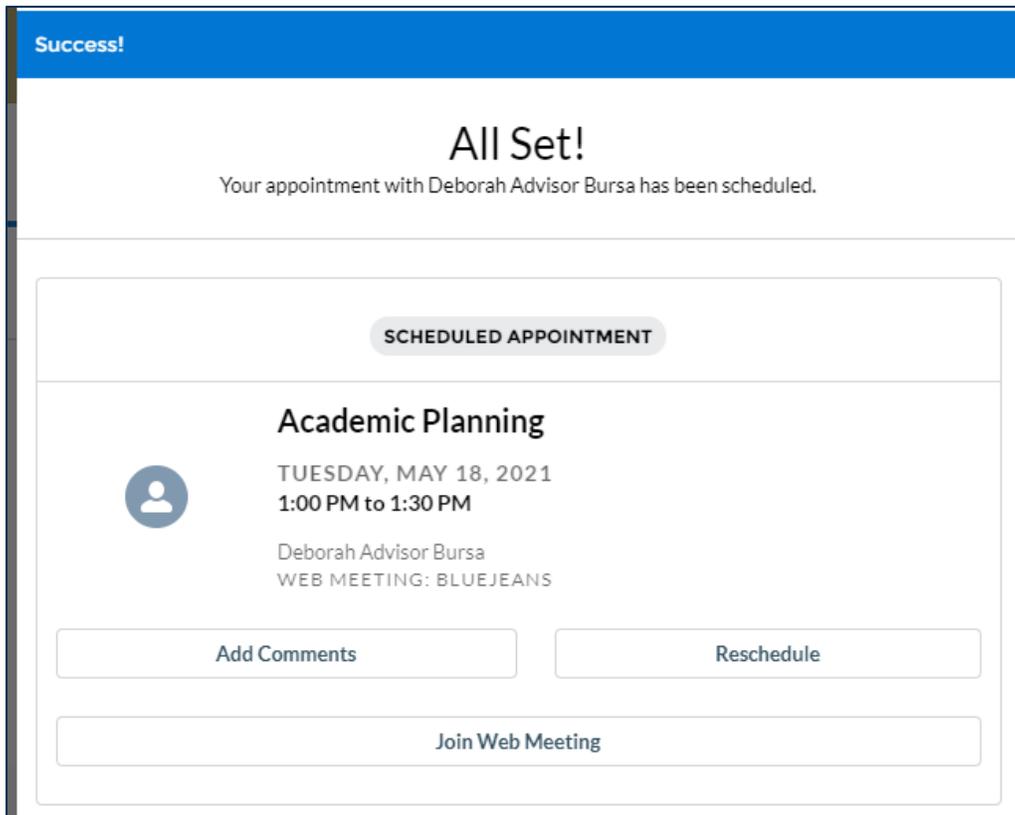
 **Phone** 
My Office Phone
404 385 2550

 **Virtual** 
Web Meeting: Bluejeans

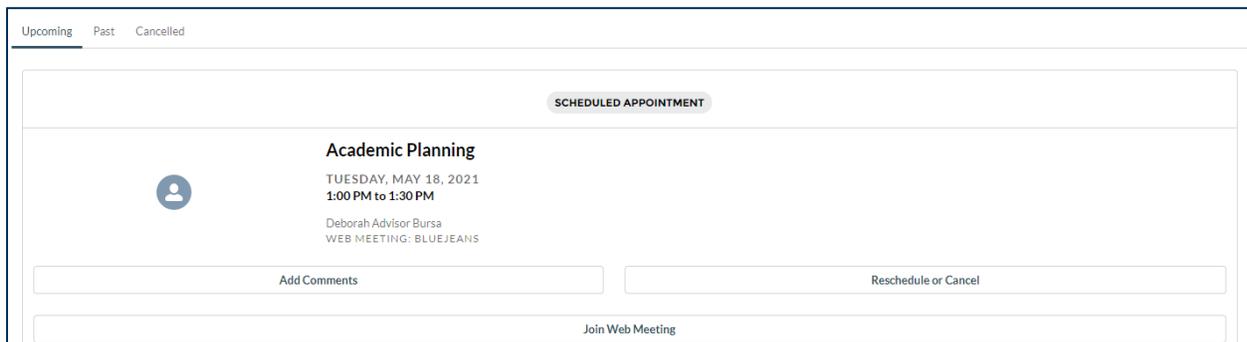
Similar information appears in the Advisor Link Community.



The **Confirmation** page:



The Student's **Home** page in the Advisor Link Community:



Note the **Join Web Meeting** button that appears on the Home page for Virtual appointments, which allows the Student to access the web meeting link directly from the Community.



Overview of New Custom Appointment Emails

As part of rolling our Flex Scheduling, the OIT Salesforce Team developed custom confirmation and reminder emails that are sent to the Student and the Advisor.

Example of **Confirmation Email sent to Advisor** (sent immediately after appointment is booked):

Scheduled: Appointment with Kieran Black

Appointment Scheduled

Your appointment with Kieran Black has been scheduled.

Student's Name: Black, Kieran

Student's Email: deborah.bursa@oit.gatech.edu

Start Time: 6/4/2021 3:30 PM

End Time: 6/4/2021 4:00 PM

Location: Web Meeting: Bluejeans

Web Meeting Link: <https://bluejeans.com/myroom>

Topic: Academic Advising

Subtopic: Change of Major

[View this Student's Advisee Record](#)

Additional Details:

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Note: A staff member's email address was assigned to the Student's record in QA for testing purposes. In Production, the Student's email will appear on the Advisor's appointment emails.



**Georgia
Tech**

Scheduled: Appointment with Deborah Advisor Bursa

Appointment Scheduled

Your appointment with Deborah Advisor Bursa has been scheduled.

Advisor: Deborah Advisor Bursa

Start Time: 6/4/2021 3:30 PM

End Time: 6/4/2021 4:00 PM

Location: Web Meeting: Bluejeans

Web Meeting Link: <https://bluejeans.com/myroom>

Topic: Academic Advising

Subtopic: Change of Major

[Add to Calendar \(Google\)](#)

[Add to Calendar \(Outlook\)](#)

If you want to cancel or reschedule, click here

<https://advisor.gatech.edu>

Additional Details:

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Reminder: Appointment with Deborah Bursa

Appointment Reminder

Advisor: Deborah Advisor Bursa
Start Time: 6/2/2021 4:05 PM
End Time: 6/2/2021 4:35 PM
Location: Web Meeting: Bluejeans
Web Meeting Link: <https://bluejeans.com/myroom>

Topic: Academic Advising
Subtopic: Academic Planning
Appointment Details/Comments:

[Add to Calendar \(Google\)](#)
[Add to Calendar \(Outlook\)](#)

If you want to cancel or reschedule, click here:
<https://advisor.gatech.edu>

Additional Details:

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