

## Starfish Timeline – Fall 2018

Starfish is used by faculty to communicate with students and their advisors/counselors regarding academic achievements and to identify areas for improvement. In addition to awarding Kudos to acknowledge excellent performance, Starfish is also used by faculty to raise concerns and to direct students to free resources such as tutoring, writing assistance and student success services. You may give Kudos or raise flags at any time and will receive progress survey requests for specific students as follows:

### September 4 (Week 3)

Dr. Vicki Atkinson (Interim Dean, Student Development) will send instructions for getting started with Starfish. Your list of students will be solidified at this time.

### September 10 (Week 4)

The first survey will open in Starfish. You will receive an email notification that it is available. Below are the options you will have to provide students with feedback.

<b>No Concern (default):</b>	You have no current concerns regarding student's academic progress.
<b>Kudos:</b>	Student deserves recognition for their positive academic performance.
<b>Never Attended/No Show:</b>	Student has never attended class.
<b>Minor Concern:</b>	Student exhibits one or two minor performance issues with attendance, assignments, and/or grades.
<b>Major Concern:</b>	Student exhibits multiple and/or persistent performance issues that put them at risk academically and warrant an appointment with a counselor.
<b>Other:</b>	Student exhibits behavior or demonstrates concern that may lead to poor academic performance (i.e. sleeping in class, off-task, financial issues). <i>Please note this information goes to the student's assigned counselor only.</i>
<b>Referral – Writing Center:</b>	Student would benefit from visiting the Writing Center.
<b>Referral – Tutoring Center:</b>	Student would benefit from visiting the Tutoring Center.
<b>Referral – Developmental Math Center:</b>	Student would benefit from visiting the Developmental Math Center.
<b>Referral – Success Services:</b>	Student would benefit from visiting Success Services.

**September 30 (End of Week 6)** The first survey will close.

### October 22 (Week 10)

The final survey will open in Starfish. You will receive an email notification that it is available. Below are the options that you will have to provide students with feedback.

<b>Has Opportunity to Complete Course (default):</b>	Student has improved and is likely to complete the course with a passing grade.
<b>Kudos:</b>	Student deserves recognition for their positive academic performance.
<b>Week 10 – At-Risk:</b>	Student is at-risk for not successfully completing the course.
<b>Week 10 - Consider Withdrawal:</b>	Based on student's performance, withdrawing from the course is recommended AFTER the student meets with his/her counselor.
<b>Other:</b>	Student exhibits behavior or demonstrates concern that may lead to poor academic performance (i.e. sleeping in class, off-task, financial issues). <i>Please note this information goes to the student's assigned advisor/counselor only.</i>

### October 28 (End of Week 10)

The final survey will close. **NOTE: This survey is particularly timely as students who have no chance of passing your course are still within the withdrawal period for the semester.**

Students who are not assigned to an advisor/counselor are not in Starfish. Faculty may contact [starfish@harpercollege.edu](mailto:starfish@harpercollege.edu) or 847.925.6346 for assistance.

# It Takes Two: The Advisor/Counselor and You

by [Academy Editor](#) | Jun 12, 2018 | [Academy](#) |

*Written by Stephanie Whalen, Chair, Academy for Teaching Excellence & Associate Professor, English and Interdisciplinary Studies*

With emails pouring in by the dozens each day, and sometimes hour, faculty have to respond to the most urgent emails first, and others may never make it to the top of the list. One email that may be left behind is the reminder to complete Starfish progress surveys. A look at the most recent report will encourage those who have been active with the program to continue to do so and will hopefully convince those of us who may not report to Starfish as often as we'd like to make it a priority.

Each year, Student Development asks Institutional Research to look at persistence rates from Fall to Spring to determine if students who are flagged in Starfish and have that flag addressed reenroll from one semester to the next. For the purpose of this report, Title III students included are first-time in college, degree-seeking students. From Fall 2017 to Spring 2018:

- Flagged & Concern Addressed: Title III Persistence Rate = 81.9%
- Flagged & Concern Not Addressed: Title III Persistence Rate = 56.6% **(25.3% difference)**  
Institutional Research also looked at completer rates for Fall 2017 to determine if students who are flagged in Starfish and have that flag addressed are more likely to earn a grade of "C" or higher. In Fall 2017:
  - Flagged & Concern Addressed: Title III Completer Rate = 64.5%
  - Flagged & Concern Not Addressed: Title Completer Rate = 40.6% **(23.9% difference)**

Clearly, students benefit from faculty and advisors/counselors working together to help them through their academic challenges. Starfish provides an efficient tool for faculty to flag and communicate issues to advisors/counselors that we see students are having so that we can get students help beyond the coaching we can give them in the classroom. The program allows advisors/counselors to keep faculty informed of the strategies they have recommended to students. Like any technology available to educators, this one is only effective with the human operators putting the tool to use. Starfish is working for students because of the work you put into using it. Look for more information on how to become even more effective at using Starfish coming soon.

Questions? Please contact Jamie Brashler, Student Success Systems Analyst, at [jbrashle@harpercollege.edu](mailto:jbrashle@harpercollege.edu).