

MU CONNECT - Early Alert

Raising Flags and Kudos: *Best Practices*

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MU Connect
University of Missouri

Early Alert: MU Connect Early Alert allows faculty to identify students at academic risk. The system allows our faculty to notify the students in their course if they are concerned about the student's academic progress based on course content and expectations. Early Alerts are initiated to provide timely feedback to students when they are not meeting expectations for course success. The Early Alert technology also allows our faculty to send "kudos" (positive feedback) to students who are achieving outstanding performance. Faculty can also acknowledge and congratulate students who are showing improvement. Instructors can "flag" at-risk students manually based on online grade book data/or respond to a progress survey at 4 and 8 weeks each semester.

Flags: Flags are course-based indicators that a student is not performing well in a course based on course content and expectations. Flags are the first step in a systematic intervention process. For example, if a student has a low quiz or test score, the instructor (or TA) could raise a flag to alert the student of their performance and offer help to improve their academic performance. The types of flags that can be raised by instructors and TAs are: *Attendance Concern, Missing Assignment(s), Poor Class Performance, Low Exam Score, In Danger of Failing, and In Danger of Being Dropped.*

Kudos: Kudos are course based indicators that a student is performing well in a class. For example, if a student is improving their attendance, or course work, the instructor (or TA) could raise a kudo to alert the student of their performance and offer encouragement to continue moving in the right direction to achieve academic success. The types of kudos that can be raised by instructors and TAs are: *Keep up the Good Work, Outstanding Academic Performance, and Showing Improvement.*

The following is a list of "best practices" as to why an instructor might want to raise a particular flag or kudo for students in their course. Instructors are encouraged to identify critical markers (i.e., exams, homework, papers, etc.) that will impact students' academic success and then raise the appropriate flags and kudos.

Types of Manual Flags:

Attendance Concern

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this flag:**

- Student absent after "X" days/weeks of
- Student shows irregular patterns of attendance
- Student shows pattern of being late to class
- Student never attended class
- Student leaves early from class

Missing Assignment(s)

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this flag:**

- If a student misses one (or more) assignment(s)
- If a student is missing a critical or large assignment
- Student has not turned in multiple assignments (homework, quizzes, projects, etc.)

Poor Class Performance

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this flag:**

- During the middle of the semester (exam scores, homework, and/or attendance is lacking)
- Student shows poor class performance (relative to a set threshold)
- Student is not attending class regularly (thus impacting class performance)
- Student is not meeting course expectations as set by instructor/department

Low Exam Score

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this flag:**
 - Student has performed poorly on an exam
 - Student has low exam scores according to department standards

In Danger of Failing

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this flag:**
 - Student is at a critical threshold of not passing the course
 - Student is at point where if their habits don't change, they will fail

In Danger of Being Dropped

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this flag:**
 - Student is close to being dropped based on course/department attendance policy
 - Student attends class but does not participate

Types of Kudos:

Keep up The Good Work

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this kudo:**
 - Attending class after previous poor attendance
 - Receiving good grades on assignments, exams, etc.

Outstanding Academic Performance

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this kudo:**
 - Student consistently performs well on assignments, exams, etc.
 - Performing better than most peers in course

Showing Improvement

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this kudo:**
 - Class attendance/class participation has improved
 - Student is showing a dramatic improvement academically/class attendance
 - Student is turning in assignments after a period of inactivity
 - Student has shown improvement following a previously raised flag



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For additional questions...

You can reach us at
muconnectsupport@missouri.edu.

You can find detailed resources at
muconnect.missouri.edu