

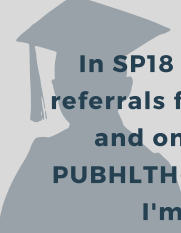
UMASS ACADEMIC ALERT INITIATIVE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: TWO YEAR REVIEW, FA18 - SP20

STUDENT SUCCESS AT UMASS AMHERST

In the spring of 2018, UMASS Student Success in collaboration with Athletics Academic Success piloted the Academic Alert Initiative to support student persistence and credit accumulation towards degree. The Academic Alert Initiative partners with instructors and advisors to connect undergraduate students with the resources needed to meet the rigors of college-level academic work and expectations.

Since launching the initiative campus wide in Fall 2018, the number of participating instructors increased through Fall 2019, from 157 to 216. In Spring 2020, there was a decrease to 120 participating instructors, which is attributed to the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.



In SP18 I received two referrals for ENVIRSCI-214 and one referral for PUBHLTH-433. Here's how I'm counted:

- # of At-Risk Referrals: 3
- Total # of Unique Course Referrals: 2
- # of Individual Students: 1

Each semester, over 1,000 referrals have been submitted, and the initiative has reached serve 3,322 individual students since Spring 2019. Of these students, 17 received at least one referral every semester and 2,666 were only referred in one semester.

Fall 2018 saw the highest number of referrals, total number of unique course referrals for each student, and number of individual students referred. Numbers remained relatively consistent in the subsequent semesters. However, aligned with decreased instructor participation, Spring 2020 saw a decrease in these numbers as well.

Low Grade is the most common reason for referrals, and Lack of Engagement is the least common. Each semester, 73-82% of the referral reasons include Low Grade while Lack of Engagement was only included on 2-5% of referrals.

A main objective of the initiative is to connect students with timely academic interventions. In Fall 2018, 30% of referrals resulted in an academic intervention within 3 weeks. There are four trackable academic interventions: Supplemental Instruction, ExSel group tutoring, tutoring and academic success advising. In Spring 2019 and Fall 2019, 23% of referrals resulted in a timely intervention. Supplemental Instruction is the most commonly used academic intervention, and many students attend multiple sessions. Advising is also frequently utilized by students. ExSel is the least utilized academic intervention, with only 5 or fewer students attending each semester.

In all semesters, **students who participated in any of the trackable academic interventions were more likely to complete their course (D or higher, P) and receive a better course grade on average.** In Fall 2019, the average course grade for the referred course on the GPA scale for a student who received a timely academic intervention (within three weeks of referral date) was 0.53 points higher than students who did not have a timely academic intervention or any academic intervention at all.

3,322

STUDENTS REFERRED SINCE
SPRING 2018

25%

AVERAGE REFERRALS RESULTING IN A
TIMELY ACADEMIC INTERVENTION
(WITHIN 3 WEEKS OF REFERRAL DATE)

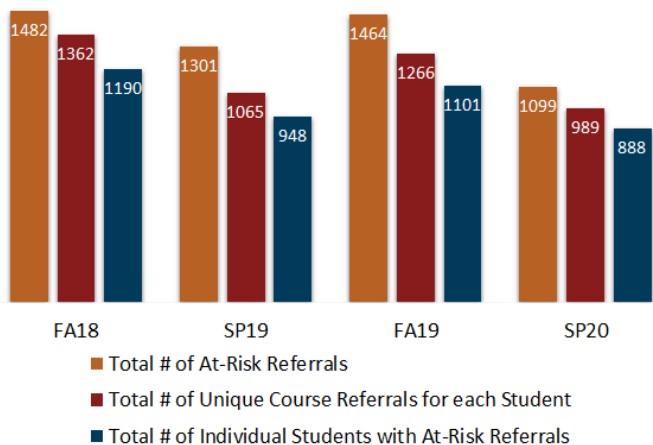
+0.53

AVERAGE GPA DIFFERENCE FOR
STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN
AN ACADEMIC INTERVENTION

UMASS ACADEMIC ALERT INITIATIVE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: TWO YEAR REVIEW, FA18 - SP20

STUDENT SUCCESS AT UMASS AMHERST

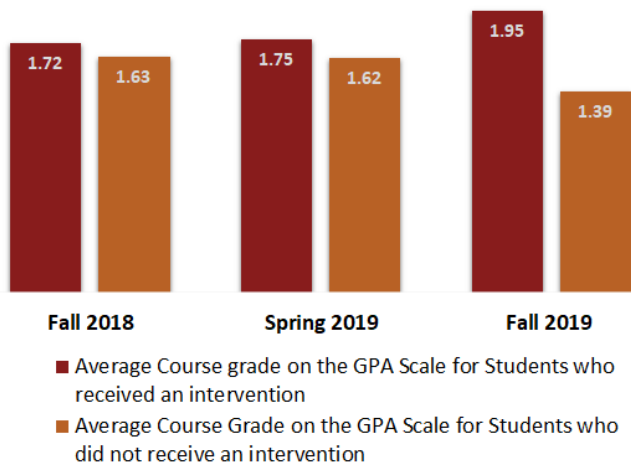
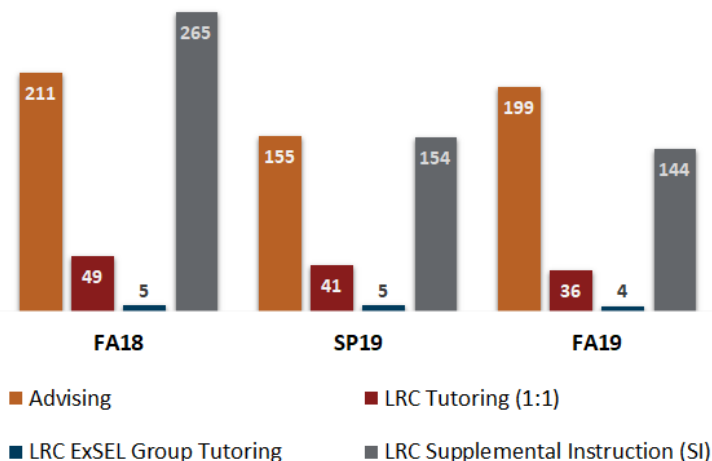


REFER & ALERT

The Academic Alert Initiative has supported thousands of undergraduate students at UMass Amherst. The initiative's referral system is designed to provide students with early feedback and facilitate connection to resources before they experience a negative consequence. Through this system, instructors **refer** students who are then **alerted** of a course progress concern and offered support.

SUPPORT

Students are encouraged to engage with at least one resource designed to **support** their academic success, habits and strategies. Students took the following actions:



IMPROVED ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Participating in a timely intervention (within 3 weeks of the referral date) can improve a student's grade outcome. **The average course grade (for the referred course) on the GPA scale is consistently higher for students who participated in an academic success intervention.**

12

ACADEMIC SCHOOL/COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS

3

ACADEMIC SUPPORT & DEPARTMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS



Kristen Brittingham, Director
Jemi Kuberski-Spring, Assistant Director
Carolyn Bassett, Associate Provost

ACADEMIC ALERT INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP STUDENT SUCCESS