

Unifying Student Support: Starfish as the Hub of Holistic Advising

Julie Levinson
Student Success Technology Director

montgomerycollege.edu/starfish

Advising: Where are we headed?



AMP Goal 1: Serve All Students Through Academic Advising

- I. More support for students
- II. Stronger connections across campus
 - Clearer teamwork between faculty, Student Affairs, and student services
 - Shared tools to keep track of students' goals and progress
- III. Resources & training for faculty
 - Professional development to help you advise and support students

**College-wide effort to guide every student from
Day 1 to graduation and beyond!**

MC MONTGOMERY
COLLEGE



Academic Master Plan

Strong Foundations for the Future

A Focus on Student Access, Completion, and
Post-Completion Success

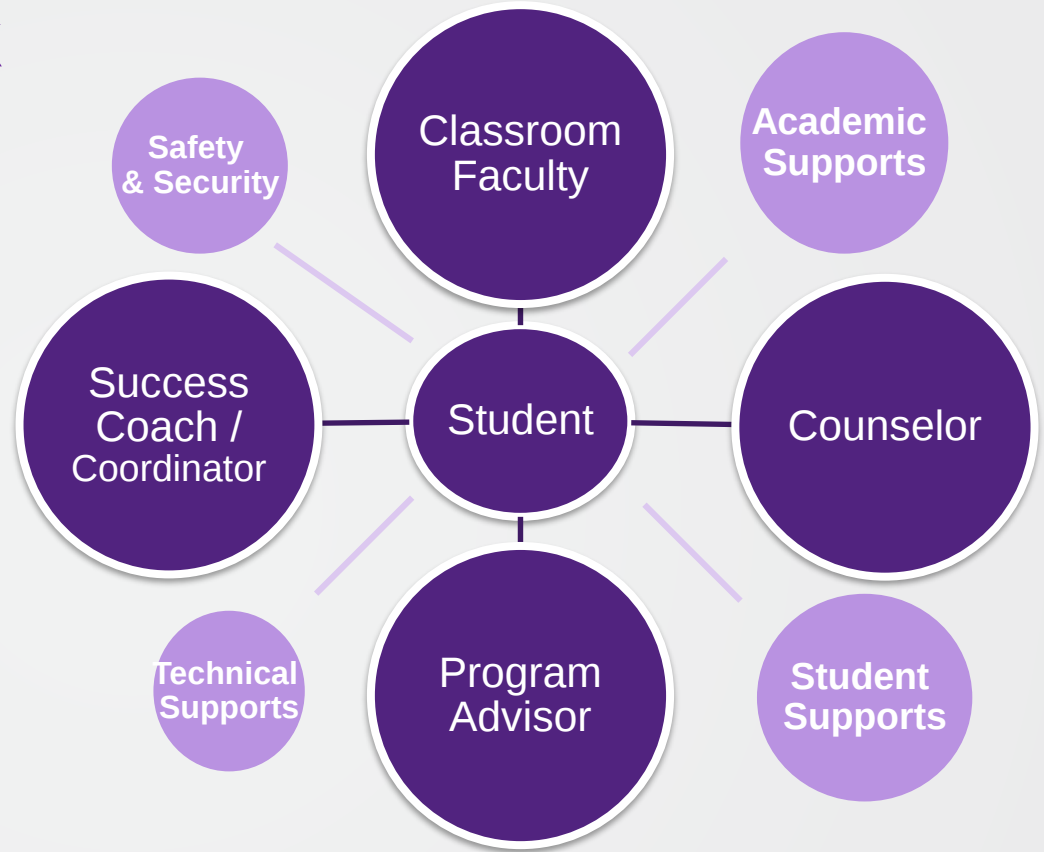
2025-2029



MC CARES Network

C
A
R
E
S

- Community
 - Advising
- Relationships
- Engagement
 - Support



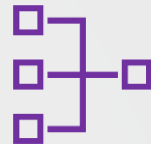
Starfish is how we bring it to life.

Getting Involved in Advising: Play Your Role in the MC CARES Team



- Connect with your dean and department chair to learn about current advising needs in your program.
- Stay up to date on program-specific transfer pathways, degree requirements, and common student questions.
- Partner with counselors to co-advise students or make effective referrals.
- Hold dedicated office hours for students in your program.
- Participate in training to learn best practices for supporting students beyond the classroom.
- Familiarize yourself with the many systems we have to support our students – including Starfish!

Many Systems, Only a Few Hubs



We're asking students to engage with multiple systems.

CRM
Recruit & Advance

Banner
Student Information
System (SIS)
Official Student Record

Office 365
Outlook
Official Email

Blackboard
Learning
Management System

Starfish
Advising

Office 365:
Bookings

Office 365: Forms

SAP-C

COMM100

Office 365: Excel

Maxient

Accomodate

Degree Works

Dynamic Forms

College Central
Network

Google
Tools

ALEKS

ProctorU

**And MANY
MORE!**

One Hub, One Team



To reach our strategic goals of access, completion, and post-completion success, we need shared visibility, shared action, and shared accountability.

That's the power of Starfish.

Starfish is more than a tool.
It's a hub for sharing responsibility for student success.

Starfish Is Role Based



- Not everyone sees the same things!
 - What you can see and do depends on your role.
-

- **Instructional Faculty can:**

- View basic student info
- Raise flags or kudos and make referrals
- Fill out progress surveys
- Manage office hours or appointment scheduling



Getting to Starfish: montgomerycollege.edu/starfish

1. Login

Starfish Student Success Platform

Already a Starfish user? [Log in to access your account](#) ☞.

Are you new to Starfish? Get started here.

Starfish connects us to each other and with students based on our roles and relationships.

If you are just getting started, access the [Quick Start Guide](#) to learn more.

Starfish Overview

Starfish is a dynamic tool that helps faculty, staff, and students work together to foster holistic student support and promote student success. By integrating early interventions, personalized outreach, and access to resources, Starfish enables faculty and staff to build stronger relationships with students and connect them to the supports they need to succeed. Through data-driven insights and streamlined communication, Starfish helps us to create a greater sense of belonging through a more connected, supportive college community.

Starfish Key Features

- **Communications Hub:** Centralizes communication between students, faculty, and staff, allowing us to record notes, send messages, share updates, and track interactions in one place. By reducing fragmented communication, we can work together to better support our students.
- **Early Alert System:** Supports our efforts to initiate timely interventions to connect our students with support resources before problems escalate, as well as positive reinforcement to boost motivation and encourage engagement.
- **Referral Management:** Facilitates coordination and communication between different academic and students support service areas and ensures our students are connected with the right resources quickly and more effectively.
- **Degree Planner:** Allows for collaborative planning to map out a personalized academic plan, sequencing course requirements, to aid in visualizing the journey from start to completion.
- **Scheduling:** Gives students various ways to connect with providers in their CARE Network.

These features, along with many others, work together to create a more connected, coordinated, and supportive campus community that can better meet the needs of students.

Hear from faculty and staff about how using Starfish has helped them connect with students.

Why is Starfish Important at MC?

We believe that a full adoption of Starfish is the most efficient means to achieving the strategic plan goal of implementing a common advising software. Starfish is a single approach to tracking a student's engagement with MC and a powerful student success solution that can meaningfully advance progress toward our institutional priorities of access and completion.

[Log In to Starfish](#)

[Starfish for Students](#)

[Starfish for Faculty and Staff](#)

REQUEST HELP

Faculty & Staff: Submit a Ticket

Please submit [Starfish Assistance Request Form](#) ☞

Starfish Feedback

We are looking for your feedback. If you run into any issues or simply want to share your experience with using Starfish, please [email the Starfish team](#).

Starfish News and Updates

Coming soon...

2. Review/Update Your Profile

×

Julie Levinson↑

[Edit Profile](#)

[Appointment Preferences](#)

[Notifications](#)

[Logout](#)



Brief Demo: montgomerycollege.edu/starfish

The screenshot displays the Starfish web application interface. At the top is a blue navigation bar with the 'Starfish' logo on the left and a search bar on the right labeled 'Search for Students'. Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with five tabs: 'MY STUDENTS' (highlighted in orange), 'TRACKING', 'STUDENT SURVEYS', 'ATTENDANCE', and 'PROGRESS SURVEYS'.

The 'My Students' section features a toolbar with icons for 'Flag', 'Referral', 'To-Do', 'Kudos', 'Success Plan', 'Message', 'Note', 'Download', and 'Prospective Student'. Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Student Name, Username, or ID' and a 'Go' button. To the right of the search bar are dropdown menus for 'Connection' (set to 'INTRO TO COLLEGE WRITING ENGL101'), 'Term' (set to 'Spring 2025'), and 'Cohort' (set to '006_Business AA; 611C_General Studies-SSAH AA'). An 'Additional Filters' button is also present.

The main content area shows a list of students. On the left, there is a list of student names with checkboxes and profile icons. The names visible are 'Edi M211f', 'Garr M21181', 'Hai M211f', and 'Sos M2118'. The 'Connection' dropdown menu is open, showing a list of courses: 'All My Students', 'Professor', 'COLLEGE WRITING SUPPORT ENGL011', 'CRITICAL READ/WRITE/RESEARCH ENGL102', and 'INTRO TO COLLEGE WRITING ENGL101'. The 'Cohort' dropdown menu is also open, showing a list of cohorts under the heading 'BEACHAMPS', including '006_Business AA' (which is selected), '055_Food and Beverage Management Certificate', '167_Accounting Certificate', '213_Information Technology Certificate', '233_Hospitality Supervision and Leadership Certificate', '237_Meeting, Conference, and Event Planning Certificate', '238_Database Systems Certificate', '341_Paralegal Studies AAS', '347A_Food and Beverage Management Area of Concentration, ...', '347B_Management/Supervision Area of Concentration, Hospital...', and '620_Business Analytics AA'.

