

Promising and Practical Strategies to Increase Postsecondary Success

Young Harris College

Academic Success Alert Program (ASAP)

Young Harris College firmly believes that the responsibility for ensuring student success in college – academically, emotionally, spiritually, physically and socially – rests with the entire college community. As faculty work diligently in their classrooms to engage and educate students, there are times when a student has difficulty where additional assistance may be necessary. That is where the Academic Success Alert Program (ASAP) is of assistance. For many years Young Harris College has had in place an “early alert” program to assist students. Earlier programs were named Early Intervention, followed by Intervention Referral but has transitioned into the ASAP program. It is the belief at Young Harris College that there is certainly an utmost concern for the early critical time of a term and in-class performance during the first few weeks is a great indicator of future success. However, issues and concerns can and do develop after mid-term and even with only days remaining in a semester. ASAP referrals are encouraged at any time in which a faculty member observes behavior or circumstances that are detrimental to a student’s success.

The Office of Information Technology at Young Harris College developed the referral system to increase efficiency and simplify the process for the faculty. The ASAP home page is accessed by the faculty member where he or she finds their individual class rolls. Only the class rolls for that faculty member will appear. The faculty member will then select the course and student for which a referral is needed. Upon selection, the ASAP form will appear with a space to indicate the purpose of the referral. The submitted form, received by the Retention Officer, includes the student’s complete name, the faculty member that submitted the referral, the course title, the student’s advisor, email address and any associations for that student (Greek organization, athletic teams etc.) in addition to the note concerning the purpose of the referral. Upon receipt of the referral the Retention Officer forwards the referral (editing the note if needed) to the Academic Success Center, the student’s academic advisor, appropriate individuals in Student Development, and if the student is an athlete, the Faculty Athletic Representative, Athletic Director, Compliance Officer and coach. The Academic Success Center processes each referral and contacts each student concerning the referral. With consultation with the student, arrangements are made for additional assistance if deemed necessary via tutoring or referral to visit Rhetorica, the College’s Writing Center.

The ASAP program was launched in the fall term 2011 showing an increase in participation from the faculty with an increase of referrals for students that performed poorly in classes (D’s, F’s, W’s, WF’s) from previous terms with the old systems. Spring 2012 has indicated continued growth in participation from faculty with a significant majority of poor grades referred into the system, and therefore more follow-up occurring with students through the various avenues as mentioned above.