

# Unifying Student Support: Starfish as the Hub of Holistic Advising

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[montgomerycollege.edu/starfish](https://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

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**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

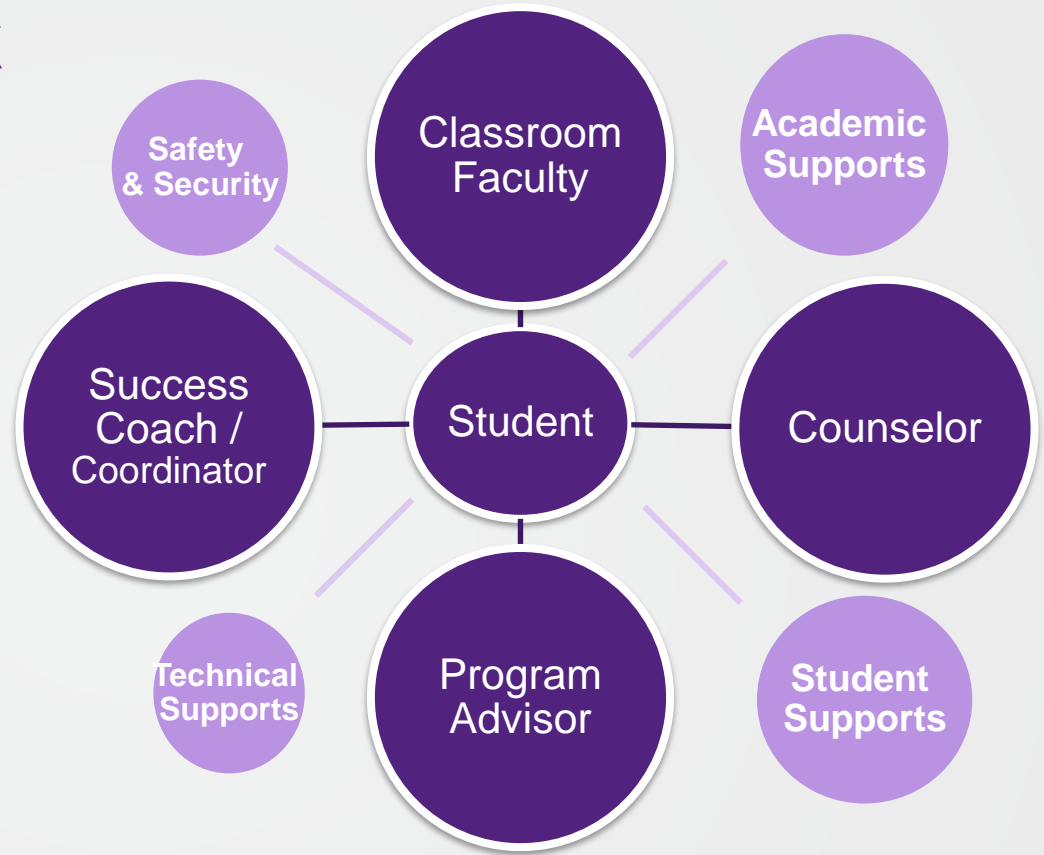
2025-2029



# MC CARES Network

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- Community
  - Advising
- Relationships
- Engagement
  - Support



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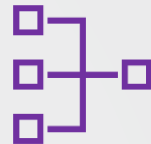
Starfish is how we bring it to life.

# 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.
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- **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](https://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

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**Julie Levinson**↑

[Edit Profile](#)

[Appointment Preferences](#)

[Notifications](#)

[Logout](#)





# Brief Demo: [montgomerycollege.edu/starfish](https://montgomerycollege.edu/starfish)

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

The 'My Students' section includes a toolbar with icons for Flag, Referral, To-Do, Kudos, Success Plan, Message, Note, Download, and Prospective Student. Below the toolbar, a search bar is labeled 'Search' with the placeholder text 'Student Name, Username, or ID'. 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. The first column contains checkboxes and names. The second column shows a dropdown menu for 'Name' with a list of students: Edi M211f, Garr M21181, Hal M211f, and Sos M2118. The third column shows a dropdown menu for 'Connection' with a list of courses: 'All My Students', 'Professor', 'COLLEGE WRITING SUPPORT ENGL011', 'CRITICAL READ/WRITE/RESEARCH ENGL102', and 'INTRO TO COLLEGE WRITING ENGL101'. The fourth column shows a dropdown menu for 'Cohort' with a list of cohorts: 'BEACHAMPS', '006\_Business AA', '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'.

