

Dear Faculty Member:

The JagSuccess early alert program was piloted during the past year to give early feedback to students having academic difficulties in 100-200 level classes. JagSuccess provides a mechanism for faculty members to inform students who are not meeting expectations that they have attendance and/or performance problems. Based on its initial success, the JagSuccess early alert program will be required for all 100-200 level classes beginning fall 2010. All faculty teaching 100-200 level sections will be required to submit academic early alerts for those students having performance problems. Faculty who monitor attendance will also be asked to provide feedback to those students who are missing class. These early alerts will let students know how they are doing in time for them to improve and be successful.

For this program to be effective, faculty members will need to have graded at least one work product prior to the seventh week of the semester. Faculty are only required to enter feedback for those students who are performing poorly. Faculty are not required to enter marks for those students who have satisfactory performance during the early weeks of the semester.

As you develop the fall 2010 syllabi for your 100-200 level classes, please include information about the JagSuccess early alert program for your students. The following is an example:

"JagSuccess is a program intended to help students be successful in 100-200 level courses. If you are not doing well, you will get an email instructing you to see your professor along with instructions to access an online tutorial intended to help with common problems affecting academic performance. Watch for this email during week 8 of this semester."

This fall, JagSuccess will open in week 4 for faculty members to submit academic alerts in PAWS and will close in week 7 after fall break. In week 8, students who have received an alert will also receive an email instructing them to see their instructor. At that time, you are encouraged to talk to them about their performance and direct them to resources that may help them improve their coursework.

In addition, alerted students will be directed to an online academic success tutorial designed to provide assistance with time management, note taking, test preparation, critical thinking, and other important study skills that allow students to work more effectively. The online tutorial offers students solutions based on "what successful students do." Alerted students who completed this tutorial during fall 2009 had significantly higher one-semester retention rates, earned better grades, and withdrew at a lower rate than alerted students who did not complete the tutorial.

The early alert shows students that the university community cares about their academic well-being and we are interested in seeing them succeed. The online tutorial helps them with the transition to college. For additional information about JagSuccess, go to <http://www.southalabama.edu/academicaffairs/academicsuccesssteam.html>.

If you have questions, please contact the Director of Student Academic Success and Retention at 251-460-6475. Thank you for supporting Student Success at USA!

G. David Johnson,  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
University of South Alabama  
Mobile, AL 36688  
251-460-6261 (voice)  
251-460-6575 (fax)