



What is Starfish?

Starfish is foremost a way to foster student/school communication & accountability. Starfish is an **early alert tool** for faculty to use any time they feel a student's performance warrants attention, either for exceptional work or for when a student needs support.

Starfish is a tool that helps create clear communication between faculty, support staff and students, and in doing so increases student retention and success.

Starfish is accessible through Blackboard at mcc.open.suny.edu.

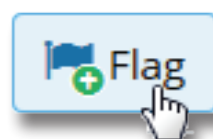


How does Starfish Work?

Starfish is an online communication system that has been customized to suit our student population at MCC.

Within Starfish faculty can:

- raise Flags for student concerns and Kudos for student accomplishments
- provide students clear and documented communication
- offer targeted assistance for students
- use the attendance taking tool to send automated alerts to students and their Success Coaches for classes missed as early as the critical first week of the term



For Students, Starfish brings their successes and struggles into the light for quick and meaningful intervention and gives them a way to reach out for help. They get explicit encouragement to take responsibility for their academic success.



How do Starfish Flags Aid Student/School Communication & Accountability?

- Once raised, each flag has a clear pathway to a staff-member at MCC who then intervenes with the student and ultimately closes the loop with the flag raiser.
- Faculty can offer specific details when raising a flag to help create meaningful interventions.
- The Flag/Intervention/Documentation cycle that happens with each flag allows faculty to know what intervention took place, with whom, and the result.
- Flags give faculty a place they can clearly communicate their concern to the student and provide information to a larger network of support.
- Flags provide clear documentation for all involved.



What is the Value of Kudos?

- Provide positive reinforcement
- Acknowledge student accomplishments
- Connect students and faculty
- Encourage perseverance

What does Starfish do for MCC?

Starfish helps MCC identify and help at-risk students early—and timeliness is essential to successful interventions.

Starfish collects meaningful and actionable information, helping faculty and staff respond, and ultimately increasing student persistence, retention, and success rates.

As a result of this network of communication and accountability, students feel acknowledged and empowered and faculty have tools to help foster student success.