What is the Early Alert & Referral System (E.A.R.S.)?

The Early Alert & Referral System is a collaborative effort between faculty and the Office of Student Academic Success (OSAS) to identify students who may be experiencing academic challenges.

Why should I participate in E.A.R.S.?

The E.A.R.S. program is one of many efforts designed to assist students to help students achieve student career success. The E.A.R.S. program facilitates interactions between faculty, instructors and Student Success Specialists at critical points during each academic semester to identify students who may need additional support to successfully complete their course requirements.

Timely interventions have long-term benefits that build a student's trust and respect with campus constituents while ultimately increasing the student's responsibility for their education.

How do I participate in E.A.R.S.?

The key to the E.A.R.S. program is to identify students early enough in the semester to provide adequate time to refer students to campus resources and experts in order to address behaviors that are counter to student academic success. Currently, there is a core set of approximately 80 courses which comprise the E.A.R.S. Program; however, additional courses can be added at the request of an instructor, chairperson, dean, etc.

Faculty will receive excel spreadsheet rosters on Friday, September 12th for each of their courses that have been included in the program. **Rosters are due back to the OSAS on Monday, September 22.** Once faculty receive the roster they will mark if they have a student who is demonstrating poor attendance or inadequate academic test/quiz/homework/speech performance.

What happens once I have referred a student to E.A.R.S.?

Each student who is indicated through the E.A.R.S. Program receives a letter letting them know that they have been referred to the program. Student Success Specialists spearhead phone calls to all students to determine the appropriate plan of action.

The OSAS and faculty work together to make certain that each student within the E.A.R.S. program is armed with the resources and tactics necessary to succeed at NIU. A combination of campus resources and experts will be consulted to help each student realize his/her potential as well as to enhance academic behaviors and performance within a given course. The OSAS will also follow up with instructors letting them know of any interventions, conversations, or other pertinent information that may inform their interactions with the student.

How can I get more Information on the E.A.R.S. Program?

Contact your Student Success Specialists for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Deb Miller at dmiller20@niu.edu or 753-2403.

The E.A.R.S. Program is FERPA compliant.