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## New tool helps instructors provide early progress reports to students

Oakland University has launched a tool that will help faculty members with student success in their courses.

Faculty Feedback, a system for instructors to provide observations about how individual students are performing in their classes, is a progress report tool that was created at the university. It is found in SAIL, the online portal for employees to manage personal information, and provides a space for faculty members to notify students who may be struggling in class.

Senior Associate Provost and Professor of Education Susan Awbrey, Ph.D., said Faculty Feedback will be mandatory for instructors teaching 000, 100 and 200 level courses, but all faculty members are encouraged to use it.



*Engineering Professor Darrin Hanna uses Faculty Feedback to promote student success in his classes.*

“We consider faculty to be a student’s most important resource,” said Awbrey. “We’re very concerned with first-year students and students taking early courses. These courses are foundational to success, so we want to make sure students get a good start and persist to graduation.”

Awbrey and the creators of the system said they strongly encourage instructors to submit feedback to students during weeks two through five, but that they should also use it many times throughout a semester.

“When faculty members use the system, it shows that they care more. We also want students to know that instructors pay attention and want students to become aware of things that can really help them,” said Awbrey. “One of the great things about Faculty Feedback is that it tells students where there is a problem and points them to resources available on campus, such as the Tutoring Center and the Writing Center.”

If a student seems to be struggling in a class, an instructor can log into the system and fill out an individualized form that includes boxes to check off if a student is arriving late or early, not submitting assignments on time, having difficulty understanding course material and more. The faculty member can also recommend that a student meet with the instructor, see his or her academic adviser or join a study group, among other options. The form will then be turned into an email and sent to the student.

A team of faculty and staff worked for over a year to develop the new system. Faculty Feedback was piloted over the summer, said Awbrey, and students gave positive feedback to their instructors. Faculty members also received notices and participated in training sessions.

“The most important thing is that faculty makes use of this tool to assist our students,” added Awbrey. “We’re very excited about it and hope it will be a success in helping all our students do well.”

For more information about Faculty Feedback, visit [oakland.edu/cetl](http://oakland.edu/cetl).