

A person in a light-colored jacket and dark pants stands on a dark, rocky ridge in the foreground, looking out over a vast landscape. In the middle ground, a calm lake reflects the sky, surrounded by dark, forested hills. The background features a range of mountains with significant snow cover under a sky filled with heavy, grey clouds. A bright light source, possibly the sun, is visible breaking through the clouds in the upper center, creating a lens flare effect.

EARLY ALERT

Office of Vice President, Students

early.alert@ubc.ca

JANUARY 17, 2022

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **Rationale and Benefits**
- **The Online Learning Environment: EA Service Approach**
- **How the program works and results to date**
- **Privacy and confidentiality**
- **How to enter an Early Alert concern**



EARLY ALERT

Earlier support for students to get back on track

- Early Alert helps students who are facing difficulties that put their academic success at risk, before these difficulties become overwhelming.

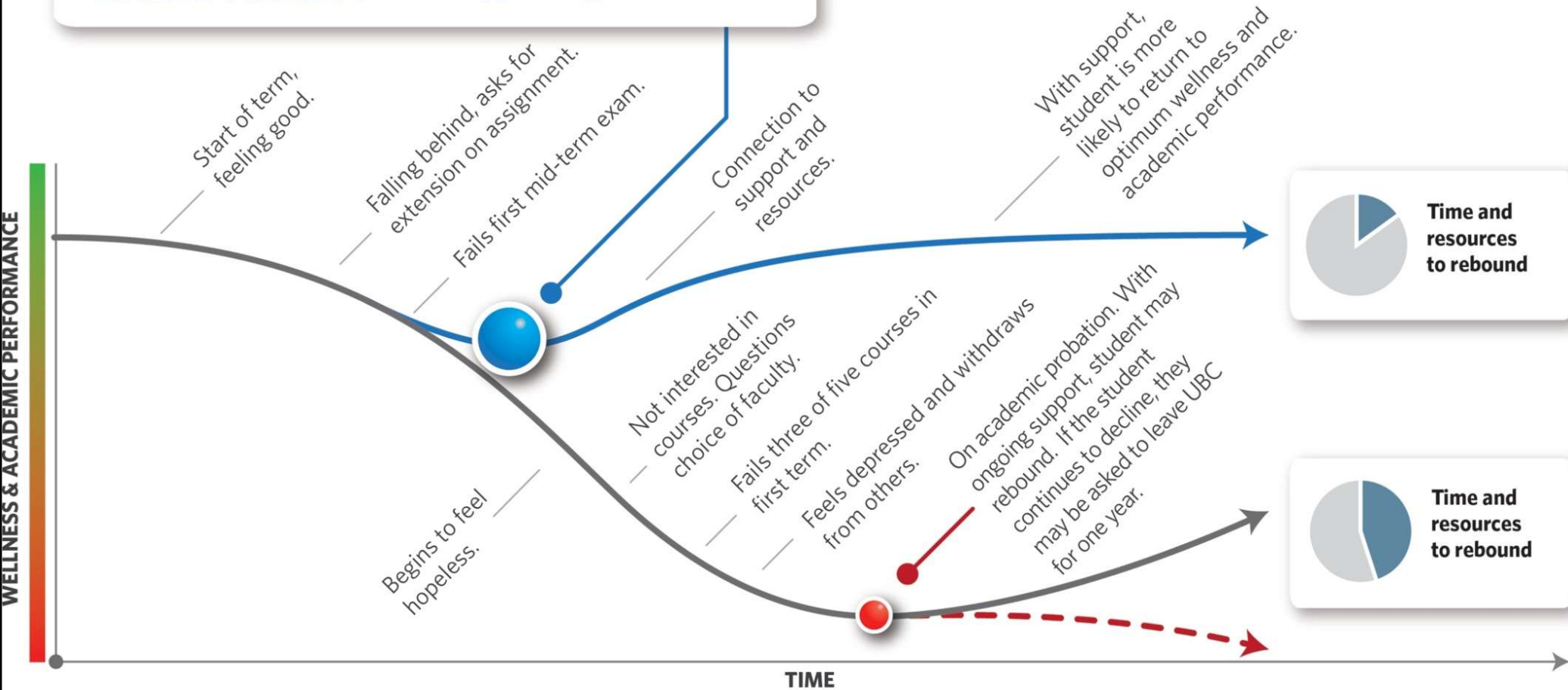


EARLY ALERT STAFF

- **Director, Student Conduct & Safety**
 - Chad Hyson
- **Managers, Student Support Services**
 - Cindy Hallate
 - Emma Smith
 - Brian Barth
 - Amy Vozel



EARLY ALERT | Earlier support to get back on track





Student Services - Faculty & Staff Resources

Enrolment Services

Student Engagement

Health & Wellbeing

Systems & Tools

Directory of
key contacts

Assisting students
in distress

Q Search

Student Services - Faculty & Staff Resources » Systems & Tools » Early Alert

EARLY ALERT

How does Early Alert work?

Information for Faculty and Staff

- Faculty and staff - Frequently asked questions
- Faculty and staff downloads and resources

Training

Information for students

- Students - Frequently asked questions

Contact

Early Alert

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE | COUNSELLING SERVICES

Last update: January 27, 2020

Supporting student learning and success is a priority for UBC.

Early Alert helps achieve this goal by helping faculty, staff and TA's provide better support for students who are facing difficulties that put their academic success at risk.

Faculty and staff

Submit an Early Alert concern 

New to Early Alert? Explore [online](#) and [in-person](#) training.

Students

Information for students concerned about other students

Give Feedback 

EARLY ALERT SERVICE APPROACH

- 24-hour turn-around time for Early Alerts
- **New Concern Types emerging during the pandemic**
 - Family dynamics including unsafe learning environment
 - Remote access, materials, workspace and connectivity
 - Financial problems, work and academic/career planning
- **Concern Origins**
 - Face-to-face, or via email and assignments
 - Direct, or more indirect evidence of a concern

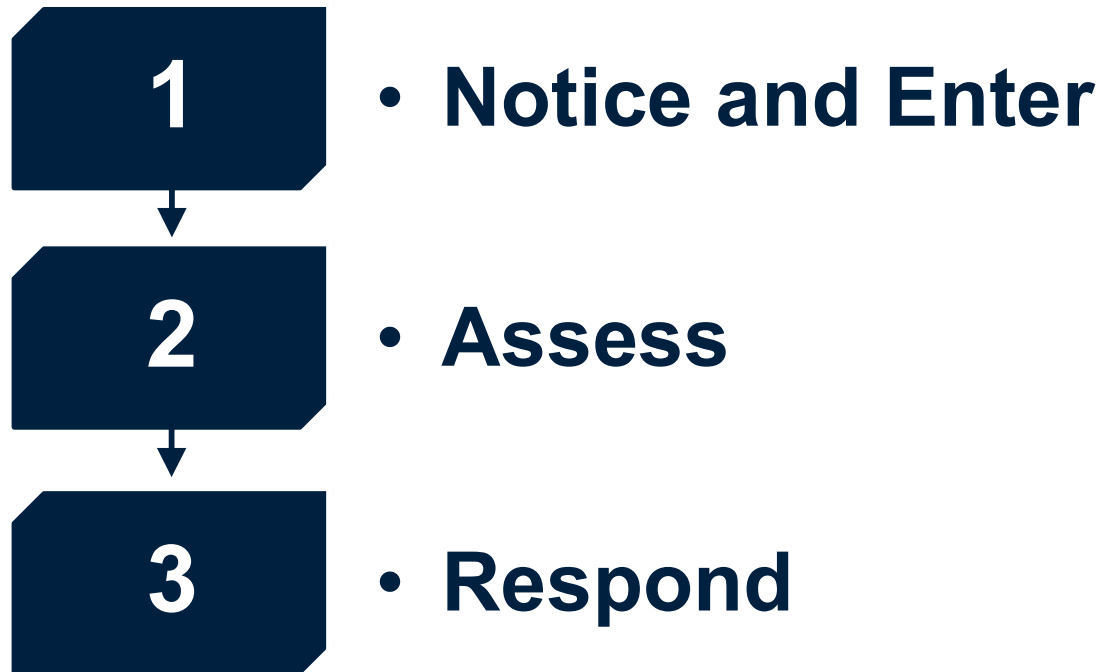


HELPING STUDENTS REMOTELY

- Acknowledge and normalize
- Mention help and supports at the outset of term, in syllabus
- Check-in, express compassion and empathy
- Reach out to students directly, and to support offices
- ***Consult with the Early Alert Case Managers***
 - early.alert@ubc.ca



HOW EARLY ALERT WORKS



HOW EARLY ALERT WORKS

1

- **Notice and Enter**
Faculty or staff notice a student is facing difficulties and identify their concerns using a secure online form.

- Faculty and staff continue to reach out where appropriate.
- Early Alert is secure and private.
- Goal is to be transparent with students and inform where possible and appropriate.



TALKING WITH STUDENTS

- **Not:**

- *I notice you're having difficulties in this course. I'm going to have to enter an Early Alert Report on you.*



- **Instead:**

- *I participate in the Early Alert program. This helps me support students facing difficulties that may be affecting academics.*
- *I'm going to share your situation with a specialized advisor to ensure we provide you with the best possible support.*

RESOURCES FOR FACULTY

- **PowerPoint slides** to show in class to share that you participate in Early Alert.
- **Text for course syllabi** to encourage students to reach out for support and to let them know you participate in Early Alert.
- Visit: **www.earlyalert.ubc.ca** – Click on the “Information for faculty and staff” tab.



HOW EARLY ALERT WORKS

2

- **Assess**
MSSS reviews concerns and identifies the most appropriate resources for students in need of support.

- Early Alert MSSS reviews and assesses all concerns.
- The assessment may result in 2 possible outcomes:
 - Reach out required or not required.
- Case Manager sends an action plan to the most appropriate advisor – typically an Academic Advisor.



HOW EARLY ALERT WORKS

3

- **Respond**
Academic advisors reach out to students and offer connection with resources to help get back on track.

- Reach out = Invitation to come in and speak with an advisor.
- Focus is on supporting the student's success.
- Again, the goal is to be as transparent as possible with students.



RESULTS AS OF 2018/2019 SESSION

1

- **Notice and Enter**
*Faculty/staff entered **1910** concerns*

2

- **Assess:**
***47%** assessed for reach out*

3

- **Respond**
***88%** accepted offer to meet*



CONCERN TYPES 2018/2019 SESSION

- Mental Health and Wellbeing **40%**
- Academic Performance: **16%**
- Academic Attendance **16%**
- Safety (self harm) **7%**
- Physical Health **5%**
- Other **5%**
- Financial **4%**
- Conduct **4%**
- Safety (harm to/from others) **3%**



PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- **Least amount of information to the fewest people**
 - Necessary to support the student;
 - No information released without rationale (e.g.: alerting Campus Security in cases of threats)
 - Information provided for only as long as service provider needs it (e.g.: granting 4 week access to a file for student advisors).



Questions?



How to enter an Early Alert concern



EARLY ALERT CONCERN FORM



- Form stays open for **50 minutes**
- **Student Name** and **Student Number**
- Concerns and Specific Concerns: select as many as relevant
- Note “harm to self or others” – ***act first, EA second.***
- Details about the concern: ***Descriptive, objective language.***
Provide context and history if available.
- Level of Concern: We want ***your subjective sense.***
- Student name and ID – ***accuracy is very important.***
- ***Documents*** – Very helpful, relating to concern.
- ***Submit***, NOT save.

WRITING BEHAVIOURAL DESCRIPTIONS 1

Do	Don't
Describe what the student tells you directly	Include your interpretation of what might be happening
The student was visibly upset (crying) and expressed worry over failing her upcoming exam.	The student is not coping very well and will likely perform poorly in her upcoming exam.
The student requested a third extension on her assignment this term and reported experiencing insomnia and anxiety.	The student is overusing extensions as a way to cope with stress.



WRITING BEHAVIOURAL DESCRIPTIONS 2

Do	Don't
Indicate who actually observed or communicated directly with the student	Include hearsay or rumours
One of my TA's, Sierra Example , spoke with the student and they shared that their parents in Iran have lost their jobs and are no longer able to support her financially. The student expressed feeling "overwhelmed and at a complete loss"	One of the students in my class is struggling financially



WRITING BEHAVIOURAL DESCRIPTIONS 3

Do	Don't
Describe disruptive or threatening behaviour in detail	Use descriptions like “harassed” or “abused”
I observed the student raising his voice and repeatedly speaking in a loud and angry manner to his classmates in the seminar. (ie. “You’re a complete idiot”) As he left the room he aggressively overturned a number of desks.	The student is harassing others in the class.



THANK YOU!

Please ensure you have signed in.



Visit www.facultystaff.students.ubc.ca to enter a concern, download resources, or find out more.