GradesFirst Guide for University of West Georgia Faculty



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Updated July 2015

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Introduction

GradesFirst is a web-based retention and advising tool used in Athletics at the University of West Georgia since 2011 and expanded for the entire student body in 2013. GradesFirst provides a powerful platform for communicating with students, keeping course attendance, providing roll verification, and issuing alerts for students who might be at-risk. This guide details some ways faculty at UWG can use GradesFrist in two parts, a **Basics** section for quick reference on topics all faculty should know and an **Advanced** section for users who want to learn about other GradesFirst features.

GradesFirst Basics

Basic functions of GradesFirst include how to log in, checking email, viewing courses, searching for students, viewing the student profile page, issuing Alerts, and sending messages.

How to Log in to GradesFirst

Faculty can login to GradesFirst via the myUWG portal using the UWG ID.

Login Step 1: Login to myUWG

From anywhere on the University of West Georgia website, **click the Log On link** at the top right of the page and **login to myUWG**.



Login Step 2: External Resources Tab

Once login to myUWG is complete, **click the External Resources tab** and then **click the GradesFirst link.**



This takes you to your GradesFirst home page. Because many faculty also advise, the default home page in GradesFirst for all faculty is the Advisor Home page. **Click the arrow to the right of Advisor Home and choose Professor Home**.

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i	Professor Home rs My Availability Advising Center	Actions
	My Assigned Students -	I want to Issue an Alert
~	Actions +	
	STUDENT NAME	Quick Links
Q	No students found	Take me to Schedule General Event Appointment Campaigns
∞		Manage Assignments
	Advisor Reporting	School Information Download Center for Reports
	Recent Advisor Appointments Recent Reports You Created	Upcoming Appointments
	Recent Advising Appointments	You have no upcoming appointments.

From Professor Home, you can check your messages (A), navigate to other pages via icons on the left side of the screen (B), view your courses for the semester (C), issue an alert (D), and search for students by name (E).

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Professor Home •				
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(COMM1154) Intro to Mass Communications			Progress Reports	Quick Links
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				Schedule General Event
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Students In My Classes			_	Record My Class Attendance Manage Assignments
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Email Indicator (A)

GradesFirst uses a symbol of an envelope to denote unread email messages. The number in the red circle tells you how many emails you have waiting. Emails sent to you through GradesFirst show up in your West Georgia Gmail as well, so you don't have to worry about missing them. They remain unread in GradesFirst until you look at them in that system.



Navigate to Other Pages Via Icons (B)

The pages a user has access to depend on his or her permissions. A sample of the functions is visible in the image below.

Home	Â
Conversations	
Calendar	鱑
Cases	1
Campaigns	~
Reminders	×
Tutors	
Advanced Search	୍
Analytics	0
Reporting	
Administration	۲

View Your Courses for the Semester (C)

The Courses tab in GradesFirst will allow you to see the courses you currently are teaching as well as a complete list of all students enrolled in your courses. You can send messages to one or multiple students, issue an alert for a student who might be at-risk, and record class attendance.

Class Listing			
CLASS NAME	TIME	ROOM	
(COMM1154) Intro to Mass Communications			Assignments Progress Reports

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Actior	ns 🖛						
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	4			0 (0)	COMM1154	Yes	
	5			0 (0)	COMM1154	No	
	6			0 (0)	COMM1154	No	
	7			0 (0)	COMM1154	No	
	8			0 (0)	COMM1154	No	
	9			0 (0)	COMM1154	Yes	

Issue an Alert (D)

You might find during a semester that you wish to issue an alert for a student who is at-risk to be unsuccessful. GradesFirst is the place to make this report. From Professor Home, click **Issue an Alert** from the Actions menu.

Actions		
I want to		
Issue an Alert		

Alternately, you can check the box next to a student's name from your class rosters. Then you can **click the arrow by Actions** and select **Issue Alert** from the menu.

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	iss Prin	nt		Cheerleading, Freshman, G Standing, Kappa Delta, UW		0 (0)	COMM1154	Yes	
	3			Chi Phi, Good Standing, Jun	ior	0 (0)	COMM1154	No	
	4			Cheerleading, Freshman, G Standing, UWG 1101	ood	0 (0)	COMM1154	Yes	
	5			Alpha Xi Delta, Cheerleadin Freshman, Good Standing,		0 (0)	COMM1154	No	
	6			Good Standing, Honors Elig Junior	gibility,	0 (0)	COMM1154	No	
				Freshman, Good Standing,	Men's				

Both methods lead to a dialog box:

	ISSUE AN ALERT X
	Student
Sard, Andurant	Please select the reason you believe this Select at least one
Roles: Student	Student needs assistance
Class Info Appointments Reports / Notes Conversat	Is this alert associated with a specific class? Optional
	Additional Comments
Classes This Term	Please enter a comment.
	Prease enter a comment.
Actions 🗸	
CLASS NAME PROFESSOR	
COMM1154-E04 Intro to Mass Communications Camilla Gan	Submit Cancel
	Course Assignments

You will need to enter a name if it was not a student chosen from your class list. Then you must select one or more reasons for the alert in the first drop down box. You also will have the option of selecting a specific course if the alert directly pertains to a single course. The student's schedule is pre-populated in the second drop down box. To complete your alert, fill in any additional comments you have, then click **Submit**. The Alert goes to the Center for Academic Success, the University Writing Center, and/or the Counseling Center based on the nature of the selected Alert reason(s).

Searching for a Student by Name (E)

GradesFirst has the ability to quickly search for students by name by using **Quick Search (E)** at the top of the page in the gray bar.

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	Actions -	STUDENT NAME		0 (0) COMM1154 0 (0) COMM1154 0 (0) COMM1154 0 (0) COMM1154 0 (0) COMM1154 0 (0) COMM1154	No Ves No Ves No No	Schedule General Event Record My Class Attendance Manage Assignments School Information

Once you begin typing a student's name, GradesFirst automatically begins searching for students. Once you see the student's name in the list in the drop down box, you can select the student by clicking his or her name.

Fall Semester 2015	•		Q
			-
		(*5390) (student)	*

Overview of Student Profile Page

Each student profile page will show you the student's current schedule, his or her status (Normal or Atrisk), options for you as a faculty member to contact or report about the student, academic information, and personal information.

Sending Messages

GradesFirst allows you to send messages to students from within the system. When students receive emails sent from you through the GradesFirst system, it will not only show up for them in GradesFirst but it will also be delivered to the UWG Gmail account.

Check the box next to a student's name from your class rosters. You can send messages to multiple students at once by checking the box next to each name. Each student will receive the message as though you only sent it to him/her and will not be able to see the other recipients. Then you can **click the arrow by Actions** and select **Send Message** from the menu.

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3		Chi Phi, Good Standing, Junior	0 (0)	COMM1154		No
9		Cheerleading, Freshman, Good Standing, UWG 1101	0 (0)	COMM1154		Yes
5		Alpha Xi Delta, Cheerleading, Freshman, Good Standing, UWG 1101	0 (0)	COMM1154		No
☑ 6		Good Standing, Honors Eligibility, Junior	0 (0)	COMM1154		No

You will see two tabs in the **Send a Message** dialog box, **Send Email** and **Send Text**. The tab that has a blue highlight is the action being taken.

Send an Email Message:

For emails, simply fill in the subject and message boxes, attach any additional documents, and decide if you would like the email to go to anyone else (works like a cc: in regular email). Click **Send Message** to complete your message.

Send a Text Message

For texts, enter the brief message you wish for the student to receive. The message is limited to 160 characters. Once you have composed your message, click **Send Message**. The text will be sent to the cell number the students have on file in Banner. Make sure to identify yourself in your text message and include your call back number.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports allow faculty to quickly and easily mark which students are At-Risk to fail a course and then automatically mark the rest as Active. This guide details how to respond to a Progress Report campaign.

Faculty Progress Report Campaign Step 1: Email Notification

GradesFirst sends an email to solicit feedback for a Progress Report. The email will contain a custom message to the faculty member (1) and a link to enter the report (2). Click the link that says Click to **Begin Entering Student Feedback**.



Faculty Progress Report Campaign Step 2: The User Interface and Responding

Once you click the link, your browser will navigate to a page that allows quick response to the Progress Report. You will see a message about the security of the system (1). UWG uses a FERPA agreement with GradesFirst that was approved by the Registrar and ITS. Moreover, only school officials with legitimate educational interest have the ability to initiate a Progress Report. Thus, responding to a Progress Report does not violate a student's FERPA rights. You'll see your name below the security statement (2). All of your courses are listed in one convenient place, with each course listed separately (3).

Check the radial button for any students who are At-Risk to fail your class (4). Each person you select will highlight in red to show risk. Then you can any Alert reasons you want (5), report the number of absences (6), indicate current grade in the course (7), and add comments (8). The more information you provide the better.

Finally, you have the option to **Submit only marked students** (9) so that you can return to finish the report later or to **Submit unmarked students as not At Risk** (10), which allows you to use your time only to report on students at-risk.



Advanced Features of GradesFirst

In addition to the functions outlined in **GradesFirst Basics**, faculty might receive requests to verify rosters via an Enrollment Census Campaign or to report student progress via a Progress Report Campaign. Other permissions include the ability to record class attendance, view student conversations recording in GradesFirst, use the Calendar with two-way Google integration, and access multiple reports and use Analytics. This portion of the guide seeks to inform you of the utility of these functions. It is neither complete in its instructions for how to use the features nor exhaustive in its listing of the capabilities of GradesFirst.

Viewing Conversations in GradesFirst

When you send and receive messages (email or text) using GradesFirst, your conversations are saved in the system. Access them via the **Conversations icon** (the envelope) in the blue vertical menu on the left side of the screen to help track your communications with a student.

lome	Courses	Calendar	Conversation	s Campaigns	Cases				Reports	Analytics	Searc
All Con	iversati	ons 🗸									
🗬 Mark Sele	cted as Read	🖨 Mark All Read					🗷 View Unre	ad C	only Search by Users		
🛋 ALL	RI	EAD	DATE SENT 🔶	RECIPIENT \$	ТОРІС	÷	SENDER	\$	TYPE ¢	DETAIL	LS
	î		02/07/2014 09:28 AM	210.000	Academic Progress Request - Advanced Academy		President, name		E-mail	Detail	s
	6		08/24/2013 12:06 AM	(int. Arrists	Syllabus		Barto, Darris		E-mail	Detail	s

To view the content of a communication, click on the **Details** link.



Reports and GradesFirst Analytics

GradesFirst has robust reporting features that enable you to see if a student attended tutoring, has seen an advisor, and/or participated in academic coaching. **Note:** Medical and mental counseling visits and notes do not appear in GradesFirst because of HIPAA.

Reports do not alter data—only collect and display it. Therefore, it is safe to play around with Reports without concern for altering data. For assistance using Reports, contact Danny Gourley, campus administrator for GradesFirst, at dgourley@westga.edu.



Like Reports, Analytics provide a way to review student activity in advising, tutoring, career counseling, and academic coaching services. Analytics also provides graphs as visual aides to understand usage patterns. For assistance using Analytics, contact Danny Gourley, campus administrator for GradesFirst, at dgourley@westga.edu.

Grades First West Georgia.								
ome Courses Calendar Conversations Camp	oaigns Cases	Reports	Analytics	Searc				
nalytics								
Welcome to GradesFirst Analytics. Click here to) view a short instructional v	ideo.						
Advising Activity Time & productivity dashboards record and report every interaction between advisors and students: advising appointments. emails. phone calls, text messages and more. Filter by advisor, cohort. location and dete; record peak hours, balance workloads and fine- tune advising support activities. Advising Dashboards Motiong Reports		Tutoring Activity Time & productivity dashboards record and report every interaction between tutors and students: tutoring appointments. emails, phone calls, text messages and more. Filter by tutor, cohort, location and date; record peak hours, balance workloads and fine-tune tutoring support activities. Image: Strain Str	12 fhu	[24] Fri				
Student Reports Build custom lists of specific student cohorts. Filter by category, tags, and other criteria. Student reports are easily exportable to excel.	Students by Category Category Baseball udent Support Services ty Soccer ti Programs onal Students tyudents Arts and Science	Outcomes And Assessment Monitor the outcomes and assess the effectiveness of campus-wide intervention fortors. Neasure student retention rates, changes in GPA, hours completed, and correlate these changes with your institution's student success efforts. Change in GPA: Advising						

Roll Verification

Roll verification in GradesFirst takes place via the Enrollment Census Campaign. This feature allows faculty to quickly and easily mark which students have never attended and then automatically mark the rest as Active. This guide details how to respond to an Enrollment Census campaign. **Note: UWG** currently completes roll verification via Banweb.

Faculty Enrollment Census Campaign Step 1: Email Notification

GradesFirst sends an email to solicit feedback for an Enrollment Census. The email will contain a custom message to the faculty member (1) and a link to enter the report (2). Click the link that says Click to **Begin Entering Student Feedback**.



Faculty Enrollment Census Campaign Step 2: The User Interface and Responding

Once you click the link, your browser will navigate to a page that allows quick response to the Enrollment Census. You will see your name at the top (1) to ensure you know you are in the system correctly and a message about the security of the system (2). UWG uses a FERPA agreement with GradesFirst that was approved by the Registrar and ITS. You'll see your name again below the security statement (3). All of your courses are listed in one convenient place, with each course listed separately (4 and 5).

Check the radial button for any students who have **Never Attended** your class (6). Each person you select will highlight in pink to show non-attendance.

	Hello,				Quick Search: 🔍 Term: Fall Semester 20 👻 Logo
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Stu	ident Feedbac	:k			
ſ		tion is secure. ity measures allow your school to adhere to gove	proment rules and regulations conc	arning FERDA and overall student priva	201
4	Thank you for usin	ig GradesFirst!	initiales and regulations conte	annig rela realia over an stadent prive	ak ya
_					
	fessor : 3 ave been asked to fill out		in the following classes. Update eac	h student based on the best of your kr	nowledge of their attendance at this point in the term.
THE/	A-1111-1 Performar	nce And Production			
	Student name	Active	Last day	Never attended 6	Comments
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3	Partie: Walker	O	27	Ø	
4	Grage, Salaria	O	22	©	
5	righteen (seat)	O	27	Ø	
6	Pathene, Nat.	0	27	O	
7	Holison, Server	O	22	O	
8	Woolan, Caniton	O	22	O	
9	Roma Carton	O	27	O	
THE/	A-2111-1 Performar	nce And Production			
	Student name	Active	Last day	Never attended	Comments

Next, scroll to the bottom of the page and check the box to **Mark remaining as active**. Note that checking the box does NOT highlight the other students in green to show their active status; however, the results do report accurately. Click the **Submit** button to submit your response.

THEA-3111-1 Performance And P	roduction			
Student name	Active	Last day	Never attended	Comments
1 (jauni jani	O	danda 27	O	
Mark remaining as active				Legend Active Inactive
Submit				

Finally, the page confirms that you have completed your response. Close the browser to exit securely.



Record Class Attendance

GradesFirst gives you the ability to track your class attendance and observe attendance patterns for each student. From your **Professor Home**, click **Record My Class Attendance** in the Actions menu.



The next screen will populate your class schedule on the left side of the screen. Select a course to record attendance (1). Then select the date of the class meeting you wish to record (2).

Choose a Course	1							
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•								
Choose a Date	2							
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Your students for the selected course should now be showing in the center of the window. Mark students who were absent or tardy by clicking the appropriate radio button next to their name. You can also indicate if their absences or tardiness was excused. Once you have completed marking all the absent and tardy students, click the box next to **Mark Remaining Present** to select all other students as present.

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24			2	7 28	29	30		0 (0)	0	0	۲			Add Progress Report
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								1 (1)	o	0	0			Add Progress Report
								0 (0)	o	0	0			Add Progress Report
							Mark Remaining Prese	ent				15 Present	1 Absent	1 Tardy

Click **Save Attendance** to complete the record.

Calendar

GradesFirst has a calendar tool that will pre-populate all of your courses and show appointments. It has two-way integration with Google Calendar as well. If you want to use GradesFirst to conduct advising appointments, contact Danny Gourley, campus administrator for GradesFirst, at dgourley@westga.edu.

LEGEND ADVISING	ASSIGNMENT	🖉 GENERAL 🔍 CO	URSE FREE BUSY	CANCELLED			
					🛗 Add Calend	ar Event 🛛 🔒 Print Cale	ndar
							_
ul 6 — 1	12 2014				today <	day week month	>
SUN	7/6 MON 7/7	TUE 7/8	WED 7/9	THU 7/10	FRI 7/11	SAT 7/12	
all-day							
2pm							
3pm	3:00 - 5:15	3:00 - 5:15	3:00 - 5:15	3:00 - 5:15	3:00 - 5:15		
	BIOL1010-1 Fundamentals of Biology						
4pm					-		
5pm					-		