The Center for Student Success provides professional advising and additional support services to facilitate the academic success and persistence of Carthage students, primarily during their period of transition to the College. Center for Student Success staff work closely with other college personnel to holistically address the academic, developmental, and social needs of students, with particular focus on supporting underrepresented/underserved student populations.

**ADVISING AND REGISTRATION**

During the admissions process, new undergraduate students are paired with a student success advisor who will assist them during their transition to college. Student success advisors provide a wide range of support, including facilitating the course registration process, referring students to campus resources, and teaching new students’ College Success Seminar courses.

After the first semester – or earlier for some transfer students - students with a declared program of study will transition to a faculty advisor in their field for degree planning and other professional mentorship. They will also receive support from a designated career specialist in the Aspire Center for career exploration and planning. Students may continue to work with student success advisors at various points in their academic career when they could benefit from additional support.

**COLLEGE SUCCESS SEMINAR**

All new undergraduate students are enrolled in College Success Seminar, a college transition course taught by their student success advisor. College Success Seminar courses review skills and services that students should utilize in order to make the most of their college journey, enhancing their ability to take ownership of their educational experience. The course facilitates community building within the classroom, which includes upperclassmen who are matched with first year student sections as peer coaches. Transfer and exchange students participate in an abbreviated version of the course that helps them adjust to Carthage as a unique institution of higher education.

**STUDENT OUTREACH SYSTEM**

Faculty, staff, and fellow peers can submit a concern about a student to the Center for Student Success through the Student Outreach System in my.Carthage.edu. Concerns frequently vary but may include low academic achievement, mental and physical health challenges, or financial barriers. The Center for Student Success responds to each alert, assembling a team best positioned to address it confidentially with the student. That team may include an advisor, coach, hall director, nurse, counselor, financial aid representative, learning accessibility specialist, and/or other relevant faculty or staff member.
CARTHAGE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
Each semester, the Office of the Provost identifies students who may need additional guidance to reach their academic potential and meet graduation requirements. These students are enrolled in the Carthage Academic Achievement Program, which facilitates group workshops and one-on-one advising sessions hosted by the Center for Student Success. Through the program, participants practice utilizing campus resources, setting and taking steps to achieve their goals, sharpening time management and study skills, and practicing self-advocacy.

POPULATION-SPECIFIC SUPPORT
In advance of Carthage’s traditional New Student Orientation, the Center for Student Success coordinates transition programs for students from backgrounds with unique needs. They feature early move-in, tailored workshops, and small group social integration:

First in the Family Pre-Orientation – Offered each fall to a limited number of first year students who will be first-generation college graduates.
International Student Pre-Orientation – Held each fall and spring for all incoming international students (first-time freshmen, transfers, or exchange students).

To address the unique challenges that often confront students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, the Center and its campus partners also conduct outreach to:

• Athletes • DACA/Undocumented students
• Military-affiliated students • Adult students
• Commuters • Undeclared students
• Students of color • LGBTQ+ students
• Differently abled students

GUARANTEED ADMISSION PROGRAMS
Students at Gateway Technical College and the College of Lake County have the option to enroll in Carthage’s guaranteed admission programs. As they prepare to apply to Carthage, students who have opted in are connected with an advisor in the Center for Student Success for advice on course selection that will result in a simplified transfer process. Qualified students who are admitted will continue to work with that advisor through their transition to Carthage in pursuit of their bachelor’s degree.