# Trellis Key Indicators

Purpose

With the launch of the Trellis tool, a team of university analysts led by Sarah Kyte of SSRI took the opportunity to use historical University of Arizona data to identify actionable indicators of student risk for leaving the University. These actionable “Key Indicators” are now available to advisors as part of the student contact record in the Trellis tool. This is a first product of a larger effort to model student risk across the student life-course and more indicators will be added as they are identified.

### Available Indicators

If a student has a flag for one or more of the following indicators, it means that, compared to similar students, the student in question has a higher risk of not re-enrolling in the university the following semester.

1. Enrolled Units Flag: The student is enrolled in 7 or fewer units
2. Withdrawn Course Flag: The student has recently withdrawn from a course[[1]](#footnote-1)
3. Recent GPA Drop Flag: The student has had a recent drop in GPA.[[2]](#footnote-2)

### Where the Indicators Came From

A team of analysts and researchers worked together on conceptual modeling and the preparation and analysis of institutional data currently housed in the data warehouse to identify a small set of student-level risk factors for integration into the new tool. In doing so, we prioritized risk factors that would resonate with advisors’ focus: helping students navigate coursework decisions and academic challenges. To ensure the indicators are predictive across the student population, we tested a set of possible risk factors using basic multivariate logistic regression modeling that took into account students’ social background, admissions profile, and enrollment characteristics.

### Potential Uses for the Key Indicators

1. Help target students for outreach who may need more guidance but haven’t yet asked for help
2. Inform conversations with students about course-taking patterns and decisions

1. Defined as a W in the current or previous fall/spring term. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Defined as earning a term GPA in the previous term 0.5 units (~1 standard deviation from the group mean) below their cumulative GPA as of the previous term. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)