

Guideline for Student Behavior

Hostility, verbal aggression, depression, isolation and withdrawal are key signals that should not be ignored. Disregarding early warning signs facilitates escalation. It is better to offend a student by “over-reacting” and apologize than to fail to act in the interest of everyone’s safety.

Below are three categories of behavior and actions, which need attention and a response. They are listed in an order of increasing severity. Research suggests that acting-out and violent behavior may be diffused if these issues are addressed in the early levels of escalation.

LEVEL I – WARNING SIGNALS

- **Pronounced and sudden change in attendance patterns**
Tardiness and increased absences
- **Change in behavior**
Withdrawn, irritable, confrontational, depressed, angry
- **Negative change in attitude**
Significant change in the way the student interacts with staff and/or students
- **Minor disruptive behavior**

LEVEL II – MODERATE RISK

- **Negative/ hostile attention seeking behavior in classroom**
Behavior interferes with educational goals; cheating
- **Threats to harm self or others disclosed either in a direct or disguised manner**
Jokes, sarcasm, hints, symbolic gestures, drawings, writing assignments
- **Withdrawn behavior of increasing concern**
Vacant stare, crying or deep sadness
- **Openly confrontational with faculty, staff, and/or students**
Agitation or intimidating behavior
- **No participation in class discussions and activities with passive/aggressive behaviors and acting out**

LEVEL III – EXTREME RISK

- **Continued demonstrations of odd or disruptive behaviors that you have previously discussed**
- **Aggressive and threatening behavior or gestures**
- **Escalating threats, raised voice**
- **Visible agitation, physical tension**

WHAT I SHOULD DO

- Make time to meet with the student one-on-one.
- Invite the student to discuss problems that may be interfering with their academic goals after class or during your office hours.
- In a non-threatening and non-punitive fashion comment on your observations and express your concern.
- Inquire as to what circumstances may be causing the changes in behavior (document).
- Refer to appropriate student services.
- Reference the class syllabus and college catalog.
- Talk with Dept. Chair, Evening Facilitator, or Dean.

WHAT I SHOULD DO

- If you feel safe, meet with the student one-on-one.
- Brainstorm with your Department Chair or Dean. Consider asking them to join you with the student.
- Express your interest in the student’s wellbeing.
- In an objective, firm, and non-punitive fashion describe the problem behavior.
- Set clear guidelines regarding appropriate behavior.
- Walk the student to the Health Center or ACCESS.
- Complete Behavior Intervention Referral Form (found on the Portal College Quick links). Forms go to Dean responsible for Student Conduct.
- OR contact a member of the Behavior Intervention Team (BIT)
Norman Marten (805) 553- 4719 Campus Police (805) 378-1455
Sharon Manakas (805) 553-4179 Silva Arzunyan (805) 378-1460
Nils Slattum (805) 553 4889 Chad Basile (805) 652-7779 x 51253

WHAT I SHOULD DO

- **Immediately call Campus Police, (805)378-1455**
- Remain calm, do not engage in argument.
- Keep distance between you and the student.
- Allow the student a way to exit; do not allow yourself to be trapped. Reduce noise, talking, questions, stimulation.
- Ask the student to leave.
- If the student refuses to leave, remove yourself and others from the situation.
- Campus Police will notify College Administrator & BIT