

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Student Life and Leadership Development | Student Health Center | Veterans Success Center

Diffusing Classroom Disruptions

This handout serves as a quick reference for working with students in various situations. It is not an exhaustive list and actual situations may differ in circumstances and severity.

Disruptive Behavior		
Behavior Description	Disruptive behavior interrupts the classroom or work environment and can present as escalating behavior or "acting out." Examples include, but are not limited to persistent talking over professor during lecture, arguments, refusal to pay attention, using phone in class (when unrelated to class work), refusal to wear appropriate protective gear, or refusal to follow any other classroom or college rules while in class.	
What to do?	Talk to the student and remind him/her of classroom rules or applicable college policies. If behavior does not subside, inform student that you will need to ask him to leave and/or report the situation to the dean of students. If behavior continues and student refuses to leave, call Campus Safety (Ext. 8611).	
Follow-up	Inform division dean, and complete an incident report form if appropriate.	

Aggressive or Threatening Behavior		
Behavior Description	Aggressive and threatening behavior may present as open confrontation or hostile attitude. The student may appear agitated or act intimidating. If a student is exhibiting aggressive behavior and you are concerned for your safety or the safety of others, call Campus Safety immediately (Ext. 8611).	
What to do?	Call Campus Safety (Ext. 8611), keep distance between you and the student, do not prevent the student from leaving and allow a path to an exit. Speak calmly; reduce noise, talking, questions, and stimulations. If behavior does not subside, ask the student to leave. If the student refuses to leave, call Campus Safety (Ext. 8611) and remove yourself and others from the situation.	
Follow-up	Inform division dean, and complete an incident report form.	

Student In Crisis		
Behavior Description	If a student indicates that they want to harm themselves or others, call Campus Safety (Ext. 8611). If the student shares that they have had thoughts of hurting themselves in the past, refer them to the Student Health Center for support (Ext. 8671).	
What to do?	Talk to the student and ask if they are having current thoughts of harming self/others. If student indicates that they are in current crisis, call Campus Safety, otherwise refer to Student Health Center.	
Follow-up	Inform division dean, and complete a Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) report form.	