



Student Threat Assessment Procedures

Purpose

Most student behaviors that are exhibited can be handled by faculty and staff at the time of the incident utilizing the [Student Judicial Code](#) policy and/or its corresponding [Classroom Disruption Procedures](#) . However, some incidences may require further documentation and review, or an immediate emergency response.

The purpose of the *Student Threat Assessment Team* (STAT) is to supplement and support the existing system in determining whether distressed students pose a threat to self or others. Similar teams are used at various higher education institutions across the country. At Delgado, the STAT also assists the Office of Student Life staff in determining which course of action should be recommended to assist and support the student in his or her time of distress.

Objectives

The objectives of the Student Threat Assessment Procedures enable and empower the accomplishment of the following goals:

- To balance the educational needs of the student and the College's mission;
- To intervene early and provide support and response to students who display varying levels of distressed behaviors;
- To respond with support first and sanctions as a last resort;
- To respond with individualized assessment the potential for violent, homicidal and/or suicidal behaviors while avoiding stigmatizing mental health issues and stereotype-based profiling;
- To enable adherence to a formalized protocol of instructions for communication, coordination and intervention;
- To balance FERPA, HIPAA and counselor privileges with the College's need-to-know and emergency communication needs;
- To centralize the process for collection and assessment of referrals initiated by student behavior and recognize interactional patterns of concern involving one student that may be known to various faculty, staff and administrators;
- To engage faculty and staff in effective response with respect to distressed students;
- To coordinate follow-up to ensure that services, support and resources are deployed effectively; and
- To follow up as appropriate with psychological assessment, conduct actions, disability services, accommodations, hospitalization and withdrawal, as needed, balancing that which is in the best interest of the student and the College.

What Constitutes a “Distressed” Student?

The following are behavioral examples of distressed behaviors:

Examples of Distressed Students

- Unaccountable change in grade performance
- Change in pattern of interaction
- Significant change in physical appearance
- Marked change in mood, motor activity, or speech
- May request special consideration frequently
- Behavior may interfere with classroom management or be disruptive
- Unusual or exaggerated emotional response
- Other behaviors indicating the student is distressed

Examples of “Extremely” Distressed Students

- Threatening or verbally insulting the instructor or others students
- Intoxication – including drug and alcohol use
- Verbal Abuse (e.g., taunting, badgering, intimidation)
- Harassment (e.g., use of “fighting words,” stalking)
- Threats to harm oneself or others
- Physical violence(e.g., shoving, grabbing, assault, possession or use of weapon)
- Other behaviors indicating the student is extremely distressed

Referral Procedures

Referring Distressed Students (not “Extremely” Distressed Students)

To refer distressed students and/or student judicial code violations, faculty, staff and students should file a [Referral Form for Incidents of Student Code and Conduct](#) with the Office of Student Life *within 72 hours* of interaction or reasonable time frame if best effort is demonstrated in attempting to contact the appropriate parties.

To obtain the Referral Form from the website, follow these instructions:

Student Referring Student:

1. Go to Delgado’s home page (www.dcc.edu).
2. Click on “Current Students” page.
3. Click on “RISCC” Icon (Referring Incidents of Student Code and Conduct).
4. Complete report as directed and click “Submit” link.

Faculty/Staff Referring Student:

1. Go to Delgado's home page (www.dcc.edu).
2. Log into "Faculty/Staff" page.
3. Click on "RISCC" (Referring Incidents of Student Code and Conduct) under "Resources" header.
4. Complete report as directed and click "Submit" link.

Referring "Extremely" Distressed Students

If a student is posing a threat to the safety of him, she or others, becomes physically or verbally abusive, Campus Police should be contacted immediately. It is often a mistake to assume that aggressive behavior will stop on its own. Always err on the side of safety. ***Once Campus Police is notified a police report will be required and statements may be requested of the students, faculty or staff members involved and witnesses.***

Referral Procedures for DCC Campus Police:

1. Call Campus Police at (504) 671-6111.
2. Follow all instructions as directed by the Campus Police Department.

Office of Student Life's Response

Depending on the nature of the student's behavior, the following Office of Student Life responses apply:

- Student may be referred to STAT Team.
- Student may be referred for counseling.
- Faculty/staff member may be directed to consult [Classroom Disruption Procedures](#).
- Student may be processed through Judicial Affairs process.

Feedback Loop

All parties affected will be provided information on a "need to know" basis, as determined by the Office of Student Life. Otherwise, information regarding the student will remain confidential.

Student Threat Assessment Team

The Student Threat Assessment Team is composed of the following:

- Director of Student Life
- Assistant Director of Student Life (or designee)
- Chief of Campus Police
- Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

STAT Backup Members (used on case by case basis):

- Coordinator of Disability Services
- Coordinator of Health Services
- Counselor Intern or Counselor on site
- Any other individual with knowledge of or expertise related to the situation

Protection of Referral Forms

Such records are not available to anyone except to those who have a legitimate need to know and to the extent required by law. These records will be kept on file in the Office of Student Life separate from Judicial Affairs Records, and are *not* a part of a student's discipline record.

**Office of Student Life
(504) 671-6001**

Approved 8/4/10