

Guide to Working with Distressed or Disruptive Students

The Student Counseling Center and the Office of Student Conduct Programs have developed this informational guide to aid faculty and staff as they assist students who are experiencing distress or may be disruptive in the classroom.

Important Contact Information:

Student Counseling Center

Curtiss 112
(989) 964-7078
counselingservices@svsu.edu
svsu.edu/studentcounselingcenter

Student Conduct Programs

• Dr. Marie Rabideau
Curtiss 114
(989) 964-2220
rabideau@svsu.edu
svsu.edu/studentconductprograms

University Police

South Campus Complex A
(989) 964-4141 or 911
dispatch@svsu.edu
svsu.edu/universitypolice

Ombudsman

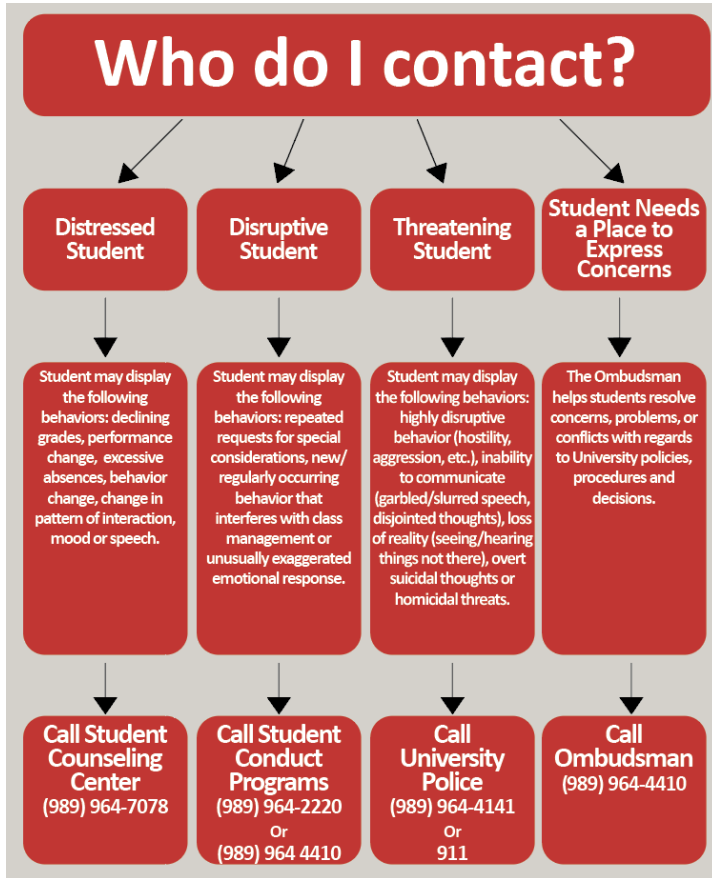
• Dr. Sidney R. Childs
Curtiss 114
(989) 964-4410
ombuds@svsu.edu
svsu.edu/ombudsman



The University has created an opportunity for any member of the University community, or other interested individuals, to submit concerns about students on a convenient website called "Cardinals Care Notes." The Cardinals Care Notes program is intended to assist students to find solutions for social and personal issues that may impact their SVSU experience. The program has been created to identify and address issues before they reach the level of formal intervention. The information will be reviewed by the Student Affairs office.

To submit a concern go to svsu.edu/studentaffairs/cardinalcarenotes.

Guide to Working with Distressed or Disruptive Students



Working with Student Conduct Programs

Behavioral Expectations

All students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible members of the University community and to respect the rights of their fellow citizens. No student shall engage in activities that are disruptive in the classroom or interferes with the educational activities and/or rights of others. Students may be charged through the disciplinary process for their actions. For more information on the Code of Student Conduct, please visit svsu.edu/studentconduct-programs

Examples of Behavioral Disruptive Issues:

Assault - Physical

- Striking another individual
- Self-destructive behaviors

Assault - Verbal

- Threatening to do harm to another individual

Classroom Misconduct

- Talking at inappropriate times
- Using electronic devices inappropriately
- Drawing unwarranted attention
- Displaying defiance

Stalking/Harassment

- Following an individual
- Pestering an individual
- Repeated e-mails or phone calls after asking to cease behavior

Managing a Classroom Disruption:

If a student's behavior is disruptive to the point of impeding the educational process, the faculty/staff member has the right to ask the student to leave *for that session only*. Should a student decide not to leave or there is an incident where the safety and welfare of other individuals are threatened, contact University Police at 911 to remove the student. Student Conduct Programs must be contacted as soon as practicable.

If a Student Comes to Class Without a Mask:

Students are expected to follow face covering requirements inside all buildings on campus except private residential units. If a student is not wearing a face covering in accordance with the COVID-19 Face Covering Policy and Guidance, a polite verbal request for compliance should be made to educate, encourage, and persuade individuals to wear face coverings.

- **If a student refuses to comply with this policy**, report the Student Code of Conduct violation in writing to rabideau@svsu.edu or go to svsu.edu/studentaffairs/cardinalcarenotes.
- **Students who are medically unable to tolerate a face covering** must contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Accommodations at accessibility@svsu.edu for guidance prior to coming to campus.

Ways that Student Conduct Programs can help:

- Consultation regarding how to handle a situation
- Facilitate mediation between individuals in conflict
- Meet with faculty and/or student to discuss issue
- Come to your office or classroom to assist with managing a disruption
- Formally charge a student with a violation of the Code of Student Conduct
- Enforce outcomes to conduct proceedings

The Do's and Don'ts of Responding to a Student who is Disruptive:

DO be firm, consistent and honest.

DO concentrate on the issue being addressed.

DO set limits. Examples, "I will be willing to speak with you if you lower your voice" and "I will be willing to speak with you, if you are also willing to listen to me."

DO ask the student to leave the room if behavior continues.

DO call for assistance when you need it.

DO keep written factual and detailed information.

DO report the behavior to the Student Conduct Programs.

DON'T touch the student or his/her belongings.

DON'T go behind closed doors alone with the student.

DON'T get into an argument or shouting match.

DON'T ignore safety issues if the person is becoming more agitated.

- **If you are concerned for your immediate safety or that of others, call 911 regardless of the time of day.**
- **For consultations or question regarding disruptive behavior, call Student Conduct Programs at (989) 964-2220.**

Working with the Student Counseling Center for Students in Distress

A student who is in distress may seem anxious, depressed, troubled, have physical or mental pain, and much more. When possible, don't ignore the student's distress; try to help the student find the resources that are available at the University. The services of the Student Counseling Center are free to any currently enrolled SVSU student. All information shared by the student with a counselor is confidential and is not a part of the student's official University record. For more information on the Student Counseling Center, visit www.svsu.edu/studentcounselingcenter.

Some Warning Signs of Suicide

- Threatening or talking about hurting or killing one self
- Talking or writing about death, dying, or suicide when these actions are out of the ordinary for this person
- Communicates a feeling of hopelessness
- Demonstrates rage or uncontrolled anger or seeking revenge
- Acting reckless or engaging in risky activity
- Expressing that there is no way out
- Increasing alcohol or drug use
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Communicates the inability to sleep and feeling anxious or agitated
- Dramatic mood changes
- Communicates that they see no reason for living or having no sense of purpose

QPR: Ask a Question, Save a Life. (Question, Persuade, Refer)

Do you want to feel better prepared to handle difficult situations related to suicide? QPR is a nationally recognized suicide intervention training that teaches you how to talk to students about suicide and refer distressed students to trained professionals. **Contact the University Counseling Center for the training schedule or to request training for a department.**

The Do's and Don'ts in Responding to a Student in Distress:

- DO** show that you take the student's feelings seriously.
- DO** let the student know that you want to help.
- DO** listen attentively and empathize.
- DO** reassure that with help he/she will recover.
- DO** stay close until help is available or risk has passed.
- DON'T** try to shock or challenge the student.
- DON'T** analyze the student's motives.
- DON'T** become argumentative.
- DON'T** react with shock or disdain at the student's thoughts and feelings.

Making a Referral

- Be frank with the student about the limits of your time, ability, and/or objectivity.
- Let the student know that you think he/she should get assistance from another source.
- Assure them that many students seek help over the course of their college career.
- Assist the student in choosing the best resource.
- Try to help the student know what to expect if he/she follows through on the referral.

Ways the Student Counseling Center can help you:

- Consultations regarding your concerns and how to proceed
- Assessing the seriousness of the situation
- Suggesting potential resources
- Finding the best way to make a referral
- Clarifying your own feelings about the student and the situation

Student Counseling Center: (989) 964-7078

• **Local 24 Hour Crisis Numbers:**

Saginaw : (989) 792-9732 & 1-800-233-0022
Bay /Arenac : (989) 895-2300 & 1-800-327-4693
Midland /Gladwin : (989) 631-2320
Tuscola : (989) 673-6191

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:

1-800-273-8255