

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY™

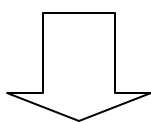
EMU CARES: Responding to Distressed or Disruptive Students

Most students handle life pressures very well. Some, however, reveal disturbing personal problems or their behavior disrupts the classroom or work environment. Speaking directly with students will allow you to help them find useful resources, stop the disruptive behavior, and become more effective personally and academically.

Lower level of distress or disruption

(Non-disruptive behavior; e.g., student discloses prior sexual abuse; brags about alcohol use.)

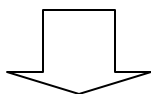
- Talk privately to student about the observed behavior or communication.
- Express appropriate concern.
- Help the student identify possible solutions or resources to help resolve the problem.



Moderate level of distress or disruption

(Student asks for accommodation for personal problems, you are worried about the student.)

- Talk privately to student about the behavior or communication.
- Don't promise to keep secrets, but assure respect for communications.
- Actively set limits on the student's behavior (e.g., "Additional absences will affect your grade/employment.")
- Help the student identify solutions to the problem consistent with your classroom or office protocol.



High level of behavioral disruption

(The student is persistently or highly disruptive.)

- Help the student calm or settle down, if possible, using a low, firm voice tone.
- If the situation permits, speak to the student in a safe, private area (rear of classroom; in department office with open door).
- You may alert others so they're aware of the meeting/situation.
- Identify the disruptive behavior; indicate the behavior must change/stop.
- Inform student about campus and other resources that might also assist them. Help make an appointment.

If the student's behavior is threatening to others

Call DPS or police

On campus phone: 911

Any phone: 487.1222

Off campus: 911 (local police)

If you are worried about the student's safety

WEEKDAYS 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Inform the student of your concerns and confirm the student's safety.
- Ask directly if the student has thoughts to harm himself or herself.
- If the student *denies* thoughts of self harm, refer to campus or other resources.
- If the student *reveals* suicidal thoughts spontaneously or when asked, contact Counseling Services (487.1118).
- Walk the student to Counseling Services (313 Snow Health Center). Alert personnel of the urgent situation.

WEEKENDS OR FROM 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.

- Call Public Safety (487.1222) for assistance and **remain with the student until assistance arrives.**

Campus Resources

Access Services

487.2470

http://www.emich.edu/access_services

Counseling Services

487.1118

<http://www.emich.edu/uhs/counseling.html>

Health Education

487.2226

<http://www.emich.edu/uhs/healthed.html>

Office of the Ombudsman

487.0074

<http://www.emich.edu/ombuds>

Student Judicial Services

487.2157

<http://www.emich.edu/sjs>