

NUMBER: STAF 6.29
SECTION: Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support
SUBJECT: Student Health Condition Disturbances Policy
DATE: June 1, 1992
REVISION: February 18, 2013
Policy for: Columbia Campus
Procedure for: Columbia Campus
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Issued by: Behavioral Intervention Team

I. Policy

This policy outlines how the university may respond to any disturbances by a student that may be related to a health condition or concern.

Disruptive behaviors that may be related to a health condition include but are not limited to:

- A. Overt, self-injury behaviors, including but not limited to self-inflicted wounds and injuries, ingestion of toxic substances, overdoses of prescribed medications.
- B. Threats of self-injury behaviors, threats of injury to other persons, threats of damage to property, interference with normal operations or activities of the university, its students, faculty, and staff, or damage to property of the university, its students, faculty, and staff.
- C. Acts indicating the student is out of contact with reality and/or unaware of the consequences of his/her actions.
- D. Demand on campus support services and resources to an extent that disrupts or interferes with normal operations or activities of the university, its students, faculty, and staff.
- E. Demand on campus support services and resources to an extent that creates a financial burden for the university substantially beyond what is typical on a per student basis.
- F. When all other referrals and options have been exhausted, failure to comply with individualized treatment recommendations when treatment may be reasonably expected to ameliorate the problematic behavior of the student.

II. Procedures

A. Handling Disturbances Related to Health Concerns

The Behavioral Intervention Team, when made aware of such behaviors, will work with the Counseling and Human Development Center, University Housing, and any other offices necessary to determine the best course of action for the university and the involved students according to the procedures outlined in the Behavioral Intervention Team protocol. This protocol may be found at www.sc.edu/BIT.

This action may include a student's immediate removal from the university or from University Housing. The university, through the Behavioral Intervention Team, may additionally require a student to engage in a cooperative, committed relationship with a counselor, the university psychiatrist, or with an appropriate outside counseling or psychiatric agency as a condition of continuing as a student at the university.

The university may also require that a student provide assessment information and verification regarding adherence to treatment recommendations from an outside counselor, counseling agency, or psychiatrist to the Behavioral Intervention Team. The Behavioral Intervention Team will make a determination regarding the student's status.

Any other departments, faculty, and staff determined to have a "need to know" will be notified by a representative of the Behavioral Intervention Team. Examples of staffs with a "need to know" include: University Housing, the Office of Student Conduct, Student Disability Services, Student Health Services, appropriate medical personnel, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, International Programs for Students, and Law Enforcement and Safety.

The Behavioral Intervention Team will notify the student as soon as is reasonably possible regarding their decisions; and the student will be given an opportunity to speak with a counselor or mental health professional as soon as reasonably possible.

B. Emergency Removal

In cases determined to warrant immediate action, a representative of the Behavioral Intervention Team shall contact the Vice President for Student Affairs to initiate an emergency removal from the university.

C. Appeal

Appeals must be made in writing to the Vice President for Student Affairs within five university business days of the receipt of the decision. Decision letters are sent electronically to the student's university issued email address. The decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs is the university's final decision.

III. Reason for Revision

1. The current policy covers significant university disturbances caused by mental health conditions. Instead of singling out mental health conditions, the revision broadens the definition to any type of health conditions that causes a significant university disruption. Further, the revision focuses the definition of the disruption on the behaviors.
2. The revisions remove the decision making regarding a student's status from two staff members to a trained consultative team, the Behavioral Intervention Team. The university's Behavioral Intervention Team is made up of police, counselors, health professionals and student affairs administrators.
3. The revisions removed behaviors (threats of damage to property) that are already covered as behaviors that are in violation of the Student Code of Conduct and that will be acted upon regardless of health conditions.