WHAT TO DO WHEN A STUDENT IS DISRUPTIVE

Below is a general guideline for who to contact for support whenever dealing with an acutely disruptive or problematic student(s). No one can anticipate every situation, so the best judgment of faculty is critical. Remember that Campus Safety is available 24/7 to respond to any situation.

The philosophy of the College is to first be supportive, focusing on the health and wellness of the individual and the community; however, this is only possible when everyone cooperates towards this goal. It is the responsibility of any staff, faculty, or student involved in a situation requiring assistance to seek the appropriate help.

In general, when a situation is worrisome but not acute, faculty should first speak with their chair. Each faculty department is strongly encouraged to discuss in advance of a situation the protocol for their department’s response.

Campus Safety – 443.423.3333

Campus Safety is staffed 24/7, and should be the first contact for any situation requiring immediate support, whether that be due to significant classroom disruption, health concern, or any other type of emergency situation. Campus Safety will coordinate as necessary with the Counselor-on-Call or the Student Affairs Dean-on-Call. Campus Safety is generally the first contact if an instructor wishes to file a complaint as a result of feeling threatened, physically or otherwise, by an individual student’s behavior.

Any situation where a student’s life may be in immediate risk – passed out, report of suicide attempt, significant bleeding, etc. – should be reported first to 911 and then Campus Safety immediately.

What to expect: Campus Safety staff is broadly trained to be first responders and incident managers, allowing them to attend to both any immediate medical need as well as remove any source of disruption. Campus Safety generally speaking does not manage the follow-up to an event, which would be done primarily by one of the two offices below, but they can provide immediate response to any situation.

Academic Affairs – Cindy Barth, Dean of Student Services, 410.225.4233

Academic Affairs is the primary support for any issues directly impacting the ability to manage or instruct a course. This includes situations where the behavior of a student is disruptive to the point of interfering with the ability to teach a course or conduct normal business.

What to Expect: Academic Affairs will work first with the instructor to provide support and guidance when dealing with a disruptive student or situation. Counsel can be offered as to when a student should be directly addressed or removed from a class. When necessary, Academic Affairs will work directly with the student as well. Academic Affairs will consult with Student Affairs, Academic Advising, the Learning Resource Center, and others as necessary.

Student Affairs – Cheryl Garner or Michael Patterson, Associate Deans of Students, 410.225.2422

Student Affairs is the primary resource for individual concerns about a student(s). This includes health and welfare concerns, including concerns about a student’s use or abuse of alcohol or drugs. Additionally this includes any imagery that is of concern relating to the well being of the student or the class.

What to Expect: Student Affairs will work with the student directly to address the situation at hand. As much as is possible, the instructor will be consulted and kept informed of the situation. Depending upon the scenario this may be with the aim of supporting a student, holding them accountable for behavior, or both. Student Affairs will consult with Academic Affairs, the Counseling Center, Residence Life, Academic Advising, and others as necessary.

Student Affairs has also developed a Threat Assessment Team to utilize when needed. For more information please visit www.mica.edu/policies/TAT.

Other MICA Resources:

- Academic Advising – 410.225.2315
- Foundation Advisor – 410.225.2336
- Learning Resource Center – 410.225.2416

- Counseling Center – 410.225.2367
- Graduate Studies – 410.225.5274
- Residence Life & Off-Campus Housing – 410.225.2398