



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

2012-13 FACULTY/STAFF
STUDENTS IN CRISIS
GUIDE

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Q&A ON CLASSROOM/OFFICE DISRUPTIONS



Q *In the event of a classroom disruption, when should I contact Florida Atlantic University Police Department (FAUPD)?*

A If a student is posing a threat to self and/or others or becomes physically and/or verbally abusive, FAUPD should be contacted immediately and a report should be submitted to the Dean of Students office. Do not assume that aggressive behavior will stop on its own. Err on the side of caution.

Q *If I call the police or refer someone for disciplinary reasons and it turns out I made an honest mistake will I be held liable?*

A The risk of liability is almost nonexistent. You cannot be held liable unless you act in bad faith, with knowledge the information was false, or act with malice (proven by previous ill-will, hostility, threats or rivalry).

Q *What should I do if a student is causing a disruption?*

A If the disruptive behavior does not stop you may ask a particular student to refrain from the disruptive behavior and ask he/she come see you after class, so you can address the problem(s) in private. If the disruptive behavior continues, you may ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses to leave, call FAUPD for assistance.

Q *When interacting with a distressed student what should I be aware of?*

A It is important to know how to identify the distress and how to interact and handle the situation. Sometimes a student's behavior will become disruptive and endanger others or interfere with classroom functioning. In this situation remember you have the right to control the class for the good of all involved.

Safety is always the **top** priority. You should call the FAUPD whenever you feel there is a threat of violence and/or unlawful behavior. This includes a student's refusal to leave after being asked to do so.

Q *If there is a concern about a student, am I in violation of FERPA if I contact FAUPD, Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) or another University unit?*

A No, FERPA does not prevent you from talking to another University employee or unit about a student in distress, in order to assist the student or protect yourself/class from disruption or threat of violence.

YOU ARE the FIRST CONTACT

FRONT-LINE STAFF, PROFESSORS, TEACHING ASSISTANTS, ETC.



RESOURCES FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

FAU Administration

www.fau.edu/admin/EmergencyInformation.php

(Also available in the footer on every FAU web page under "Emergency Information")

This web page offers useful information for dealing with severe weather (hurricanes and tornadoes), evacuations and medical or other emergencies on FAU campuses. Please visit the site and familiarize yourself with the information.

Please be aware that each building has a fire/evacuation plan posted near the main entryway and other key locations within the building.

RESPONDING TO STUDENTS AT-RISK: TRAINING PROGRAM FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

FAU has implemented an online, interactive 45-minute training called Kognito Interactive for faculty and staff to learn about the common indicators of student distress, disruptive behaviors and how to best approach at-risk students for referral to the appropriate office. Please log on to MyFAU, click the faculty or staff tab and look for the At-Risk program.



IF YOU ARE WORKING WITH STUDENTS IN DISTRESS

- It is important to know how to identify the distress and what to do. Sometimes a student's behavior will become disruptive and endanger others or interfere with classroom functioning. In this situation, you have the right to control the class for the good of all involved.
- The security of a safe environment is always the **top** priority. You should call FAUPD whenever you feel there is a threat of violence or unlawful behavior. This includes a student's refusal to leave after being asked to do so. For additional information please click on this link, www.fau.edu/studentsindistress

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY ADDRESSING STUDENT CONDUCT

The Student Code of Conduct contains University Conduct Regulations which describe prohibited behaviors for students. The following excerpt is taken from Florida Atlantic University Student Code of Conduct Regulation 4.007.

- Disorderly Conduct: Breach of peace, such as causing a disturbance or being unruly.
- Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other University activities, including its public service functions, whether on or off-campus, and other authorized non-University activities that occur on University premises.
- Physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, stalking, intimidation, harassment, sexual misconduct,

coercion, and/or other conduct which threatens or includes any contact or communication which threatens, harasses or injures a person.

- Failure to comply with directions of University officials or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.
- Conduct which is disorderly, lewd, or indecent; breach of peace; or aiding, abetting, or procuring another person to breach the peace on University premises or at functions sponsored by, or participated in by the University.

The complete Student Code of Conduct can be found online at: www.fau.edu/studentconduct.

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