

ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY
Policy on Protocols for Responding to Disruptive and Threatening Student Behavior

Preamble

Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) recognizes that some students may face pressures coping with university life. To this end, ECSU strives to create a climate where students are welcome to talk to counselors about personal problems and where referrals to mental health professionals are not stigmatized. A student who is in need of counseling services will be encouraged by The Office of Student Affairs to seek counseling as a means to assist with reaching his or her goal – attainment of a degree. Any student who engages in behavior that violate the Student Code of Conduct (see pages 25 – 26) and/or disrupts the educational mission of the university may be subject to an involuntary dismissal from the university and/or suspension from a residence hall.

1. Behavioral-related Withdrawals from the University

Disruptive and/or Threatening Behaviors

Disruptive and threatening behaviors refer to student behaviors that may be life threatening including but not limited to: suicide threats; suicide attempts; verbal threats; physical threats and altercations; written threats or unstable behavior.

A. Voluntary Withdrawals

A student who has engaged in disruptive or threatening behavior may voluntarily withdraw from the university by submitting medical documentation verifying that his/her behavior is related to an illness and the date of onset of the illness is required.

B. Involuntary Withdrawals

The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (or designee) may administratively initiate the involuntary dismissal of any student who violates the Student Code of Conduct and disrupts the educational mission of the university and/or may be a direct threat to others or property.

2. Residence Hall Suspensions

The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (or designee) may administratively suspend any student from a residence hall who violates the Student Code of Conduct and disrupts the educational mission of the university and/or may be a direct threat to others or property.

3. Appeals

A student will be advised of his/her right to appeal and a hearing regarding an administrative decision of involuntary withdrawal from the university or suspension from a residence hall.

4. Referrals

A. Emergency

Any student, faculty or staff who observes a student engaging in disruptive and/or threatening behaviors that pose an imminent threat to life is obligated to immediately contact University Police for emergency assistance.

B. Non-Emergency

Any student who is not a threat to self or others and who is experiencing emotional distress should be referred to the Counseling and Testing Center.

In emergency and in non-emergency situations, counselors will conduct an assessment to determine if an off-campus evaluation is needed, or if the student's mental health needs can be addressed on campus.

5. Notification

A. Student

i. Involuntary Withdrawal/Residence Hall Suspensions

The Vice Chancellor or designee will generate a letter to a student who is referred for behavioral reasons; the letter will include the following:

- a) Reference to the incident in which the student engaged in disruptive or threatening behavior and/or disruption of the academic process;
- b) Any required psychological evaluations;
- c) Requirements for return to campus.

B. Parental

The parent and/or guardian of a student will be contacted if a student engages in life threatening behavior.

6. Emergency Hospitalization

A. Transportation

An ambulance will transport a student who engages in life threatening behavior to the local hospital.

B. Hospitalization

If a student is admitted to the local hospital:

- i. A university counselor may go to the hospital to make contact with the student;
- ii. A university counselor may provide counseling support services to the hospitalized student's roommate or others who were present or affected by the incident;
- iii. The hospitalized student will be asked to contact his/her parents or guardians. If the hospitalized student is unwilling or unable, the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (or designee) will contact the hospitalized student's parent and/or guardian to notify them of the incident.

C. Further Assessment and Treatment

- i. If the hospital medical staff determines that the hospitalized student is in need of further assessment and treatment or involuntary commitment has been ordered; the Sheriff's department will transport the student to a mental health facility. (The Sheriff's Department will only transport in cases of involuntary commitment.)
- ii. The hospitalized student is responsible for informing his/her professors of the medical-related absences. The Counseling Center, with the student's permission, will contact Academic Affairs regarding the student's absences.

D. Returning to Campus

- i. The student must report to Student Affairs in the morning of the next business day for a consultation session prior to returning to classes.
- ii. If a student is released from the hospital after 5:00 pm or during the weekend, he or she must check-in with his/her resident director upon return to the residence hall.

E. Consultation Session – Student Affairs

- i. After being separated from the campus for behavioral reasons, students must complete the following conditions to be cleared to return to classes and/or a residence hall:
 - a) Meet with the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (or designee) to submit documentation from a mental health professional confirming whether or not: the student is no longer a threat to himself/herself or others; can safely participate in his/her academic program and/or resume independent living in a residence hall.
 - b) On/off campus mental health services may be suggested for further assistance.