

dealing with distressing student behavior

EMERGENCY

In an emergency, call 911 and state your location.

Examples

- > Possession of weapon on campus
- > Suicidal actions or threats
- > Compromised safety
- > Acts or threats of violence



911

If on campus,
request campus police.

NON-EMERGENCY

If it's appropriate, first attempt to resolve the situation yourself. More information is inside.

Examples

- > Expression of suicidal thoughts
- > Erratic behavior that disrupts the mission and/or normal proceedings of University students, faculty, or staff
- > Any pattern of odd behaviors that may pose a (non-emergency) threat to safety



803-777-4333

www.sc.edu/BIT

Behavioral Intervention Team

For emergency preparedness news, services, and resources, visit www.sc.edu/n/carolinaalert

useful phone numbers

Law Enforcement and Safety.....	911 or 803-777-4215
Behavioral Intervention Team.....	803-777-4333
Counseling and Human Development Center.....	803-777-5223
Student Judicial Programs.....	803-777-4333
University Housing.....	803-777-4283
Thomson Student Health Center.....	803-777-3175
Student Disability Services.....	803-777-6142
Student Ombudsperson.....	803-777-4172



reporting distressing student behavior

803-777-4333
www.sc.edu/BIT

What to look for:

- > Suicidal actions or self-injury
- > Verbal or written references to suicide
- > Statements regarding having a weapon on campus
- > Threats about harming self or others
- > Erratic behavior (including online activities) that disrupts the mission and/or normal proceedings of university students, faculty, or staff
- > Involuntary transport to the hospital for substance use/abuse
- > Involuntary transport to the hospital for mental illness
- > Any pattern of odd behaviors that may pose a threat to safety

You are encouraged to *report any incident* that may require an intervention or is of concern to you.

What do I do if I have a student who may need to be referred to the BIT?

1. If you feel there is an immediate threat, call campus police at 911 or 803-777-4215.
3. To make a referral, go to www.sc.edu/BIT and select “incident report.” You will be asked for basic information about the student, for your contact information (in case the team has follow-up questions), and for a description of the incident or behaviors that prompted the referral.
2. If you feel an immediate referral is unnecessary, and if you are comfortable doing so, tell the student that you are concerned and ask if he or she is okay. You are the Behavioral Intervention Team’s best resource because you are familiar to the student. In many cases students will indicate that they can use some help, and you can then refer them to the Counseling and Human Development Center at 803-777-5223.

What happens after I make the referral?

The BIT will review your report and make a decision about whether a BIT intervention is necessary, or whether the student should be referred to another office that can better handle the situation All incident reports are treated seriously and are reviewed by multiple BIT members.

In accordance with privacy laws, BIT members can rarely share outcomes with those who make incident reports.

What happens to the student in the BIT process?

If the team determines that the student meets the criteria for a BIT assessment, he or she will be contacted and instructed to undergo an assessment at the Counseling and Human Development Center. Students are required to participate in a minimum of four sessions of assessment; the type of assessment is dependent upon the behavior.

Students who have been involuntarily hospitalized due to substance use must participate in an 8-week series of group sessions at the Counseling and Human Development Center.

How do I know whether a situation should be handled by BIT or by another office?

You don’t have to make this determination; the BIT will do it for you. Simply report the situation to the BIT, and the team will take care of the rest.

Typically, behaviors that threaten safety or that cause a significant community disruption will be handled by the BIT, while students suffering from mental health problems are more appropriately referred directly to the Counseling and Human Development Center at 803-777-5223.

behavioral intervention team

803-777-4333
www.sc.edu/BIT

The Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) is composed of professional staff from the Counseling and Human Development Center, Office of Student Judicial Programs, University Housing, Law Enforcement and Safety, and Thomson Student Health Center.

BIT assesses students who exhibit significantly distressing behavior and provides a structured, coordinated response.

The team does the following:

- > Ensures comprehensive response
- > Balances the individual needs of the student and those of the greater campus community
- > Initiates appropriate intervention without immediately resorting to punitive measures
- > Manages each case individually
- > Provides a structured, positive method for addressing student behaviors that affect the University community and may involve mental health problems, threats to safety, or both

for more help

Counseling and Human Development Center

803-777-5223
www.sa.sc.edu/shs/chdc/
James F. Byrnes Building, 7th floor

Student Health Services’ Counseling and Human Development Center (CHDC) is the University of South Carolina’s primary behavioral health provider and counseling service.

Its multidisciplinary staff provides faculty, staff and student consultation, outreach, prevention and educational services related to behavioral health and human development. Twelve individual counseling sessions per semester are covered by the student health fee, which is included in tuition.

In addition to meeting scheduled clients during business hours, CHDC staff meets with walk-in clients Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and conducts phone consultations between the hours of 8:30 and 5 p.m.

Office of Student Judicial Programs

803-777-4333
www.sc.edu/osjp/
James F. Byrnes Building, 2nd floor

The Office of Student Judicial Programs provides a student conduct process designed to uphold the behavioral standards of the University through the Student Code of Conduct. The goals of the process are to promote education and accountability to foster a more civil campus community.

The office’s primary function is to adjudicate student conduct cases by meeting with students alleged to have violated University policies and to determine appropriate sanctions for students found in violation.

Consultations with faculty and staff regarding prevention and response to classroom disruptions are available. Staff members also present to classes and organizations about student conduct codes and ethical decision making, and the office acts as a central reporting site for the Behavioral Intervention Team.