

BERKELEY CARES
STUDENT OF CONCERN COMMITTEE - Info Sheet
A Service of the Dean of Students Office

PURPOSE

The purpose of this team is to provide a confidential means for early intervention of at-risk students through collaboration with campus departments, faculty and staff.

Students exhibiting behaviors that are of concern in relation to their personal, physical and emotional well-being should be referred to this team of professionals.

**The core team is not meant to be the sole mechanism of communication and will not take the place of services provided by Counseling & Psychological Services, Center for Student Conduct & Community Standards, University Police or other established student services.

TEAM MEMBERS

The following offices are represented as part of the Students of Concern Committee:

- Center for Student Conduct and Community Standards
- Dean's office
- Counseling & Psychological Services
- UCPD threat management team
- Disabled Students Program
- Berkeley International Office
- Graduate Division
- Representative from Residential Living

The committee will regularly consult with other offices, such as:

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| • Academic Advisors | • Representative from Gender Equity |
| • Representative from Athletics | • Campus Ministry Representative |
| • Director for Fraternity & Sorority Life | • Other |

THE ROLE OF SOCC

- To lead a collaborative effort to promote health and safety of students and all members of the campus community.
- To ensure a systematic response to students' behavior that may be disruptive in the classroom or other areas of the campus.
- To develop strategies that fully utilizes campus and community resources to assist students.
- To support student success.

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Information from faculty, staff and students is confidentially shared among the team members. The team broadens the scope of involvement and includes other faculty and staff members, when appropriate.

The Student of Concern Committee will review all information on the student's behavior and background. At this point, the team will then determine an action plan and monitor the student on a case-by-case basis.

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Communication with involved parties is led by a member of the SBCT to ensure consistency and monitoring of these students when necessary.

WHEN TO REFER A STUDENT

Marked changes in academic performance, a noticeable decline in personal appearance and/or a student repeatedly engaging in disruptive behaviors in class can all be signs of a student in crisis.

- Some behavioral warning signs carry more weight than others and multiple indicators increase the risk of potential harm to self and/ or others.
- If your efforts to manage a significant classroom behavioral issue has not resolved the problem
- If you are concerned about the welfare of a student, yourself and other students
- If a student asks for help in dealing with personal issues that are out of your role as a faculty or staff member.

WARNING SIGNS

Faculty and staff are often in a position to recognize students who are at risk. Identifying the signs of at-risk behavior and responding in a timely manner may be a significant part of linking the student with the appropriate campus resource(s).

- Unusual or erratic behavior in class, the residence halls, during advising sessions, etc.
- Extended absence from class or activities by a typically engaged student
- Written work or creative expression with troubling themes or references
- Verbal or written threats made by a student toward another student, faculty, or staff
- Written or verbal expressions of suicidal ideation or intent
- Students that are excessively disruptive of the administrative, teaching, or learning environment
- Exhibits actions and/or words that cause people around him/her to become fearful and suspicious.
- Difficulty controlling anger, aggressive behavior, impulsivity and making threats — particularly, anger that is expressed intensely and frequently for seemingly minor reasons.
- Refuses to abide by written and/or verbal rules. Rejects the authority of faculty and staff.
- Isolation, inability to establish friendships, does not seem to fit in, less engaged and prefers to be alone.

WHAT ABOUT FERPA?

FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) pertains to the privacy of educational records, but it **does not prohibit** the reporting of *observable behavior*. FERPA does not prohibit the sharing of personal observations and knowledge about a student among campus officials when there is a *legitimate concern related to campus safety*.

EMERGENCIES

- *The Team IS NOT FOR EMERGENCIES*
- If there is an immediate threat to a student (either through self-harm or interpersonal violence) or the community, please call UCPD.
- If you believe a student is in need of immediate psychological help, you may call the Counseling & Psychological Services for a consultation or to report the incident.
- For behaviors that are of concern, either because they are out of character or persistent even after being addressed, a referral to the Team may be the next step.