Preventing "Acting Out" and Violence….Begins by Noticing Student Behavior

Hostility, verbal aggression, depression, isolation and withdrawal are key signals that should not be ignored. Disregarding early warning signs facilitates escalation. It's better to offend a student by "over-reacting" and apologize, than to fail to act in the interest of everyone's safety.

Below are three categories of behavior and actions that need attention and a response. They are listed in order of increasing severity. Research suggests that acting-out and violent behavior may be diffused if these issues are addressed in the early levels of escalation. **If you are uncomfortable dealing with a student in distress, please call ext. 4818 or 4528 (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) or call ext. 3333 in the evenings. A SDAT member will respond.**

LEVEL I – WARNING SIGNALS	**WHAT SHOULD I DO:**
1. PRONOUNCED AND SUDDEN CHANGE IN ATTENDANCE PATTERNS Tardiness and increased absences **2. CHANGE IN BEHAVIOR** Withdrawn, irritable, confrontational, depressed, angry **3. NEGATIVE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE** Significant change in the way the student interacts with staff and/or students.	Make time to meet with the student one –on-one In a non-threatening and non-punitive fashion, comment on your observations and express your concern Inquire as to what circumstances may be causing the changes in behavior Develop an action plan to address issues or suggest a referral to Advising Center to meet with psychologist (ext. 4318) Reference the class syllabus (example: attendance policy) Invite the student to discuss problems that may be interfering with his/her academic goals during your (or advisor's) office hours Complete Student in Distress Intervention Form and send to Dean Warfield.
LEVEL II – MODERATE RISK	**WHAT SHOULD I DO:**
1. NEGATIVE/HOSTILE ATTENTION SEEKING BEHAVIOR IN CLASSROOM **2. THREATS TO DO HARM TO SELF OR OTHERS DISCLOSED EITHER IN A DIRECT OR DISGUISED MANNER** Jokes, sarcasm, hints, symbolic gestures, drawings, writing assignments **3. WITHDRAWN BEHAVIOR OF INCREASING CONCERN/VACANT STARE** **4. OPENLY CONFRONTIVE WITH FACULT AND/OR STUDENTS** **5. NO PARTICIPATION IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIVITIES WITH PASSIVE/AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIORS AND ACTING OUT.**	If needed, contact Public Safety Officer. Dial 3333 Notify Student Code of Conduct Office and Director of Public Safety. Meet with the student one-on-one if you feel safe Express your interest in the student's well being In a firm and non-punitive fashion describe the problem behavior Set clear guidelines regarding appropriate behavior ADDRESS YOUR CONCERNS WITH YOUR DIVISION DEAN Complete Student in Distress Intervention Form and send to Dean Warfield.
LEVEL III – EXTREME RISK: ***CALL Public Safety at ext. 3333 or 911 !!!***	***WHAT SHOULD I DO: CALL Public Safety at ext. 3333 or 911 !!!***
1. CONTINUED DEMONSTRATIONS OF ODD OR PECULIAR BEHAVIOR **2. AGGRESSIVE AND THREATENING BEHAVIOR OR GESTURES** **3. ESCALATING THREATS, RAISED VOICE** **4. VISIBLE AGITATION, PHYSICAL TENSION, TREMBLING**	1. Temporarily dismiss the class, diffuse the situation if you can 2. Call Public Safety at ext. 3333 or call 911 3. Remain calm, don't engage in an argument 4. Keep distance between you and the student 5. Allow the student a way to exit 6. Don't allow yourself to be trapped 7. Reduce noise, talking, questions and stimulation **8.** Campus Police will notify College Administrator (VP level)

Prepared by the Office of Enrollment Management& Advising Services for the Student Distress Assessment Team March 2011