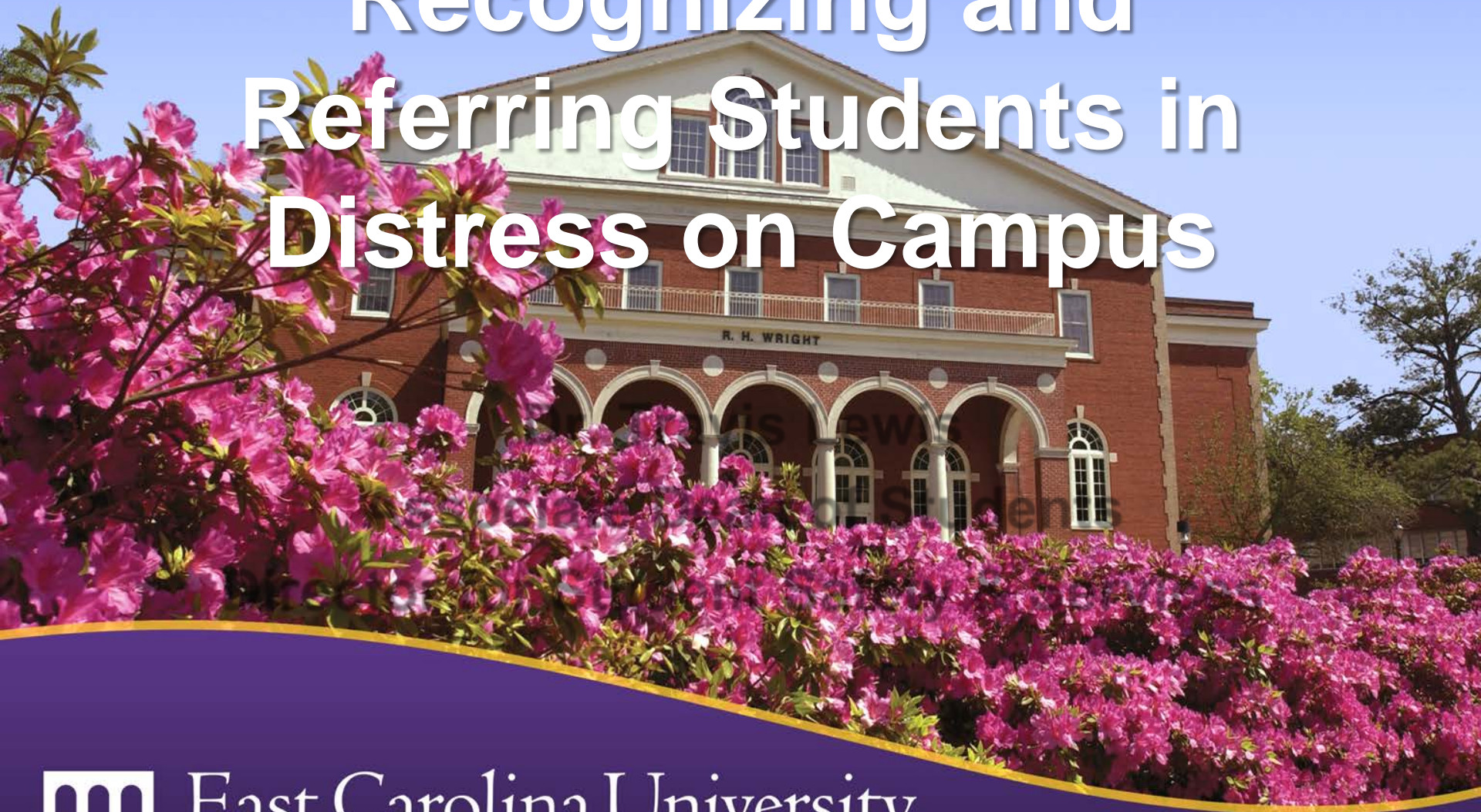


Division of Student Affairs

Recognizing and Referring Students in Distress on Campus



East Carolina University

Objectives

- Provide overview of how to recognize, intervene and as appropriate make referrals for students in distress or exhibiting concerning behavior, including utilizing *ECU Cares*
- Explain the function & operation of the Care Team as well as the University Behavioral Concerns Team (UBCT)

Concerning Behavior

- Students face many stressors during college. Faculty & staff are in a good position to identify students who have problems.
- But how do I identify a student in distress?
- And once I do, then what steps do I take?

Categories of Concerning Behavior

1. General Behavior of Concern
2. Moderate-Risk Behaviors
3. High-Risk Behaviors

General Behaviors of Concern

- General behaviors of concern are those that interfere with their academic or personal success but are not likely to indicate a risk to life and safety.



Examples of Behaviors of Concern

- ❖ Frequent class absences
- ❖ Difficulty adjusting to college life
- ❖ Significant time management / procrastination issues
- ❖ Falling asleep in class
- ❖ Changes in appearance or personal hygiene
- ❖ Uncooperative

Guidelines for Addressing Behaviors of Concern

- Listen, give basic advice, & make referrals to campus resources.
- If needs more support than you can provide, refer to on campus resources and/or to ECU Cares at #737-5555 or www.ecu.edu/ecucares

Resources for Students

- Pirate Tutoring Center #737-3009
- Advisors, Dept. Chairs, Assoc. Deans and Directors
- Counseling & Student Development #328-6661
- Student Health Services #328-6841
- Student Rights & Responsibilities #328-6824
- Dean of Students Office #329-9297
- ECU Cares #737-5555 or www.ecu.edu/ecucares
- ECU Police 9-1-1 or #328-6787 (non-emergency)

Moderate-Risk Behaviors

- Not usually life-threatening but may be a sign that student's coping skills are being challenged.



Examples of Moderate-Risk Behaviors

- Withdrawal from friends or daily activities
- Irritability with others or acting out in anger
- Increased isolation from friends
- Erratic behavior
- Disruptive classroom behavior*
- Indications of alcohol or drug use interfering with academic or social performance

Examples of Moderate-Risk Behaviors

- Indirect threats to self or others
- Comments about weapons
- Serious emotional distress
- Expressing hopelessness or helplessness
- Disturbing content in academic work

Guidelines for Addressing Moderate-Risk Behaviors

- Document the behavior
- Refer the student or report the behavior as soon as possible to the Dean of Students Office via ECU Cares at # (252) 737-5555 or www.ecu.edu/ecucares

Academic Disruptive Behavior

* For disruptive classroom behavior, follow the Academic Disruptive Behavior Policy:

1st time – verbal warning

2nd time – written warning

3rd time – consult with chair regarding removal of student from class.

(<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/customcf/facultymanual/part5/51.htm> - Part V, Section Y of ECU Faculty Manual)

Academic Disruptive Behavior

Disruptive academic behavior is any behavior likely to substantially or repeatedly interfere with the normal conduct of instructional activities, including meetings with instructors outside of class.

Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to, making loud or distracting noises; using cell phones and other electronic devices without prior approval; repeatedly speaking without being recognized; frequently arriving late to class; and making threats or personal insults.

A verbal expression of a disagreement with the instructor or other students on an academic subject matter discussed within the course, during times when the instructor permits discussion, is not in itself disruptive academic behavior.

Academic Disruptive Behavior

The course instructor has original purview over his/her class and may deny a student who is unduly disruptive the right to attend the class.

This policy does not restrict the instructor's prerogative to ask a disruptive student to leave an individual class session where appropriate or to refer the student to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

If the behavior is threatening in nature or is likely to result in immediate harm, the faculty member should contact the East Carolina University Police Department for assistance.

High-Risk Behaviors

- May indicate an imminent safety risk to the student or the campus community.
- Require assistance from campus and community responders.

Examples of High-Risk Behaviors

- Expressed intent to harm self or others
- Intense or uncontrollable anger
- Brandishing a weapon
- Drug or alcohol overdose
- Fighting or assaultive behavior
- Overt threat to kill
- Suicide attempt or threat
- Bizarre delusions or hallucinations

Guidelines for Addressing High-Risk Behaviors

- Call the ECU Police Dept. at 9-1-1 and describe the problem
- ECU Police will respond as well as obtain assistance from other agencies (i.e. rescue or crisis intervention) as needed.
- Notify the Dean of Students Office via ECU Cares at # (252) 737-5555 or www.ecu.edu/ecucares

Why Report Concerning Behavior?

1. Makes campus community aware of behavior in case this is a pattern or in case behavior escalates (see Virginia Tech)
2. Provides resources and support to students in crisis
3. Helps to ensure the safety of the campus community at large

The Silo Effect

Large public 4-year institution:

Counseling
Center

Dean of
Students

Campus
Police

Academic
Department
A

Administration

Academic
Department
B

Peers

Campus
Living

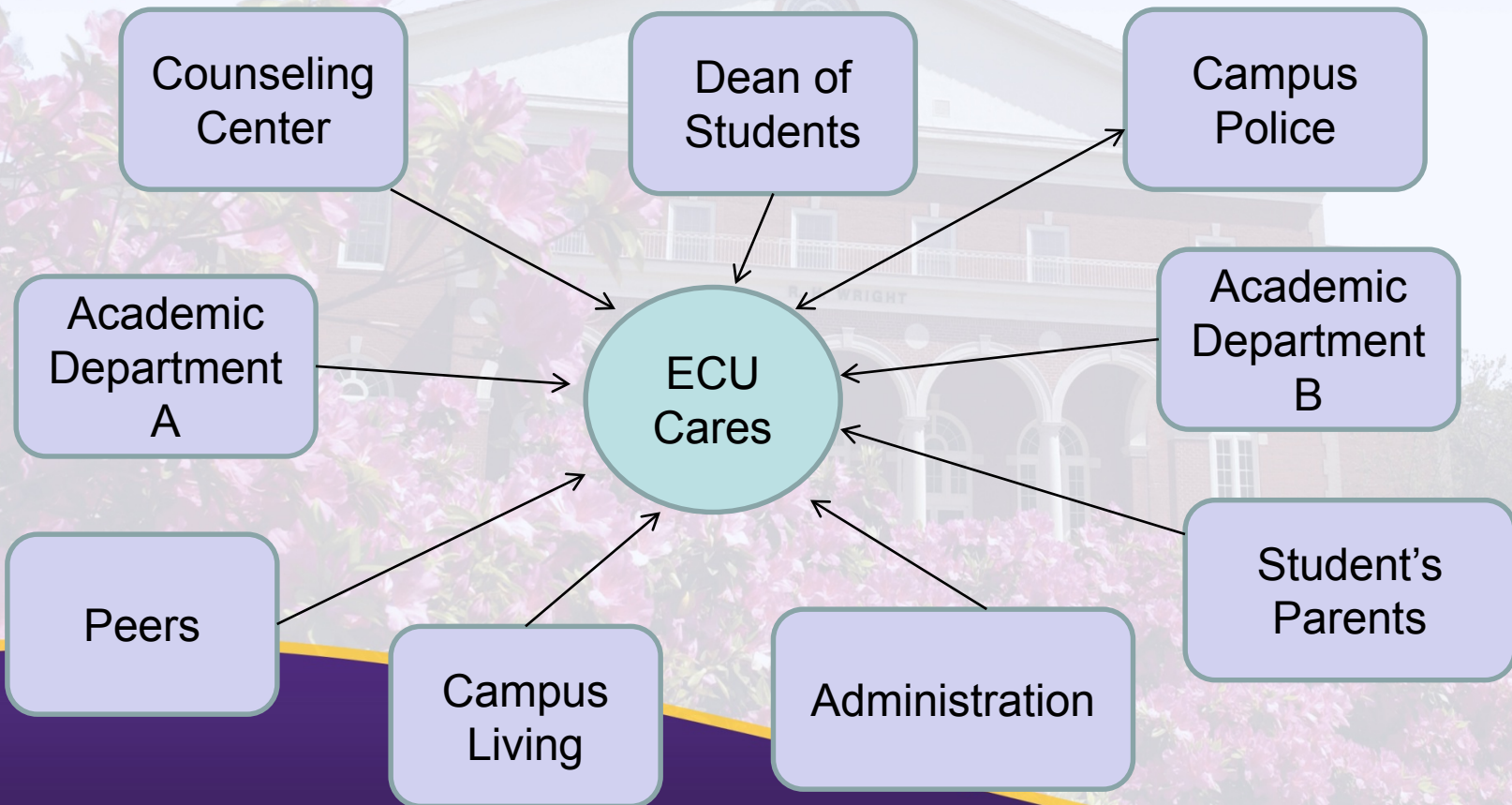
Student's
Parents



East Carolina University®

The “Hub of the Wheel”

How information regarding concerning behavior should be shared and reported at East Carolina University:



How to Report Concerning Behavior

- This includes concerning behavior exhibited by students, faculty, staff, visitors, former students, etc.
- Call the ECU Cares line at (252) 737-5555 and press #3 for reporting a person of concern - if no answer leave a detailed message; OR complete an online reporting form at www.ecu.edu/ecucares.

What Happens Next?

- Reports can be anonymous; however, additional information may be helpful to be acquired and follow-up regarding effects of any interventions not possible if anonymous.
- If the individual of concern is to be contacted directly by DOS staff to address concerns, reporting party's input will be sought on how DOS will contact the individual.
- Guidance will also be provided to the reporter on how best to handle the situation moving forward.

What Happens Next?

Report made to ECU Cares; assigned based on nature of the report to one of the following:

Care Team (Behavioral Intervention)

University Behavioral Concerns Team - Students (Threat Assessment Team)

University Behavioral Concerns Team - Employee (Threat Assessment Team)

The Care Team

- Campus behavioral intervention team (BIT)
- Assesses and intervenes with students who are determined not be a threat to the campus community, but who are still facing significant barriers to success within the University (family, financial, social, emotional, physical, psychological, academic), including suicidal ideation.
- Intervention plan may include requesting additional support and follow-up from the reporting party.

The Care Team

- Membership includes:

Directors for Center for Counseling and Students Development, Student Health, Disability Support Services, Campus Living, Student Rights and Responsibilities, as well as the Title IX Investigator and staff from the Dean of Students Office.

- Meets weekly throughout the year

University Behavioral Concerns Team

- ECU's Threat Assessment Team is known as the University Behavioral Concerns Team (UBCT).
- Meets weekly throughout the year, as needed.
- Receive continual training in threat assessment processes and techniques

Purpose of Threat Assessment

- The primary purpose of threat assessment is “to prevent targeted violence”
(Fein, Vossekuil, Borum, Pollack, Modzeleski, & Reddy, 2002, p. 29)
- A campus threat assessment team is a “multidisciplinary team that is responsible for the careful and contextual identification and evaluation of behaviors that raise concerns and that may precede violent activity on campus”
(Deisinger, Randazzo, O’Neill, & Savage, 2008, p.5)

UBCT Membership

- Campus Police
- Enterprise Risk Management
- Center for Counseling and Student Development
- Student Health Services
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Dean of Students Office
- Campus Living
- Disability Support Services
- Personnel
- Human Resources
- Equity and Diversity
- Prospective Health
- Faculty Members (main campus and health sciences campus)
- Advisory Representation from the University Attorney's Office

Process: Assessment

- Once a report has been received about an individual of concern (students, faculty, staff, visitors), the appropriate team is convened to conduct an assessment based upon the documented behavior and any other information available.
- While each case is unique, the team utilizes a consistent process for:
 - sharing information,
 - determining what additional information if any is needed,
 - discussing potential risks associated with the case including other possible stressors for the individual,
 - if threat assessment, assigning a level of threat for the case for action steps.

Process: Intervention

- After the assessment, if necessary, the team plans, coordinates & helps to implement appropriate interventions to ensure:
 - The individual receives all necessary support services
 - The campus community is protected from potential targeted violence.
- If needed, involuntary withdrawal is a last resort for student cases where there is a high level of threat for targeted violence and all other measures have been unsuccessful.

Process: Case Management

- After the assessment is conducted and interventions are implemented, continued case management may be necessary to:
 - monitor the progress of interventions,
 - maintain contact with the individuals involved in case other stressors develop,
 - determine if it is necessary to reconvene the team again to provide relevant updates and reassess interventions and/or level of threat.
- Case Manager & Associate Dean of Students
 - receive and address reports in a timely manner,
 - coordinate the team and intervention implementation,
 - conduct ongoing case management

University Behavioral Concerns Team

- Regulation in University Policy Manual at <http://www.ecu.edu/PRR/05/20/01> establishing the duties of the UBTC.

References

- Deisinger, G., Randazzo, M., O'Neill, D., & Savage, J. (2008). *The handbook for campus threat assessment and management teams*. Massachusetts: Applied Risk Management, LLC.\
- Fein, R., Vossekuil, B., Borum, R., Pollack, W. S., Modzeleski, W., and Reddy, M. (2002). *Threat assessment in schools: A guide to managing threatening situations and to creating safe school climates*. Washington, DC: United States Secret Service and United States Department of Education.

Questions?

Feel free to contact us if you ever have any questions or need assistance in addressing a concerning situation:

Office of the Dean of Students

Phone: (252) 328-9297

Email: dos@ecu.edu