

Disruptive Students

I. **Abstract**

University employees who typically have first contact with students are front-line staff, faculty members and teaching assistants. If you see or if you are dealing with a student who displays aggressive, erratic or emotional behavior, or who needs assistance due to an illness/injury, or who may have been the victim of a crime, you should contact the appropriate office or authority.*

If in doubt, always call the FIU Police Department at extension 7-5911 (University Park) or extension 6-5911 (Biscayne Bay Campus).

II. **Helpful Contact Information**

FIU Police Department Ext. 7-5911 (UP) Ext. 6-5911 (BBC)	FIU Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution Ext. 7-3939	FIU Counseling & Psychological Services Ext. 7-2434 (UP) Ext. 6-5305 (BBC)	FIU University Health Services Ext. 7-2401	FIU Disability Resource Center Ext. 7-3532
	FIU Ombudsman Ext. 7-2797	FIU Victim Advocacy Center Ext. 7-1215	FIU Office of Employee Assistance Ext. 7-2469	

III. **Rules of the Road**

1. "Faculty members have broad authority to manage the classroom environment."**
Disruptive behavior is defined as repeated, continuous, and/or multiple student behaviors that hamper the ability of instructors to teach and students to learn.
2. The FIU Student Handbook outlines the Student Code of Conduct regarding students who display disruptive behavior. <http://www.fiu.edu/~sccr/index.html> ***
Disruptive behavior includes, without limitation, any behavior that:
 - a. disrupts, disturbs, impairs or interferes with or obstructs the orderly conduct, processes, and functions of the University or the rights of other members of the University community;
 - b. disrupts, disturbs, impairs, interferes with or obstructs the orderly conduct, processes, and functions within the classroom or laboratory, including interfering with the academic mission of the University or individual classroom or interfering with a faculty member or instructor's role to carry out the normal academic or educational functions of his/her classroom or laboratory;

*The materials used in this module are taken from the red folder reference tool created by the Vice President for Student Affairs Office, entitled *Faculty/Staff Emergency Guide: Helping Students in Difficulty*.

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***See also, [Regulation FIU-2520, Disruptive Student Conduct](#).

Disruptive Students

- c. disrupts or interferes with the University disciplinary process, including, but not limited to, harassment and/or intimidation of any member of the Student Conduct board, witness or University personnel before, during or after a proceeding, or attempting to coerce or influence any person(s) in order to discourage their participation in any disciplinary proceeding; or
 - d. any similar behavior that disturbs the peace.
3. Students are expected to abide by the standards outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
4. In the classroom, faculty members can expect students to conduct themselves in a manner which is not disruptive. Should a student disrupt the class, the faculty member should ask the student to stop the disruptive behavior immediately. In those instances where the student simply refuses to cease when asked, it is up to the faculty member to consider whether Public Safety should be called in order to have the student removed for the remainder of that class period. The faculty member should then refer the student to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for further action and notify the chairperson of the department about the occurrence.
5. The Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution is in charge of addressing violations of the Student Code of Conduct. A faculty member may file a report regarding an incident involving a student or may use the services of the Office in dealing with a student with behavioral problems. For more information, you may visit the Office Web site at <http://www.fiu.edu/~sccr/index.html> or call them at 305-348-3939.
6. Emergencies
 - a. Should an emergency arise in the course of teaching class or at any other time, faculty should attempt to render assistance as possible.
 - b. Public Safety should be contacted immediately to render assistance or to call a rescue ambulance.
 - c. Afterwards, the faculty member should notify the chairperson of the department about the occurrence.
7. Education and Training

The Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution of the Division of Student Affairs has created a faculty resource, "Guide to Dealing with Troubled and Disruptive Students." To obtain a copy of this guide, you may visit the Office Web site at http://www.fiu.edu/~sccr/docs/Disruptive_brochure.doc

You may also wish to attend a seminar on "Dealing with the Disruptive or Troubled Student" presented by Counseling and Psychological Services Center and the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. This seminar addresses issues across a

Disruptive Students

broad spectrum with a focus on maintaining safety and relative order in the classroom as well as assisting faculty members in coming to the aid of students who may be experiencing difficulty.

To attend this seminar, schedule it for your department, or set up a consultation regarding these matters, please contact the Counseling and Psychological Services Center, University Park, UHSC 270 at 305-348-2434; or the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, University Park, GC 311, at 305-348-3939.