

THE

BLUE

CARE FOLDER



Campus Action Response and Engagement CARE Team

As faculty and staff members, you may be the first to notice when a student is faced with a challenge in their academic or personal life. Often, there are indicators that a student is struggling long before a situation escalates to a crisis. To assist our students in maintaining their well-being and maximizing their intellectual growth, it is important to identify difficulties as early as possible.

This informational guide is designed to assist you in recognizing and supporting students of concern.





SEE SOMETHING?

Below are some signs a student may exhibit when struggling or in distress. The presence of one of the following indicators alone does not necessarily mean the student is struggling or in distress. However, the more indicators you notice, the more likely it is that the student needs help.

ACADEMIC INDICATORS

Individual is regularly missing class or coursework; quality of coursework has diminished; grades or performance have decreased; engagement in class diminishes significantly; disruptive in class; individual has shared (in writing or discussion) concerning self-disclosures (self-harm; suicidal ideation); overly demanding of faculty and staff time and attention.

EMOTIONAL INDICATORS

Sustained difficulty adjusting to campus life or academics; extreme display of emotions (sadness; nervousness; fearfulness; anger); expressed hopelessness; relationship distress; shared suicidal ideation or harm to others; expressions of concerns about the student by his/her/their peers; delusions and paranoia.

PHYSICAL INDICATORS

Individual was recently hospitalized; is experiencing chronic health concerns (physical or mental); has experienced significant change in appearance (e.g. poor grooming or hygiene, sudden changes in weight) or noticeable signs of physical injury (e.g. bruising; swelling; cuts).

BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS

Threats or acts of violence to others; behavior is out of context or bizarre; intoxication, hangovers, or smelling of alcohol; changes to eating or sleeping habits (excessive fatigue/sleep disturbance).

OTHER

Financial distress; shared lack of connection or community on campus; expressed difficulty meeting basic needs (housing or food insecurity); recent or past traumatic event; victim of crime or serious incident; problems at home or with family; significant emotional distress and preoccupation with world events that impact student.



What is is the nature of your concern?

Life-threatening emergency

- Expressing thoughts of suicide or self-harm
- Threatening physical harm to others
- Dangerous behavior

Discrimination, Harassment, Gender-based violence

- Discrimination/harassment
- Sexual violence
- Interpersonal violence
- Stalking

Student Conduct

- Violation of University policy
- Academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism)
- Disruptive classroom behavior

Non-life-threatening concerns about well-being

- Self-disclosure of personal distress
- Leave of absence
- Food/housing insecurity
- Marked changes in physical appearance
- Serious illness or death of family member or friend

Academic concerns

- Frequently missed classes and assignments
- Sudden decline in quality of work and grades
- Consistently seeking personal rather than professional advice
- Multiple requests for extensions/special considerations

Emergency/After Hours Response

MTSU Police: 615-898-2424
National Suicide Hotline: 988 (call or text)

Institutional Equity and Compliance/Title IX

615-898-2185
Titleix@mtsu.edu
For immediate after hours support, call MTSU police

Student Care and Conduct

615-898-2750
oscc@mtsu.edu

Academic Integrity
615-898-2715

Student Care and Conduct

615-898-2750
oscc@mtsu.edu

Student Care and Conduct

615-898-2750
oscc@mtsu.edu

EMERGENCIES	UNSURE	NOT URGENT
<p>In case of an emergency where the student's behavior is dangerous, reckless, or threatening to themselves or others.</p> <p><u>STEPS</u></p> <p>Call MTSU Police: 615-898-2424</p> <p>Submit a CARE report.</p>	<p>Student shows signs of distress; you're not worried about their safety, but the interaction left you uneasy and concerned.</p> <p><u>STEPS</u></p> <p>Submit a CARE report form.</p> <p>Share resources with the individual.</p>	<p>There are no immediate safety concerns; however, the student could use some academic or personal support.</p> <p><u>STEPS</u></p> <p>Submit a CARE report form.</p>

CARE REPORT FORM

By submitting a CARE Report Form, students will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Care coaches will engage in outreach, resource referral and assistance in navigating resources. To submit a CARE report, visit www.mtsu.edu/student-conduct

FOLLOWING A CARE REPORT

Once a CARE report is received, the CARE Coordinator will confirm receipt with the referring party and will reach out if additional information is needed. The name of the referring party may be shared with the individual of concern.



DO SOMETHING?

Responding to Students



A few tips when helping a student in distress

- 1 STAY SAFE**
The welfare of the campus community is the top priority when a student displays threatening or potentially violent behavior. Do not hesitate to call for help.
- 2 STAY CALM**
Calm yourself. Use a calm voice when interacting with student. Talk to the student in private, if possible and safe.
- 3 BE DIRECT**
Don't be afraid to ask students directly if they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, feel confused, or having thoughts of harming themselves or others.
- 4 LISTEN SENSITIVELY AND CAREFULLY**
Make eye contact. Give the student your full attention.
- 5 GIVE CONCRETE HELP**
Help get them to the next step (e.g., contact a academic advisor with the student to make an appointment; walk them to the Counseling Center).
- 6 CONSULTATION AND DOCUMENTATION**
Always document your interactions with distressed students and consult with your department chair/supervisor after any incident. Submit a CARE report.



RESOURCES

ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES

MTSU Police Department	615-898-2424
Dean of Students Office	615-898-2440
Office of Student Care and Conduct	615-898-2750
Counseling Services	615-898-2670
Center for Counseling & Psychological Services	615-898-2271
Student Health Services	615-898-2998
Title IX Office	615-898-2185
Disability & Access Center	615-898-2783
Housing & Residence Life	615-898-2971
Career Development Center	615-898-2500
June Anderson Center	615-898-5812
MT One Stop	615-898-2111
TRIO Student Support Services	615-898-5443
Veterans and Military Family Center	615-904-8347

Campus Recreation Center	615-898-5569
Student-Athlete Enhancement Center	615-494-5421
Office of Student Success	615-494-8650

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

National Suicide Prevention Line	988
TN Crisis Line	855-274-7471
Crisis Text Line	Text TN to 741-741
National Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233
Domestic Violence Text	Text START to 88788
Sexual Assault Hotline	615-494-9262
Trevor Lifeline (LGGTQ+)	1-866-488-7386

I AM *true*
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