



Student Behavior- Understanding the difference Disturbing or Dangerous?

Red Rocks Community College 2013

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Today's students – what's the difference?

- After 2000, 40% decrease in empathy among college students
University of Michigan – meta-analysis of 72 studies (N=14,000)

June 7, 2013, Santa Monica College - AP Photo by Nick UT



Red Rocks Community College 2013

What's changed?

Marilyn Bips, Ed.D.

- Increased numbers on medication for depression, anxiety, ADHD
- Less mature and less resilient
- Unable to cope with normal life stresses

- Conclusion:
 - Students entering college need *help* understanding expectations of young adults and need coping skills to meet demands of college life

What behaviors are “Disturbing”?

- o Agitated
- o Argumentative
- o Demanding
- o Verbally aggressive
- o Disrespectful language

- o Poor personal hygiene
- o Provocative clothing
- o Bizarre appearance
- o Other?

Practical responses

- First interaction –Sets tone for positive working relationship
 - Show genuine interest
 - Make connections
 - Listen carefully and reflect, and empathize
 - Engage students in setting expectations for mutual respect and responsibility
 - Articulate limits and boundaries
 - Redirect
 - “Broken Record”
- Get support
 - Ask for help – Refer to Behavioral Health Services
 - Create learning communities for improving practice

Before confronting

- o Remember that you were once a student
 - o *Take a deep breath before saying or doing anything*
- o Avoid calling a student on the carpet publicly
 - o *Humiliating; breaks down respect and sense of safety*
- Shared problem solving
 - o *Invite a solution from the student*
- Start with a positive statement if possible
 - o *“It’s obvious you take your education very seriously and want to succeed.”*

What behaviors are dangerous?

- Racist , sexist, or homophobic remarks
- Direct or veiled threats
- Prolonged passive-aggressive non-verbal behavior
- Self-injurious behavior, or exposing new self-injuries
- Stalking
- Intoxicated/ high

- Physical aggression
 - Pushing, shoving or punching
 - Throwing things
 - Storming out
- Violent talk meant to intimidate
- Psychotic, delusional or rambling speech
- Highly agitated

Is there danger to self or others?

*o*Yes - Imminent:

- *Call 911 – (6394)*
- *NEVER try to stop dangerous behavior on your own*
- *NEVER become isolated – get witnesses*

*o*No – Not sure, but concerned:

- BIT Incident Report
- Call Behavioral Health Services for consultation
 - *This is not crisis intervention*

home
academic advising
admission services
campus police

counseling services
disability services
veterans services
student life

student success services
title ix/human resources
student health clinic
student conduct code

jefferson county human services
jeffco mental health
jeffco workforce
jeffco youthworks



behavioral intervention team (BIT)

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Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT)

“Red Rocks Community College cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff and community. The Red Rocks Community College Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) was established to promote and maintain the safety and well-being of the campus community through positive, proactive, and practical risk assessment and intervention. I encourage you to read all of the information provided on this website to familiarize yourself with when and how to submit an incident report.”

*Lisa Fowler, Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Success
Red Rocks Community College*

Reasons for Reporting an Incident

You should refer individuals who are exhibiting behaviors that pose a threat to safety or that cause a significant disruption to the RRCC community. Signs to look for include:

- Self-injurious behavior
- Suicide ideation or attempt
- Danger or threat to others (violence, threats or implied threats of violence and intimidation)
- Possession of a weapon
- Inability of an individual to take care of themselves (serious mental health concerns or substance abuse).

In an emergency your first call should be to 911.

Report Incident Here

To report concerns that may not pose immediate threats, use the link above or contact one of the departments below:

Campus Police:
303.914.6394

Title IX Administrator:
303.914.6298

VP Student Success:
303.914.6388

About Confidentiality

- Need to know - extremely limited
- Professional, ethical and legal boundaries
- Mental health and substance abuse information protected
- Unless specific release of information signed, expect no detailed response
- “I have followed up on your referral.”