



Behavioral Concerns Guidelines for the College Community

Please Do Not ignore comments about suicide, violence, or harm to self or others. Call Public Safety immediately (716-888-2330), or ask someone around you to call while you stay with the student.

The Griff Center for Student Success provides services and resources to support any student who may be struggling both academically and personally. We hope to encourage faculty and staff to take a pro-active role in the efforts to support our students by reporting student concerns.

A Student of Concern is any student who is displaying behaviors that may get in the way of a student's ability to be successful in the college environment.

Sometimes small changes in personality or actions are the first indicator that a student may need additional assistance. Other times, behaviors may be noticed by many members of our community. While we do our best to give individual time and attention to every student, some behaviors may go unnoticed until a caring person tells us about them. The staff in the Griff Center invite you to share your concerns about a student so the appropriate individual can reach out and provide support to those students who may need more assistance.

Reporting Form

The Student Concerns tab is one way faculty and staff can share a concern about a student. This online reporting form is available in iAdvise within the myCanisius portal. Once in iAdvise, select "Search Students" from the drop down menu. You can locate the student by entering their ID # or last name. Once you are in the student's account, you will see the *Student Concerns* tab at the top of the screen. Once you click on this tab, you will have the option to select either *Create Academic Concern* or *Create Behavioral Concern*. Select the *Create Behavioral Concern* option. You can select the behavioral areas that you have concerns about for the student and then submit the form.

The designee for the Behavioral Concern report (Associate Dean for Student Success, Jennifer Herrmann) will reach out to offer support and resources to the student and will follow up with the originator of the concern. If you would prefer to discuss your concern with someone, you may call the Griff Center at 716- 888-2170, and we would be happy to help.

Concerning Behaviors

College is a time when students are testing their independence and striving to find themselves. It is common for these journeys to have rough spots. For some students, personal, emotional, psychological, academic, or other challenges may hinder their ability to succeed both inside and outside of the classroom. Sometimes people do not think that the behaviors they observe are worth noting. However, there may be others who are seeing similar warning behaviors and are feeling concerned as well. When all of the pieces of the puzzle come together, it may be more apparent that each observer's piece of the story is part of a much bigger challenge that the student is facing. This is why it is important to take just a few moments to report your concerns. In doing so, students can get assistance sooner, before their challenges become overwhelming.

Some examples of behaviors that may be concerning include:

- Excessive absences
- Significant decline in quality of work or participation in class or at work
- Repeated requests for classroom accommodations or allowances (i.e. deadline extensions, etc.) without any formal accommodations
- Changes in behavior or mood
- Changes in personal hygiene
- Sleeping or appearing to be hung-over in class
- Reports of not sleeping or eating
- Traumatic events (i.e. death of close family/friend, etc.)
- Disorganized speech, non-sensical conversation
- Emotional/ physical outbursts; behavior that seems out of control or disruptive
- Inappropriate behaviors or comments
- Depression, anxiety or paranoia
- Signs of alcohol, drug or prescription medication abuse
- Physical attacks or altercations with another student
- Disclosure of domestic violence or sexual assault
- Threats of self-harming behaviors (i.e. self-mutilation, suicidal ideations, etc.)
- Threats to harm others
- Comments made verbally or in writing about hurting oneself or others
- You feel frightened or in fear of your personal safety or the safety of others after interacting with a student.
- Student talks about or displays a weapon

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Supporting Students

The best thing you can do to help a struggling student is to provide support. Consider looking over the tips below that include many ways we can all help and support members of our community. Please consider making a referral by using the Students of Concern (SOC) Reporting Form or calling the Griff Center with your concerns.

Every member of the Canisius community can do something to show students that they care. Below are a few things to keep in mind when someone comes to you:

Listen

- Take a break from what you are doing to focus solely on the student and simply listen to what is being shared.
- If necessary, find a place to talk in private.

Acknowledge

- Express interest, care and concern. Make sure the student knows you are interested in what they are sharing. Remember that although what the student is sharing may not seem like a crisis to you, it can still feel like one to the student.
- Make sure that students know that you cannot keep some information confidential. If students share that they are thinking about harming themselves or others, you need to get others involved. If you believe a student is going to disclose information regarding an incident of sexual assault, harassment, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, please

let them know that you are required to report the information to the Title IX Coordinator (Kathleen Brucato). Talk with your students about your limitations, and be open to helping your student connect to others who are specially trained.

- Avoid criticizing or sounding judgmental.

Assess

- Ask open-ended questions to help clarify.
- Help explore what options the student may be open to for getting assistance.
- Do not expect to have all of the answers right away.

Refer

- Make sure students are aware of your limits to help. There are others who are trained to deal with what the student is sharing. Know the limits of your own skills and training. Communicate your limits and offer to help students connect to those who can help.
- **Do not ignore comments about suicide, violence, or harm to self or others. Call Public Safety immediately 888-2330, or ask someone around you to call while you stay with the student.**
- Help students get connected to the appropriate resources. Consider walking the student to the Griff Center (OM 013) or the Counseling Center (BH 105) where one of the professional staff can quickly assist.

Document

- If you feel it is appropriate, take the time to write notes in iAdvise.