

SUICIDE INTERVENTION PROTOCOL

Troy University - Dothan Campus

The Dothan Campus response to a person having thoughts of suicide or making a suicide attempt is a very serious one. Immediate action is taken to assess the degree of danger to the person and level of response required. Our approach is to involve the support network that surrounds the person in order to fully support him or her. This involves working with the suicidal person as well as community resource agencies, and, as appropriate, their family. The Behavioral Intervention Team will review this Protocol on an annual basis.

Suicide Prevention Procedures

Phase I: Responsibilities of Staff and Faculty

- A) If an **ON CAMPUS** person appears to be in imminent danger of harming himself/herself, take the following immediate action:
1. Always keep safety in mind as you interact with a distressed person. Maintain a safe distance and a route of escape should you need it. Do not attempt to physically restrain the person. Call 9-1-1 for the person to be evaluated by emergency medical personnel and possible transport to the hospital emergency room. If possible, do not leave the person unattended until assistance is received and/or the threat of imminent danger is minimized.
 2. Contact campus security (334) 685-1185 or (334) 983-6556, ext. 225 to inform them of the situation. Campus Security will come to the scene and will notify the Dean of Students (334) 983-6556, ext. 206 or (334) 685-1183 and/or the Evening Administrator, ext. 313.
 3. Complete an Incident Report by the next business day. This online form can be found at <http://dothan.troy.edu/forms/CampusIncidentForm.html> .
- B) If an **ON CAMPUS** person threatens suicide (verbal or written), and/or evidence of recent superficial wound(s) is observed, and the degree of imminent danger is unclear:
1. Assist the person in calling the community Mental Health Helpline at (334) 794-0300 or (800) 951-4357 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK. Encourage them to contact a family member or a friend for support.
 2. Contact Student Services staff member at:
 - Dean of Students: or (334) 983-6556, ext. 206 or 204; (334) 685-1183 (Cell)
 - Student Counselor: (334) 983-6556, ext. 417
 - Evening Administrator: (334) 983-665, ext. 313 or (334) 685-1187 (Cell)
 - Campus Security: (334) 685-1185 (Cell) (after 8:00 PM or on a weekend)
 3. If possible, do not leave the person unattended until assistance is received and/or the threat of imminent danger is minimized. Do not attempt to physically restrain the person. Always keep safety in mind as you interact with a distressed person.

4. Complete an Incident Report and send to the Dean of Students by the next business day. This online form can be found at <http://dothan.troy.edu/forms/CampusIncidentForm.html> .

C) If an **OFF CAMPUS** person makes contact (phone, email) and threatens suicide:

1. Encourage the person to make a phone call to the local Mental Health Helpline at (334) 794-0300 or (800) 951-4357 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK. Also, encourage the person to call a family member or friend to stay with them until they can get help.
2. Find out if the person is currently under the care of a mental health professional, and if so, encourage them to contact them immediately.
3. Contact the Dean of Students at (334) 983-6556, ext. 206 or (334) 685-1183 (Cell) or the Student Counselor Services at (334) 983-6556, ext. 417.
4. Complete an Incident Report and send to the Dean of Students by the next business day. This online form can be found at <http://dothan.troy.edu/forms/CampusIncidentForm.html> .

Phase II: Responsibilities of the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT)

A) Assessing Student Wellness

1. The Behavioral Intervention Team will meet to determine the student's ability to continue at the University. If it is determined that the student is a danger to self or others, the Dean of Students will notify the student and his or her parents or legal guardians if needed.
2. The Dean of Students will work with the student to determine if a *Withdrawal Due to Mental Health Circumstance* (See ORACLE, page 56) is appropriate. Withdrawal can be voluntary or involuntary.
3. A student is placed on an involuntary withdrawal when the institution believes the student is a danger to the health and safety of self or others. The belief that someone presents a direct threat should be based on observations of the student's conduct, actions and statements. Length of interruption is usually a semester or longer in order for the student to receive treatment from a licensed or certified mental health professional. Students are advised of their right to appeal the decision and to a hearing.

B) Student Re-entry into the University

1. A student requesting re-admission into the University will meet with the Dean of Students and/or members of the Behavioral Intervention Team (and his/her parents or legal guardians if appropriate). Supporting documentation (See ORACLE, page 56) will be required prior to re-enrollment. The Dean of Students will notify the student, in writing, the conditions that must be met to return to class. These conditions will be established on a case by case basis.