



BOV POLICY # 19 (2017) ASSISTING EMOTIONALLY DISTRESSED STUDENTS

Policy Title:	Assisting Emotionally Distressed Students
Policy Type:	Board of Visitors
Policy No.:	BOV Policy # 19 (2017)
Approved Date:	December 6, 2024
Responsible Office:	Counseling Center
Responsible Executive:	Vice President for Student Affairs
Applies to:	University Community

POLICY STATEMENT

The Norfolk State University Board of Visitors is authorized under the *Code of Virginia* § 23.1-1300 et seq. to, among other things, make regulations and policies concerning the University. As such, the Board intends to promote a safe learning and working environment for the University community at all times. Section 23.1-802 of the *Code of Virginia* (the *Code*) requires that the governing board develop and implement policies that (i) advise students, faculty, and staff (which include residence hall staff), of the proper procedures for identifying and addressing the needs of students exhibiting suicidal tendencies or behavior and (ii) provide for training where appropriate. “This policy also provides procedures for notifying the University’s student health or counseling center when providing assistance to students that are a perceived threat of harm to self or others, present signs of emotional distress; and/or exhibits suicidal tendencies or behavior, or exhibits the inability to care for basic human needs. No student shall be penalized or expelled solely for attempting to commit suicide, or seeking mental health treatment for suicidal thoughts or behaviors.

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CONTACTS

The Vice President for Student Affairs officially interprets this policy and is responsible for matters pertaining to this policy as it relates to students. The Vice President for Student Affairs is the Executive responsible for obtaining approval for any revisions as required by BOV Policy # 01 (2014) *Creating and Maintaining Policies* through the appropriate governance structures. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Counseling Center staff.

POLICY CONTENTS

When assisting a student who may be emotionally distressed, attempts suicide, makes a threat or gesture of suicide, harms or attempts to harm him/herself, or undergoes severe emotional distress (e.g., student reports having hallucinations and/or discloses delusional thought content), the procedures for assisting emotionally distressed students must be followed. The established procedures are outlined on the Counseling Center website at <http://www.nsu.edu/counselingcenter/referrals> and shall be made available in the Division of Student Affairs offices. These procedures must be reviewed on an annual basis and available on the University's website a page with other information dedicated solely to the mental health resources available to students at Norfolk State University.

Members of the University Community who come in contact with a student of concern must contacting the NSU Counseling Center at 757-823-8173 or the NSU Police Department at 757-823-9000. The NSU Police should be immediately notified if a student is disruptive, has placed other members of the University Community in immediate danger, and/or threatens to harm him/herself or others, or if such incident occurs after business hours.

EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE

The Counseling Center shall make training available to all Counseling Center employees training on the requirements of this policy on an annual basis. Records of training will be maintained in the Counseling Center.

PUBLICATION

This policy shall be widely published or distributed to the University community. To ensure timely publication and distribution thereof, the Responsible Office shall make every effort to:

1. Communicate the policy in writing, electronically or otherwise, to the University community affected by the Policy as soon as feasible;
2. Submit the policy for inclusion in the online Policy Library within 14 days of Board approval; and
3. Post the policy on the appropriate SharePoint Site and/or Website.



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Failure to satisfy procedural requirements does not invalidate this policy.

REVIEW SCHEDULE

Next Scheduled Review: March 2027

Approved by, date: Board of Visitors, December 6, 2024

Revision History: August 29, 2008; August 28, 2017, September 15, 2017; December 11, 2020, March 19, 2021

Supersedes: Policy # 24.002 Assisting Emotionally Distressed Students (2008)

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- *Code of Virginia* § 23.1-802
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title23.1/chapter8/section23.1-802/>
- NSU Counseling Center Website <https://www.nsu.edu/counselingcenter/counseling>

FORMS

There are no forms associated with this policy.