

UNIVERSITY-INITIATED WITHDRAWAL POLICY

PURPOSE

Schreiner University is committed to the health and safety of all students and the campus community. It aims to ensure a safe, inclusive, and supportive academic environment. When a student's behavior, actions and/or speech, is reported as a threat of self-endangerment or the endangerment of others, Schreiner University reserves the right to intervene. The term "endangerment of self and/or others" refers to destructive or other inappropriate behavior, either passive or active, seen as a possible threat or disruption to a student's well-being or the well-being of another member of the campus community. In these circumstances the university-initiated withdrawal policy may be considered.

Successfully responding to medical or behavioral health conditions or concerns that are an endangerment to self or others may require a student's full attention and withdrawal from enrollment, university housing, and/or co-curricular activities.

This policy outlines procedures, criteria, and processes by which the University will administer a university-initiated withdrawal.

SCOPE

This policy is a University policy that applies to all students.

POLICY

The University may withdraw a student from campus if the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students determines that the student's behavior is an endangerment to themselves, others, or poses a significant disruption to the educational environment. Before initiating a withdrawal, the University will consider whether there are alternative measures or reasonable modifications that would allow the student to remain.

When the University becomes aware that a student poses a risk to themselves or others, or that they have indicated as such to the University community, the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, or their designee, will act to assist the student and preserve the safety of the campus community and its academic environment.

A university-initiated withdrawal may be considered if the student engages or threatens to engage in behavior that poses a risk of endangerment in any one or more of the following areas:

- A. **Harm to Self** – including, but not limited to, threats, verbal references, or mental and physical behaviors indicative of the possibility of suicide

and/or self- mutilation; behaviors indicating purging, self-starvation, or withdrawal of sustenance; chronic and/or serious abuse of alcohol or other drugs; demonstrated inability to satisfy reasonable expectations of self-care; and/or a serious medical condition for which a licensed physician's recommendation indicates in-patient or specialized treatment.

- B. **Harm to Others** – including, but not limited to, verbal threats or behaviors indicative of disruption, intimidation, or violence toward other persons; behaviors that place other students at risk of exposure to any unreasonable threat to their health/safety or academic pursuits; and behaviors which may be unintentional or indirect, but which impact the rightful expectation of each student to an academic and/or living environment that is conducive to academic pursuit.
- C. **Harm to the Academic Mission** – including, but not limited to, threats or behaviors which would cause significant or repetitive physical damage to any University property; behaviors intentionally designed to disrupt the academic and/or residential living communities and impede the University's educational mission; and behaviors that impede the lawful activities of the University community members or which interfere with the orderly functioning of the University.

PROCEDURES

The Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students or their designee oversees the procedures.

When there is a concern about endangerment to self or others, inappropriate behavior, either passive or active, seen as a possible threat or disruption to a student's well-being or the well-being of another member of the campus community University Security and Student Affairs personnel are notified.

Initial Response:

The Response Process may include:

- Chief of Security managing communication with emergency response personnel (EMT, Police, etc).
- The Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Assistant Dean of Students, and/or other University Administration notified.
 - Disruptive Behavior in residence halls may also include the response of Residence Assistants, Resident Directors, and Director of Residence Life.

Initial Review:

When there is a concern about endangerment to self or others, inappropriate behavior, either passive or active, seen as a possible threat or disruption to a student's well-being or the well-being of another member of the campus community the VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students or their designee will initiate a review process. The *Review Process* may include:

- Meeting with the student of concern, and/or Schreiner community members who have been impacted by the student's behavior.
- Review of the student's past behavior or student code of conduct.
- Review of behavior with Student Advisory Team (SAT).

Throughout the Review Process, the University may put into place interim measures which could include:

- Interim-suspension from campus, which includes loss of access to all educational activities.
- Referral for evaluation to university counseling services. Further evaluation may be requested which may include a referral to a licensed mental health professional off campus for assessment.
- Removal from the residence halls.
- No contact order(s).
- Family or Emergency Contact Notification.

Notification:

If the student meets the criteria for a withdrawal from campus based on the Review Process, the University will initiate the university withdrawal process:

- A formal written notice will be sent to the student stating the reason that will include the length of the removal, the criteria for returning to the university, information about the student conduct standards, information about student account, academic progression, and information about the appeal process.
- Emergency Contact will be noticed and requested to assume the responsibility for the student's care when the student is removed from campus.
- Students who have been withdrawn from campus are not allowed to attend class or access the campus or University sanctioned/sponsored events or services.

Reinstatement:

Conditions for return will be clearly communicated with the student and determined by the VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students or their designee. Approval for reinstatement will be based on the student's ability to demonstrate a period of responsible behavior outside the University.

The University may require a statement from a qualified mental health professional that the student is ready to return to Schreiner and is likely to succeed in a rigorous academic setting. In cases where the University has determined the student to be a direct threat, the student must provide written documentation from a mental health professional that illustrates the threat is sufficiently mitigated.

Responsible behavior may be demonstrated by the following:

- An action plan for the student will be required prior to their return. Which could include an external psychological or psychiatric assessment that includes a mental health plan that describes specific goals, meetings, and supportive steps that will be implemented.
- If the removal from campus is the result of psychological treatment or possible hospitalization, the student must provide written documentation that all requested actions have been met before the student will be considered for reinstatement to Schreiner University.

The VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students or their designee, in consultation with other university personnel as appropriate, will examine the information presented to determine if the student has met the criteria for reinstatement. The decision for reinstatement could include:

- Immediate return to the campus, providing the student follows an approved action plan for care with on-campus and/or off-campus providers, if requested. Failure to follow the approved plan may result in the immediate suspension of the student.
- Student's return to campus is deferred until additional assessment or treatment can be obtained.
- Student's return to campus is denied due to significant and specific concerns about continued endangerment to themselves or members of the University community, or significant disruption to the educational environment.

Appeal

Any student found to be responsible for a violation of the Code of Conduct has the right to appeal, in writing, within five (5) university business days of the written notification as indicated in the Student Code of Conduct Policy.

Administrative Oversight: Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Responsible for Implementation: Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students