

UNIVERSITY RESPONSE TO ATTEMPTED OR THREATENED SUICIDE (SEPT, 2014)

PURPOSE

To inform administrators, faculty, staff, and students of their responsibilities and duties in situations where a student threatens or attempts suicide.

SCOPE

This policy is a University policy that applies to all administrators, faculty, staff, and students. The Dean of Students will be responsible for the oversight of this policy.

POLICY

The stress of the college experience and the normal developmental issues of young adulthood place some students under emotional pressures that occasionally manifests itself in a threat or attempt by the student to take his or her own life.

The University will treat all threats or attempted suicides as serious regardless of the degree of lethality involved. When a student threatens or attempts suicide, the University will take the steps necessary, which may include removal of the student from the University to an appropriate setting.

Once removed from the University a student may not return unless there is clear and convincing evidence that the student is no longer a risk to himself or herself. If there is strong evidence that the student's continuation at the University is not in the student's best interest, the University reserves the right to administratively withdraw a student who has threatened or attempted suicide and who continues to exhibit life-threatening behavior. Decisions will be based on evaluation of mental health recommendations reviewed by the Dean of Students or designee, in consultation with the University Counselor.

Procedures to follow governing threatened or attempted suicide by a student. The following are guidelines for the implementation of this policy. It is recognized that special circumstances may arise which require deviation from these guidelines, and that administrative discretion must be exercised in these circumstances.

1. Upon learning that a student has threatened or attempted suicide, the Dean of Students (or designee) should be contacted.
2. The Dean (or designee) will notify:
 - o Medical emergency personnel (as needed)
 - o University Counseling Service (during office hours)
 - o Hill Country Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Center (MHDD)
3. MHDD – will provide the student and University Personnel a threat assessment and determine if the student needs to be transported to an off-site facility.
4. Local Law Enforcement under the guidance of MHDD will transport the student to the hospital for medical evaluation and mental health assessment.

5. The Dean (or designee) will contact the family of the student who threatened or attempted suicide, when appropriate, and will render support to family members and significant others as needed.
6. A student who has attempted suicide may be required to return home for a period of stability, prior to returning to the rigors of social and academic life. If a short period of time is necessary to make arrangements to return home, the University will strive to provide safety measures. Examples of safekeeping may be through hospitalization, staff supervision Security involvement. While at home the student will be required to have a psychological assessment and any other medical care and be willing to follow treatment recommendations. Documentation of these interventions must be received by the Dean and reviewed by the University Counselor prior to the student's return to campus.
7. If it is decided that the student should not be allowed to return to campus, the Dean will recommend withdrawal from the University.
8. Students who threaten or attempt suicide will be required to meet with the University Counselor, and to adhere to any recommendations made in consultation with qualified health care professionals regarding ongoing treatment and support. If necessary, students will be referred to local mental health professionals for ongoing treatment services. Failure to comply with mandated treatment recommendations may result in involuntary suspension.

Administrative Oversight: Dean of Students

Responsible for Implementation: Dean of Students