

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

Mental and Physical Health Emergency Policy

The growth and development of students at the University of Southern Indiana is central to our goal of maintaining an environment conducive to student learning, academic achievement, individual responsibility, and respect for the rights and privileges of others. One aspect of our mission includes the availability of counseling, health services, educational programs and policies to foster an optimal level of mental and physical health.

The University requires all students to develop and maintain high standards of scholarship and conduct. The ***Student Rights and Responsibilities: a Code of Student Behavior*** (“Code”) is the guiding document for University community standards and outlines all rights and responsibilities afforded to students.

It is the policy of the University to promptly address any conduct or other circumstances that pose a significant risk of harm to the health and safety of a student or others, significantly interferes with the rights of others, or disrupts the operation of the University.

A.

Protocol for Addressing Mental and Physical Health Emergencies

1.

There may be times when, because of physical or mental health issues, a student’s observed behavior or health status creates a direct threat of harm to self or others or when a student’s physical or mental health-related behavior significantly interferes with the rights of others or disrupts the operation of the University and/or threatens the integrity of its facilities (hereinafter referred to in the aggregate as “Health Emergency”).

2.

Such Health Emergencies should be addressed immediately. When University faculty, staff and students become aware of a Health Emergency, campus security should be notified immediately. If this call is from a campus phone the number is 7777; from non-campus and cell phones the number is 812-492-7777. The responding USI officer(s) will seek assistance from emergency services as needed and notify personnel deemed appropriate.

3.

Upon notification of a Health Emergency, appropriate University officials will develop a Health Emergency action plan. This plan will include a determination of the nature, duration, and severity of the risk involved; the probability that the student's behavior will pose a direct health and safety risk and/or a disruption to University operations/facilities; and whether reasonable modifications of University policies, practices, or procedures will mitigate the scope of the Health Emergency. Interim steps (such as an Emergency Suspension following the procedures described in Section 4.6.1 of the 8/1/2010 Revision of the Code) may be taken before a final determination is made. In such cases, the Dean of Students (or designee), who is responsible for communicating with the student whose Health Emergency is at issue, shall make a reasonable effort to provide the student with notice of the Emergency Suspension and an opportunity to respond, if practicable; and information regarding the next steps in the Health Emergency process. At any time during a Health Emergency a student may choose to voluntarily withdraw from the University and pursue the Medical Withdrawal procedures.

4.

As appropriate to the circumstances of the Health Emergency, the Dean of Students (or designee) may refer the student to a community-based medical provider for a physical health evaluation or mental health provider for a mental health evaluation that includes the use of the DSM-IV-TR Multiaxial System and Diagnostic Criteria to assist the University in determining the student's status. The cost for any community referral will be at the expense of the student. The Dean of Students (or designee) may also consult with the student and refer the student to the University Counseling Center or the Student Health Center as appropriate.

B.

Protocol for Returning to Campus

If a student wishes to return to the University after a Health Emergency suspension, the student should contact the Dean of Students (or designee). The student's return to the University shall be contingent upon completion of the following procedures:

1.

The Dean of Students (or designee) shall meet with the student and may also request the student to provide documentation that the student has taken steps to reduce the direct threat of harm to self or others, interfering with the rights of others, disrupting the operations of the University or threatening the integrity of University facilities. This documentation may include, but is not limited to, evidence of the student's compliance with a treatment plan or the submission of periodic medical reports. The student may also be required to grant the Dean of Students or his designee permission to talk to the student's past and/or current treating professional(s). The University's review of health

records or consultation with treating professionals will be targeted to address only the particular issues of legitimate concern to the University.

2.

The Dean of Students (or designee) reserves the right to require the student to comply with a treatment plan recommended by a health care or mental health professional, as a condition of returning to the campus community. Upon consultation with the student's health care or mental health professional(s), if it is determined by the Dean of Students (or designee) that the student is not following through with the established treatment plan, or if there is evidence that the established treatment plan has proven ineffective, the student's status with the University will be reassessed.

3.

As a condition of returning to the campus community, the Dean of Students (or designee) reserves the right to require the student to comply with a behavioral contract that documents the student's agreement to comply with the Code. Upon consultation with appropriate University personnel, if it is determined by the Dean of Students (or designee) that the student has not complied with the terms of the behavioral contract, the student's status with the University will be reassessed.

4.

Prior to the student's return to the campus community, the Dean of Students (or designee) reserves the right to consult with the student's faculty and appropriate University and community resources to determine whether and/or how the student can be reasonably accommodated to permit the student's full participation in classes, academic and co-curricular activities. An assessment may also be made regarding the student's ability to live in campus housing.

C

Emergency Exception to Confidentiality

When a student is experiencing a Health Emergency as defined in this policy, the Dean of Students (or designee) reserves the right to notify the student's emergency contact(s), parent(s), and/or guardian(s); and appropriate University officials of information necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or others.