

BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION TEAM

The College of the Siskiyous Behavior Intervention Team (BIT) is a group of College faculty and staff whose purpose is to meet regularly to focus on interventions with students who are experiencing crisis and/or are displaying harmful or disruptive behavior. The team receives reports, conducts an investigation, performs an assessment, and determines the best mechanisms for support, intervention, warning/notification and response. The team then utilizes its resources and coordinates follow-up. Additionally, the team tracks “red flags” over time, detecting patterns, trends, and disturbances in individual or group behavior and implements additional follow up if necessary.

Responsibilities of BIT

The BIT functions with a focus on safety and prescriptive early intervention which will hopefully prevent an individual’s behavior from escalating and/or interfering with retention of the student. Behaviors which are in violation of the Student Code of Conduct are referred to the Vice President of Student Services Office.

The BIT acts in a proactive manner to assist students and will:

- Maintain confidentiality and uphold the Federal Education Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Notify proper authorities when deemed appropriate
- Address issues discreetly and with sensitivity
- Consult and support faculty, staff and students to the best of our ability
- Connect students with needed resources
- Recommend interventions
- Monitor and review ongoing behavior of students as notified

Reporting Options:

Emergency Situations – If you feel threatened, or the person may pose immediate risk of harm to self or others, **call 911** to reach law enforcement.

BIT Email - If you have any concerns about a student, we encourage you to email the Behavior Intervention Team. BIT@siskiyous.edu

Incident Report Form – You can submit this form in person or via email to the Student Services Office. We are located in J Mantle Student Center, Building 1, Weed campus.
<http://www.siskiyous.edu/safety/incidentreport.pdf>

Consultation – Please feel free to call or email us at the Student Services Office, (530) 938-5374, or StudentServices@siskiyous.edu.

BIT Resources

- Warning Signs (*below*)

- Campus and community services/resources (*below*)
- Student Code of Conduct <http://www.siskiyous.edu/procedures/services/ap5520.pdf>

Warning Signs

A student in distress may not be disruptive to others, but may display behaviors that indicate emotional distress and assistance may be needed. These students may also be hesitant or unable to ask for help.

Behaviors that may suggest distress include:

- Poor or change in academic performance
- Excessive absences, especially if the students had previously been attending classes regularly
- Unusual or markedly changes in patterns of interaction such as now avoiding class participation or increased or onset of anxiety when called upon
- Depressed or lethargic mood
- Isolation/avoids contact with others
- Changes in speech or physical appearance such as swollen eyes or poor hygiene
- Falling asleep during class.
- Repeated requests for special consideration, such as deadline extensions
- Unusual or exaggerated emotional responses which are obviously inappropriate to the situation.

Severely troubled or disruptive students exhibit behaviors that signify an obvious crisis and that necessitate emergency care. Examples include:

- Highly disruptive behavior (e.g. hostility, aggression, violence, etc.)
- Inability to communicate clearly (slurred, disjointed, or rambling speech)
- Hallucinations, inappropriate reactions
- Stalking others
- Inappropriate communications (such as threatening notes or e-mail messages,)
- Expressions of suicidal thoughts (including referring to suicide as a current option or included in a written assignment).
- Direct or indirect threats to harm others

With the exception of harm to self or others, a single behavior may not signal a problem, but a consistent pattern of unusual behaviors or a decline in functioning may justify consultation with a colleague or referral to the BIT. The BIT encourages you to error on the side of caution.

Campus and Community Resources

Should the individual experience any of these warning signs, please encourage the individual to seek assistance from the following resources:

- The College personal counselor, <http://www.siskiyous.edu/counseling/personalcounseling.htm>
- The Siskiyou Domestic Violence & Crisis Center, <http://www.sdvcc.org/>
- Mental Health Resources, <http://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/content/crisis-services>