

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY STUDENT JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

Responding to Disruptive/Threatening Behavior

When disruptive or threatening behavior obstructs/disrupts classroom or other campus functions, or when the safety of members of the campus community is endangered by threats of violence or violent acts, the following courses of action should be taken:

1. Obstruction or Disruption in Classrooms or University Offices

- If a student is disruptive, he/she should be asked to ***STOP, and be warned***, that any further disruption can result in disciplinary action.
- If a student continues the disruption despite the warning, faculty/staff are authorized to ask the student to leave the area and may inform the student that the case will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs for student disciplinary action.
- If a student refuses to leave after being instructed to do so, he/she should be informed that this refusal is a separate violation subject to additional penalties. Depending on safety concerns and the level of disruption, campus police should be called. (415-338-7200)
- If, in the faculty/staff member's best judgment, a disruptive student's threats or refusal to leave creates a safety risk or makes it impossible to continue class or other University functions, s/he should contact the campus police and/or dismiss class for that day.
- A disruptive student cannot be removed permanently from a class in which s/he is enrolled without formal review, either through a student disciplinary process (see Administration of Student Discipline, E.O. 970) or through academic channels including the department and Dean's office.
- **Non-students and students not enrolled in class** may be removed permanently without formal review because they have no right to attend the class without the instructor's permission.

2. Violence, Harassment, Or Threats

- Students can be disciplined for conduct that “threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person within or related to the university community, including physical abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, or sexual misconduct”. Title V, Section, 41301(7).

- If a student appears to threaten harm to him/herself, immediately contact the Counseling and Psychological Services (415-338-2208), whose staff will arrange for appropriate intervention and treatment. After hours, call the Campus Police (415-338-7200 or / on-campus phone 911).
- If any individual appears to threaten harm to others, (e.g. if the individual makes threats of physical harm toward you or others, has a weapon, or behaves in a manner that causes you to fear for your own or another's safety), immediately contact the Campus Police (911 or 415-338-7200). The police will investigate the threats, warn the intended victim, and determine whether the individual is dangerous, has committed a crime, or needs medical help.
- Even if you do not file citizen's arrest or criminal charges, the faculty/staff member may refer the student to Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action and/or exclude the student from class for one day.
- Permanent exclusion requires formal review through disciplinary action or academic channels.
- In emergency situations, university police, may issue an interim suspension to immediately suspend a student or exclude them from campus, if there is "reasonable cause to believe that the student's participation or presence on campus will lead to physical abuse, or conduct that threaten another's health or safety, or to ensure the maintenance of order.
- The SFSU student disciplinary process provides sanctions that range from administrative warning through disciplinary probation, suspension and expulsion.

Adapted with permission from UCD, Student Judicial Affairs

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