

PURDUE UNIVERSITY[®] FORT WAYNE

Principles of Care in Responding to Individual Student Mental Health-Related Crisis or Concern



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Introduction

The following principles of care apply whether you are or are not in the physical presence of the student (e.g., the student discloses serious mental health concerns via email, phone, messaging platforms, assignments, or other written or electronic communication):

Do Not Delay Action.

If you are uncertain about a situation, please consult immediately with:

- [The Center for Student Counseling \(CSC\): \(260\) 481-6200](#)
- [The Office of Student Conduct and Care \(OSCC\): \(260\) 481-6601](#)
- [The University Police Department \(UPD\): \(260\) 481-6827](#)
- [Office for Civil Rights Compliance \(OCRC\): \(260\) 481-6107](#)
- [Human Resources \(HR\): \(260\) 481-6840](#)

Student at risk of immediate harm to themselves or others involving Faculty or Staff

1. Faculty, Staff, and students should call [911](#) or the University Police Department, [\(260\) 481-6827](#), if a student is at risk of immediate harm to themselves or others.
2. To best provide support to the student, faculty and staff are expected to [submit a CARE referral](#) as soon as the immediate threat or risk is mitigated, regardless of whether law enforcement, first responders, or a mental health professional is present.

Non-life-threatening situations involving Faculty or Staff

If you are talking with a student who discloses that they have thought about suicide, attempted suicide, or have any serious mental health concerns (like debilitating depression, incapacitating anxiety, disturbing thoughts, self-harm, etc.) currently or in the recent past:

Do not leave the student alone. If they are talking to you and not in immediate danger, your job is to get the student to a mental health professional or emergency services. The options available to you are:

During Business hours:

- i. Call or walk the student to the Center for Student Counseling. IF THE STUDENT LEAVES, immediately call [911](#) or UPD, [\(260\) 481-6827](#); or
- ii. Call UPD, [\(260\) 481-6827](#) who will then assist in getting the student to an appropriate mental health provider.

Outside of business hours or holidays:

Always call [911](#) or the University Police Department, [\(260\) 481-6827](#).

Other resources available 24/7 to all PFW students are:

- Call or text [988](#); or
- [TimelyCare](#) (Select the Talk Now option).

After any of the above selected options:

[Submit a CARE referral](#) and note the steps you took immediately.

If you are unsure of what to do, call either:

1. The Center for Student Counseling (during Center business hours): [\(260\) 481-6200](#);
2. The Office of Student Conduct and Care (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.): [\(260\) 481-6601](#); or
3. The University Police Department (available 24/7) – [\(260\) 481-6827](#) (non-emergency) or [911](#).

Purdue Guiding Principles of Care in Responding to Individual Student Mental Health-Related Crisis or Concern

- A. Purdue Fort Wayne (PFW) faculty and staff strive to provide a consistent, timely, effective, and holistic response to student mental health crises or concerns.
- B. PFW units work collaboratively to support students in distress. [The Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation Team \(CARE Team\)](#), managed through the Office of Student Conduct and Care, is responsible for the overall coordination of support for distressed students.
- C. PFW units work collaboratively to train faculty, staff, and the campus community on timely and appropriate response to student mental health.

- D. All members of the CARE Team participate in appropriate training and are aware of their responsibility to maintain student privacy under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other applicable laws.
- E. PFW's Center for Student Counseling is a key partner and service provider to students seeking counseling for mental health.
- F. There is a shared understanding that the Center for Student Counseling will not share student mental health treatment records with the CARE Team or other campus partners unless the student has authorized release or a health emergency arises that legally allows the release of protected health information to law enforcement or others.