

Responding to Classroom Disruptions and Students in Distress

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Understanding your Role

- Balance:
 - Classroom Instructor & “First Responder”
- Clear boundaries prevent confusion
 - Knowing the limits of your role

Signs of a student in distress

- Decline in academic performance
- Poor personal hygiene and grooming
- Social withdrawal
- Crying in class
- Intense emotional response to situations
- Morbid, suicidal, or violent themes in written material
- Vague request for special considerations

Disruptive behavior

Any behavior that disrupts the learning process, endangers the safety of others and/or interrupts the instructor from performing his/her duties.

-Office of Provost

Examples:

- Chronic Distraction/Interruption
- Verbally abusive speech
- Hostility and defiance
- Threats of physical violence
- Stalking behavior

Role Plays

- Student in Distress
- Classroom Disruption

Responding to each situation

Distress

- Listen and “mirror”
- Keep grading separate from emotional distress
- Refer to on-campus resource (ex. Counseling)

Disturbance

- Clearly communicate expectations
- Ask disruptive student to leave classroom
- Call UPD if problem escalates