Assisting Students with Emotional and/or Behavioral Concerns

Counseling & Student Development Center

Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

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Assistant Director
CSDC Services

- Walk-In Appointments
  - Monday - Friday, 11:00 - 3:30
- Individual & Group Counseling
- Substance Use & Eating Disorder Assessments
- Anger Intervention
- Crisis Intervention
CSDC Services (cont’d)

- Coaching for Academic Success
- Presentations & Programs
- Consultation
  - With Faculty & Staff
  - With Teaching Assistants
  - With Parents, Family Members, & Friends
Behavioral Concerns

- Student behavior may be indicative of personal, emotional, &/or psychological problems
  - Often the “first sign” that a problem exists
- Assistance from CSDC available through consultation, assessment, & counseling services
Students with Behavioral Concerns

- Will not allow you to be as effective as an instructor
- Will likely disrupt learning environment for others
Students with Emotional Concerns

- May also disrupt your classroom, sometimes in more subtle ways (sometimes not)
- May cause you to feel concerned about their well-being & safety
  - Can lead to confusion about professional and personal boundaries, areas of expertise
Barriers to Seeking Consultation

- I “should” be able to handle the situation & control my classroom
- I don’t want to escalate the situation or I don’t want to pry
- Academic freedom
- Confidentiality/FERPA
Tips for Interacting with Disruptive Students

- Maintain physical distance
  - Non-threatening body language
- Keep your emotions in check
- Clear verbal and nonverbal communication
Consult Early!

- Consultation always available
  - We will help you assess the situation
  - We will make recommendations & offer our expertise about how we (or others) can help

- Crisis intervention available 24 hours
  - During the day, call the CSDC at 753-1206
  - After hours or weekends, call University Police at 753-1212 to reach on-call counselor
  - In emergency situations, always call 911 first!
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815-753-1206

www.niu.edu/csdc

Consultation Guidelines

Campus Life Building 200