

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION	STAF Division of Student Affairs
POLICY NUMBER	STAF 6.29
POLICY TITLE	Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal Policy
SCOPE OF POLICY	Columbia Campus
DATE OF REVISION	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE	Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the highly specific situations upon which the Student Care and Outreach Team (Care Team), in partnership with other campus entities can invoke a Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal. Situations include those where attempts to intervene have failed to alleviate the behavioral risk, or the risk appears imminent. Further, the university is invested in assisting students in improving their mental health to a level where they are no longer a threat to themselves or others through support and connection with appropriate care.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

For the purposes of this policy, these terms are defined as follows:

Student: a person who is currently enrolled at the university, or who is accepted for admission or readmission to the university, or who has been enrolled at the university in a prior semester or summer session and is eligible to continue enrollment in the semester or summer session that immediately follows, or who is attending an educational program sponsored by the university while that person is on campus, or who engaged in conduct at a time when the individual met the above criteria.

Student Care and Outreach Team (Care Team): A group of trained USC professionals whose mission is to balance the individual needs of the student and those of the greater campus community, provide a structured positive method for addressing student behaviors that impact the university community and may involve mental health and/or safety issues, manage each case individually, initiate appropriate intervention without resorting to punitive measures and enhance quality of care for students.

Threat Assessment Team (TAT): A multidisciplinary group whose mission is to assist with the safety, health, and welfare of the university community through a proactive, collaborative, coordinated, and fact-based approach for the prevention, identification, assessment, intervention and management of situations involving individuals who pose, or may reasonably pose, a threat to the safety and well-being of themselves and/or other members of the university community, or are of substantial disruption to university activities.

POLICY STATEMENT

When behaviors occur that pose a threat to the health and safety of any member(s) of the university community (including self-harm), and/or to other individuals and/or university property, the Care Team in partnership with the Threat Assessment Team (TAT) (see LESA 2.00) shall have the authority to enact a Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal with the purpose of mitigating the threat posed by the student's behavior and assisting the student in addressing the behaviors that are creating the threat of harm to self or others.

PROCEDURES

Upon receiving a Care Team report that includes student behaviors that pose a threat to the health and safety of any member(s) of the university community (including self-harm), and/or to other individuals and/or university property, the Care Team in partnership with the Threat Assessment Team (TAT) will meet according to the guidelines in the Student Care and Outreach Team manual.

Discussion at Student Care and Outreach Team meetings considering a Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal will abide by the following guidelines:

1. The Student Care and Outreach Team will treat the case with the seriousness it deserves weighing and analyzing all of the facts and risks so as to achieve an acceptable resolution as determined by the Chair.
2. The Student Care and Outreach Team will set appropriate behavioral boundaries within existing university policies and examine specific departmental procedures or course of action.
3. The Student Care and Outreach Team will consider specific issues including the assessment of potential violence, evidence of mental health concerns as the possible cause of the distressing behavior, containment of disruption, examination of environmental causes, and appropriate referral resources.
4. To the extent possible and practicable, the student is offered a chance to participate.

If the Care Team in consultation with TAT determines each of the following is satisfied, the Care Team may initiate the Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal.

1. A student poses a risk of harm to any member(s) of the University community (including risk of self-harm), and/or other individuals and/or property, and
2. Such risk of harm cannot be accommodated by the university's resources (including a determination that the student is unable or unwilling to carry out substantial self-care obligations and poses an actual risk to their own safety or others not based on mere speculation, stereotypes, or generalizations), and
3. The student does not initiate a withdrawal voluntarily.

NOTIFICATION

Upon initiation of the Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal, the Care Team chair or designee will send written communication to the student in a timely manner. The Care Team chair or designee

will place a Care Team Hold to prevent future course registration until the health and safety risk has been mitigated by the four components identified in “Readmission and Reenrollment” below. The Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal is effective immediately.

Students on Behavioral Risk Withdrawal must leave campus or any other property owned or maintained by the university immediately and may not return until the Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal has been lifted after review by the Care Team (see **Readmission or Reenrollment**).

Students on Behavioral Risk Withdrawal may not attend class, reside in or visit a residence hall, or participate in any university activities. Students who return to campus without prior, written authorization from the TAT or the Care Team may be subject to disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

Exceptions for the Behavioral Risk withdrawn student’s presence on campus are made by the Care Team Chair or designee and are typically made only for physical and mental health care in one of the university’s healthcare facilities with prior permission. In certain cases, the University may refer the student to appropriate community resources or suggest that the student seek out resources in their home community, if appropriate.

READMISSION OR REENROLLMENT

Students who are precluded from reenrollment due to a Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal or have ceased to be eligible for reenrollment in classes with the university and now wish to reenroll or be readmitted to the university must follow the relevant university procedures with respect to any hold on their account that may restrict their reenrollment or readmission.

The Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal will only be lifted at the direction of the Chair of the Care Team or designee. The Care Team’s decision to lift a Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal will depend on the following:

1. The circumstances that resulted in the Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal have abated.
2. Whether the student continues to represent a threat to the health and safety of member(s) of the university community (including risk of self-harm), and/or other individuals.
3. The student fulfilled any intervention measures or expectations by the Care Team to address the threat to the health and safety of member(s) of the university community (including risk of self-harm), and/or other individuals.
4. If reenrollment or readmission would violate any court order or legal determination.
5. Any other information the Care Team requests from the student.

APPEALS

A student may appeal the Care Team’s decision to impose the Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal within five (5) business days of the Care Team’s adoption of such measure. Additional time may be permitted in the case of extenuating circumstances (such as hospitalization or incarceration).

The appeal should be submitted in writing to the Associate Vice President for Student Health and Well-Being, or designee, and may be accompanied by any evidence the student deems relevant to the matter. The Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal will remain in effect pending the outcome of the appellate process. The Associate Vice President for Student Health and Well-Being, or designee, will review the appeal in a timely manner. The decision of the Associate Vice President for Student Health and Well-Being, or designee, is considered final at the institutional level.

RECORD KEEPING AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Notes and records pertaining to the Care Team shall be subject to all applicable state and federal laws including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). All records deemed confidential (e.g. protected health/mental health information) shall be treated as such and shall not lose such protection by virtue of being addressed within Care Team meetings.

RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES

LESA 2.00 Threat Assessment and Management

STAF 7.05 Emergency Health Care and Emergency Transportation

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
June 1, 1992	New policy approval
February 18, 2013	The current policy covers significant university disturbances caused by mental health conditions. Instead of singling out mental health conditions, the revision broadens the definition to any type of health conditions that causes a significant university disruption. Further, the revision focuses the definition of the disruption on the behaviors. The revisions remove the decision making regarding a student's status from two staff members to a trained consultative team, the Behavioral Intervention Team. The university's Behavioral Intervention Team is made up of police, counselors, health professionals and student affairs administrators. The revisions removed barriers (threats of damage to property) that are already covered as behaviors that are in violation of the

	Student Code of Conduct and that will be acted upon regardless of health conditions. Policy was broadened to include any type of health conditions, moved decision-making from 2 staff members to the Behavioral Intervention Team, and removed threats of damage to property from the policy.
July 17, 2026	Format updated to current University of South Carolina policy standards. The revisions clarify that decisions regarding Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal are based on observed behaviors and assessed risk, rather than health conditions or diagnoses, and are implemented through a structured, multidisciplinary assessment process. The revisions provide greater procedural clarity and consistency regarding the initiation of a Student Behavioral Risk Withdrawal, student notification, restrictions during withdrawal, conditions for readmission or reenrollment, and the appeal process. The revisions align university practices with current threat assessment, behavioral intervention, and campus safety standards, including the use of collaborative teams, defined decision criteria, and compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

APPENDICES
(If applicable)