

GUIDELINES FOR ADDRESSING DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

What is Disruptive Behavior?

Any behavior which interferes with the legitimate instructional, administrative or service functions of the College is considered to be disruptive behavior.

However, if the behavior threatens the personal safety of students, faculty or staff, or is displayed with such emotional intensity that it engenders fear or concern in others, please contact **District Police Dispatch at (619) 388-6405**. *Instructors should be familiar with the location of the closest available telephone*

Disruptive behavior should not be confused with the students' right to express differing opinions and their exercise of fundamental academic freedoms.

Assessing disruptive behavior can be highly subjective. Each person has his/her tolerance level and strategies for handling disruptions. One must take into consideration the severity of disruption, as well as the number of times that a student has been counseled or disciplined for the same behavior.

To identify disruptive behavior in the classroom, instructors should consider the impact the disruption has on his/her ability to teach and maintain order in the classroom or on-line, as well as the impact of the behavior on other students. In addition, instructors should be sensitive to the cues exhibited by the class since an instructor's level of tolerance for certain disruptive behaviors may be greater than that of some students.

Prevention

It is highly recommended that the course syllabus outline the standards of conduct expected in the course and that these behavioral expectations be reviewed with the class.

Examples of unacceptable behavior may include:

- Cheating; plagiarism
- Use of profanity
- Verbal disruption
- Private conversations or displays of affection
- Uncooperativeness
- Personal electronic equipment (cell phones)
- Physical threats/violence

Additional examples of unacceptable behavior in on-line courses may include:

- Use of disrespectful or offensive language
- Posting of messages with inappropriate and/or offensive subjects
- Intimidation or harassment that creates a hostile environment for others

Recommended Actions

Depending on the severity of the disruption, an instructor may first ask the student to simply discontinue the behavior. A verbal and/or written warning may also be given as appropriate. The instructor should document details regarding the behavior and the response to the student. If additional action is deemed necessary, the instructor should report the incident to the Dean of Student Affairs to determine the next course of action.

In the event of severe cases of disruptive behavior, the instructor has the right to remove the student from class on the day of the offense and for the following class period. If this should occur:

1. Consult with the Department Chair and School Dean to notify them of the situation within one instructional day of the incident, and
2. Submit a written description of the incident/situation to the Department Chair, School Dean, and Dean of Student Affairs, and
3. Contact the Dean of Student Affairs to determine the next course of action.

If the disruption is clearly a threat to one's self or others, the student should immediately be suspended from participating in the course and District Police Dispatch should be contacted at (619) 388-6405. Steps 1-3 above should then be followed.

For matters regarding academic dishonesty, please refer to the Honest Academic Conduct Procedure 3100.3. and college guidelines for addressing such behavior.

For information, please call the Dean of Student Affairs at (619) 388-7313.

Office of Student Affairs, K1-210
San Diego Miramar College
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For a complete copy of the policies, visit:
www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/policies/Student%20Services/BP%205500.pdf

