

A Kalamazoo Valley Faculty Guide to

MANAGING DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM

DO YOU HAVE STUDENTS IN CLASS WHO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Text message friends or talk on cell phones?
- Have sidebar conversations with classmates?
- Interrupt discussions or make inappropriate remarks?
- Write or mention ideas that cause concern for their mental health?
- Repeatedly arrive late or leave early?

If you consider any of these behaviors annoying, you have the right to address such behavior. Annoying classroom behavior should not be tolerated and may become disruptive if it is ignored.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES FACULTY CAN TAKE:

- Include specific expectations for, and consequences of, student behavior (e.g., no cell phones, no tardiness, etc.) during the first day introduction and in your course syllabus/outline.
- Use the first class meeting to review what is and isn't appropriate.
- Model the behavior you expect of students.
- Become familiar with the Faculty Instructional Guide and the Student Code of Conduct, found in the Student Handbook.

STEPS FOR RESPONDING TO DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

- Immediately ask the student to stop the behavior.
- Speak with the student privately after class about his/her conduct.
- Document in writing the situation and your actions to the Student Relations Coordinator by completing the web-based Student Concern Referral Form found at <https://www.kvcc.edu/services/src/concernform/>.

WHEN SPEAKING PRIVATELY WITH STUDENT...

- Be specific about the behavior that is disruptive.
- Explain the effect the behavior has on your ability to teach and the class's ability to learn.
- Address what you observe about the behavior, e.g., communicate your concern.
- Allow the student to respond and listen carefully to his or her words.
- Restate your expectations for the student's future behavior.
- It is your judgment whether to have a colleague, Department Chair, Dean, or Student Relations Coordinator present during this conversation.

IF DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR CONTINUES

Some disruptive behavior simply reflects bad manners and a lack of consideration of others and may cease after one warning. If such conduct persists, in a future class, inform the student you will report the behavior to the administration. The case may be treated as a violation of the KVCC Student Code of Conduct found in the Student Handbook. Behaving in disruptive ways in class and failing to comply with directions to stop are both violations of the Code. Inform, again, your respective Department Chair or Dean of the situation and your actions and complete the web-based Student Concern Referral Form. The Student Relations Coordinator will review the online referral and either resolve the matter or forward it to the appropriate resource within the college. This could mean a referral to your respective Department Chair, Dean, or Public Safety. If you suspect the disruptive behavior could be the result of psychological problems, always contact the Student Relations Coordinator for advice on how to respond and see our Faculty and Staff Guide to Working with Students in Distress.

THREATENING OR ALARMING BEHAVIOR

- Sometimes behavior is more than just thoughtless or rude. Signs of threatening/alarming behaviors include: Using derogatory or profane language in an angry manner.
- Appearing hostile, aggressive, or violent.
- Escalating behavior (e.g., louder voice, faster speech, pacing).
- Making statements such as "If I don't pass this course, someone will pay," "I better graduate or else," "I will take things into my own hands."
- Speaking incoherently with unconnected thoughts, garbled speech, or under the influence. If the student's behavior is alarming, escalating, or if you or others feel threatened:

Contact **Public Safety** immediately at
4575 – Texas Township Campus
7854 – Arcadia Commons Campus

Identify yourself and your location, describe the behavior, and request assistance.

- Consider dismissing the class immediately.
- Inform your Department Chair or Dean and complete the online Student Concern Referral Form. This online report can be found at the following address: <https://www.kvcc.edu/services/src/concernform/>.