# FACULTY & STAFF Helping Distressed Students

# RED FOLDER

## **RESOURCES**

**EMERGENCY:** 911

**UWL** Police

non-emergency: 608.789.9000

Student Life: 608.785.8062

Counseling: 608.785.8073

Student Health: 608.785.8558

Residence Life: 608.785.8075

608.785.6900 ACCESS Center:

Center for Trans-608.785.5094

formative Justice

- La Crosse County Crisis Line 608.784.HELP (4357)
- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline 988 (call, text) (veterans: press 1)
- Hopeline:text 'hopeline' to 741741
- Great Rivers 211 Helpline 211 or 800.362.TALK (8255)
- Trevor Lifeline (LGBTQ) 866.488.7386

# Does the student need IMMEDIATE assistance? YES The student's conduct is clearly reckless, disorderly, dangerous or threatening and is suggestive of immmediate harm to self or others in the community. Call 911.

Report the concern to Student Life.

# DO YOU KNOW...

That the CARE Team meets weekly to identify students at risk. The team works quickly and collaboratively to assess a distressed student's needs, direct them to campus and community resources, and consult with campus offices impacted by the concern.

### **NOT SURE**

Indicators of distress are observed but severity is unclear. The interaction has left you feeling uneasy or concerned.

Contact Student Life or Counseling for a consultation.

# SIGNS OF A **DISTRESSED STUDENT**

### The student exhibits:

- disengagement in the classroom.
- excessive absenteeism or a sudden decline in quality or effort in their work.
- irritability, sadness, excessive anxiety, anger or hostility.
- bizarre content or aggressive themes in writings or presentations.
- marked changes in appearance, or shows a change in behavior.
- implied or direct threats of self-
- direct communication to you they have a mental health concern.

**REMEMBER:** Early intervention is key. Still not sure? Call Student Life.

I'm not concerned for the student's or other's immediate safety, but student is having significant academic and/or personal issues.

Refer to Student Life or an appropriate campus resource.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN A STUDENT IS **DISRUPTIVE BUT DOES NOT POSE A** THREAT?

- Ensure your safety in the environment. Use a calm, nonconfrontational approach.
- Set limits by explaining how the behavior is inappropriate.
- Consult with your supervisor.
- If disruptive behavior persists, inform the student that disciplinary action may occur.
- If the behavior escalates and you believe there is a safety risk, refer to YES column of this chart.

Provided by UWL Counseling & Testing and adapted from various universities' online resources.

# FACULTY & STAFF Referral Tips

# **RED FOLDER**

# REFER a student to campus resources when:

- you don't know how to help the student.
- you are unable to provide all of the support the student needs.
- you feel that you have reached your limit or have exhausted your ideas on how to help.
- the student's struggles leave you feeling helpless or anxious.
- you feel angry or frightened by the student's comments or behavior.
- you are spending large amounts of time on the student's problems.
- the student's issues are too close to home for you, making it hard to keep perspective.

## PREPARING to make the referral:

- Knowledge is power! Familiarize yourself with campus resources and the referral processes.
- Ensure your safety. If safe to do so, meet privately and allow for sufficient time to talk.

# **CONNECTING & MAKING a referral to campus resources:**

- Listen and offer support. Validate and normalize their feelings and experiences.
- Keep it simple and direct.
- Express your concerns directly to the student, focusing on behaviors in non-disparaging terms.
- Instill hope that help is available and effective.
- Don't avoid the situation, promise confidentiality, or offer more help than you are able to provide.
- Do ask directly if the student is thinking about suicide or hurting someone else.
- Recommend services and provide referral information. Offer to assist the student in contacting resources, but have them make their own appointments.
- In crisis situations, you can offer to walk the student to the appropriate office or call to consult while with the student.
- Check in with the student after the situation and ask how the student is doing. Offer additional referrals or assistance as appropriate.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Kognito**: Access an online simulation that lets you practice conversations with a virtual student, so you'll know what to say in real life if you are concerned about someone's well-being and want to recommend resources to them. UWL has made this program available to faculty, staff, and students to help create a safer and more supportive campus. Find it at uwlax.kognito.com

**Let's Talk**: an informal consultation option with a CTC Counselor. Students meet with a counselor on a first-come, first-served basis, and no topics are off limits. This isn't a crisis service, or a substitute for individual counseling, but is often a good place to start. Watch for location and time announcements or just check our website: uwlax.edu/counseling.