

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What confidentiality standards should I follow?

Please note that all information and discussion regarding the disruptive student shall be handled in a confidential manner. The privacy of the student's educational records are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco>

### What if my student says they have a disability?

A student with a disability is not exempt from the University's behavioral expectations, rules, and regulations. Disruptive behavior will be addressed even when it is related to a student's disability. All relevant factors contributing to the student's behavior will be taken into consideration when identifying ways to respond to the incident.

### When do I need to call UNCPD?

If, at any time, a student is posing a threat of violence or unlawful behavior to him/herself or others by being verbally or physically abusive; or refusing to leave the classroom upon your request, you should call University Police immediately. Any threat of violence should be taken seriously. Err on the side of caution. Dial 9-1-1 from any phone on campus or 351-2245 from your cell phone to reach the UNC Police.

### Who can I contact if I have concerns about a student?

You may contact the Dean of Students Office or submit a Health & Safety Report. This report can be found at: <https://apps.unco.edu/HealthAndSafetyReferral/>

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

### UNC Police Department

Gray Hall  
Campus Box 27  
Phone (970) 351-2245  
Fax (970) 351-4286  
[www.unco.edu/police](http://www.unco.edu/police)

### Office of Student Engagement and Dean of Students

University Center 3050  
Campus Box 81  
Phone (970) 351-2796  
Fax (970) 351-1598  
[www.unco.edu/dos](http://www.unco.edu/dos)

### Counseling Center

Cassidy Hall  
Campus Box 17  
Phone (970) 351-2496  
Fax (970) 351-1485  
[www.unco.edu/counseling](http://www.unco.edu/counseling)

### Disability Support Services

Michener, Lower Level  
Campus Box 139  
Phone (970) 351-2289 (Voice, TTY)  
Fax (970) 351-4166

## University of Northern Colorado

To request a presentation or additional information please call (970) 351-2796. Or visit our website at: <http://www.unco.edu/dos/>

## University of Northern Colorado

# DEALING WITH DISRUPTIVE STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM



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and Dean of Students  
University Center 3050  
Campus Box 81  
(970) 351-2796  
[www.unco.edu/dos](http://www.unco.edu/dos)

## INTRODUCTION

UNC is committed to establishing and maintaining a safe and civil environment for teaching and learning. The University values freedom of expression and the respectful exchange of diverse viewpoints. In an effort to foster tolerance, civility, and accountability, students are responsible for upholding standards of conduct that have been developed to guarantee students freedom to learn and to protect the fundamental rights of others.

## COMMUNITY STANDARDS & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Student Code of Conduct prohibits disruptive student behavior. Any student who violates the Code is subject to disciplinary action and/or civil or criminal prosecution. For more detailed information, go to [www.unco.edu/dos/student\\_code\\_conduct](http://www.unco.edu/dos/student_code_conduct).

## WHAT IS DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR?

Behavior that persistently or grossly impairs, interferes with or obstructs the mission, purpose, order, academic atmosphere, operation, process and functions of the University is considered disruptive behavior. A disruptive student is one who disturbs the teaching and learning process in the classroom.

## EXAMPLES OF DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

- Abusive language or behavior – including vulgar language, gestures or expressions.
- Intoxication
- Constant questions or interruptions which interfere with the instructor's presentation
- Creating excessive noise with papers, book bags, etc.
- Erratic and/or irrational behavior.
- Inappropriate laptop use or text messaging
- Continually speaking without being recognized.
- Other verbal or behavioral expressions that interfere with classroom environment.
- Persistent disruptions resulting from ringing electronic devices such as cell phones or pagers.
- Arriving late/leaving early

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The instructor has ultimate control over classroom behavior and has the right to tell a student who is being disruptive to leave the classroom for the remainder of that class period. However, faculty do not have the right to remove a student for the duration of class sessions, as the student has due process rights. In cases when faculty do not want the student to return to the class, they should contact the Dean of Students Office.

**If a student is violent or threatening, remove yourself and instruct others to remove themselves from the situation and contact UNCPD immediately.**

## TIPS FOR HANDLING DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

- Remain calm and request compliance from the student in concrete terms
- Ask the student to speak with you privately to discuss both of your concerns
- Try to reach an agreement for the remainder of the class session and plan to speak further afterwards
- If the student refuses to comply, indicate that you will enlist the aid of others to address the behavior and that the student is subject to disciplinary action by the university.

## AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION...

Perhaps the best thing faculty can do to address disruptive student behavior is to create an environment in which it is unlikely to occur. For example, an instructor should:

- Use the class syllabus to inform students in writing of the standards and expectations (e.g., respect, courtesy, timeliness, etc.) for classroom conduct and of possible consequences for disruptive behavior.
- Devote time during the first class to review this information in the syllabus and the Honor Code.
- Give specific examples of what you consider to be inappropriate or disruptive classroom behavior.
- When class size permits, learn and use the names of your students.
- Serve as a model by demonstrating appropriate, respectful, and responsible behavior in all interactions with students.