THE STUDENT WHO ASKS FOR ACADEMIC LENIENCY DUE TO PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES

There may be times when a student comes to you to request your leniency with grades or due dates because they report struggling with emotional or psychological interference. Psychological issues can impede an individual’s cognitive functioning, and occasionally leniency is warranted. A student with a documented and diagnosed mental health condition can seek accommodations through the Disability Support Services(DSS). On occasion, a student will experience a crisis that impairs their functioning temporarily or that is newly diagnosed. In this case, it can feel as though an additional burden is placed on you as a college staff/faculty member to determine how much academic assistance a student needs, if a leniency is warranted and how serious their psychological issue might be.

**WHAT TO DO:**

* Refer the student to DSS to determine eligibility for academic accommodations
* Listen to the students’ request and consider leniency, if warranted.
* Consider referring the student to an Advocacy or DSS Counselor for assistance.
* Submit a student referral form at https://webapps.mccneb.edu/bcat/ for possible intervention or consultation.
* Call the College Police at 531-622-2222 if you have immediate concerns and believe a welfare check is needed;

**WHAT NOT TO DO:**

* Don’t shame or belittle the student for requesting leniency
* Don’t question the validity of their psychological concerns. When you are concerned about the validity of their concerns, referring the student to DSS can be helpful in decision making around the student’s request.
* Don’t avoid the student as an alternative to addressing their request

\*\*When in doubt, if any personal information the student tells you raises red flags, consult with the Student Advocacy and Accountability team. <https://webapps.mccneb.edu/bcat/>