THE STUDENT WHO DISCLOSES DISTRESS

Students have many interactions with faculty and staff in multiple settings. Given the number of interactions, a student who is experiencing emotional difficulties might disclose personal information. The following guidelines may be useful in determining how to respond to a student’s disclosure.

**WHAT TO DO:**

* Set and communicate expectations about what is considered appropriate conduct in the classroom orally and in your syllabus (e.g., arriving on time, asking permission to leave the room during exams, waiting until class is over to pull out backpacks, turning off cell phones, not talking out of turn, no food or drink allowed, etc.).
* Provide the class (rather than the individual student) with a word of caution and allow an opportunity for the behavior to stop
* Exercise authority with compassion, respect, and self-restraint

**WHAT NOT TO DO:**

* Don’t ridicule the student and his/her behavior
* Don’t discipline a student in front of the class, unless absolutely necessary
* Don’t presume that you can permanently remove a registered student from a class without formal review. A student has the right of due process, before being permanently removed for a class.
* Don’t get into an argument or shouting match

\*\**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/>