



## STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION PROTOCOL

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this protocol is to provide education and guidance to faculty, staff, students, and other members of the college community to help prevent student suicide. All suicidal behavior or threats should be taken seriously and immediately referred in accordance with this protocol. In the case of an emergency, immediately contact campus police at Ext. 2211 from an on-campus phone or [413.552.2211](tel:413.552.2211) or 911 from any other phone.

### DEFINITIONS

**Suicide:** Death from an injury which is self-inflicted and by which the student intended to kill him/herself.

**Suicidal Behavior:** Any potentially injurious behavior which is self-inflicted and by which a student intends, or gives the appearance of intending, to kill himself or herself.

**Suicidal Ideation:** Any self-reported thoughts or feelings about engaging in suicidal behavior.

**Suicide Plan:** A proposed method of self-inflicted injury through which the potential and intentional outcome is death.

**Active Suicidal Ideation with Specific Plan and Intent to Act:** Thoughts of killing oneself with details of plan fully or partially worked out and student has some intent to carry it out.

**Active Suicidal Ideation with Some Intent to Act, without Specific Plan:** Active suicidal thoughts of killing oneself and student reports having some intent to act on such thoughts, as opposed to "I have the thoughts but I definitely will not do anything about them."

**Actual Knowledge:** The direct and clear awareness of a fact or circumstance, as opposed to constructive (inferred or implied) knowledge. What a person "must have known" as opposed to "should have known."

## PROTOCOL

This Protocol shall be followed in the event a college employee has actual knowledge that a student:

1. Is actively engaged in suicidal behavior;
2. Has engaged in suicidal behavior previously while enrolled at the college or recently before matriculation ("matriculation" should be interpreted broadly and not be limited to full-time students); or
3. Has stated plans or intentions to commit suicide, including active suicidal ideation with specific plan and intent to act or active suicidal ideation with some intent to act, without a specific plan.

Where the college has actual knowledge that a student has engaged in suicidal behavior and is currently hospitalized, these protocols shall be activated (under procedures for Previous Suicidal Behavior) in the event the student seeks to return to the college.

- Active Suicidal Behavior
  - Any member of the college community who has actual knowledge that a student is actively engaged in suicidal behavior shall **immediately contact campus police at Ext. 2211** from an on-campus phone or 413.552.2211 or 911 from any other phone.
  - Then contact **Harmony Cross, dean of students** immediately at 413.552.2786.
  - If the dean of students is not available, contact the designee, **Renee Tastad, interim vice president of Student Affairs** at 413.552.2296.
  - The dean of students, or the designee, shall attempt to contact the student's emergency contact of record or another emergency contact identified by the student.
  - A student who has engaged in active suicidal behavior shall be required to be assessed by a licensed mental health professional and provide documentation per the college's Re-Entry Policy. Documentation will be reviewed by the dean of students, or designee, and/or the college's BIT.
- Previous Suicidal Behavior

- Any member of the college community who has actual knowledge that a student has engaged in suicidal behavior while enrolled at the college or recently before matriculating shall contact **Harmony Cross, dean of students**, immediately at 413.552.2786.
- If the dean of students is not available, contact the designee, **Renee Tastad, interim vice president of Student Affairs**, at 413.552.2296.
- Based on the information received, the dean of students, or designee, shall determine whether the protocol should be activated. In doing so the dean or designee may attempt to meet with the student and/or consult with the college's BIT.
- If the protocol is activated, the dean of students, or designee, shall attempt to contact the student's emergency contact of record or another emergency contact identified by the student.
- The dean of students, or designee, may further consult with the college's BIT to determine an appropriate medical referral, help identify support strategies, and/or develop a follow-up action plan for the student.
- When it is determined that a student has engaged in suicidal behavior while enrolled at the college or recently before matriculating, the student shall be required to be assessed by a licensed mental health professional and provide documentation per the college's Re-Entry Policy. Documentation will be reviewed by the dean of students, or designee, and/or the college's BIT.
- Active Suicidal Ideations with Stated Plans or Intentions
  - Any member of the college community who has actual knowledge that a student has stated plans or intentions to engage in suicidal behavior shall **immediately contact campus police at Ext. 2211 from an on-campus phone or 413.552.2211 or 911 from any other phone**.
  - Then contact **Harmony Cross, dean of students**, immediately at 413.552.2786.
  - If the dean of students is not available, contact the designee, **Renee Tastad, interim vice president of Student Affairs**, at 413.552.2296.
  - Based on the information received, the dean of students, or designee, shall determine whether the protocol should be activated. In doing so the dean or designee may attempt to meet with the student and/or consult with the college's BIT.
  - If the protocol is activated, the dean of students, or designee, shall attempt to contact the student's emergency contact of record or another emergency contact identified by the student.

- The dean of students may further consult with the college's BIT to determine an appropriate medical referral, help identify support strategies, and/or develop a follow-up action plan for the student.
- When it is determined that a student has stated plans or intentions to engage in suicidal behavior, the student shall be required to be assessed by a licensed mental health professional and provide documentation per the college's Re-Entry Policy. Documentation will be reviewed by the dean of students, or designee, and/or the college's BIT.

*State law/student suicide 2018 SJC decision/protocols 6-14-18-#t*

*Revised 11-19-18-#t*

*Revised 12-7-18-#t*