

[Edit Policy](#)UNIVERSITY
of VIRGINIA

BOV-002: Implementation of Policies Addressing the Needs of Potentially Suicidal Students

Date: 04/10/2008 Status: Final Last Revised: 10/20/2016

Policy Type: Board of Visitors

Contact Office: [Student Health \(Department of\), Counseling and Psychological Services \(Student Health\)](#)

Oversight Executive: Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer

Applies To: Academic Division and the College at Wise.

Table of Contents:

[Policy Statement](#)

Reason for Policy:

The Virginia Code requires the governing boards of public institutions of higher education to implement policies that advise students, faculty, and staff of the proper procedures for identifying and addressing the needs of students exhibiting suicidal tendencies or behavior.

Definition of Terms in Statement:

- Terms:
There are no terms that require definition.

Policy Statement:

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF POTENTIALLY SUICIDAL STUDENTS

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 23-9.2:8 requires the governing boards of each public institution of higher education to develop and implement policies that advise students, faculty, and staff, including residence hall staff, of the proper procedures for identifying and addressing the needs of students exhibiting suicidal tendencies or behavior; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 23-9.2:8 prohibits each institution from establishing policies that penalize or expel any student solely for attempting to commit suicide or seeking mental health treatment for suicidal thoughts or behaviors; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 23-9.2:8 permits each institution to establish policies and procedures for appropriately dealing with students who are a danger to themselves, or to others, and whose behavior is disruptive to the academic community;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia approves the continuation of the University's Suicide Prevention Program, established in 1996, and outlined in the Attachment, to comply with Virginia Code § 23-9.2:8; specifically:

1. The University's Department of Student Health shall continue to educate the University community, including Residence Life staff, regarding the manifestations of depression and risk of suicide; and
2. The University's Department of Student Health shall continue its comprehensive clinical assessment and treatment of students at risk of suicide; and
3. The University's Department of Student Health shall continue its professional education of its own staff and mental health trainees regarding the assessment and treatment of students at high risk of suicide; and
4. The foregoing being subject at all times to the ongoing authority and responsibility of the University's Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer to authorize any such improvements or revisions as may be desirable or necessary and in the best interests of the University and to report any material improvements or revisions to the Board of Visitors at its next scheduled meeting.

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board approves and reaffirms the continuation of the University's longstanding policy of holding all students to the same behavioral Standards of Conduct. This includes the University's continued use of its published procedure of interim suspension, whereby the University may, as needed, immediately and temporarily suspend any student whose behavior poses a threat to himself or herself, to the health or safety of other members of the University, to University property, or to the educational process, pending a hearing on an underlying offense charged under the Standards of Conduct.

Related Information:

[STAF-003: Statement of Students' Rights and Responsibilities](#)

Virginia Code §[23.1-802](#)

Policy Background:

Reference: Implementation of Policies Addressing the Needs of Potentially Suicidal Students, [BOV Minutes dated April 10 -12, 2008](#), pgs.7582-7583.

Major Category: Board of Visitors

Category Cross Reference: Students and Student Programs

Approved by, Date: Board of Visitors, 04/10/2008

Revision History: 10/20/16 - Updated Code Reference.

Source URL: <https://uvapolicy.virginia.edu/policy/BOV-002>