



CHP DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR POLICY

Disruptive Behavior Policy Statement

The College of Health Professions strives to maintain a positive learning environment and educational opportunity for all students. Consequently, patterns of behavior which obstruct or disrupt the learning environment of the classroom or other educational facilities will be addressed.

1. The instructor is in charge of the course. This includes assignments, due dates, methods and standards or grading, and policies regarding attendance, tardiness, late assignments, outside conferences, etc.
2. The instructor is in charge of the classroom. This includes the times and extent to which they allow questions or discussion, the level of respect with which they and other students are to be treated, and the specific behaviors they will allow within their classes. Open discussion of an honest opinion about the subject of a course is encouraged, but the manner in which the class is conducted is a decision of the instructor.
3. An instructor is entitled to maintain order in his/her class and has an obligation to other students to do so. Toward that end, an instructor is authorized and expected to inform a student that his/her behavior is disrupting a class and to instruct the student to stop that behavior. If the student persists, the instructor is authorized to direct the student to leave the class. If the student fails to comply with a directive to leave the class, the instructor may call Public Safety to assist with the student's removal.
4. If a student persists in a pattern or recurrent disruptive behavior, then the student may be subject to administrative action up to and including an involuntary withdrawal from the course, following administrative review by the Allied Health Sciences Dean's Office and/or University disciplinary proceedings. (University disciplinary procedures are delineated in the "Code of Student Community Standards." Available on-line at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/>)
5. Disruptive behavior cannot be sanctioned by a lowered course grade (e.g., from a B to a C) except insofar as quality of classroom participation has been incorporated into the instructor's grading policy for all students. (Note: Academic misconduct, which is covered by other regulations, can be a legitimate basis for lowering a grade or failing the student.)
6. Students as well as employees are bound by the University's policy against harassment, in any form. Harassment will not be tolerated. (Policy available at: <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/adminandfinance/Human/forms/HRPPs/EmployeeDignity.pdf>)
7. The office of the student's dean will be notified of any serious pattern or instance of disruptive behavior.

Guidelines for Instructors and other Personnel

1. Please review the University's Policy on Student Conduct (Available on-line at

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/>so that you are fully aware of both the student's responsibility for appropriate conduct and the University's disciplinary procedures pertaining thereto.

2. If you have specific behavioral expectations for your classes, you may find it helpful to include these in your syllabus and/or review them with all students at the beginning of the semester.
3. When disruptive behavior occurs in class or another education setting (e.g., computer lab, tutoring room), confront it directly and simply. Label the behavior as disruptive, and tell the student to stop the behavior. Example: "Your throwing spit balls is disrupting the class. Please stop." Or "Your talking is interfering with my ability to lecture and it is disrupting the class. Please stop or I will ask you to leave the room." It is best to respond early, while you are most likely to be able to do so with little emotion.
4. If the student does not stop, do ask the student to leave the room. Make a note of that (e.g., on your grade book or office calendar). Do not tell the student he/she cannot return to the class at a later session, however, as this violates University policy. If the student refuses to leave, either dismiss the class or excuse yourself for a few minutes to call FSU Public Safety (extension #5000) to have the student removed.
5. If you experience a pattern of disruptive behavior and this student does not respond appropriately to clear, simple message, then inform your department head immediately. He/she will be kept informed about any changes in policy or procedures, and can probably provide some good advice as well. Serious behavior problems, as well as any student who refuses to leave the room when instructed to do so, should also be reported to the Office of Student Conduct at 231.591.3619.
6. You may lower a student's grade for being disruptive only to the extent that you have incorporated quality of class participation into your grading system for all students.
7. You may invoke the University's disciplinary procedure against a disruptive student. In extreme cases, you may also ask the dean's office to withdraw the student from your class, an action which may be taken following dean's office review.
8. In cases of potential threat, dismiss the class and immediately call FSU Public Safety (x5000) from a nearby office or courtesy phone.

NOTE: When in doubt, don't hesitate to talk with senior colleagues, your department head, or the dean's office. Most problems can be resolved if addressed early and unambiguously. We are here to help you maintain a quality learning environment and the integrity of the classroom.

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