



Policy Name:	Mandated Risk Assessment
Effective Date:	July 15, 2016
Last Revision Date:	N/A
Last Review Date:	February 1, 2022
Approving Authority:	Northwest Leadership Team
Responsible Office:	Student Affairs
Category:	Student Affairs

Purpose

The University expects and encourages students to maintain a reasonable concern for the life, health, welfare, safety, and property of every member of the University community. To that end, the University has the following procedures in place for handling situations where a student may present a threat of harm to themselves and/or others.

Policy

Northwest expects and encourages students to demonstrate a reasonable concern for their own welfare. This is particularly true in the arena of self-harm. In the event that the University is presented with a credible report that a student has threatened or attempted suicide, engaged in efforts to prepare to commit suicide, or expressed a preoccupation with suicide, that student may be required to attend a four-session mandatory psychological assessment and emergency responders may be contacted in the event of an immediate and/or imminent threat of harm to themselves.

The primary rationale for mandating a mental health assessment is to assess the safety of the student. An additional purpose is to assess the student's willingness and ability to maintain healthy behavior and develop alternative coping mechanisms/problem solving behaviors. The mandate also connects the student with resources that may lead to the student seeking therapy to help resolve the issues leading to the threats or attempts.

Reports that are submitted regarding students who exhibit suicidal tendencies will be reviewed by a panel of qualified professionals. The panel will determine if a non-voluntary assessment is appropriate or if there are other alternatives that may better fit the situation, such as encouraging therapy, withdrawal, or involuntary withdrawal. In the panel's decision-making-process, the key distinction for mandating an assessment as opposed to some other course of action will be the level of suicidal ideation or actions taken toward suicide, including but not limited to behaving in such a manner so as not to materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of Northwest Missouri State University.

The panel will also determine the necessity of parental notification in situations where the safety of individual students is threatened.