



THE STORM ALERT

CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF CARE, CONCERN, AND COMPASSION

The Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) developed the Storm Alert Initiative to monitor student interactions or behaviors that occur at Davidson-Davie Community College. Based on referrals and reports, the BIT plans and implements intervention strategies to assist students.

Consultative

Interventionist

Multidisciplinary



Who are the core members of the BIT?

- Carnice McFarland, Psy.D., Director, Behavioral and Counseling Services (Team Chair)
- Demetria Nickens, M.S., Disability Access Services
- Holly Myers, MS, Associate Dean, School of Health, Wellness, and Public Safety
- Lynne Watts, Ed.S, Director, Student Life and Leadership
- Nathanael Gough, Ph.D, Director, Instructional Services
- Rhonda Coats Ed.D., Vice President, Student Affairs
- Ashley O'Donnell, Coordinator, High School Partnerships Davie

How should the campus community use BIT?

Should you have any concerns or questions about a student's behavior, affect, and/or psychological state, please feel encouraged to submit a report through the online Reporting Form. We will assess the situation and follow up with the student of concern. Remember, if you see something, say something.

If it is an emergency, please contact Emergency Services by calling 911.

Questions? Contact Carnice McFarland, Director, Behavioral and Counseling Services at carnice_mcfarland@davidsonccc.edu 336-249-8186 ext 4516

What are "red flag behaviors?"

Using the icon on the College's webpage and desktop, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to report student interactions, "red flag behaviors," or incidents that seem unusual or cause alarm. A "red flag behavior" is a concerning or inappropriate behavior that may be presented through a student's appearance, spoken or written words, or specific actions (in-person and online).

How to work with and respond to students in distress or crisis?

If you are concerned about a student, here are some suggestions for appropriate ways to respond (before or after submitting a BIT report):

- Prioritize your safety and the safety of others. Please note: A student who is crisis or in distress does not necessarily pose a safety concern.
- Request to speak with the student and do so in a private, yet safe space.
- Without compromising safety, try to maintain privacy and confidentiality.
- Use soft skills and work to deescalate the situation.
- Use a calm tone of voice and welcoming body language. Keep in mind that your non-verbal skills may communicate much more than you are communicating verbally.
- Listen. They likely want to be heard.

When should I make a report to BIT?

Even if you do not have all of the information, you can complete a Behavioral Intervention Report providing the information you have.

You should make a referral during the following instances:

- You have observed a concerning, unusual, or inappropriate "red flag behavior." Most of the time these incidents will cause you to feel alarmed, anxious, scared or unsure.
- The student tells you or another member of the campus community directly that they need help.
- You are unsure of what is going on but believe it would be helpful for someone else on campus to know your thoughts/feelings and should it be necessary, reach out to the student.

What happens after I make a report to the BIT?

When the BIT team receives a report, the report will be investigated thoroughly and should it be necessary, an action plan will be implemented. Please know that student privacy and confidentiality standards apply in these situations so those who file reports may not necessarily know the outcome of the situation or be privy to details during the investigation.

If you have any questions about the BIT or our reporting process, please feel encouraged to contact any team member or contact the Director of Behavioral and Counseling Services and BIT Chair, Carnice McFarland, at carnice_mcfarland@davidsonccc.edu or at 336-249-8186 ext. 4516.