

# CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

In addition to providing a first-class education to GVSU students, faculty are responsible for **creating a safe and welcoming environment** in their classroom. This document will provide some tools and resources to help you in difficult situations.

## SETTING CLEAR EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR STUDENTS

- Establishing classroom behavior expectations should be done during the first class. This can be done verbally, but can also be outlined in your syllabus.
- Establishing what behaviors will not be tolerated and what you expect from them early. It is important to remember that you must be willing to follow through on and be consistent with your expectations and classroom policies.

*Example syllabus statement: Students are expected to attend class, including arriving to class on time, being prepared, and staying for the duration. You will be permitted no more than (INSERT #) absences. Being late to class or leaving early distracts other students and may result in a reduction of your grade. All cell phones and other electronics not needed for course work or participation should be on silent or turned off. Class discussion and communication (in class, online, or email exchanges) with your instructor and other students will be respectful and relevant to the topic being discussed.*

## MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

- At the onset of disruptive behavior, please make a general statement reminding the class about expectations.
- Should the behavior continue, pull the student aside and ask them to stop the behavior.
- If the behavior still continues, ask the student to leave and tell them they cannot return until they meet with you outside of class (if you are uncomfortable meeting alone with the student, please ask your unit head to sit in).
- If the student refuses to leave or the behavior escalates, call 911.

Ignoring **disruptive behaviors** and not following through on expectations you have set can lead to more problems. This shows the individual and the class the behavior is acceptable and chances are it will increase in occurrence and severity.

## THREATENING BEHAVIOR

If at any time a student demonstrates behavior that is threatening to themselves or others (becoming physically aggressive, making verbal threats, or talking about suicide), please call 911.

## REPORTING AND POLICIES

You can report disruptive behavior a few different ways.

1 [WWW.GVSU.EDU/CARE](http://www.gvsu.edu/care)

If the student is not responsive and is demonstrating concerning behavior, you may want to submit a care referral at [gvsu.edu/care](http://gvsu.edu/care). Staff will follow up with the student to identify the cause of the behavior and work to address it.

2 [WWW.GVSU.EDU/CONDUCT](http://www.gvsu.edu/conduct)

Submit a conduct referral for disruptive behavior at [gvsu.edu/conduct](http://gvsu.edu/conduct). This would activate the student conduct process. More information about the full process can be found online.

3 [WWW.GVSU.EDU/STUDENTCODE](http://www.gvsu.edu/studentcode)

You could do a class removal request [gvsu.edu/studentcode](http://gvsu.edu/studentcode). This is a time sensitive process where you would formally request that the student be removed from your course.

While any of these options are available, we typically find that behavior ceases if addressed. Sometimes student behavior is impacted by things happening in the students life outside the classroom. Addressing concerns early and getting students the support they need is of utmost importance.

To learn more about **distressed and disruptive students**, please reference our Red Folder at [gvsu.edu/counsel/fs](http://gvsu.edu/counsel/fs).