Suicide Prevention

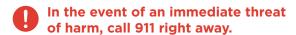
A Guide for Faculty/Staff

Determine whether the situation poses an immediate threat of harm, possible threat of harm, or a serious ongoing concern.

Immediate Threat of Harm

An immediate threat of harm exists when a student has **EXPRESSED** a desire, plan or intention to kill or seriously harm self or others. This threat is magnified when a student is intoxicated or under the influence of other substances. Other serious warning signs of an immediate threat of harm may include:

- Verbal threats or physical attempts to kill or harm self or others.
- Possession of/access to a deadly weapon (e.g., firearms, knives, drug stockpiles, poisons) and an intention to use it against self or other.
- An inability to commit to persional safety or to refrain from harming others.



If you are not with the student, ask for the police to do a "welfare check" and share your concerns about an immediate threat of harm. Campus police will do welfare checks for students on campus and local police will do welfare check for students off campus.

Possible Threat of Harm

A possible threat of harm exists when a student has **SUGGESTED** a desire, plan or intention to kill or seriously harm self or others. Other serious warning signs for a possible threat of harm listed may include:

- Previous suicide attempts
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Problems with or significant changes in mood (e.g., depression, anxiety or anger)
- Expressions of hopelessness, helplessness, or no sense of meaning in life
- Sleep problems
- Social withdrawal
- Preoccupation with death
- Feeling like a burden on others

These warning signs may be apparent at any time but may be more likely to occur when a student has experienced a major loss, including the loss of a loved one, an important relationship, a job, housing, or academic standing, among other serious losses and stressors.

If you are concerned about a possible threat of harm, ask the student, in private, "Are you thinking of killing yourself or others?" If the answer is yes or possibly yes, seek further assistance.

In the event of a possible threat of harm, seek further assisstance from clinical staff of UWF Counseling and Psychological Services, campus police, local police, and emergency room personnel who are trained to assess for safety.

Serious Ongoing Concerns

Serious ongoing concerns exist when a student displays any of the warning signs listed above but clearly denies any thoughts of harm to self or others and long-term concerns about the wellbeing of the student remain. Other warning signs of a serious ongoing concern may include:

- · Psychological distress or crisis
- Mental health disorder or symptoms (such as depression, anxiety, or eating disorders)
- Substance abuse or dependence
- Trauma or victimization experiences

If you are concerned about a student but unsure what to do, contact, contact UWF Counseling and Psychological services at 850.474.2420 and ask to consult with a counselor.

Scroll down for a list of departments that can assisst you if you're in need of help!

Suicide Prevention Guide Continued

Contact Info at a Glance

Departments	Services Available	Contact
Counseling and Psychological Services	Emergency assessments for all students, walk in basis (free of charge). Crisis counselors available by phone after hours and on weekends	Phone: 850.474.2420
	Faculty/Staff: Counselor consultation if in need of assistance.	
Dean of Students Office	Reviews individual student concerns and responds on an individual basis for students in need of assistance.	Phone: 850.474.2384
Campus Police	Perform safety assessment anywhere on and off campus.	Phone: 850.474.2415
Local Police	Perform safety assessment anywhere on and off campus.	Phone: 911



Suicide Prevention Guide Continued

Suicide Prevention Decision Tree

Determine whether the situation poses an immediate threat of harm, possible threat of harm, or a serious ongoing concern. Follow the decision tree to see what your next possible steps may be.

Student **EXPRESSES**desire, plan, or
intention to kill or
seriously harm self
or others.

Immediate Threat of Harm

CALL 911 and request a welfare check
OR
Go to nearest emergency room.

Student **SUGGESTS**

desire, plan, or intention to kill or seriously harm self or others.

Possible Threat of Harm

Ask student
"Are you thinking of
killing yourself or
harming others?"

Student displays warning signs but **DENIES** thoughts of harm to self or others.

Serious
Ongoing Concern

Refer student to UWF Counseling and Psychological Services and/or

Contact UWF Dean of Students Office at 850.474.2384 or online at uwf.edu/deanofstudents

Thoughts of killing self or harming others **present** and student is in distress.

Bring student to UWF Counseling and Psychological Services in Building 960 (or if afterhours, call 850.474.2420) and/or

Take student to the nearest emergency room for evaluation.

Thoughts of killing self or harming others **absent** and student is in distress.

Refer student to UWF Counseling and Psychological Services and/or

Contact UWF Dean of Students Office at 850.474.2384 or online at **uwf.edu/deanofstudents**