Concerned about a student?
What faculty and staff need to know.

You are in a unique position to recognize students in distress. You are not expected to provide personal counseling to students; however, you can play an important role in encouraging students to use campus resources and bringing concerns to the attention of appropriate university officials.

Report your non-emergency concerns to the Dean of Students Office at (804) 828-8940 or online using “report it” at students.vcu.edu/dos.

If you believe that you and/or someone else may be in any kind of immediate physical danger call VCU Police at (804) 828-1234 or dial 911.

COMMON INDICATORS OF CONCERN

Academic Indicators
- Persistent unexplained absences
- Decline in quality/quantity of work
- Extreme disorganization or erratic performance
- Persistent and inappropriate demands for special permission (extensions, make-up work)
- Disproportionate response to grades or other evaluations

Emotional Indicators
- Significant change in mood (withdrawn or more animated than usual)
- Direct statements indicating stress, family problems, or loss
- Inappropriate emotional outbursts, yelling or aggressive comments
- Isolation from others
- Expression of hopelessness or suicidal thoughts
- Disturbing or disruptive social media comments

Physical Indicators
- Deterioration in physical appearance or personal hygiene
- Excessive fatigue, exhaustion
- Noticeable cuts, bruises, burns
- Disorganized speech, rapid or slurred speech; confusion
- Substance abuse
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN TO ACT?

You may notice one indicator and decide that something is clearly wrong. Or you may have a gut-level feeling that something is amiss. A simple check-in with the student may help you get a better sense of their situation.

It is possible that any one indicator, by itself, may simply mean that a student is having an “off” day. However, any one serious sign or a cluster of smaller signs indicates a need to take action on behalf of the student.

UNIVERSITY OBLIGATIONS

All members of the VCU community are strongly encouraged to report behaviors or incidents of concern. Please visit the Dean of Students Share Your Concern website at students.vcu.edu/dos/resources for information on how and where to report various types of concerns. Under certain circumstances, faculty and staff are obligated to report acts of violence, threatening behavior, or misconduct. See VCU’s Duty to Report policy at policy.vcu.edu.

Faculty and staff have a responsibility to immediately report incidents of prohibited conduct involving sexual assault, sexual exploitation, and partner or relationship violence (including stalking) to the University’s Title IX Coordinator. Reports can be made by email to titleix@vcu.edu. Additional reporting options for these incidents of prohibited conduct can be found at equity.vcu.edu/titleix/report.html.

CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL ATTENTION

24/7
VCU Medical Center
501 North 12th Street
(804) 828-5250

Regular business hours
Monroe Park Campus
1300 West Broad Street
(804) 828-8828

MCV Campus
1000 E. Marshall Street, Room 305
(804) 828-9220

CONFIDENTIAL CRISIS COUNSELING

Regular business hours
Monroe Park Campus
Student Commons, Room 238
(804) 828-6200

MCV Campus
VMI Building, Room 412
(804) 828-3964

After business hours + 24/7
University Counseling Services
On-Call Therapist
(804) 828-1234

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
(800) 273-8255

OTHER INFORMATION, ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

There are many sources of information, assistance and support at the University and in the community. A list of resources available to assist students dealing with life situations can be found by clicking on “resources” at students.vcu.edu/dos.