

REA OF RESPONSIBILITY: STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS  
RESPONSIBLE CONTACT: DIRECTOR OF WELLNESS AND STUDENT SERVICES  
POLICY IDENTIFICATION: COUNSELING REFERRAL  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/8/98  
Reviewed: 1/30/09; 05/2022

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### Eligibility

All currently enrolled full-time and part-time VUU students are eligible for services at the Wellness and Student Services Center.

### Confidentiality

All sessions are confidential. The Wellness and Student Services Center will not release information (this includes verification of attendance or content of sessions) outside of the Wellness and Student Services Center without written permission from the student, except (1) upon a court-ordered subpoena, (2) director believes that student present a clear and imminent risk of harm or danger to self or others, or (3) during any session, the student discloses information pertaining to the physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect of a minor or an elderly or disabled person.

### Cost of Service

There is NO Charge for services provided by the Wellness and Student Services Center. However, if the Wellness and Student Services Center refers a student to a mental health professional in the community, if a cost is associated with the referred service, the cost of the service is the responsibility of the student, his or her insurance, or his or her parent or guardian.

### Referrals

At times, a specialist may be needed to provide psychological and or psychiatric treatment that is beyond the scope of the Wellness and Student Services Center. In such cases, the University Director of Wellness and Student Services will refer students to recommended specialists.

### Emergencies

If a student's and/or others immediate safety is at risk, this is an emergency. The University Police should be contacted and alerted of the situation immediately. The University police should be informed if outside emergency medical assistance (a rescue squad or ambulance service) has been requested or is being requested.

When emergency transport is required, it is not the practice of the University to provide a staff member to accompany students. Additionally, students transported for emergencies of any type are responsible for the costs associated with the transport.

Examples of situations that may be considered an emergency are as follows: (Please note emergency situations are not limited to those listed below)

- Suicide threats, gestures, or attempts;
- Homicidal threats
- Severely disorganized, psychotic, or out of control behavior.
- Rape, sexual assault, or other trauma;

In response to the emergency, the University Police will contact the University Counselor, Vice President of Student Affairs and/or an appropriate outside resource(s) (i.e. Richmond Behavioral Health Authority or Richmond Police Department) to aid and intervene in the crisis/emergency.

### Mental Health Crisis

Definition of Mental Health Crisis: Student exhibiting extreme abnormal behavior (e.g., threatening harm to self or others, irrational/incoherent, unable to control aggression) that is not due to drug or alcohol intoxication. Faculty or staff involved should remain with student and not leave student unattended.

If student says no, and in so doing refuses to be taken to the hospital,

1. Keep the student with you until help arrives.
2. Contact University Police (804 257 5777)
3. Contact University Director of Wellness and Student Services
4. Contact Vice President of Student Affairs or Designee
5. Initiate an immediate evaluation/response by calling Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) at (819-4000) or (819-4100). Richmond Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHA) will then come to the university and do a psychological evaluation of the student. When RBHA arrives on campus they will arrive with the Richmond Police department. After the evaluation if RBHA believes the student should be admitted to a facility, the student will be taken by the Richmond Police to a facility.

Students can be taken to any of the following facilities:

- a. Medical College of Virginia Emergency Room (MCV)
- b. St Mary's Hospital
- c. Richmond Community Hospital
- d. Chippenham Hospital

If the student is unable to say whether they want to be taken to the hospital, follow steps 1-5.

### Student Consent

In accordance with VUU policies on privacy, students must give consent to release information. If a student is incapable of deciding to give or not give consent, the Vice President for Student Affairs will make an emergency judgment based on the circumstances.