



Elizabethtown College is dedicated to providing a safe classroom environment for all faculty and students which promotes engagement and learning. Disruptive classroom behavior is any behavior that interrupts the learning process and can range from minor incidents to major disruptions which may indicate a student is experiencing a personal crisis. The following suggestions are meant to serve as a guide for faculty. Faculty should always exercise their best judgment in setting expectations for appropriate classroom behavior and addressing classroom disruptions. You are encouraged to review the College Catalog <http://catalog.etown.edu/> and Student Code of Conduct <http://www.etown.edu/offices/dean-of-students/student-handbook/social-code-rules.aspx>

### Important Phone Numbers and Web Sites

Campus Security (Emergency line)  
(on campus phones) ext. 1111  
(off campus/cellular phones) 717 361-1111

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities

Res Life	361-4742
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Dean of Students

BSC 208	361-1196
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Counseling Services

BSC 216	361-1405
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Dean of Faculty

Alpha Hall 101	361-1555
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Disability Services

BSC 226	361-1549
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Associate Dean of Students, Allison Bridgeman

Res Life Office	361-1426
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# ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE

## ADDRESSING DISRUPTIVE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR



## **What is Disruptive Classroom Behavior?**

Disruptive behavior interferes with academic or administrative activities. Such behavior inhibits students' ability to learn, instructors' ability to teach, or the regular operation of the campus. Disruptive classroom behavior may even threaten or endanger the physical or psychological health, safety, or wellbeing of others.

Multiple factors, including emotional distress, may contribute to disruptive classroom behavior. Clear communication of behavioral expectations for students (outlined in the course syllabus), early consultation with Counseling Services staff, Dean of Students, Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities, or Campus Security, and written documentation of disruptive behavior have proven to be key elements in effective prevention and early intervention. These actions are often enough to prevent a situation from escalating into a larger crisis, both for the student exhibiting disruptive classroom behavior and for the faculty member involved.

## **Prevention**

In order to foster a campus culture of civility and mutual respect, it is important to articulate expectations, encourage discussion, and respond to problems consistently. Faculty members encounter fewer problems with student behavior when they clearly state their expectations about the significance of respectful classroom behavior.

While the College is a place where the free exchange of ideas and concepts allows for the debate and disagreement, all classroom behavior and discourse should reflect the values of respects and civility. Faculty and students share responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment reflecting these values.

All students have the right to learn and the responsibility to participate in and respect the learning process.

## **Consultation and Early Reporting**

If student behavior appears intimidating or disturbing, it is wise to consult early before the conduct becomes an emergency. Many faculty find it helpful to first consult with the Associate Dean of Students, Allison Bridgeman, in specific situations to discuss the behavior and possible methods of response. During early consultation, Assoc. Dean Bridgeman can check disciplinary records to determine whether there is a prior pattern of problem behavior. This information is useful in determining how to handle the matter and whether to initiate the judicial process. In summary, if faculty have any concerns or questions about how to handle a particular situation, they should consult Assoc. Dean Bridgeman.

Faculty is expected to report to the Associate Dean of Students any disruptive behavior interrupting their ability to teach, the safety of the learning environment, and /or students' ability to learn.

To request consultation or report disruptive behavior, contact the Associate Dean of Students by telephone at 717 361-1426. Written documentation of the disruptive behavior is required. The student is entitled to see this documentation, so make sure it contains only factual, descriptive information. If the student interferes with the orderly functioning of a classroom, instructor's ability to teach, or the safety or welfare of others, the student may be prohibited from returning to the classroom pending disciplinary response. In addition, directives from the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities may be issued to prohibit contact with specific individuals.

## **When to Contact Campus Security**

When a serious incident of disruptive classroom behavior occurs Campus Security should be contacted immediately by calling ext. 1111 from on-campus phones or 717 361-1111 from off-campus or cellular phones.

Classroom disruption by a student constitutes a serious breach of the College's behavioral expectations described in the College's Student Code of Conduct. If there is any immediate threat to the safety of any person, Campus Security should be summoned.

Blue light phones, restricted campus phones, and conventional academic building phones can be used as emergency telephones. The College's emergency dispatcher will contact other services, such as ambulances, if needed. If you are unable to make a call yourself, designate a specific person to do it. When making a call to Campus Security, provide as much information as possible about the nature of the emergency and your campus location.

