

WHAT IS THE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION TEAM?

The Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) is a group of trained campus professionals who respond to reports of student behavior that is disruptive, erratic, self-injurious, or potentially threatening to others. Their intervention promotes the academic and personal success of students and the safety of the campus community.

The BIT:

- provides centralized, preventative, early intervention for students.
- provides consultation and support to faculty, staff, and students in assisting individuals who display concerning or disruptive behavior.
- serves as the central point of contact for reporting problematic student behavior.
- compiles and integrates behavioral information from sources throughout campus.

The goal of any action taken by the BIT is to protect the campus community while optimizing the outcome for the individual student.

THE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION TEAM

AHMED SAMAHA

Vice Chancellor of Student Engagement and Belonging

DR. MAUREEN CARRIGAN

Professor of Psychology

LACIE WEHRMANN

Director of Student Leadership and Engagement

DANA CULLUM

Director of Counseling and Disability Services

JASON ZIKE

Chief of University Police

KEVIN KERR

Director of Housing



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION TEAM

usca.edu/behavioral-intervention-team

WHAT ACTIONS WILL THE BIT TAKE?

While an intervention plan will be created on a case-by-case basis, potential courses of action include:

- follow-up contact with the student by professional staff or faculty
- mandatory referral to the Counseling Center or external mental health professional
- voluntary or involuntary transport to hospital
- university disciplinary charges
- continued police investigation and/or criminal charges
- removal from university housing
- summary suspension (immediate removal from university)
- no further action

Other possible follow-up includes:

- communication, when appropriate, with the referrer of the concerning behavior
- review and/or revision of policies

REFERRALS

HOW DO I REFER SOMEONE TO THE BIT?

- In an emergency situation, University Police should be called at **6111** (or **803-648-4011** from a cell or off-campus phone).
- If the situation does not need to be addressed immediately, the chair or any member of the BIT should be called OR a BIT Incident Report should be completed online at **usca.edu/behavioral-intervention-team**. The BIT incident report is immediately sent to all members of the BIT.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I MAKE A REFERRAL?

After a referral is made, the following actions are taken by the BIT:

- review and discussion of the incident report/ phone call and integration of information from any previous reports on that student
- assessment of the threat/risk to student and others and development of a path forward
- development and coordination of an intervention plan for the student, if warranted
- monitoring of ongoing behavior of the student and implementation of additional action as necessary

WHEN SHOULD I REFER SOMEONE?

The BIT was established to handle serious behavioral issues exhibited by students. It is not meant to replace the normal care and concern that is routinely provided to our students by our faculty and staff and other students. Typically, behaviors that pose a threat to safety or that cause a significant community disruption should be referred to the BIT, while students who experience mental health issues should be referred to the USC Aiken Counseling Center. However, when in doubt, the best course of action is to report the behavior to the BIT.

USC AIKEN COUNSELING CENTER

**SESB ROOM 107
803-641-3609**

