

Disruptive Behavior Scenarios

Scenario 1

You have a high achieving student in your class who frequently monopolizes discussions, asks questions to “trip you up,” and is generally disrespectful, but not overtly so. You are finding that the student’s presence is lessening your enthusiasm for teaching and you dread coming to class.

How might this student be perceived by their classmates?

What will you do to address this student’s behavior?

Scenario 2

A colleague shares with you that they recently told two students to get out of their class because they were engaging in frequent sideline conversations despite your colleague’s attempts to thwart this behavior. The faculty shares that the students were clearly interfering with the learning process and asks what you would have done in a similar situation.

How would you respond?

What strategies would you employ to deter sideline conversations?

Scenario 3

It is week four in the semester and you have noticed that one of your students is frequently five or more minutes late to class. Additionally, the student comes and goes during class and has left early on at least two occasions.

What, if any, concerns do you have about this behavior?

If you are concerned, how will you address this behavior with your student?

Scenario 4

During class, you have observed several students texting, some blatantly, and others when they think you aren’t looking. Also, some students are bringing their laptops, and you aren’t sure all of the students are using them for learning purposes. You suspect that they are instant messaging and/or surfing the net. You are finding the use of these devices distracting.

What are you going to do?

What, if anything, might you do to prevent this behavior in the future?

Scenario 5

You have noticed that one of your students tends to linger after class and ask questions, many of which are unrelated to class and somewhat personal in nature. This student has also sent many emails, some of which have included love poems and lyrics to love songs, which strongly suggests that they may be attracted to you. In class, the student makes offhand remarks (usually under their breath) about how attractive you are and how attracted they find you. Recently, this student asked for your phone number stating, "I might need to contact you over the weekend with questions about the upcoming exam."

How will you respond to this request?

Scenario 6

A student in your section has been very disrespectful and rude to you. The student turns in assignments late as well as argues about assignment expectations and grades. On the most recent assignment, you told the student their paper would receive fewer points because it was late. The student was extremely dissatisfied, became increasingly agitated, red in the face, and kicked the trashcan as they walked out the door. You are worried because you will be handing the assignment back tomorrow and you are unsure how the student will respond.

What can you do to protect yourself and your class in case the situation escalates?

Where can you turn if you suspect there is a threat of violence in your classroom?