

CLASSROOM DISRUPTION PROTOCOL

Classroom Disruption is defined as a “behavior a reasonable person would view as being likely to substantially or repeatedly interfere with conduct of a class.”

-Synfax, 7/9/01

The following protocol was developed to help faculty members identify disruptive classroom behavior and appropriate responses. Where informal interventions between faculty and students can be engaged, the behavior will hopefully subside. Faculty can rely on classroom management skills and pedagogical strategies as primary tools to reduce/eliminate classroom disruptions. More egregious behaviors rising to threats of health and safety will require a formal intervention potentially involving an Academic Dean, the Campus Hearing Board and/or Campus Police. The ultimate goal of addressing classroom disruption is to preserve the academic learning environment.

Faculty members are encouraged to set classroom behavior expectations in syllabi and review the same with students at the start of each term. The Code of Conduct within the [Student Handbook](#) should be referenced as a guiding document for classroom conduct.

Minor Disruptions (examples include but are not limited to):

- sleeping in class
- reading or viewing material unrelated to class
- chronic lateness
- chronic leaving class early
- use of cell phone, text messaging in class
- improper mask wearing

Faculty response:

- speak with student privately
- identify for student the behavior causing disruption
- avoid making assumptions about reasons behind disruptive behavior
- remind student of classroom behavior expectations
- document interaction via desk note or e-mail for future reference

Major Disruptions (examples include but are not limited to):

- progressive or persistent minor disruptions
- erratic or irrational behavior
- physical threat, verbal assault, harassment (in person or electronically)
- constant improper mask wearing

Faculty response:

- speak directly with student
- call police when faced with immediate threat to safety
- give verbal or written warning stating consequences of future behavior
- ask student to leave classroom and consult with Academic Dean for judicial action
- [document interaction](#) stating facts of interaction for official record

No faculty or student should be subject to harassment or threats to their health or safety. When there is an immediate threat to health or safety, contact police immediately by dialing 9-1-1 from a *campus phone.

Faculty has the prerogative to dismiss a student from class for **one** period based on disciplinary reasons. Judicial action needs to be engaged for any extended dismissal beyond one class period.

For assistance or consultation contact:

- Your Academic Dean
- Dean of Students / (609) 652-4645
- Director of the Office of Student Conduct/ (609) 626-3585
- Campus Police: **Emergency** 9-1-1 (from campus phone*) / Non-emergency 652-4390
- Code of Conduct: www.stockton.edu/student-conduct