THE STUDENT WHO IS DEMANDING

Students who are demanding can be intrusive and persistent and may require much time and attention. Typically, the utmost time and energy given to these students will not seem like enough from the student’s perspective. They often seek to control your time and unconsciously believe the amount of time received is a reflection of their worth. Demanding traits can be associated with anxiety, panic, depression, personality problems, and/or thought disorders, mania, drug use/abuse.

**WHAT TO DO:**

* Talk to the student in a place that is safe and comfortable.
* Remain calm and take the lead. (“Tell me what is bothering you and then let’s decide what solutions there might be.”)
* Set clear limits up front and hold the student to the allotted time for the discussion. (“I have 10 minutes today, and so within that time, what can I try and help you with?”)
* Emphasize behaviors that are and aren’t acceptable. (“If you want me to continue with this, I will need you to be as respectful of me when you are talking as you would want me to be respectful of you.”)
* Respond quickly and with clear limits to behavior that disrupts class, study sessions, or consultations.
* Be prepared for manipulative requests and behaviors. (“You came asking for my help and I have offered you several ideas, but they do not seem okay with you. What ideas do you have?”)
* Consult with your Dean or with Student Advocacy and Accountability Case Manager for strategies.

**WHAT NOT TO DO:**

* Don’t argue with the student. (“No, you are not correct and I do not agree.”)
* Don’t give in to inappropriate requests.
* Don’t adjust your schedule or policies to accommodate the student.
* Don’t ignore inappropriate behavior that has a negative impact on you or other students.
* Don’t feel obligated to take care of the student or feeling guilty for not doing more.
* Don’t allow the student to intimidate or manipulate you to not deal with the problematic behavior.

\*\**When in doubt, if any personal information the student tells you raises red flags, consult with* the Student Advocacy and Accountability team. <https://webapps.mccneb.edu/bcat/>