THE STUDENT WHO IS BEING DISRUPTIVE IN CLASS

Disruptive behavior can be defined as any behavior that interferes with, disrupts or prevents instruction or learning activities (SJA, 2006). However, what is considered to be “disruptive” may vary depending on the expectations you have set for your students and the impact that the behavior has on others. Disruption may range from mild distractions to serious threats, violence, or dangerous. The course instructor has the authority to determine what behavior is considered disruptive in their course.

**WHAT TO DO:**

* Set and communicate expectations about what is considered appropriate conduct in the classroom orally and in your syllabus (e.g., arriving on time, asking permission to leave the room during exams, waiting until class is over to pull out backpacks, turning off cell phones, not talking out of turn, no food or drink allowed, etc.).
* Provide the class (rather than the individual student) with a word of caution and allow an opportunity for the behavior to stop
* Exercise authority with compassion, respect, and self-restraint
* Talk to the student after class
* Communicate kindly the consequences for continued disruption
* Ask a student to leave class if their behavior impedes the instructor’s ability to teach effectively and they have been provided with a warning
* If the interventions above do not work and the student continues to cause disruptions and refuses to leave the class, you should consider contacting College Police for assistance (531-622-2222).

**WHAT NOT TO DO:**

* Don’t ridicule the student and his/her behavior
* Don’t discipline a student in front of the class, unless absolutely necessary
* Don’t presume that you can permanently remove a registered student from a class without formal review. A student has the right of due process, which may be in the form of and academic Dean’s Review or a Student Code of Conduct review.
* Don’t get into an argument or shouting match
* Don’t become hostile or punitive yourself, e.g., “You can’t talk to me that way”
* Don’t press for explanations for their 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/>