



Policy Chapter: Chapter 07 Student Affairs

Policy Number and Title: 07.014 CARE Team and Involuntary Student Medical Withdrawal

I. Policy Statement

The University of North Texas is committed to providing a learning environment that provides students with the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential. On rare occasions, the University may be required to activate a systematic response to UNT community members who may be in crisis or whose mental, emotional, or psychological health condition may directly threaten the safety of the University community. Through the creation of a collaborative and interdisciplinary team, the University will provide a caring and private program of identification, intervention, and response in order to provide students with the greatest chance for success while protecting the University community. This policy does not replace any academic based withdrawal or dismissal policies or any Code of Student Conduct procedures to address student disciplinary issues.

II. Application of Policy

All University.

III. Policy Definitions

A. *Campus Assessment, Response, Evaluation (CARE) Assessment Team*

“CARE Assessment Team” or “CARE Team,” in this policy, is a collaborative and interdisciplinary team of university officials who convene to ascertain whether a student may pose a direct threat to themselves or to the university community. The CARE Team provides an individualized assessment of the threat that is based on reasonable judgment and that relies on current medical knowledge or the best available objective evidence.

B. *Day*

“Day,” in this policy, is a business day; Monday through Friday during regular University business hours from 8:00AM-5:00PM.

C. *Direct Threat*

“Direct Threat,” in this policy, means a significant risk of causing substantial harm to the health or safety of a student or other members of the University community that cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level through the provision of reasonable accommodations.

D. *Significant Risk*

“Significant Risk,” in this policy, means a high probability of substantial harm that is not just a slightly increased, speculative, or remote risk.

IV. Policy Responsibilities

A. The CARE Assessment Team

1. The CARE Team is established by UNT to:
 - a. Monitor and/or provide a systematic response to situations involving students whose behavior or mental, emotional, or psychological health condition may be disruptive or harmful to themselves or others in the University community or students who may pose a direct threat to themselves or to the health and safety of members of the University community.
 - b. Provide a multi-disciplinary panel of medical, law enforcement, and administrative professionals to consider whether a student meets the standard to be involuntarily withdrawn from the University.
 - c. Provide recommendations regarding reasonable accommodations that may be provided to students with mental health issues to enable the student to remain safely in their educational program.
2. The CARE Team is composed of representative(s) from:
 - a. The Division of Student Affairs. The Dean of Students, will chair the team unless another is designated by the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA);
 - b. Counseling & Testing Services;
 - c. Committee on Student Conduct;
 - d. Associate Dean of Students CARE Representative;
 - e. The Office of the Provost;
 - f. UNT Police Department; and
 - g. Office of Housing and Residence Life
3. The composition of the CARE Team may be adjusted as needed based upon the situation and the student's needs.
4. Records created by the CARE Team relating to individual students are education records protected in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Records are maintained in the Dean of Students Office and requests for access and for release of information must be reviewed by the Dean of Students Office.
5. All activities of the CARE Team will be conducted in accordance with any protection provided through the FERPA.

B. Referrals to the CARE Assessment Team

1. Any member of the University community who has concern for the well-being or safety of a student or the University community, or who has reason to believe that a student may pose a direct threat to themselves or to the University community, may refer a student to the CARE Team for an individualized assessment.
2. The CARE Team will conduct an individualized, informal, preliminary assessment of a referred student's present ability to safely participate in their education program which may include:
 - a. Consultation with administrators, faculty, staff and other students who may have been witness to or impacted by specific behaviors of the student.
 - b. Consultation with the student who is the subject of the referral, or others, such as the parent or guardian or other family member if appropriate, regarding their current medical condition including requesting recent medical information and health records.
 - c. Consultation with mental health or other medical professionals as may be permitted by law.
3. If the CARE Team's informal, preliminary assessment indicates that the student does not present a direct threat to themselves or to the University community, the CARE Team may take any action as deemed appropriate including:
 - a. Referring the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider possible violation of the Student Code of Conduct based on specific conduct.
 - b. Recommending that the student seek appropriate treatment.
 - c. Continuing to monitor the situation involving the student, and, if appropriate, developing a plan to support the student and protect the University community.
 - d. Recommending changes to the student's educational program, including changes in housing assignments that may reasonably accommodate the student's condition.
4. If the CARE Team's informal preliminary assessment indicates that the student may present a direct threat to themselves or to the University community, the Dean of Students or designee will arrange for an informal conference with the student as soon as possible. At the informal conference the Dean of Students will:
 - a. Discuss the CARE Team referral with the student.
 - b. Review UNT's CARE Team and Involuntary Withdrawal Policy with the student.

- c. Direct the student to meet with a designated health or mental health professional within a specific period of time and confirm that the student's failure to meet as directed may result in action under the Code of Student Conduct for failure to comply with the directive of a University official.
 - d. Inform the student that the results of the evaluation may be made available to the student and to the CARE Team, and that the results may be discussed at a meeting to consider the possible involuntary medical withdrawal of the student.
- 5. The CARE Team will meet as needed following evaluation by the designated health or mental health professional. Based on information available as a result of that evaluation and all other relevant information that was collected as part of the informal process, the CARE Team may:
 - a. Terminate the process if the evaluation and other relevant information indicate that the student does not pose a direct threat to himself or herself or to other members of the University community.
 - b. Encourage the student to consider taking a voluntary leave of absence, thereby eliminating the need to initiate the involuntary medical withdrawal process.
 - c. Provide formal notice to the student stating that:
 - i. Information available to the CARE Team indicates that the student may pose a direct threat to the health and safety of the student or other members of the University community and that the student may be involuntarily withdrawn from the University for medical reasons.
 - ii. The student may request a formal conference with the CARE Team no more than two (2) days after the date of the CARE Team notice in order to review the basis for the involuntary withdrawal and to challenge the truth or accuracy of the underlying information.
- 6. A student who does not request a formal meeting with the CARE Team within two (2) business days of the formal CARE Team notice will be immediately withdrawn from the University without further procedures.

C. Procedure for Involuntary Withdrawal

- 1. A student who requests the opportunity to meet with the CARE Team regarding a possible involuntarily medical withdrawal will be provided the full opportunity to:
 - a. Review any reports or written documentation that have been submitted to the CARE Team regarding the assessment of the student's condition and to submit additional information for consideration, including additional medical information.

- b. Present any relevant information or testimony. Students may be assisted by one advisor of their choosing, but only the student may speak to the CARE Team or ask questions. Attorneys will not be permitted to present evidence or argument before the CARE Team. Should the student be accompanied by an attorney, the University will also have a representative of the Office of General Counsel present.
 - c. Discuss the circumstances or behaviors of concern and challenge the truth or accuracy of the basis for the CARE Team's assessment of the direct threat.
- 2. The meeting between the CARE Team and the student will be closed and formal rules of evidence will not apply.
- 3. The CARE Team will make a decision regarding a student's involuntary withdrawal based upon information gathered at the meeting with the student and all other information gathered as part of the informal review process. In reaching a final determination regarding whether the student poses a direct threat to their own health or safety or to the health and safety of other members of the University community, the CARE Team will consider:
 - a. The specific behaviors that are believed to pose a direct threat to the student or to the University community.
 - b. The nature, duration, and severity of the risk perceived to the student and/or to the University community.
 - c. The probability that the perceived threat will occur.
 - d. Whether any modifications can be made to the student's educational program to sufficiently mitigate the risks.
- 4. If the CARE Team determines that the student does not meet the standard for involuntary medical withdrawal, the Dean of Students, or designee, will inform the student of the conclusion in writing and the procedure will terminate.
- 5. If the CARE Team determines that the student poses a direct threat to themselves or to the University community that could be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level through the provision of reasonable accommodations, the CARE Team will offer such a reasonable accommodation. If the student refuses to accept the proposed accommodations, the student will be issued a notice of involuntary withdrawal as set in Section IV.C.6.
- 6. If the CARE Team determines that the student poses a direct threat to himself or to the University community that cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level through the provision of reasonable accommodations, the CARE Team will issue a written notice of involuntarily medical withdrawal to the student within one (1) day of the conclusions of the meeting with the CARE Team. A notice of involuntary

medical withdrawal may include an order directing the student not to return to campus.

D. Appeal to the Vice President of Student Affairs

1. A student may appeal a decision by the CARE Team regarding an involuntary withdrawal by filing a notice of appeal with the VPSA within two (2) days of the CARE Team decision. The student may submit any additional relevant materials for consideration by the VPSA.
2. Within one (1) day of receiving a notice of appeal of the CARE Team decision, VPSA, or designee, will review all materials considered by the CARE Team and any additional information provided by the student and issue a decision on the requested appeal.

E. Alternative Housing

A student who does not meet the standard for involuntary medical withdrawal but who the CARE Team determines cannot safely remain in University housing may be required to live in housing other than University housing while remaining enrolled at the University. Decisions regarding removal from University housing or transfer are final.

F. Interim Withdrawal

1. The VPSA, or designee, may implement an emergency interim withdrawal of a student if the CARE Team determines that a student may be suffering from a mental disorder and the student poses a significant danger of causing imminent physical harm to the student or to other members of the University community.
2. A student who is withdrawn on an emergency basis will be given an opportunity to appear before the Dean of Students or designee within one (1) day from the date of the notice of the emergency interim withdrawal in order to discuss the following:
 - a. The reliability of the information concerning a student's behavior;
 - b. Whether or not the student poses a significant danger of causing imminent physical harm to the student or to other members of the University community.
3. At the conclusion of the meeting regarding an emergency interim withdraw, Dean of Students or Designee may:
 - a. Cancel the interim withdrawal but inform the student that the process to consider the possibility of involuntary withdrawal will continue; or
 - b. Extend the order for emergency interim withdrawal which will remain in effect until the process to consider the possibility of involuntary withdrawal is concluded in an expedited fashion. A decision regarding interim withdrawal cannot be appealed.

G. Voluntary Medical Withdrawal

1. At any time, a student may submit a request for a voluntary withdrawal in accordance with University policy.

2. If a request for voluntary withdrawal is granted, any involuntary withdrawal process will terminate; however, any other pending disciplinary actions to consider violations of the Code of Student Conduct will continue.

H. Readmission

1. A student who is involuntarily withdrawn may not seek to reenroll or be readmitted to the University before the start of the next term.
2. A student may only be reenrolled or readmitted to the University following an involuntary withdrawal upon confirmation by the CARE Team that the conditions that caused the involuntary withdrawal are no longer present. The CARE Team may require any documentation or evaluation that it deems necessary to consider the possible readmission or re-enrollment. The student is not entitled to a hearing on the determination. The student must also meet all of the admission or enrollment requirements of the University to be re-enrolled.

I. Refunds and Academic Status

1. Refund policies as described in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs will apply to all students who withdraw in accordance with this policy.
2. Policies regarding assignment of grades as described in the Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletins will apply to all students who withdraw in accordance with this policy.

V. References and Cross-References

[UNT Policy 07.012, Code of Student Conduct](#)

[UNT Policy 10.029, Refunds](#)

[Division of Student Affairs Withdrawal Guidelines](#)

VI. Revision History

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