REFERRAL PATTERN FOR STUDENTS IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Policy Statement

The complexity of mental health needs of the collegiate population has increased nationally in the past several years. The University of Southern Mississippi is proactive in implementing and practicing a multi-department intervention process to identify and assist our students in need. By doing so, students will receive services to help them achieve their academic and life goals, thereby increasing their chances for success and decreasing any risk of harm to themselves or others.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

This policy is required for the effective communication of university policy regarding the referral of students for mental health services.

Who Needs to Know This Policy

All members of The University of Southern Mississippi community.

Website Address for this Policy

www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-stua-scs-003

Definitions

Policy/Procedures
When a student with mental health needs is recognized by or reported to faculty or staff, the following protocol is used:

A. Students who are willing to seek help, do not appear to be an imminent danger to themselves or others, and are cooperative with a referral should be referred to The University of Southern Mississippi Student Counseling Services, either personally or via phone.

B. Students who appear to be an imminent danger to themselves or others should be managed by the University Police Department and reported to the Dean of Students office in an expeditious manner. A completed Campus Action Referral and Evaluation form should be completed online (http://www.usm.edu/student-counseling-services/report-critical-incidents-southern-miss-cares). If necessary, the dean of students will contact Student Counseling Services for assistance. A mandatory referral for mental health services requires the completion of the Dean of Students Referral to Counseling Services form.

C. Students who do not appear to be an imminent danger to themselves or others, but who do appear to be in distress and are non-cooperative with referral to the Student Counseling Services, should be reported to the Dean of Students office via a completed Campus Action Referral and Evaluation Form. The Dean of Students office will contact Student Counseling Services for assistance and complete the Dean of Students Referral to Student Counseling Services form.

**Review**

The Director of Student Counseling Services is responsible for the review of this policy every four years (or whenever circumstances require immediate review).

**Forms/Instructions**

Campus Action Referral and Evaluation form available online (http://www.usm.edu/student-counseling-services/report-critical-incidents-southern-miss-cares)

Dean of Students Referral to Counseling Services form available through Dean of Students office.

**Appendices**

N/A

**Related Information**

N/A
History

11/01/11: Formatted for Institutional Policies website.
02/21/13: Formatted for template. Minor editing throughout.
Amendments: Month, Day, Year – summary of changes
Authorization

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As the Responsible Officer, I have reviewed this policy and believe it represents the current policy.

[Signature]
Responsible Officer

3/8/13
Date