

Mental Health Issues

Administrative Regulation E-10 (http://www.laccd.edu/admin_regs) stipulates that each college may “establish health and safety prerequisites for courses in the Registered Nursing program in order to protect the health and safety of the students, consumers, and/or others”.

Administrative Regulation E-10 further stipulates that a student must be free from communicable diseases, infection, *psychological disorder*, and other conditions that would present a threat to, or negatively impact the well being of faculty, students or consumer, or would prevent the successful performance of the responsibilities and tasks required in the education and training program of the college. Any condition which is developed or exhibited by the student after admission to the nursing program may be considered sufficient cause for suspension from the program.

The nursing division of Los Angeles Harbor College recognizes **that** mental illness **is** a disease **process** which can be successfully managed into a state of recovery and mental health. The faculty also recognizes that there may be times when **mental health issues or mental illness** may affect a student’s ability to be successful in the nursing program. It is the responsibility of the student to develop and maintain a program of recovery for mental health.

When **mental health issues** become apparent to the student and/or faculty, the student will be referred to the appropriate resources based on the nature of **mental** health problems identified, including, but not limited to, the Life Skills Center or a private health care provider. The Life Skills Center can be reached at (310) 233-4586. In addition, walk in hours (no appointment necessary) are available in Café 110 as follows:

- Monday & Friday: 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
- Tuesday - Thursday: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Thursday 5:00PM - 7:00 PM

In the case of a crisis or when a student may be a danger to themselves or others, immediate action will be taken. The following behaviors that may indicate a student is experiencing mental distress include but are not limited to the following:

- Angry outbursts, threatening gestures or verbalizations
- Severe anxiety manifested by inability to concentrate, focus, follow instruction or perform clinically
- Depressive symptoms such as psychomotor retardation, confusion, poor hygiene, excessive tearfulness, frequent tardiness or absences
- Suicidal ideation or gestures
- Agitation, excessive motor activity, extreme talkativeness, suggestive dress, flight of ideas, grandiosity, loose association or extremely poor judgment
- Extreme distrust or suspiciousness
- Impulsive behaviors that have the potential to injure self or others
- Auditory or visual hallucinations
- Delusional thinking or disorganized thought process

In the event that immediate action is required where a student on campus is exhibiting behaviors implying the intent to harm others or self, the sheriff's department should be immediately notified (X4601). In addition, the Life Skills Center should be notified (X4586). If immediate action is required in the clinical setting, the clinical agency staff and Security department should be immediately notified.

Subsequent to notifying the above, the following actions include but are not limited to:

1. The student will be immediately dismissed from the classroom or clinical setting.
2. The student's emergency contact will be notified to come and pick up the student. Until such time, the student will be required to remain on site, but away from patients until the emergency contact arrives.
3. The involved Instructor will document behaviors of student utilizing an "Unsatisfactory Notice" form.
4. The Instructor will report incident to the program Director (or designee).
5. The Director (or designee) will notify the Dean of Academic Affairs. A copy of "Unsatisfactory Notice" will be given to student, Director, and Vice-President of Student Services.
6. The Director and Instructor will meet with the student and provide referral in writing for evaluation by the appropriate resources.
7. The student will not be allowed to return to the specified course or courses without clearance from the appropriate resource. Clearance must be provided in writing from the referral and must state that the student is able to return to class and can safely perform clinical activities without restrictions.
8. The absence policy of classroom and clinical courses and the progression policy of the nursing program will be followed.