

# Safety Interim Suspension/Withdrawal Policy

## ROWAN UNIVERSITY POLICY

**Title:** *Safety Interim Suspension/Withdrawal*

**Subject:** *Student Life*

**Policy No:** *SL: 2016:17*

**Applies:** *University-Wide*

**Issuing Authority:** *President*

**Responsible Officer:** *Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students*

**Adopted:** *08/14/2015*

**Last Revision:** *08/01/2020*

**Last Reviewed:** *08/01/2020*

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for addressing students who poses a significant risk to the safety of any student or campus community due to mental, emotional, medical, or psychological health conditions or other serious concerns.

### II. ACCOUNTABILITY

Under the direction of the President, the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students, shall ensure compliance and implementation of this policy.

### III. APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to all students of Rowan University.

### IV. REFERENCES

1. [Rowan University Policy - Student Code of Conduct](#)

### V. POLICY

1. One of the University's purposes is to foster an environment that promotes education, research, service, and the growth and safety of all members of its community. From time to time University officials become aware of a student who may be seriously interfering with this purpose because of a mental, emotional, medical, or psychological health condition, or other serious concern. In these situations, University officials may consider the appropriateness of (1) utilizing the regular student conduct system to address violations of the Student Code of Conduct, or (2) interim suspension or withdrawal for safety reasons. In addition to, or instead of, either of those procedures, the matter may be handled as a safety concern. See Attachment 1.
2. Criteria For Safety Interim Suspension/Withdrawal
  - a. A student will be subject to a Safety Interim Suspension/Withdrawal if the student poses a significant risk to the safety of any student or campus community.
  - b. A student should not be subject to Safety Interim Suspension/Withdrawal under these procedures when disciplinary, academic or other responses are appropriate and the student's circumstances can be best addressed through those responses.
3. Procedure for Appealing Restrictions
  - a. A student may appeal the imposition of any restrictions under this policy, including the interim suspension by submitting a written request, with reasons for the appeal, to the Vice President of

Student Life/Dean of Students (or designee) within five (5) business days of receiving notice of any restrictions imposed by this policy.

b. The decision of the Vice President is the final decision of the University.

4. Procedure For Safety Withdrawal Appeal

a. A student who is withdrawn from the University due to protective health or safety reasons may appeal the decision to the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students (or designee). The appeal must be in writing stating the reasons for the appeal and must be received within five (5) business days of the date the student received notification from the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students (or designee).

b. The decision of the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students is the final decision of the University. See Attachment 2.

5. Reinstatement From an Interim Suspension

a. A student seeking reinstatement from an interim suspension will be asked to provide information demonstrating that a significant risk no longer exists. Acceptable evidence includes a report from a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, mental health professional, or physician (pertaining to the situation) of the student's choosing. See Attachment 3.

6. Failure to Complete the Evaluation Process

a. A student who fails to complete the required evaluation process will not be permitted to return to the University until the outstanding matter is resolved.

7. Refund Appeal

a. If a student is unable to return as a result of a continuing significant risk to the safety of any student or the campus community, the student may request a ["Registration Adjustment after a Deadline"](#) pursuant to applicable policy. The appropriate withdrawal request form can also be found ([Withdrawal request forms](#)). The decision rendered is final.

## VI. ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1- Procedures For A Safety Interim Suspension
2. Attachment 2 - Procedure For Safety Withdrawal Appeal
3. Attachment 3 – Reinstatement From An Interim Suspension

### ATTACHMENT 1

#### PROCEDURES FOR A SAFETY INTERIM SUSPENSION

A Safety Interim Suspension is a preliminary action taken to protect the safety of any student or campus community, and is not a penalty.

1. Failure of a student to provide the required information may result in an involuntary withdrawal or a referral to the student conduct system.
2. At any time a student may apply for a voluntary withdrawal or [Leave of Absence](#) by submitting the necessary information pursuant to applicable policy.
3. If safety of students or campus community is an immediate concern, the University may take interim action to protect any member of the University community.
4. By a Safety Interim Suspension/Withdrawal, the University may remove a student from any or all University premises when the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students (or designee), after consultation with the Situation Threat Assessment Team, after considering the best available objective information determines that, a significant risk to student or campus safety exists.
5. In making the determination, the team shall make an individualized assessment, taking into consideration the risks of safety to the student or campus community, the nature, duration, probability, and severity of the risk, and whether mitigating measures are available to minimize the risk.

6. The student will receive notice of the interim action and be advised of the information relied upon by the University.
7. The Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students (or designee) will communicate the interim action with the instructors of the student's currently enrolled courses and appropriate offices that the student is not permitted to attend class, be on university property, complete assignments, or conduct university business until the interim suspension has been resolved.
8. A student seeking reinstatement from an interim suspension will be asked to provide information demonstrating that a significant risk no longer exists.
9. Acceptable evidence includes a report from a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, mental health professional, or physician (pertaining to the situation) of the student's choosing which states that the student is able to safely return to the educational environment and can engage in the following activities without creating a significant risk to safety of student or campus community:
  - a. Attend class;
  - b. Perform assigned tasks; and
  - c. If assigned to a residence area, live under only very general supervision and in the company of one or more students.
  - d. Other evidence may also be acceptable on an individual basis.
10. If a student's return is conditioned upon accommodations, the report from the health care provider should outline the accommodations requested.
11. The Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students will review the report from a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, mental health professional, or physician and in consultation with the Situation Threat Assessment Team, will determine the conditions of approval to return to campus, regarding the student's continued attendance and any conditions which should apply to that attendance, including the matter of the student's place of residence. If necessary, and with the student's written consent, the University's psychiatrist, psychologist, or health care professional may consult directly with the evaluating psychiatrist, psychologist, or physician.
12. The student will be promptly notified of the University's decision of the student's ability to return and any conditions on such return within three (5) business days of submission of medical documentation or appropriate evidence that a significant risk to safety no longer exists.
13. In some cases, where a significant risk to the safety of students and the campus community will continue indefinitely, a student's status will remain withdrawn. In such cases, the student will be notified. If the student is required to withdraw from some or all classes as a result of a continued significant risk to safety or for other reasons associated with this policy, a grade of W, administratively assigned, will be reflected on the transcript for those particular courses. The student will also be advised concerning the date when a petition for reinstatement will be considered along with any conditions for reinstatement.
14. During the Safety Interim Suspension process, a representative of the University may contact the student's parents or legal guardians, if deemed appropriate, and in accordance with FERPA.
15. In the case of a Global Learning and Partnership student warranting a safety interim suspension, the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students will inform Rowan Global Learning and Partnerships administrators, as needed, regarding any safety interim suspension or withdrawal or reinstatement that concern Rowan Global undergraduate, post-bac, or graduate-level students.

## ATTACHMENT 2

### PROCEDURE FOR SAFETY WITHDRAWAL APPEAL

A student who is withdrawn from the University due to protective health or safety reasons may appeal the decision to the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students (or designee).

1. The appeal must be in writing stating the reasons for the appeal and must be received within five (5) business days of the date the student received notification from the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students (or designee).
2. The Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students (or designee) will conduct a review within five (5) business days of receipt of the written request unless extended by the President of the University.
3. Prior to the review, the student will be provided with all the following:
  - a. The opportunity to review any psychological or medical evaluations or other evidence relied upon by the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students (or designee);
  - b. A written statement providing an explanation of the reasons for involuntary safety withdrawal and the information relied upon; and,
  - c. The opportunity to be assisted by an appropriate advisor at the proceeding who may be a parent /legal guardian, a professional of the student's choice, or legal counsel. Following the review, the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students (or designee) will determine whether to:
    - i. Uphold the withdrawal.
    - ii. Reinstate the student with appropriate accommodations and/or subject to specified conditions as dictated by the individualized needs of the student.
  - d. A written decision providing reasons and any conditions will be issued to the student within five (5) business days of the conclusion of the review unless extended by the President of the University.
  - e. The decision of the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students is the final decision of the University

### ATTACHMENT 3

#### **REINSTATEMENT FROM AN INTERIM SUSPENSION**

1. A student seeking reinstatement from an interim suspension will be asked to provide information demonstrating that a significant risk no longer exists.
2. Acceptable evidence includes a report from a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, or physician (pertaining to the situation) of the student's choosing which states that the student is able to safely return to the educational environment and can engage in the following activities without creating a significant risk to safety of student or campus community:
  - a. Attend class;
  - b. Perform assigned tasks; and
  - c. If assigned to a residence area, live under only very general supervision and in the company of one or more students.
  - d. Other evidence may also be acceptable on an individual basis.
3. If a student's return is conditioned upon accommodations, the report from the health care provider should outline the accommodations requested.
4. The University's licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, or health care professional will review the report and meet with the student. If necessary, and with the student's written consent, the University's psychiatrist, psychologist, or health care professional may consult directly with the evaluating psychiatrist, psychologist, or physician.
5. After the review, the University's licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, or health care professional will then make a written recommendation regarding the student's continued attendance and any conditions which should apply to that attendance, including the matter of the student's place of residence.
6. The student will be promptly notified of the student's ability to return and any conditions on such return within five (5) business days of submission of medical documentation or appropriate evidence that a significant risk to safety no longer exists. In some cases, where a significant risk to the safety of students and the campus community will continue indefinitely, a student's status will remain withdrawn. In such cases, the student will be notified.

7. If the student is required to withdraw from some or all classes as a result of a continued significant risk to safety or for other reasons associated with this policy, a grade of W, administratively assigned, will be reflected on the transcript for those particular courses.
8. The student will also be advised concerning the date when a petition for reinstatement will be considered along with any conditions for reinstatement.
9. During the Safety Interim Suspension process, a representative of the University may contact the student's parents or legal guardians, if deemed appropriate, and in accordance with FERPA.