

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

AREA: Student Affairs

NUMBER: Policy 4.20

SUBJECT: Threats or Harm to Self or Others

1. General

Blue Mountain College is concerned about the well-being of all students. The College takes seriously any behavior, including a non-privileged verbal statement, which tends to demonstrate a student may harm himself/herself or another. Such behavior demonstrates that the student may be in danger, or may be intending harm to another person and interferes with the educational efforts of those involved and with Blue Mountain College's mission to educate students.

Any student who attempts to harm or harms himself/herself or another may not live in College residential facilities, participate in College academic programs, or participate in other College activities the College may deem to be harmful to the student until cleared to do so.

A student may be required to seek professional help if physical or psychological health problems place that student's life in potential danger, or impairs his/her ability to maintain an academic program, or when his/her behavior is a serious disruption to others. The cost of evaluation and/or treatment will be the responsibility of the student.

2. Clearance to Return to the College Community

Before a student is cleared to live in College residential facilities, participate in academic programs, or participate in other College activities the student must have an assessment conducted by a licensed mental health professional.

The student must arrange for the mental health professional who evaluated the student to contact the Dean of Students. The mental health professional will be asked to provide his/her professional opinion about:

- (1) the student's readiness to resume living in the College's residential facilities, participation in the College's academic programs, or participation in other College activities; and
- (2) recommendations about the conditions the College should impose on the student's participation that are in the student's best interest.

The professional opinions of the mental health professional may be communicated orally at first for expedience but must be followed in writing.

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3. **Withdrawal and Readmission**

A. Involuntary Withdrawal

Blue Mountain College may at times find itself faced with a situation in which a student's behavior inside and/or outside the classroom demonstrates he/she poses a potential threat of harm to himself/herself or others, or creates a pattern of extreme disruption. In these situations it may be appropriate and necessary to initiate an involuntary withdrawal from the College. Involuntary withdrawal will be utilized only after attempts to secure cooperation for a voluntary withdrawal have been exhausted. Involuntary withdrawal is necessary when a student as a consequence of perceived mental disorder:

- 1) engages in behavior which is imminently harmful either to himself/herself or others or
- 2) is unable to meet reasonable institutional standards of conduct.

This decision may not be appealed.

B. Readmission

Readmission requests from students who are withdrawn either voluntarily or involuntarily due to mental health issues will be referred to the Blue Mountain College Behavioral Intervention Team (BMC/BIT) for review. Reviews will draw upon resources outside the College for professional statements of treatment and prognosis. The student is responsible for requesting statements on treatment and prognosis from licensed mental health professionals. Conditions for follow-up services may be required as part of the readmission decision.

If readmission is denied, the student may appeal by presenting a written appeal to the Admissions and Academic Standards Committee. The decision of the Admissions and Academic Standards Committee is final.

[Cross reference with Policy 2.03: *Admissions*.]

SOURCE: Board of Trustees: June 09, 2015; February 28, 2014; October 5, 2012; February 26, 2010