



Assessment and Care Team (ACT)

Enhancing the early identification, assessment, management, reduction and prevention of behavioral concerns in order to foster a safer campus environment.

What is the Assessment and Care Team and why is it necessary?

Middle Georgia State College has in place appropriate crisis and emergency response procedures. However, in an era of increasing concern regarding the *prevention* of campus violence, the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia has directed that each institution develop a plan and select a committee to address *potential* behavioral concerns.

In response, the College has established an Assessment and Care Team. The Team will serve as an additional measure for campus safety by actively addressing behavioral concerns that have the potential to negatively impact the safety and well-being of the campus environment.

The Team is a complement to, not a replacement for, the College's existing crisis and emergency response procedures. It will operate in cooperation with existing campus and community resources while exercising due diligence to protect the campus community and the individual. It is critical to understand that even with the best intentions, situations may arise that are unforeseen by any member of the campus community.

Mission Statement

The Assessment and Care Team is dedicated to a proactive, coordinated and planned approach to the early identification, assessment, management, reduction and prevention of behavioral concerns that have the potential to negatively impact the safety and well-being of Middle Georgia State College students, faculty, staff and visitors.

What should I report?

Any behavior of concern should be reported. Behaviors of concern are defined as those that the reasonable person would consider to be: disturbing, bizarre, out-of-the-ordinary, out-of-character, inappropriate, disruptive and may potentially impede the individual's ability or the ability of others to function successfully or safely.

Behaviors of Concern include but are not limited to:

- Suicidal or self injurious thoughts, words or actions;
- Unusual anxiety, depression, paranoia, elation;
- Unusual desire for isolation;
- Dramatic change in appearance, behavior, circumstances;
- Use/abuse of drugs and/ or alcohol;
- Difficulty managing anger;

- Lack of civility, respect for others;
- Acting out and/or disruptive behavior;
- Behavioral violations of the Student Code of Conduct;
- Verbal or written indications of violent fantasy, intentions, past;
- Participation in gang-related activity;
- Recent contact with law enforcement;
- Mental health history related to dangerous behavior;
- Unusual interest in police, military, terrorist activities and materials, previous incidents of violence;
- Fascination with weaponry

Any behavioral concerns that have the potential to negatively impact the safety and well-being of the campus environment should be reported. Even when you are in doubt, for the continued safety and well-being of the campus community, you should report.

What is my responsibility?

It is the responsibility of every member of the College community to provide a proper response to situations in which an individual or group of individuals is exhibiting behaviors that are considered to be:

- (1) A life threatening emergency
- (2) A non-life threatening emergency
- (3) A behavior of concern.

- 1. A Life Threatening Emergency** should immediately be reported to law enforcement and/or medical personnel by dialing “911.” Also call the appropriate campus police station (See campus resources below). Police officers will escort medical personnel to the location.

For the safety of the campus community, consider any threat, explicit or implied, a statement of intent.

- 2. A Non-Life Threatening Emergency** should be reported to the appropriate campus police station and the dispatcher should be advised of the situation.
- 3. A Behavior of Concern** should be reported to the Behavioral Assessment Team by contacting the Office of Student Affairs or by contacting (phone/e-mail) a Team member.

What is the Team’s responsibility?

The Team will meet as often and urgently as necessary to review reports brought forward by faculty, staff, and students regarding behaviors of concern. Immediate action may include:

1. Student Conduct adjudication;
2. Placing the individual in the custody of the proper authority, parents, guardians;
3. Administrative Withdrawal;
4. On-going observation, defer action or decline action

How do I submit a report?

Contact the Office of Student Affairs at **478-757-7383** OR Contact any member of the Team

Visit the website at: <http://www.mga.edu/student-affairs>

Campus Resources

Campus Police

Cochran Campus: 478-934-3002
Eastman Campus: 478-374-6403
Dublin Campus: 478-274-7751
Macon Campus: 478-471-2414
Warner Robins Campus: 478-731-9901

Counseling Services

Cochran: 478-934-6221
Macon: 478-471-2985

Assessment and Care Team Members

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Faculty and staff members may be called to serve on the team based on specific circumstances, not limited to field of study, campus location, or knowledge of individual being assessed.