



Threat Assessment Team

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Virginia law and Virginia Tech policy both require the university to have a threat assessment team to identify, assess, and intervene with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the campus community.

Early Intervention is Essential

Preventing violence and supporting the safety and well-being of the campus community are responsibilities of all members of the Virginia Tech community. Campus safety is enhanced through community members identifying behaviors of concern and reporting the concerns in a caring and timely manner. Early identification of such concerns allows Virginia Tech to intervene more effectively to address behaviors that are threatening or significantly disruptive to the learning, living, and working environment of Virginia Tech.

The Virginia Tech Threat Assessment Team is staffed by representatives from key university departments, with leadership from the Virginia Tech Police Department. The mission of the multidisciplinary Threat Assessment Team is to determine if an individual poses a threat to self, others, or the Virginia Tech community and to intervene to avert the threat and maintain the safety of the situation. The team responds to behaviors exhibited by students, employees, visitors, and non-affiliated persons in an attempt to prevent violence so that the Virginia Tech campus remains a safe and secure working and learning environment.

Identifying Concerning Behavior

There are many behaviors that may cause concern for the safety and well-being of an individual, or

the campus as a whole. The following list provides examples of concerning behaviors or situations:

- ▶ Unusual or abrupt changes in behaviors or patterns;
- ▶ Extreme reactions to a loss or traumatic event;
- ▶ Preoccupation with weapons, violent events or persons who have engaged in violent acts;
- ▶ Uncharacteristically poor performance;
- ▶ References to harming others or planning a violent or destructive event;
- ▶ Evidence of depression, hopelessness, or suicidal thoughts/plans;
- ▶ Inappropriate responses such as prolonged irritability, angry outbursts, or intense reactions;
- ▶ Strained interpersonal relations, isolating behaviors, or low self esteem;
- ▶ Significant change in life circumstances such as loss of job or relationship;

These are just examples of behaviors that may cause concern. If you observe or become aware of situations that cause concern for safety, consult with colleagues, supervisors, or university officials, and report your concerns.

Reporting Concerns

If you have concerns about a person or situation, even if you think it may be nothing, you are encouraged to share the information. The information you provide, no matter how trivial it may seem may be critical to understanding a broader range of problematic or threatening behavior.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



How to share your concern

If you are aware of an emergency, or immediate safety concerns, call 911 and report the danger to law enforcement.

If you are concerned about threatening behavior or a disturbing situation, that is NOT an emergency event, contact the Virginia Tech Police Department at 540-382-4343. The department is committed to preventing violence and other crimes when possible.

What you need to share

When providing information, please include the name of the person you are concerned about, the behaviors you observed, and your name. While the Threat Assessment Team does accept anonymous reports, if you don't identify yourself, the team has fewer options for addressing the situation.

What will happen to the information you share

Your identity and the information you share will be treated privately with your safety in mind. The information will be used to address the situation in a respectful and helpful manner. The university's Threat Assessment Team will gather more information about the situation and implement a plan to enhance the safety of the campus community.

On-campus resources for violence prevention:

Police Department

www.police.vt.edu
540-382-4343

Cook Counseling Center

www.ucc.vt.edu
540-231-6557

Dean of Students Office

www.dos.vt.edu
540-231-3787

Department Human Resources

www.hr.vt.edu
540-231-9331

Women's Center

www.womenscenter.vt.edu
540-231-7806

Residence Life

www.studentprograms.vt.edu/housing
540-231-6205