

# **Piedmont Virginia Community College**

## **Section XII – Safety & Security Policies**

### **XII – 2.1 Mental Health and Mental Health Crisis**

Effective Date: January 2026

Last Revised: March 2026

Responsible Dept.: Department of Student Affairs / Department of Public Safety & Campus Police

#### **1. Purpose**

Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) seeks to support its students and to protect the safety and dignity of any individual who experiences or has experienced a mental health crisis or suicidal ideation. PVCC will refer individuals to qualified community resources to be assessed for the level of care that they may need.

This policy details the procedures PVCC has implemented to respond to students who are currently experiencing or have experienced a mental health crisis or suicidal ideation within the last 12 months. The policy gives faculty, staff, and the larger PVCC community education on terminology, steps to follow as needed, and important contact information at PVCC and other community resources.

#### **2. Policy Statement**

This policy provides education and guidance to faculty, staff, and other members of the college community to help prevent student suicide. All suicidal behavior or threats should be taken seriously and immediately addressed in accordance with this policy. In case of an emergency, immediately contact the PVCC Crisis Hotline at 434.961.5398, PVCC Campus Police at 434.961.5300, Suicide & Crisis Lifeline 988, or Emergency Communications Center 911. This policy is in accordance with [VCCS policy 6.4.6 on Mental Health Services](#).

#### **3. Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

PVCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. View the full nondiscrimination statement and find contacts at [pvcc.edu/nondiscrimination](http://pvcc.edu/nondiscrimination).

Suicide: death from an injury or action which is self-inflicted and by which someone intends to kill themselves.

Suicidal Behavior: a potentially injurious behavior which is self-inflicted and by which a student intends or appears to intend to kill themselves.

Suicidal Ideation: any self-reported thoughts or feelings about engaging in suicidal behavior.

Suicide Plan: a proposed method of self-inflicted action or injury in which the potential and intentional outcome is death.

Active Suicidal Ideation with Specific Plan and Intent to Act: current active suicidal thoughts with details of a plan fully or partially worked out and the individual articulates intent to carry it out.

Active Suicidal Ideation with Some Intent to Act, without Specific Plan: current active suicidal thoughts and student reports having some intent to act on such thoughts, but no plans and means to carry it out (For example, "I have thoughts at times, but I will not do anything about them.")

Actual Knowledge: the direct and clear awareness of a fact or situation, as opposed to inferred or presumptive knowledge. (For example, what an individual "must have known" as opposed to the individual "should have known.")

#### **4. Applicability**

This policy provides guidance to all faculty, administrators, and staff at PVCC.

#### **5. Responsibilities**

The Department of Public Safety & Campus Police or staff in Student Affairs will offer training twice annually for PVCC employees on recognizing and preventing suicide, which will include a review of this policy.

#### **6. Procedures for Implementation**

##### **6.1 Application of Procedures**

These procedures shall be followed in any event that any college employee has knowledge that a student:

- a) Is currently and/or actively engaged in suicidal behavior.
- b) Has engaged in suicidal behavior within the last 12 months.
- c) Has stated any plans to commit suicide, including active suicidal ideation with a specific plan and intent to act *or* active suicidal ideation with some intent to act, without a specific plan.

These procedures shall also be followed in any event where the college has knowledge that a student had suicidal behavior or ideation, recently received inpatient care relating to the behavior or ideation, and/or is currently receiving inpatient care relating to the behavior or ideation. Previous suicidal behavior protocols shall be activated in the event the student seeks to return to their college classes, programs, or participation.

## **6.2 Student with Active Suicidal Behavior or Ideations with Stated Plans: Intervention and Response**

If you are with a student on campus, ensure you are in a quiet and safe space. Discreetly inform nearby staff or a supervisor that you are meeting with a student who has reported active suicidal behavior, so they can provide support and contact additional resources if needed. Stay with the student unless you feel your own safety is at risk. You are not expected to professionally assess a student's current risk of suicide, but you are expected to reach out to qualified professionals on campus, community resources, or 911 as appropriate. You are also expected to ensure a Maxient report is completed on the incident, response, and next steps.

Anyone aware of a student who is actively suicidal, expressing intent, or showing warning signs must immediately contact PVCC Crisis Hotline (434.961.5398), Region Ten Crisis Services (434.972.1800), PVCC Campus Police (434.961.5300), or 911. Also, notify the Vice President of Student Affairs at 434.961.5230. If the VP of Student Affairs is not available, contact the designee - Senior Director of Student Success & Support at 434.961.5430.

Based on the information received, the VP of Student Affairs or the designee shall determine whether the protocol should be activated. In doing so, the VP or the designee may attempt to meet with the student and/or consult with the college's Threat Assessment Team.

The VP of Student Affairs or the Senior Director of Student Success and Support shall attempt to contact the student's emergency contact of record, or another emergency contact identified by the student.

The VP of Student Affairs may further consult with the college's Threat Assessment Team to determine appropriate medical referral(s), identify support strategies, and/or develop an action plan for the student.

A student who has engaged in or expressed intent to engage in suicidal behavior must be assessed by a licensed mental health professional and provide documentation of their ability to continue in a class or program. The VP of Student Affairs, Senior Director of Student Success and Support, and/or PVCC Threat Assessment Team will review the documentation.

### **6.3 Student with Previous Suicidal Behavior: Intervention and Response**

Any member of the college community who has knowledge that a student has engaged in suicidal behavior while enrolled at the college or recently before enrolling in a class or program shall contact the Vice President of Student Affairs at 434.961.5484. If the VP of Student Affairs is not available, contact the designee - Senior Director of Student Success and Support - 434.961.5430.

Based on the information received, the VP of Student Affairs or the designee shall determine whether the protocol should be activated. The VP or their designee may meet with the student and gather more information from the reporter.

The VP of Student Affairs or the designee may further consult with the college's Threat Assessment Team to determine appropriate service coordination, medical referral(s), identify support strategies, and/or develop an action plan for the student.

A student who has engaged in or expressed intent to engage in suicidal behavior recently or before enrolling in a class or program may be asked to be assessed by a licensed mental health professional and provide documentation of their ability to continue in a class or program. The VP of Student Affairs, Senior Director of Student Success and Support, and/or PVCC Threat Assessment Team will review the documentation.

## **7. Sanctions for Violation of Policy**

N/A

## **8. Other General Information**

N/A