



INVOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students may voluntarily withdraw from Suffolk University at any time during his/her matriculation at Suffolk University. However, situations as described below may arise when the University determines on an individualized, case-by-case basis that a student may need to be involuntarily withdrawn from the University.

When a student demonstrates conduct that violates the Suffolk University Community Standards or other Suffolk policies, that conduct will be addressed through the appropriate disciplinary processes. This Policy is not intended to be disciplinary in nature. Rather, this Policy outlines the criteria and procedures for when and how a student may be involuntarily withdrawn from the University for demonstrating behavior that creates a direct threat to the safety or health of the student or others or that unreasonably disrupts the normal education processes and orderly operation of the University. There may be situations in which both this Policy and the Community Standards and/or other Suffolk policies are applicable.

Criteria for an Involuntary Withdrawal

A student may be involuntarily withdrawn from Suffolk University if the University determines on an individualized, case-by-case basis, in accordance with the procedures listed below, that the student:

- (a) Demonstrates behavior that is unreasonably disruptive to the normal education processes and orderly operation of the University;
- (b) Demonstrates behavior that endangers him/herself, or that creates a direct threat that the student may endanger him/herself, or;
- (c) Demonstrates behavior that endangers others, or that creates a direct threat that the student may endanger others.

Involuntary Withdrawal Process

If it becomes evident (through observed behavior or by report(s) from faculty, staff or students) that a withdrawal from the university may be in the best interest of a student and the university and the student do not agree, then the following procedures will be engaged:

- The Dean of Students, or designee, will collect all available information obtained from incident reports, conversations with students, faculty and staff, and the expert opinions of appropriate medical professionals.
- If reasonably possible, the Dean of Students, or designee, will meet with the student, giving notice to the student of the meeting and providing an opportunity for the student (and his/her family if the student has a signed waiver indicating permission to share information) to provide evidence to the contrary and/or to make suggestions for reasonable accommodation(s) short of involuntary withdrawal from the university.
- If, after conversation, the student maintains that he/she would like to remain enrolled, the Dean of Students, or designee, will consult with appropriate medical professionals regarding the evidence presented by the student. Failure by the student to sign the Consent to Share Information form so that medical/clinical professionals may be consulted will result in the involuntary withdrawal from the university as Suffolk University will have insufficient evidence to render an individualized determination. The Dean of Students, or designee, will also consult with other University officials as appropriate.
- The Dean of Students, or designee, will then convene a committee comprised of the Director of the Counseling Center, the Director of Health and Wellness Services, the Director of Disability Services, the Director of Residential Life and Summer Programs (if appropriate) and a representative of the college in which the student is enrolled to review collected information and evidence presented by the student. The committee will engage in a determination on an individualized, case-by-case basis and will apply the direct threat analysis, taking into consideration the nature, duration and severity of the risk and the likelihood, imminence and nature of the future harmful conduct, either to the student or to others in the university community.
- The Committee will render a decision and present that decision to the student in writing. Should the decision be to withdraw the student involuntarily, appropriate conditions for return will be contained within the withdrawal letter. Should the student choose to appeal the Committee's decision, s/he will make such appeal to the Vice President for Student Affairs, within five (5) business days of the date of the withdrawal letter. The decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs will be final.
- Prior to returning to or enrolling at the University, a student who has been involuntarily withdrawn must submit a written plan that identifies how the student will resume his/her status at the University. The plan must respond to the condition that gave rise to the need for the student's involuntary withdrawal (i.e., need for ongoing medical or psychological care, ability to maintain a standard of responsibility and self care; ability to assume class participation). If the student will reside in the residence halls, the plan must also state how the student will transition back into this community.
- The Committee will review the student's plan to determine on an individualized, case-by-case basis whether or not the student's request to re-enroll at that time shall be granted or

denied by taking into consideration all of the relevant factors and information presented. The decision of the Committee is final.

Deviations from Established Procedures

Reasonable deviations from this policy will not invalidate a decision or proceeding unless significant prejudice to a student may result.