

Involuntary Withdrawal

Policy Number: 610

Categorized: [Student Services](#)

Responsible Office: VP of Student Services

Subject: Criteria and procedures for when and how a student may be involuntarily withdrawn from the College for demonstrating behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of any member of the college community or others, or that substantially disrupts the learning environment and orderly operation of the College.

Related Policies: [Refund Policy](#)

Procedures: [610P](#)

Additional Information: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Effective Date: 12/13/2016

Last Reviewed Date: 4/27/2021

1. Scope

This policy applies to all students who demonstrate behavior that poses a direct threat to any member of the College community or others; or demonstrates behavior that is a substantial disruption to the normal education processes and the orderly operation of the College.

2. Policy Statement

Northern Virginia Community College places a high priority on providing a safe and supportive learning environment that contributes to student success. A student may be withdrawn involuntarily from NOVA if the College determines, in accordance with the procedures listed below, that the student:

- a. Demonstrates behavior that poses a direct threat to any member of the College community or others; or
- b. Demonstrates behavior that is a substantial disruption to the normal education processes and the orderly operation of the College.

The policy will be applied in a nondiscriminatory manner, and decisions will be based on information about the student's conduct, actions and statements, not on knowledge or belief that the student has a disability, or psychological or mental health condition.

Involuntary withdrawal will only be considered as a last resort. Involuntary withdrawal should not be implemented when disciplinary, academic, or other administrative responses are available and the student's circumstances can best be addressed through those responses. When possible, efforts should

be made to achieve a voluntary withdrawal with conditions for readmission before initiating the involuntary withdrawal process.

The Involuntary Withdrawal Policy is not intended to be disciplinary in nature. When a student demonstrates conduct that violates the Student Code of Conduct or other College policies, that conduct will be addressed through the appropriate disciplinary process. There may be situations in which both this policy and the Student Code of Conduct and/or other College policies apply.

3. Definitions

Direct Threat: Behavior which poses significant risk to the health or safety of any member of the College community or others.

Significant Risk: Behavior which has a high probability (not just a slightly increased, speculative, or remote risk) of substantial harm, given information concerning the behavior that is available at the time of consideration.

Substantial Disruption: Behavior which continually and considerably interferes with other students' participation in academic, work, extracurricular, or other college-related activities, or that impedes the orderly operation of College activities.

4. Procedures

See [610P](#).

5. Authority