Dealing with Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom

What is Disruptive Behavior?

- Specific examples of disruptive behavior include when a student:
 - Violates syllabus expectations/rules.
 - Intimidates another student.
 - Is overly demanding of faculty/staff for time and attention
 - Interrupts the educational process in class by making inappropriate remarks out of turn or aggressively taking over the lecture

*Note that some disruptive behaviors may be unintended and/or directly related to a diagnosed disability. Please consult with the Coordinator of Disability Support Services if questions arise.

Interventions for Disruptive Behavior

- State clear behavioral expectations in the beginning of the semester and establish control over the classroom environment.
- Talk privately with the student, outside of class.
- Keep calm, inform the student of the behavior that needs to change, a timeline for when the change needs to be made, and explain the consequences if the change does not occur.

Interventions for Disruptive Behavior (continued)

- After meeting with the student, commit the content of the meeting to paper.
- If the problem persists, you may direct the student to leave the class.
- If a disruption is serious, and other reasonable measures have failed, the class may be adjourned and a security officer summoned.