

Counseling for Students

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline counseling services for all DSCC students.

II. Scope

Counseling programs and services are made available to assist with student development and success, helping students make wise personal and professional choices.

III. Policy

DSCC counselors will provide limited personal counseling and counseling related to academic problems. A referral to an outside agency, medical professional or mental health service may be recommended in some situations.

Faculty should consider referring a student to the counselor if they:

- observe noticeable changes in a student's functioning, appearance or habits;
- observe obvious signs that a student feels hopeless;
- observe other warning signs that suicide is apparent;
- suspect that a student's use of alcohol or other substances interferes with his/her relationships or coursework.
- observe or have reported to them that a student's thoughts or actions regularly appear unusual.

DSCC Counselors will take every precaution to protect a student's privacy. Information may not be released to any third party without the student's consent, except in the case of potential danger to self or others or if court ordered by a judge.

DSCC counselors will provide college-wide programming to promote wise choices and bring awareness to topics such as, but not limited to, alcoholism and drug abuse, sexual assault awareness and prevention, stress management, tobacco cessation, personal safety and study skills.

Students can make an appointment with a counselor by phone, email or in-person. Contact information for the DSCC Counselors and additional mental health resources are available online on the DSCC Counseling Services web page (<https://www.dscc.edu/current-students/counseling-services>).

IV. Compliance

Faculty, staff and students will be aware of the mental health resources available.

V. Definitions

Referral – To direct to another resource, service or person for help or information.

VI. Revision History

Policy approved by Administrative Council 9/27/2012

Revision approved 4/27/2023. Policy reviewed and approved by Administrative Council on 02/20/2025.