If any self- or other-harm action has been taken by the student, call 911 immediately.

**START**

*Is student at acute risk for suicide?*
- Saying they wish they were dead
- Talking about a suicide plan
- Access to lethal means
- Talking about wanting to kill themselves

*Referring to back for more information about risk levels.*

**Note:** If you are able to, get a colleague for support at this point.

- **YES**
  - How was this information shared?
  - **PHONE**
    - Forward student’s email to DoSO: dean@studentlife.wisc.edu
  - **EMAIL**
    - Consult with UHS
  - **IN-PERSON**
    - Between 8:30 am–5 pm:
      - Walk student to UHS Counseling on 7th floor (333 E. Campus Mall)
      - If can’t walk to UHS, call 911
      - Stay with student until help arrives
    - After hours or if student unwilling to walk to UHS:
      - Call 911
      - Stay with student until help arrives
      - Consult with UHS

  - **If still concerned:**
    - Consult with UHS about next steps

- **NO**
  - Encourage student to seek help
  - Share campus resources
  - **If still concerned:**
    - Consult with UHS about next steps

**CONTACT INFORMATION & ACRONYMS**

**University Health Services (UHS) — Mental Health**
- 608-265-5600, option 2: M–F, 8:30 am – 5 pm
- 608-265-5600, option 9: available 24/7

**Dean of Students Office (DoSO)**
- 608-263-5700, option 2: M–F, 8 am – 4 pm

**UW Police Department (UWPD)**
- 608-264-2677, available 24/7

**PHONE**

**Email**

**Yes**

**In-person**

**Notify:**
- DoSO
- Supervisor

**After crisis is resolved:**
- Consult with UHS about next steps for you or your office
- Option to follow up with DoSO to confirm student was connected to resources
- Contact Employee Assistance for additional staff support: 608-263-2987

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Guidelines for responding to at-risk student via email

Questions you can ask:
- How can I best support you right now?
- When you have experienced difficulties in the past, what has helped?

Things you can say:
- You are not alone in this. I’m here for you.
- While I might not understand exactly how you feel, I care about you and I want to help.
- Share information about campus resources.

Listen without judgment:
- Remain patient and accepting. The conversation might seem negative and uncomfortable, but talking is always a positive step.
- It’s not about saying exactly the right words. The important thing to do is show that you care.

Explain what to expect after 911 is called:
- Except in cases of medical emergency, the police will respond.
- Typically there will be one to two squad cars. The officers will want to have a conversation to understand the situation and the needs of the student.
- The police will transport student to the hospital if needed (not an ambulance).
- Police officers care first and foremost about your safety and are here to support students in these difficult situations. Explain to the student that they are not in trouble.

High Risk (acute – seek help immediately)
- Direct statement about self- or other-harm with immediate thoughts/plan/means/access/intent
- Under the influence of alcohol or drugs that could lead to harm

Moderate Risk
- Direct statement about self- or other-harm without immediate thoughts/plan/means/access/intent
- On-going mental health issues
- Psychosis without threatening statement(s) or behavior(s)

NOTE: In this situation, you must often make a judgment call. For assistance, call UHS.

Mild Risk (non-acute)
- Mental health concerns about self or others without risk of suicide
- Situational event concerning self or other contributing to stress

For samples of email responses, visit:
https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/prevention/suicide-prevention/facstaff-suicide-resources/