



Involuntary Withdrawal Policy

Covenant College cares a great deal about the safety and well-being of its students, and considers these to be one of its highest priorities. Students are encouraged to prioritize their health and safety and take action towards wholeness and recovery, even if that delays academic progress. At times, a student may experience an inability to function successfully and safely in an academic and/or a residential setting. In such circumstances, a student's continued presence in the Covenant community may present a direct threat and/or significant risk to him or herself and/or others, or it may present a substantial disruption to the educational process. In these situations, Covenant may initiate an involuntary withdrawal when a student exhibits behavior that could disrupt the academic process or present a danger to the student or other members of the College community.

The Involuntary Withdrawal Policy is not a disciplinary policy or process. It is not intended to be applied to situations where a student violates the Standards of Conduct. There may be situations in which both the Involuntary Withdrawal Policy and the Standards of Conduct policy apply.

Student situations that may be reviewed and evaluated include, but are not limited to:

1. Behavior that poses a danger to the life, health, or safety of the student or other members of the college community, to the college property, or to the property of another member of the college community. This may also include behavior that requires intensive monitoring to prevent danger such as: suicidal threat, intent and/or behavior, or self-injurious behavior.
2. Disruptive behavior that impedes or aggressively disrupts the educational process or the legitimate activities of other members of the college community.
3. An acute decline in physical health
4. An eating disorder that is not responding to treatment and/or is posing safety concerns
5. The student refuses and/or is unable to cooperate with a recommended evaluation or treatment procedure

If necessary, the Dean of Students or his designee will convene an Evaluation Team to review the case and make appropriate recommendations. The Team will normally consist of:

- ☐ The Dean of Students and/or his designee
- ☐ Director of Counseling Services and/or her designee
- ☐ The Associate Deans of Students for Residence Life and/or Student Life

□ Director of Student Success

Following the review of all relevant information, the Evaluation Team will report its findings and recommendations on continuing the enrollment status of the student to the Dean of Students and/or his designee. In doing so, it will consider both the welfare of the individual student and the Covenant community.

The college may do one or all of the following:

- Notify the student's listed emergency contacts, which may include parents and appropriate college officials (e.g. the Student's professors, Registrar's Office, etc.) about a mental or physical health impairment, and/or safety emergency.
- Encourage a Voluntary Withdrawal or invoke an Involuntary Withdrawal.
- Allow the student to remain in school, but require a specific physical health or mental health evaluation within a certain period of time. The student may be referred to Priesthill Center counseling and/or to off campus health providers (e.g. licensed mental health or physical health care provider, eating disorder or substance abuse programs/hospital). The student will be responsible for any cost incurred by the evaluation and/or treatment. In the interest of gaining a better understanding of the student's ability to function in the Covenant community, the college may require the student to sign appropriate release forms allowing designated Covenant staff to consult with the evaluating and/or treating clinician(s) serving the student. Based on the evaluation results, the college will determine appropriate next steps, including the possibility of allowing the student to remain on campus if a commitment is made to the recommended treatment plan.

The Dean of Students and/or his designee will then make the final determination as to whether the student should remain at the college, and if so, under what conditions. A student who fails to cooperate with either the evaluation process or with the conditions set for his/her continuance at the college may be suspended on a summary basis or an Involuntary Withdrawal may be invoked.

In regards to re-enrollment, see the Re-Entry Plan policy below.

Suicide Assessment Process

To assist in facilitating student safety and community wellness, Student Development will administer a formal process of suicide assessment for students who evidence suicidal ideation, intent or behavior. Incidents will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and will require students who evidence suicidal ideation, intent or behavior to undergo a required assessment through the Priesthill Counseling Center or other approved provider.

Note: In cases where it is believed that the student's behavior poses a danger of causing imminent harm to self or others, the student may be summarily suspended or dismissed from the college immediately. Typically, in such cases, appropriate medical and law enforcement

agencies, as well as family members, will be notified. The evaluation process should then take place following the student's suspension and removal from campus.

Re-entry Plan Policy

Any student who has been placed on Involuntary Withdrawal will need to complete the following re-entry procedures before being allowed to return to Covenant College. The evaluation team may also require a student who takes a Voluntary Withdrawal to complete the re-entry procedures depending on the situation. The following steps are designed to determine if the effects of a major health condition or concern are either resolved or are not likely to interfere with the wellbeing of the student and Covenant community. This would include having a treatment plan in place for continuing good health and safety. The Dean of Students may also elect to impose conditions for the student's re-enrollment.

Note: Depending on the situation, students may need to complete these procedures on different timelines.

1. The student must be assessed by an appropriate professional (Advisory Provider), whose opinions will be advisory to the college. The Advisory Provider shall be selected by the student but must be a licensed psychologist, licensed counselor or psychiatrist (a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner would also suffice) if evaluating mental health concerns, and must be a licensed physician if the evaluation is regarding other medical concerns. Further, all Advisory Providers must be unrelated to the student and must have specialty/credentials appropriate for the condition of concern (e.g., experience in the field of eating disorders or substance abuse). To make an accurate assessment, before conducting the evaluation, the Advisory Provider must be given information related to the precipitating events that led to the leave. This typically would involve the student signing a release allowing the college (e.g., Priesthill Center and/or Student Development) to share information regarding relevant incidents or concerns, and if applicable, recent hospital records. The student shall sign a release permitting two-way communication between the Advisory Provider and the Evaluation Team designees (usually the Director of Counseling Services and Associate Dean of Students for Residence Life) and allowing all relevant information to be provided to the college representatives who are involved in the decision-making and review process.
2. The Advisory Provider must provide an assessment of current functioning of the student and provide written recommendations regarding:
 - a. the student's readiness to return to the academic and co-curricular demands of college life in light of the precipitating events;
 - b. the student's readiness to live in the on-campus residential community;
 - c. ongoing treatment or testing needs;
 - d. any conditions, restrictions, or accommodations that the college should provide.
3. After the evaluation results and treatment documentation have been provided, the student must meet with an Evaluation Team member. The evaluation, the student's own perception regarding readiness to return, the student's individual needs, and the plans for treatment will be discussed. Additionally, the representative will consider how the

Advisory Provider's recommendations fit with the realities of student life at Covenant and services that are available on campus or in the community.

4. The Evaluation Team will meet and consider the outside evaluator's recommendation and the results of the student's meeting with the Evaluation Team representative to inform re-entry decision. Students will receive written notification of the decision.

Notes

- There may be occasions in which the Evaluation Team requires an additional evaluation.
- The Evaluation Team reserves the right to require the student to comply with a treatment plan recommended by the Advisory Provider and/or the Priesthill Center as a condition of returning to, or remaining in, the campus community.
- Review and monitoring of the student's required treatment plan may be assigned to a designee of the Evaluation Team. Failure to comply with requirements may result in the college issuing an Involuntary Withdrawal.
- If a student was previously living on campus, approval for return to the college usually includes approval to return to housing. However, a student's on-campus housing status may be restricted if the student's condition or behavior poses a health or safety threat to him/herself or others.
- If a student was required to complete specific treatment (e.g., eating disorder or substance abuse treatment), the student must provide documentation regarding the completion of this requirement. Covenant reserves the right to use reasonable efforts to verify the accuracy and reliability of the provided documentation before deeming the requirement completed.