

Program description

The Student Accountability in Community (SAC) Seminar started in 1998 as a joint effort between Student Life and MSU Safe Place to provide an early intervention for students with accountability issues.

SAC is educationally oriented and generally appropriate for incidents of intimidation or verbal harassment. SAC is not an “anger management program” nor is it a substitute for counseling or batterer intervention. All students attending SAC are, however, screened for a variety of issues and referred to other campus resources.

SAC involves 4 one-hour sessions: an individual intake and three more individual or group sessions. The curriculum stresses accountability: understanding one’s own actions, being able to better assess the potential consequence of actions on others, and being able to identify alternative behaviors that promote accountability.

The cost is \$25 for all four sessions, although there is an additional \$10 charge for each missed session. All students are required to pay the \$25 fee prior to the intake session.

When to refer a student to SAC

SAC is intended to be an *early* educational intervention for students with accountability issues. Referrals are appropriate for the following behaviors:

- Bullying roommates or suitemates
- Verbally abusing night receptionists
- Vandalism
- Engaging in sex when consent is questionable

Classrooms

- Disrespecting other students’ academic freedom
- Insulting instructors or teaching assistants
- Plagiarism

Student organizations

- Making sexist, homophobic, or racist remarks at a meeting
- Interfering with a member’s legitimate duties
- Failing to understand how members’ actions affects others
- Disrupting a social function

R e f e r

T h e r e
a
Humiliating or intimidating
voluntary and mandatory
referrals to SAC do not have judicial consequences for non-compliance. Mandatory referrals require students to complete SAC as a judicial sanction and non-compliance typically results in a hold being placed on the student’s account. While only judicial administrators can require students to attend SAC as part of sanction, anyone can initiate the process by filing a formal judicial complaint against the student through Student Life.

Voluntary referrals are appropriate when the behavior is problematic but did not violate university regulations, repetition of the behavior will generally not be to the detriment of others, and the student is motivated to change.

Mandatory referrals should be considered when university regulations have been violated, repetition of the behavior will be to the detriment of others, or the referral is being considered in conjunction with a separate judicial sanction.

Voluntary referrals

To make a voluntary referral:

1. Talk with the student about their behavior.
2. Share with the student why you think that they might benefit from attending SAC.
3. Clearly state to the student any expectations that you have about when they should complete SAC or consequences for not completing SAC. Make sure the student understands your expectations.
4. Give the student the blue SAC bookmark and tell the student that they can schedule their first SAC session by calling Student Life (432-2471).
5. Call Student Life (432-2471) to notify us about your referral.

After you have made the referral, you can call Student Life to inquire about whether or not the student has signed up for a session. You will automatically receive a notice if the student completes SAC. However,