



VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT

In some cases, the Director of Equal Opportunity and Title IX Coordinator (hereafter referred to as the “Director”) may determine that a threat assessment or violence risk assessment should be overseen by the Behavioral Concerns Team (BCT) involving a student or by Human Resources involving a faculty and staff member as part of the initial assessment. Threat assessment is the process of evaluating the actionability of violence by an individual against another person or group following the issuance of a direct or conditional threat. A violence risk assessment is a broader term used to assess any potential violence or danger, regardless of the presence of a vague, conditional, or direct threat.

The violence risk assessment will determine whether the reported information and any other available information provides a rational basis for concluding that there is a compelling risk to health and/or safety that requires the University to pursue formal action to protect the community. A compelling risk to health and/or safety may result from evidence of patterns of misconduct, predatory conduct, threats, abuse of minors, use of weapons, and/or violence.

The outcome of the Violence Risk Assessment will be based upon a review of the totality of the known circumstances, and will be guided by a consideration of any of the following factors:

- Whether the Respondent has threatened to commit violence or any threat to physical health/safety.
- Whether aggravating circumstances or signs of violence, threats of violence, or other predatory behavior are present.
- Whether there is evidence of violence include hitting, punching, slapping, kicking, restraining, choking, and brandishing or using any weapon.
- Whether the report reveals a pattern or potential predatory conduct or to assess/identify grooming behaviors.
- Whether the Director of Equal Opportunity and Title IX should pursue/sign a Formal Complaint absent a willing/able Complainant.
- Whether Alleged conduct involved physical violence.
- Whether the Complainant is (or was at the time of the Prohibited Conduct) a minor (under 18).
- Whether to permit a voluntary withdrawal of the Respondent.
- Whether it is reasonable to try and resolve a complaint through informal resolution, and what modality might be most appropriate.
- Whether a Clery Act Timely Warning/Trespass Order/Persona-non-grata is needed.

A violence risk assessment is not an evaluation for an involuntary behavioral health hospitalization (e.g., 5150 in California) nor is it a psychological or mental health assessment. A violence risk assessment assesses the risk of actionable violence, often with a focus on targeted/predatory escalations, and is supported by research from the fields of law enforcement, criminology, human resources, and psychology.

A violence risk assessment requires specific training and is typically conducted by psychologists, clinical counselors, social workers, case managers, law enforcement officers, student conduct officers, members of the University Behavioral Concerns Team (BCT) in matters involving students, or by trained external parties identified by Human Resources.

Where a Violence Risk Assessment is required by the Director, a Respondent refusing to cooperate may result in a charge of failure to comply within the appropriate student or employee conduct process.

In all cases, the initial report, the assessment, and the determinations of the BCT or HR will be documented and retained by the University in accordance with applicable law.

Following the completion of the violence risk assessment, the BCT or Human Resources team will reconvene as necessary to continue to evaluate whether any new or additional information received triggers any further obligation(s) under the Clery Act or with respect to any child protective service agency, and will direct the Director to take such further actions, as necessary.