



Establishing a Student Mental Health and Wellness Task Force

The ideal way to develop a comprehensive, integrated mental health promotion and suicide prevention action plan is to convene a task force, which will provide leadership and structure for the process.¹ The college president, provost, or other senior administration official should create a mandate and invite a core group of members. The task force, in some form, should become an institutionalized body that is responsible for overseeing implementation, periodic review, and revision of the created plan.

Membership

Ideally, members should be at the director level and include those people who have high contact with students. Mental health and wellness task forces most often include the following core group:

Campus Safety/Police

Counseling Services

Health Services

Residence Life

Wellness/Health Promotion/Health Education

Each campus should determine task force membership based on its unique needs. Additional task force members might also include the following:

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| Academic Affairs | Facilities Management |
| Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention | Faculty |
| Athletics | Graduate Student Services |
| Campus Ministries | Greek Life |
| Career Services | International Student Services |
| Community Mental Health Providers | Judicial Affairs |
| Custodial Services | Legal Counsel |
| Dining Services | Student Affairs |
| Disability Services | Student Government/Leaders |

¹ The task force should be a separate entity from any existing case management committee or student-at-risk response team, with a different charge and set of responsibilities. Although there will be overlapping members, a case management team is generally responsible for the management of *individual* student cases, while a task force is charged with the strategic direction, planning, implementation, and evaluation of a multi-strategy, campus-wide approach.