Red Folder Q & A

Q: What is the Red Folder?

A: The Red Folder is a quick-reference guide designed to help faculty and staff recognize, respond to, and refer students in distress. It outlines signs of emotional or psychological distress, provides guidance on how to approach students, and lists campus resources for support and referral.

Q: Why was the Red Folder updated?

A: The update reflects our commitment to student mental health and well-being. It incorporates current best practices in crisis response, aligns with evolving campus protocols, and ensures that faculty and staff have the most relevant tools to support students effectively. The updated version is more user-friendly and integrates additional resources.

Q: How can I use the Red Folder in my role?

A: You can use the Red Folder in several ways:
- **Recognize** signs of distress in students (e.g., changes in behavior, mood, academic performance).
- **Respond** appropriately by initiating a conversation, expressing concern, and listening non-judgmentally.
- **Refer** students to the appropriate campus resources, such as Counseling & Wellness Services, using the contact information and guidance provided.
- **Consult** with campus professionals if you're unsure how to proceed—you're never alone in supporting student well-being.
    - **DOS**
    - **CWS**
    - **SASS**

Q: Why was the Columbia Scale included in the Red Folder?

A: Suicide prevention is a public health priority, and universities play an important role in early identification and intervention. The Columbia Scale was created to be used by anyone, not just mental health professionals. It offers a straightforward, evidence-based way to assess suicide risk using simple questions that help determine the level of concern and guide appropriate next steps. Including the scale in the Red Folder gives faculty and staff a practical tool to support student safety. Whether you're checking in with a student who seems withdrawn or responding to a more urgent concern, the scale can help you feel more confident in assessing risk and connecting students to the support they need.

Q: Where can I access the updated Red Folder?

A: The updated Red Folder is available both in print and online. You can download it from the Student Affairs website or request a physical copy through your department's administrative office.