Mandated Assessment
DSA.DS.500.001

Mandated Assessment Policy
The University of Mississippi is concerned for every student on our campus and for our entire
campus community. In an effort to more effectively serve our students and our community,
the Student Intervention Team (SIT) has put in place these guidelines to help reach students
who may be in need of support but who are unwilling or unable to take advantage of these
services.

What is a mandated assessment?
A mandated assessment is an opportunity for the University to determine if a student is in
need of help or support. The assessment involves an individual meeting with a designated
staff member at the University Counseling Center (UCC). Following this initial meeting,
additional services may be deemed necessary by the designated counselor. These services
could include but are not limited to, referral to the University Psychiatrist for additional
evaluation, additional sessions with the UCC counselor, or referral to outside agent for
additional assessment.

How does a student get referred for a mandated assessment?
Any University employee or student may recommend a student to SIT for possible mandated
evaluation. Reports also may come from parents or others concerned about a student. Once
the SIT determines that a mandated assessment is necessary, the process is set into motion.

Who makes the decision that a student be provided a mandated assessment?
The decision is made by the SIT after careful consideration of the information given and
determining the best course of action.

What behaviors typically lead to a mandated assessment?
Behaviors that may lead to a mandated assessment include but are not limited to:
• Threat to others
• Concern that the student may not be fit to function in or remain in the academic
  community.

Is the assessment confidential?
Yes, the session with the counselor is confidential. However, the student will be required to
sign a release of information so that the counselor can communicate with SIT to help make
recommendations for further action. No one else will have access to any information without
written permission from the student being assessed. Student files will be maintained at the
UCC.

What happens once the student is referred for assessment?
Once the SIT has determined that a mandated assessment is needed, the student will be
contacted by a representative of SIT regarding an appointment with the UCC. This will take
place as soon as possible. The assessment will be completed at the UCC, and the student will
be asked to complete the typical intake information used by the UCC as well as information
specific to the mandated assessment.
Can the student request that the assessment be done by someone other than the UCC?
Yes, a student may choose to have a similar assessment completed by a licensed mental health professional with credentials comparable to those of the UCC staff. The student will be responsible for the cost of this assessment and must sign a release allowing the SIT to communicate with the professional conducting the assessment.

What happens following the assessment?
The results of the assessment are provided to the SIT, and the team will make the decision as to what actions are necessary for the University community. Possible outcomes following the assessment could include but are not limited to: no further action required (student continues enrollment at the University); referral to the University Psychiatrist for additional evaluation; additional sessions with the UCC counselor; referral to outside agency for additional assessment; possible judicial sanctions; or the invocation of the Involuntary Withdrawal Policy.

Does the student have the right to appeal the decision of SIT?
Yes, a student may appeal the final decision of SIT to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. The appeal will follow the same guidelines outlined in the Involuntary Withdrawal Policy.

What if the student refuses to comply with the mandated assessment?
If a student refuses to participate in the mandated assessment, the SIT will begin the process of invoking the Involuntary Withdrawal Policy. A mandated assessment will only be one part of the overall picture of the student and will not be the sole determining factor for action taken regarding the student.