THE VIOLENT STUDENT

Violence, because of emotional distress, is rare and typically occurs when the student’s level of frustration has been so intense or of such an enduring nature it erodes all of the student’s emotional controls. This behavior is often associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs.

- **Remain calm**, get help if necessary (send a student for other staff/faculty/dean/Campus Safety).
- **Stay safe** (have access to a door, keep furniture/desk between you and the student).
- **Do not threaten, corner, or touch the student.** The adage, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” best applies here.

Prevent total frustration and helplessness by quickly and calmly acknowledging the intensity of the situation, e.g., “I can see you’re really upset and are ready to lash out.” Explain clearly and directly what behaviors are acceptable, e.g., “You certainly have the right to be angry but breaking things is not OK.”