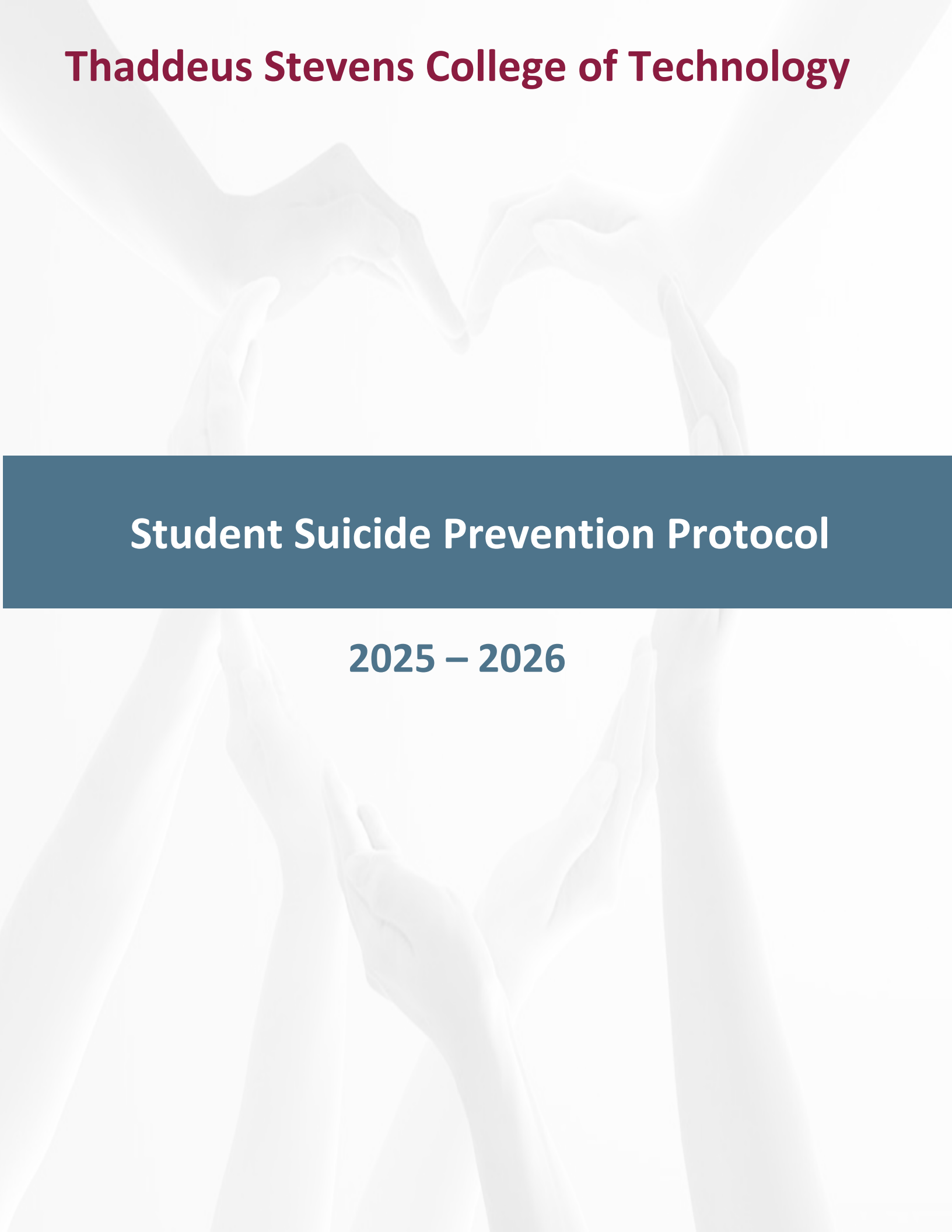


Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

A background image showing several hands reaching up from the bottom and pointing towards the top, where two hands are already pointing down, creating a heart shape. The hands are light-skinned and the background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

Student Suicide Prevention Protocol

2025 – 2026

Table of Contents

Statement of Commitment3

Purpose.....3

Definitions3

A. Important Warning Signs4

B. Prevention4

C. Protocol5

D. Procedures5

E. Promoting Reintegration Back into the Classroom6

F. Mental Health Community Resources.....6

G. Post-Intervention7



Statement of Commitment

The College recognizes that a student's physical, behavioral, and emotional health is an integral component of a student's academic success. Understanding that suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology endeavors to create a community which supports mental health. Stressors from the college experience may place students under emotional pressure occasionally manifesting in a threat to harm themselves or attempt suicide. The College commits to treating all threats and attempts seriously and will act by taking necessary steps to ensure the student's safety.

Purpose

The main purpose of the protocol is to protect the health and well-being of all students by having procedures in place to identify, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicidal ideation, threats, and/or behavior. This protocol guides faculty and staff in responding when a student may be at imminent or potential risk of self-harm. This document is designed as an employee resource and is not intended for student use.

The protocol is activated when the College has knowledge that a student:

- is actively engaged in suicidal behavior
- has previously engaged in suicidal behavior while enrolled at the College or recently before matriculation
- or has stated plans or intentions to attempt suicide.

A student who exhibits any of these behaviors may be required to meet with the Dean of Student Success before being permitted to resume classes. The Dean of Student Success Office administers the Student Suicide Prevention Protocol.

Another important purpose of this protocol is to provide education and guidance to faculty, staff, students, and other members of the College community to help prevent student suicide. All suicidal behavior or threats must be taken seriously and reported in accordance with this protocol. In case of an emergency, immediately call **911** or contact campus security at ext. **7225** (on-campus phone) or 717-391-7225 (off-campus phone).

Definitions

Suicide – death from an injury which is self-inflicted and by which the individual intended to kill himself.

Suicidal Behavior – any potentially injurious behavior which is self-inflicted and by which an individual intends, or gives the appearance of intending, to kill himself.

Suicide Threat – any interpersonal action, verbal or nonverbal, that a reasonable person would interpret as communicating or suggesting that suicidal behavior may be imminent.

Suicidal Ideation – any self-reported thoughts or feelings about engaging in suicidal behavior.

Suicide Plan – a proposed method of self-inflicted injury through which the potential and intentional outcome is death.



A. Important Warning Signs

*Risk is greater if a behavior is new or has increased, and if it seems related to a painful event, loss, or change.

- Talking about or making plans for suicide
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing from friends and family or feeling isolated/alienated
- Exhibiting uncontrolled rage or wanting to seek revenge
- Displaying extreme mood swings
- Sense of worthlessness, hopelessness, helplessness
- Statements such as: “Soon you won’t have to worry about me,” “I just want to go to sleep and never wake up” or “I just want out”
- Suddenly happier and calmer
- Giving away prized possessions
- Getting affairs in order; making arrangements
- Loss of interest in things one cares about
- Visiting or contacting people one cares about
- Preoccupation with death

B. Prevention

Students will receive information about suicide prevention and other behavioral health concerns through emails, activities, and campus awareness events. The goal of educational programming is to promote the understanding of the dynamics of suicide and to recognize behaviors that may signal suicidal intent. Available suicide awareness and prevention materials will include topics such as depression, healthy coping techniques, and mental health principles.

Faculty and staff will also have access to information regarding recognizing suicidal behaviors. Guidelines will be shared to provide necessary information in relation to intervention. If faculty or staff notice any of the above warning signs or new behaviors that are concerning, enter an alert into SS&E for counseling referral. In addition, faculty or staff will provide students with the list of Mental Health Community Resources found on the final page of this protocol. Mental health counseling services are available to all students through the college’s counseling department.



C. Protocol

In the event a member of the college community directly, or indirectly, learns a student has engaged in suicidal behavior, made a suicidal threat, or exhibited suicidal warning signs, refer the student for assistance according to the procedures outlined below.

*If you are ever uncertain about how to proceed and no one is available for consultation, do not hesitate to call 911.

D. Procedures

1. Suicidal Behavior

If a student appears to be in imminent danger of harming themselves, and/or has already taken steps toward suicide, take the following immediate actions:.

- a. Report behavior to emergency personnel by calling **911**. Remain with the student until emergency personnel arrive.
 - i. If possible, provide responding emergency personnel with any pertinent information that is known about the student.
- b. Contact Campus Security at extension **7225** (717-391-7225).
 - i. Campus Security will assist emergency responders in expediting access to the student of concern.
- c. Contact Campus Nurse at extension **7769** (717-299-7769).
 - i. Campus Nurse will provide medical support to the student until emergency responders arrive on scene.
- d. Contact Mental Health Counselor at extension **7213** (717-391-7213).
 - i. Mental Health Counselor will provide suicide risk assessment.
- e. Contact the Dean of Student Success at extension **3506** (717-391-3506).
 - i. The Dean of Student Success will attempt to contact the student's emergency contact of record or another individual identified by the student.
- f. In the absence of the Dean of Student Success, contact the Vice President of Student Services at extension **7794** (717-299-7794).

2. Suicide Threat

Take the following immediate action if a student threatens suicide (verbally or in writing), shows evidence of recent superficial wounds, and the level of imminent danger is unclear:

- a. Contact the Mental Health Counselor at **717-391-7213**.
 - i. Counselor will evaluate student suicide risk through assessment.
- b. In the absence of the Mental Health Counselor, contact the Dean of Student Success, at **717-391-3506**.
 - i. The Dean of Student Success with contact Crisis Intervention at **717-394-2631**.



- j. If the College is closed, call Campus Security at extension **7225**, or Crisis Intervention at **717-394-2631**.

E. Promoting Reintegration Back into the Classroom

Any student who was assessed as needing emergency medical services and/or needed to receive inpatient behavioral health services will be required to meet with the Dean of Student Success prior to the return to school. The student must also provide documentation from a medical professional supporting the need for an excused absence.

- A student who has communicated a suicide threat will provide documentation that they have been assessed by a mental health professional and have been determined that they are safe to return to campus.
- The assessment should be performed by a licensed mental health professional or crisis worker in the community.
- All suicide threats should be taken seriously. No attempt to independently evaluate the validity or imminence of the suicide threat should be made by a non-professional.

F. Mental Health Community Resources

1. Campus Resource

The College supports and values the mental health and wellness of all students. The **Mental Health Counselor at Thaddeus Stevens** is available for all students, at no additional cost.

The Counseling Department's office hours:

- Monday/Tuesday, 8:30-5pm
- Wednesday - Friday, 8-4:30pm
- Call: **717-391-7213**
- **If after normal business hours, please contact one of the of local resources provided below.**

2. Local Resources

- Lancaster County BHDS (Behavioral Health & Developmental Services), 24/7 Crisis Intervention: **717-394-2631**
- LGH (Lancaster General Hospital) Walk-in Crisis Center: **717-544-7300**

3. National Resources

- The **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** provides free and confidential support, 24/7, for people in distress. They provide specific resources for people struggling with serious mental health concerns. Services are accessible for non-English speakers and people with hearing loss. Call **988** or **1-800-273-8255** or chat using their website: suicidepreventionlifeline.org.
- The **Trevor Project** is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to the LGBTQIA+ community. The Trevor Project also



provides educational resources for allies. Call **866-488-7386** or text **'START'** to **678-7678**. The **Trans Lifeline** is: **1-877-565-8860**.

- **Ulifeline** is an anonymous, confidential online resource center for college students seeking a safe space to discuss and learn more about mental health. Ulifeline is a program of **The Jed Foundation**, the nation's leading nonprofit public organization working to prevent suicide among college students and improve the mental health support available on campuses nationwide. Call **800-273-TALK (8255)** or text **'START'** to **741-741**.

G. Post-Intervention

1. Support Services and Communications

In the event of a confirmed suicide involving a student, faculty member, or staff member, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology will make support services readily available and communicate with affected students, faculty and staff. Support services may include visits by mental health counselors to classrooms or residence halls, as appropriate. The Office of the Vice President of Student Services will work in conjunction with the Communications and Marketing Department to provide timely and appropriate communication to the affected individuals, to the extent possible.

