



BIT - Behavioral Intervention Team

FAQs

What is BIT?

BIT is the **B**ehavioral **I**ntervention **T**eam for Heartland Community College, and acts as the threat assessment team for all HCC campuses, as required by the Illinois Campus Security Enhancement Act. The members of the BIT come from different College departments with a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

What does BIT do?

BIT accepts reports from the College community and examines behaviors that alarm or concerns others to determine if the person of concern is on a pathway to violence or is in need other assistance. BIT is not a disciplinary process, nor do we use an adversarial approach – rather, it is intended to help make the College safer by evaluating individuals that have worried others to the point they are concerned about another’s personal welfare. Once the BIT is informed, the team will attempt to identify assistance for the person in distress.

Who are members of the BIT?

There are three groups which may be involved in a BIT inquiry. The **Core-BIT** does the initial triage of inquiries. When necessary, the Core-BIT can assemble a greater **Collegewide BIT** from faculty and staff who have a direct relationship to the inquiry. Finally, the Core-BIT can engage **agencies and organizations from outside the College** to help manage the situation and assist the person of concern.

Who are the Core-BIT members?

The members of the Core-BIT are the Director, Risk Management and Public Safety; the Director, Student Counseling Services; the Dean of Students; and the Assistant Director, Public Safety and Emergency Management who serves as the BIT Coordinator.

What should be reported to BIT?

Anytime someone’s actions or behaviors concern you to the point you feel they are a danger to themselves or others, they should be reported to BIT. This can be anything from trouble at home, trouble in class/work, increased violence, depression, potential threats, etc.



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Will BIT come in an emergency?

No, **anytime you feel there is an immediate threat to you or others, contact the police immediately!** BIT is not a replacement for Public Safety, the police, or professional mental health intervention. BIT helps support and enhance a person's ability to deal with all types of challenges by facilitating services from the College or other community resources.

Can BIT help me with financial obligations?

No, BIT does not pay for services or assistance, but BIT may help you get in contact with local services and agencies which may help you.

How do I report to BIT?

If there is an immediate threat, contact the police immediately.

To contact the BIT, call the 268-SAFE phone 24-hours a day. You may also send an email to BIT.Report@heartland.edu, but the email is only monitored during the week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. when the College is open. You may also contact the Assistant Director, Public Safety-Emergency Management (309) 268-8454, Dean of Students (309) 268-8057, Student Counseling Services at (309) 268-8419, or the Department of Public Safety (309) 268-8300.

What happens after I file an inquiry?

Once an inquiry is received, the BIT team reviews the information to determine if an immediate threat is present, and if so take immediate action. If the BIT members determine the inquiry is a BIT matter, they can gather more facts, assemble a larger team, or take other action as deemed appropriate.

Is my name protected?

The identity of the person making a report to BIT is kept confidential whenever possible. There are some cases when the identity of the person who makes a BIT report must be divulged.

Is BIT only for students?

No, BIT is able to intercede in reports made about students, employees or members of the public who are on any of the campuses.

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