

King's College Counseling Center: Scope of Practice Policy

The King's College Counseling Center is staffed by competent and qualified master's level licensed or pre-licensed clinical staff. However, we are *not* a full-service mental health clinic. Furthermore, there are times of the year when we do not provide clinical services (ex: from spring graduation until the start of classes in August; over designated campus breaks; during holidays when campus is closed). Therefore, there may be times when a student's needs fall outside of the scope of what our department can provide and would need a referral to an off-campus provider.

Some examples of clinical issues that would likely be addressed through a community referral include but are not limited to:

1. Students who demonstrate a need for individual counseling more than once a week for an extended period of time.
2. Students who require excessive use of crisis intervention.
3. Students who present a chronic, ongoing risk of harm to self or others, and symptoms and risk have not been significantly alleviated by ongoing counseling or crisis intervention through the Counseling Center. This may include students with a history of multiple hospitalizations, chronic suicidality, a history of repeated suicide attempts, and/or chronic and severe non-suicidal self-injury.
4. Students with clinical presentations, such as some personality disorders, that indicate short-term therapy may be ineffective and/or detrimental.
5. Students who present with active symptoms of psychosis and are at risk for progressive deterioration.
6. Students presenting with a concern or disorder that requires expertise or resources not sufficiently available in our center. Examples could include but are not limited to: court ordered/mandated assessments and treatment, significant or chronic disordered eating symptoms that are posing a medical danger, intensive outpatient treatment, significant or chronic substance use/abuse which compromises therapy.
7. Comprehensive psychological evaluation of any type, including but not limited to:
 - a. Neuropsychological evaluations
 - b. Forensic assessments
 - c. Custody evaluations
 - d. Assessment and documentation for service or support animals
 - e. State/Federal benefit programs, including vocational rehabilitation and social security/disability

- f. Fitness-for-duty evaluations
- g. Pre-surgical mental health evaluations

There may also be additional scenarios where Counseling Center staff would recommend referral to an off-campus provider. Examples of these scenarios could be but are not limited to:

1. Students who are unwilling to provide information sufficient for clinical assessment.
2. Students who attend counseling sessions but do not follow the treatment plan/approach designed to stabilize symptoms, are unable to make any progress, or are unwilling to set goals for treatment.
3. Students who engage in inappropriate, harassing, menacing, threatening, or violent behavior towards staff.
4. Students with a pattern of excessive no shows, repeated stops and starts to counseling (not a planned pause in treatment) and/or repeated requests to change providers.