
Anticipating Student Protests

While the current focus is on universities, K-12 schools need to be concerned about the possibility of protests on their campus and/or in their neighborhood. And everyone needs to consider the impact protests may be having on their students.

So far on our campus, the administration has taken a principled approach. Here is the latest statement to the campus:

Regular campus activities continue uninterrupted by the encampment demonstration that remains in Royce Quad. To date, the activity has been mostly peaceful. Our approach continues to be guided by several equally important principles: the need to support the safety and wellbeing of Bruins, the need to support the free expression rights of our community, and the need to minimize disruption to our teaching and learning mission. These same long-standing principles have allowed UCLA to uphold a history of peaceful protest.

UCLA is following University of California systemwide policy guidance, which directs us not to request law enforcement involvement preemptively, and only if absolutely necessary to protect the physical safety of our campus community.

We've taken several steps to help ensure people on campus know about the demonstration so they can avoid the area if they wish. This includes having student affairs representatives stationed near Royce quad to let Bruins and visitors know about the encampment, redirect them if desired and to serve as a resource for their needs.

We also have safety teams who are wearing Student Affairs Mitigators (SAMs), Public Safety Aides (PSAs) and CSC security uniforms throughout the demonstration site. You may also hear helicopters dispatched by news media who are covering the demonstration.

For more information about emergencies at UCLA, please visit <https://bso.ucla.edu/>.

With respect to addressing the impact on students, we stress that the key is to anticipate and plan to maximize proactive actions and ways to help those students and staff affected. Student support administrators and staff can lead the way.

For students who are emotionally upset, a useful resource to draw on is the *Psychological First Aid for Schools (PFA-S) Field Operations Guide*

<https://www.nctsn.org/resources/psychological-first-aid-schools-pfa-s-field-operations-guide>

Other resources can be found on our Center website <https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/> For easy links to resources, see our online clearinghouse Quick Finds <https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/quicksearch.htm>

If you have already done the work related to this, please share it with us so we can share with others. Send to Ltaylor@ucla.edu

Best wishes and be well,

Howard & Linda