If you have ever experienced a challenging disciplinary situation in your classroom, you are not alone. The majority of students act in an appropriate and respectful manner, however, there are occasions when students will test the limits of acceptable classroom behavior. Student conduct that substantially or repeatedly interferes with the ability of an instructor to teach or the ability of other students to learn is a violation of UWS Chapter 17.

CAMPUS RESOURCES
Academic Advising ..................... 608.342.1033
Counseling Services ................... 608.342.1865
Dean of Students ....................... 608.342.1854
PATH Center ............................. 608.342.1081
International Programs ............... 608.342.1726
Residence Life .......................... 608.342.1845
Student Health Services ............. 608.342.1891
Students with Disabilities .......... 608.342.1818
University Police ...................... 608.342.1584
Veterans Services ..................... 608.342.1321
Writing and Tutoring Resources ..... 608.342.1615

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS
Dean of Students Office
2300 Markee Pioneer Student Center
608.342.1854
deanofstudents@uwplatt.edu  |  www.uwplatt.edu

Confronting a disruptive student can be an uncomfortable, but necessary experience. If a student’s behavior obstructs or disrupts your ability to teach or the ability of others to learn, you may find the following suggestions helpful.

1. Clearly articulate rules regarding attendance, tardiness, class participation, academic misconduct, use of electronic devices, and appropriate conduct on the course syllabus. Specify consequences (e.g., reports to the Dean of Students) and follow through in a fair and consistent manner. Reference acceptable computer use and e-mail policies where appropriate.
2. Model professional behavior. Respond to inappropriate remarks in a professional, mature manner. Put-downs or witty comebacks may escalate a situation or minimize a student concern.
3. Disruptive students are not always aware that they are bothering others. Moving closer to the disruptive student, pausing until everyone quiets down, and/or making direct eye contact could make a difference.
4. When the disruption is isolated to one student, speak privately with the student. Use “I” messages such as, “When I see you _____; I feel _____; and I need the activity to stop.”
5. Seek consultation from experienced colleagues and/or your department chair.
6. If the disruption continues, issue a written warning to the student addressing concerns and consequences for non-compliance (e.g., risk of a lower grade if classroom participation is a percentage of the course grade and/or referral to the Dean of Students office).
7. If a student prevents you from moving on to another topic, take control of the discussion, express the need to cover all of the material, and invite the student to continue the conversation during your office hours.
8. If initial strategies are not effective, give the student the option of modifying the undesirable behavior or leaving the class for the remainder of the period. Instructors may tell a student to leave class temporarily, but adjudication by the Dean of Students office is necessary for permanent removal.
9. If you are seeing a pattern of disruptive behavior, consult with your department chair. All students are required to comply with regulations set forth in the UWS Chapters 14, 17, and 18. Inform the Dean of Students office if the behavior continues.
10. Document all incidents and your attempts to resolve the situation in a factual and objective manner, using exact words whenever possible. Contact the Dean of Students office about referring students for disciplinary action.
11. If a student is making threats of violence to him/herself and/or to others, immediately contact University Police by calling 911. Document the incident(s) and forward the information to the Dean of Students office as soon as possible.

Threats of violence to self or others must result in immediate contact to University Police by calling 911.