

To be an effective academic administrator, there are required skills that are usual parts of the role. These may include faculty /staff evaluations, budgeting, or external development activities. However, unexpected events are also experienced in an administrative position and often are not considered until an adverse event has taken place. While administrators work to gain competence in the normative skills within the position, this presentation will present skill sets that are critical in dealing with unexpected and traumatic events on campus – in particular, events that threaten or compromise safety for faculty, students, and staff.

Safety has become a topic of conversation in many contexts and is often a component of leadership training. However, these offerings frequently remain at an abstract level such as citing campus safety statistics, or articulating policy and procedure protocols. When encountering a campus safety breach, however, the academic administrator must often make quick decisions about how to handle these events.

Within this presentation, scenarios about campus safety threats will be presented and discussed. Using an ecological model to view the campus and community environment, the presentation will focus on the immediate situation and safety issue, messaging surrounding the event, and dealing with a campus response network. Three scenarios will be presented: dealing with student on faculty violence, handling a situation of sexual assault, dealing with experience of violence in an off campus learning situation (e.g., internship or clinical placement).

For each scenario, the trauma or harm to the victim will be described. As a group, participants will discuss how to deal with immediate safety needs, including health and mental health experiences. In addition, impact on others in the campus community will be summarized such as those who witnessed the event, or knew the perpetrator or victim. Circumstances of dealing with safety issues off campus as part of programs of study (e.g., internship requirements) will be addressed. Participants will discuss protocols for dealing with these incidents, and communication practices that are appropriate for each of the experiences.