



Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson Suicide Prevention Plan

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson is committed to the mental health wellness of our students, faculty and staff. As such, and in compliance with the requirements of T.C.A. § 49-7-172, Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson has developed a suicide prevention plan that engages in a variety of initiatives to improve and provide crisis services.

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson's Suicide Prevention Protocol will be disseminated to faculty, staff, and students each academic term via appropriate and effective channels of communication, e.g. email, mass text, social media, etc.

Prevention

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson has developed a comprehensive approach to increase mental health awareness through efforts of prevention.

Contact

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson's contact for suicide prevention work is Meredith Cooper, Director of Practical Nursing and Allied Health, at 731-424-0691 (ext. 120), meredith.cooper@tcatjackson.edu.

Prevention Components & Resources

Key components of Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson's suicide prevention work include:

- The following suicide or mental health wellness syllabus statement included on Faculty Syllabi and/or Program Handbooks for all courses:

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help contact the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Number by texting or calling 988. If you are a veteran, select option 1, and you will be transferred to the Veterans' Crisis Line. Additionally, you may choose to call the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386.

- Promotion of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and campus/community resources are made available through:
 - Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson website [<https://tcatjackson.edu>], and through additional methods, such as sharing information during Orientation and posting

flyers.

- Utilizing community resources and agencies to provide prevention services for Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson community members. Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson has established relationships with the following local Mental Health facilities for the purpose of providing crisis referral services, prevention screenings, etc.
 - Agency 1: Pathways Behavioral Health Services provides crisis services as needed; service as a referral agency as needed; and literature, training, and suicide prevention screenings as requested. Contact Information: For an appointment, call 1-800-587-3854. For a crisis, call 1-800-372-0693.
 - Agency 2: Employee Assistance Program administered by Optum provides up to five visits per problem per year for any full-time employee at no cost. Contact Information: Call 1-855-Here4TN (1-855-437-3486) or visit the website www.here4TN.com.

Additional Information

Information regarding such relationships at Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson is available at <https://tcatjackson.edu/sites/default/files/TCAT%20Jackson%20Suicide%20Prevention%20Protocol%20-%20Updated%20June%202023%20for%20Website.pdf>. A list of partners and services available to members of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson community, which may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, training programs, etc. is found at the above location and in the Student Services Office. Any student interested in accessing the services/agencies and training noted above or requesting more information about Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson's suicide prevention efforts should contact the Office of Student Services at 731-424-0691 (ext. 140 or 198 for Jackson, ext. 212 for Lexington, or ext. 303 for Whiteville/Brownsville). Any employee interested in accessing the services/agencies and training noted above or requesting more information about Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson's suicide prevention efforts should contact the Office of Human Resources at 731-424-0691 (ext. 114).

Intervention

There is no typical suicidal person. No age group, ethnicity, or background is immune. Fortunately, many troubled individuals display behaviors deliberately or inadvertently signal their suicidal intent. Recognizing the warning signs (<http://tspn.org/warning-signs>) and learning what to do next may help save a life.

Contact

If someone exhibits behavioral patterns that may indicate possible risk for suicide, they should be watched closely. If they appear numerous or severe, seek professional help at once. **The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides access to trained telephone counselors, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling or texting 988.**

If a student, faculty, or staff member encounters a suicidal student, faculty, or staff member, the following individual should be contacted immediately:

Student Services at 731-424-0691 (ext. 140 or 198 for Jackson, ext. 212 for Lexington, or ext. 303 for Whiteville/Brownsville).

Should the incident occur after hours, or the above noted individual is not available, the following should be contacted immediately:

- For a Student Issue – Meredith Cooper, Director of Practical Nursing and Allied Health, 731-424-0691 (ext. 120), meredith.cooper@tcatjackson.edu
- For a Faculty/Staff Issue – Jacquene Rainey, Campus President, 731-424-0691 (ext. 108), jacquene.rainey@tcatjackson.edu

If the suicidal person has plans and access to a lethal means, is planning to make an attempt very soon, or is currently in the process of making an attempt, this individual is in imminent danger and should not be left alone. Get the person help immediately. Determine who can get there quickly and keep the individual safe. **Immediately call 911.**

Intervention Resources

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson has established relationships with the following local Mental Health facilities for the purpose of crisis referral services.

- Agency 1: Pathways Behavioral Health Services – 1-800-372-0693.
- Agency 2: Employee Assistance Program administered by Optum – 1-855-Here4TN (1-855-437-3486) or visit the website www.here4TN.com.

The safety and wellbeing of our students, faculty, and staff is of the utmost importance. In situations that require immediate action because of safety or other concerns, Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson will take any reasonable administrative action or accommodation protocols that are appropriate. Such interim actions may include, but are not limited to, adjustments to schedules, ADA accommodations, adjustments of course or exam schedules, facilitation of hold harmless voluntary withdrawals, incompletes, etc.

Postvention

Because all student/faculty/staff deaths affect our community, whether that death is accidental, due to illness, or the result of self-inflicted injury, it important for Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson to respond to and recognize all deaths in a consistent manner. Campus leadership and the communications department developed a protocol that includes a campus response to a student/faculty/staff suicide to decrease the trauma experienced by the students and other campus community members left behind and to help prevent further suicides through contagion.

Contact

If a student, staff, or faculty member death occurs by suicide, the following person, or their designee, should be notified immediately:

- Jacquene Rainey, Campus President, 731-424-0691 (ext. 108), jacquene.rainey@tcatjackson.edu

Postvention Components & Resources

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson has established relationships with the following local Mental Health facilities for the purpose of working to decrease community trauma.

- Agency 1: Pathways Behavioral Health Services – 1-800-372-0693.
- Agency 2: Employee Assistance Program administered by Optum – 1-855-Here4TN (1-855-437-3486) or visit the website www.here4TN.com.

Comprehensive Response Protocol

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson's comprehensive suicide prevention, intervention and postvention protocol is available to the campus community, campus administration, etc. For more information, please contact Meredith Cooper, Director of Practical Nursing and Allied Health, at 731-424-0691 (ext. 120), Meredith.cooper@tcatjackson.edu.