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.......................... 715-836-3487
Academic Skills Center ..................... 715-836-5844
Career Services ............................. 715-836-5358
Center for Awareness of Sexual Assault Crisis Line ..................... 715-836-HELP
Counseling Services ......................... 715-836-5521
Dean of Students ............................. 715-836-5626
Housing and Residence Life ............... 715-836-3674
International Education .................... 715-836-4411
Nontraditional Student Services ........... 715-836-3259
Student Health Services .................... 715-836-4311
Students with Disabilities .................. 715-836-4542
TRIO Student Support Services ............. 715-836-4542
University Police ............................ 715-836-4972
University Recreation ....................... 715-836-3377
Veterans Services ............................ 715-836-5912

Questions/Concerns: Dean of Students Office
Room 240, Schofield Hall
715-836-5626
deanofstudents@uwec.edu
www.uwec.edu/dos

Confronting a disruptive student can be an uncomfortable 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 tend to escalate the situation.
3. If possible, move closer to the disruptive students, pause until everyone quiets down, and make direct eye contact. Disruptive students are not always aware that they are bothering others.
4. When the problem 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 problem 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 verbal admonishment is 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, including those with psychological disabilities, 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. Be factual and objective. Use quotations whenever possible. Contact the Dean of Students Office if you want to consult with a dean about possibly referring incidents 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.

*Adapted, with permission, from “What To Do When A Bruin Becomes A Bear In Class”, UCLA Dean of Students Office.