



BIT - Behavioral Intervention Team

FAQs

What is BIT?

BIT is the **Behavioral Intervention Team** for Heartland Community College, and acts as the threat assessment alliance for all three HCC campuses. It was established as part of the Illinois Campus Security Enhancement Act.

What does BIT do?

BIT examines behaviors that may alarm or disturb members of the College community to determine if the person(s) of concern are on a pathway to violence. BIT is not a disciplinary process or an adversarial approach – rather, it is intended to help make the College safer by evaluating individuals that have worried others who may be concerned about their personal welfare. Once the BIT is informed, the team will merge their assistance with the person in distress.

Who are members of the BIT?

There are three groups which may be involved in a BIT inquiry. A **Core BIT** does the initial triage of inquiries. When necessary, the Core-BIT can assemble a greater **College BIT** from faculty and staff who have a direct relationship to the inquiry. Finally, the Core-BIT can bring in **agencies and organizations from outside the College** to help assist the person of concern.

What should be reported to BIT?

Anytime someone's actions or behaviors concern you to the point you feel they are a danger to themselves or others, they should be reported to BIT. This can be anything from trouble at home, trouble in class/work, increased violence, depression, etc.

Will BIT come in an emergency?

No, **anytime you feel there is an immediate threat to you or others, contact the police immediately!** BIT is not a replacement for security, the police, or professional mental health intervention. BIT helps support and enhance a person's ability to deal with all types of challenges by facilitating services from the College or other community resources.

Can BIT help me with financial obligations?

No, BIT does not pay for services or assistance, but BIT will help you get in contact with local services and agencies which may help you.

If there is an immediate threat, contact the police immediately.

How do I report to BIT?

For BIT reports, you may contact the Safety and Emergency Services Analyst at (309) 268-8454, the Director of Student Counseling (309) 268-8419, or Safety and Security Services (309) 268-8300. You may also send an email to *BIT.Reports@heartland.edu*. However, this email is only monitored during the week and not on weekends or holidays.

What happens after I file an inquiry?

Once an inquiry is received, the Core-BIT team reviews the information. The team can take action immediately, gather more facts, assemble a larger team, or deem no action is necessary.

Who is the Core-BIT?

The members of the Core-BIT are the Executive Director of Facilities, the Director of Student Counseling, the Coordinator of Safety and Security Services, and the Safety and Emergency Services Analyst who serves as the Coordinator of BIT.

Is my name protected?

The name of the person who makes a report to the BIT will be kept confidential when possible. There are some cases in which the identity of the person who makes a BIT report must be divulged.

Is BIT only for students?

No, BIT is able to intercede in reports made about students, employees or members of the public who are on the campus.