

University of Oregon Behavioral Evaluation and Threat Assessment Team (BETA-Team) Overview and Introduction to the WAVR-21

BETA Team Purpose:

The UO Behavioral Evaluation and Threat Assessment Team (BETA-Team) assesses the risk of physical violence resulting from written, online, or verbal threats. BETA is not a decision-making body but can make recommendations on mitigation strategies to department and university leadership. BETA provides safety planning to those impacted.

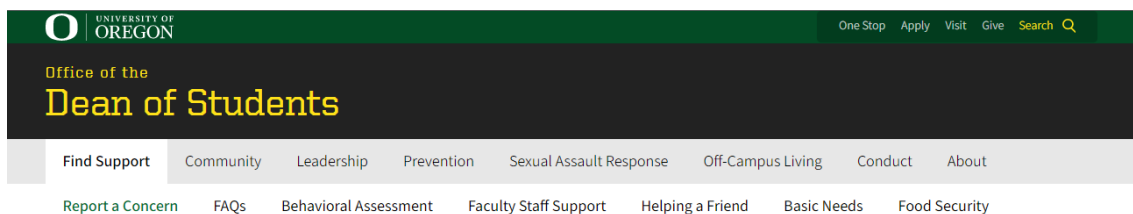
BETA Team Membership:

- Office of the Provost
- Counseling Center
- Safety & Risk Services
- Office of the Investigations and Civil Rights Compliance (OICRC)
- General Counsel
- Human Resources
- Student Life
- UO Police Department

BETA Team Required Training:

All BETA members are, minimally, required to complete the entirety of the WAVR-21 Training before they can provide input on a case. This is in addition to all previous training they have received within their functional area before being asked to serve on this important team. Additionally, the BETA Team regularly shares relevant training opportunities, scholarly articles, and insights from their functional area perspective.

Reporting: <https://dos.uoregon.edu/report-concern>



Report a Concern

See Something, Say Something, Do Something

If you are concerned about a student and this is a non-emergency, we encourage you to complete a report. If you consider the situation to be an emergency, call 9-1-1. Sometimes students cannot or will not ask for support, so informing us of your concern may be a critical factor in getting them support. There are a number of reasons why students might need help that you can report on this form, including their physical and mental well-being, issues of bias, demonstrating concerning behaviors, or you are concerned they are missing. More information about these possible concerns and our process is listed below.

[Report a Concern](#)

Please note: Reports are not reviewed after hours, on weekends, or during university holidays or breaks. If you consider the situation to be an emergency, call 9-1-1.

In some cases, the student will be contacted by the Office of the Dean of Students and directed to supportive resources on or off campus.

UOPD Safety Planning: <https://police.uoregon.edu/services>

- Self Defense Classes
- RAD Training
- Safety Escorts
- Extra Patrol Requests
- Vacation Watch
- Emergency Phones
- 1:1 Safety Planning
- Physical Security Assessments

About the WAVR-21:

The WAVR-21 – Workplace Assessment of Violence Risk – is a 21-item coded instrument for the structured assessment of workplace and campus targeted violence risk. First published in 2007 by its co-developers, Drs. Stephen White and Reid Meloy, the WAVR-21 reflects the authors’ extensive case and forensic experience and a thorough review of the research and clinical literature

- The primary focus of the WAVR-21 is to assess the risk of workplace or campus *homicidal targeted violence*. A term originally coined by the behavioral scientists of the US Secret Service, targeted violence refers to situations in which an individual intentionally commits an act of violence against an identified or symbolic target, whether people or places.
- The secondary purpose of the WAVR-21 is to capture other forms of problematic aggression. The WAVR may be used to identify and assess the risk, frequency, and severity of non-homicidal aggression such as stalking, disruptive anger problems, menacing behavior, and bullying.
- The item domains of the WAVR include both static and dynamic factors. The WAVR items include psychological, behavioral, historical, and situational factors associated with targeted violence, including intimate partner violence posing a threat to a workplace or campus. In practice, threat assessment and threat management are intertwined.
- An evidence-based tool. By incorporating scientific findings in its definition of violence risk factors, the WAVR-21 attempts to bridge the gap between research and the case management needs of practicing professionals.
- The benefits of the WAVR-21 – scientifically-grounded assessment technology, an educational resource, and improved communication among the multi-disciplinary members of the incident management process – are intended to improve the quality of threat assessment and case management decision-making.

The conscious decision to kill or physically harm specific or symbolic victims in a workplace is now categorized as targeted or intended violence. In contrast to affective or impulsive violence, targeted violence is by definition planned, emotionless, and predatory. The sequential steps on the pathway – from its beginning with a felt grievance, to violent ideation, research and planning, specific preparations for violence, possible security breaches, to a concluding attack – are illustrated in this graphic:

