

## CASE STUDY: This Test is Unfair!

An African American student becomes upset at an instructor about a grade they were given on an assignment. When he gets his paper back, he says, “This isn’t what was supposed to be on the test. You said it was on chapter 3. Half the questions are on chapter 2.” The instructor says back, “Well, the test was cumulative. It includes material we previously covered.” He says, “You never said that. You’re lying.” The class reacts to this statement while the instructor ignores him and turns back to the lecture. The student continues to speak under his breath, complaining about his grade. He shuffles in his seat, loudly crumples the paper up, and says, “This is bullshit.” The instructor asks him to leave the class if he can’t control himself. He stands up and says, “You think you are untouchable. You aren’t. One of these days, someone is going to put you in your place.” The student leaves, and the instructor fills out a CARE concern form for the team.



The student was enrolled in a few classes the previous semester and has a 2.2 GPA. Before the CARE meeting, you reach out to his other two instructors and ask for an update about how he has been doing those classes. One instructor shares the student had written an essay for a recent assignment where he shared about the intense financial stress he and his family have been under and a recent breakup he had with his girlfriend of two years. The other instructor shares he makes occasional jokes about pot use and weed references, mostly joking around with other students. She says it’s happened enough times that she asked him to keep that talk out of the classroom. They have a good relationship, and he apologized and said he would. He has average grades in both classes, hovering around a low B. One of the instructors also shared that he has missed two classes (this course is at 8 am), and she talked to the student after the second absence. He shared that he hasn’t been sleeping well because of the relationship breaking up, and he can only sleep when he has enough weed at night but then sleeps through his alarm. He says he will try to be better about that, but “it’s just been really hard lately.”