THE STUDENT WHO APPEARS TO BE SUSPICIOUS

Typically, these students complain about something other than their psychological difficulties. They are generally tense, anxious, mistrustful, isolated, and have few friends. They tend to interpret minor oversights as significant personal rejection and often overreact to insignificant occurrences. They see themselves as the focal point of everyone’s behavior and view everything that happens as having special meaning to them. They are overly concerned with fairness and being treated equally. Feelings of worthlessness and inadequacy underlie most of their behavior, though they may seem capable and bright.

**WHAT TO DO:**

* Express compassion without intimate friendship. Remember, suspicious students have trouble with closeness and warmth
* Be firm, steady, punctual, and consistent
* Be specific and clear regarding the standards of behavior that you expect

**WHAT NOT TO DO:**

* Assure the student that you are his/her friend. Instead, acknowledge that even though you are not a close friend, you are concerned about him/her
* Be overly warm and nurturing
* Flatter or participate in his/her games. You don’t know his/her rules.
* Be cute or humorous
* Challenge or agree with any mistaken or illogical beliefs.
* Be ambiguous

\*\**When in doubt, if any personal information the student tells you raises red flags, consult with* the Student Advocacy and Accountability team. <https://webapps.mccneb.edu/bcat/>