

Module Two

College Case Study

D·PREP
SAFETY DIVISION

TRAINING
OUTPOST

Case Details

Vanessa is a member of the women's basketball team. Vanessa told her athletic advisor that a teammate she played with in high school recently died by suicide and she would be missing class to attend her funeral.

The advisor reached out to Vanessa while she was away to see how she was doing. Vanessa shared how good it was to see her old teammates, but how tough it was at the same time. She said her parents were very worried about her because they knew she had been experiencing a great deal of stress already with classes and basketball, and now this happened. They wanted her to consider taking some time off. She really did not want to stay at home.

Vanessa's academic records show that she is a psychology major in her second year, taking a tough statistics and research methods course along with other courses. Last semester, she was referred to Title IX about some concerning interactions with a women's basketball volunteer assistant.

Vanessa lives on campus. Vanessa shared with her advisor that she is exhausted with everything and finds it more difficult to get to class or be motivated during practice sessions. She talks briefly about depression, and when asked about suicide, Vanessa shrugs and says, "It's just a lot; I don't really know what I would do."

Questions to Consider

- This case is different in there is no threat to others that appears to be present. What are some of the general concerns you see in the case?
- What are some of the risk factors for suicide?
- Score the case on Pathways. If indicated, follow the link and score the case on the Suicide WayFinder as well.
- What other questions would you ask related to this case?
- What are some of the pros and cons of involving her parents involved in a risk mitigation plan?
- List 4-5 action steps you would take in this case.