

When a Student Is in Crisis: Where SDR Fits

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An illustration of a woman with dark hair, wearing a purple and white plaid shirt, hugging a child from behind. The child is wearing a blue shirt. Above the woman's head is a blue, scribbled thought bubble. The background is a light blue gradient.

The Reality You See

You may receive messages like:

“I can’t get out of bed.”

“I’ve been hospitalized.”

“I was just diagnosed.”

“I’m failing everything and
overwhelmed.”

Crisis vs. Access: Clarifying Roles

CAPS & Crisis Intervention

Safety assessment.

Mental health crisis response.

Counseling and stabilization.

Emergency protocols.

SDR

Academic barrier assessment.

Accommodation eligibility.

Interactive process.

Academic access coordination.

SDR's Role During Crisis

SDR helps when crisis results in:

Reduced contraction.

Hospitalization or medical absence.

Medication changes.

Cognitive disruption.

Exacerbation of chronic conditions.

New disability diagnosis.



What SDR Provides

Service eligibility determination and individualized access review.

Reasonable academic accommodations.

Accommodation letters and petition support.

Faculty consultation.

Case-by-case guidance.

Consistency across programs.

Important Distinction

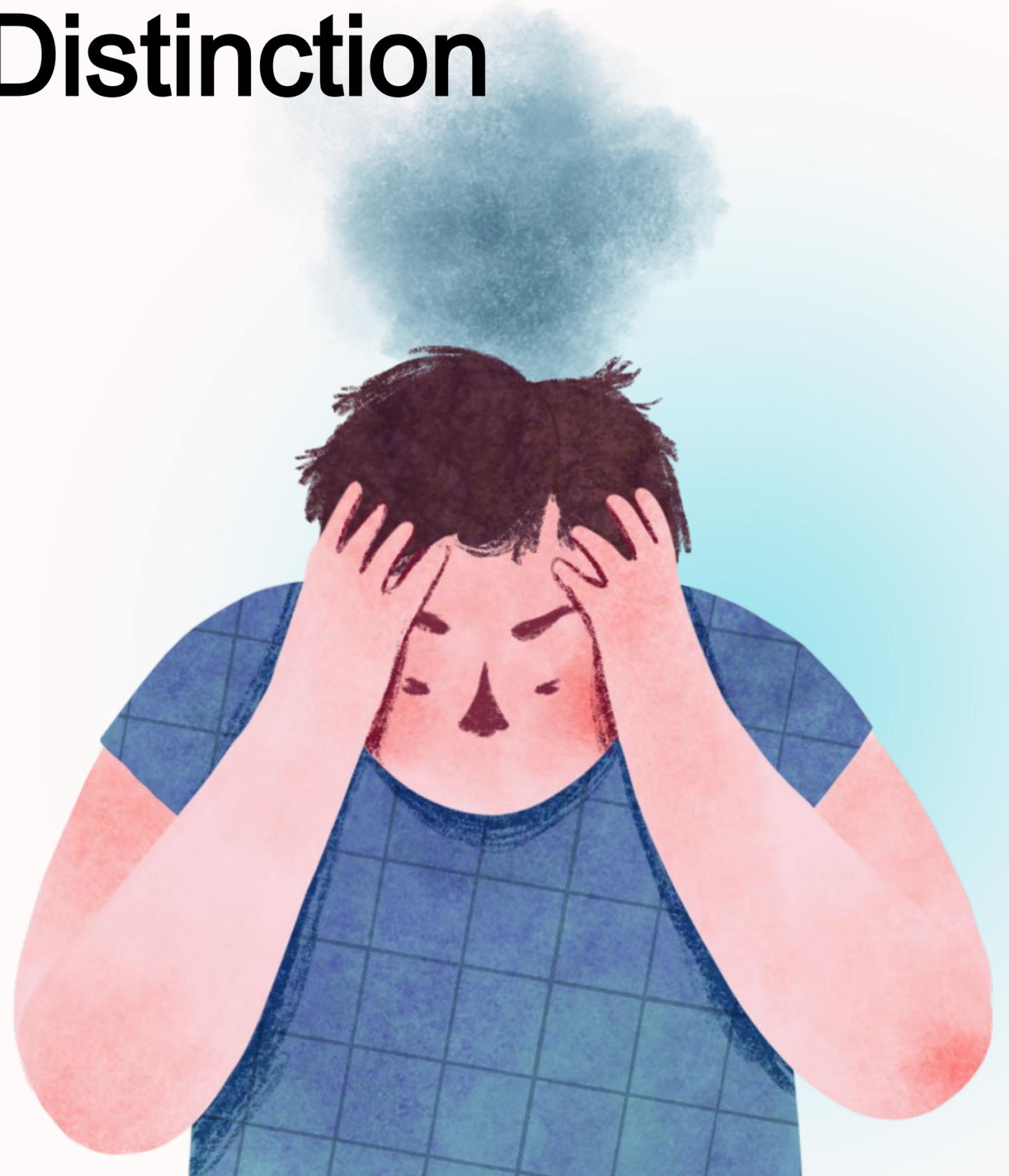
Not Every Crisis = Disability

But many crises may result in a qualifying disability if:

There is substantial limitation.

The impairment impacts major life activities.

Academic functioning is affected.



When You Become Aware of a Crisis

Assess urgency.

Refer to CAPS,
Police, Penn
State Crisis
Line, or Centre
Co. Crisis
Center if safety
is a concern.

Normalize SDR
services if
academics are
impacted.

Avoid promising
specific
accommodations.

Loop SDR in
early.

What Helps SDR Help Students



Early referral.

Avoiding ad hoc accommodations outside of process.

Maintaining essential standards.

Consulting when unsure.

Why This Matters to Academic Leadership

Student retention.

Academic continuity.

Legal compliance.

Risk mitigation.

Consistent decision-making.

Seamless Support Model

CAPS & Crisis Intervention

Safety & Mental Health
Stabilization

+

Academic Access &
Continuity

+

Student Stability &
Retention

SDR

Together

Thank you