Universities of Wisconsin BIT/CARE/TAT Case Study

May 27, 2026 in-person convening

Background

In Spring 2025, Ryan is a 2nd semester freshman with a major in Psychology and a minor in kinesiology. They have a 1.87 resident GPA (2.25 with prior credits) and are on academic concern. They have no previous record in Maxient. Their fall semester resulted in a B, 2 Cs, D+, and F. They lived in a traditional residence hall.

By fall 2025, they have sophomore standing and a 2.09 resident GPA. Their spring grades were a B, 2 B-s, C-, and D. They live in a 4-bedroom apartment-style residence hall. At the end of the semester, they are placed on academic probation.

Part 1

1/6/2025

DoS Office receives a complaint from Ryan about his psychology professor (Prof Plum). Ryan was frustrated because Prof Plum required both a final exam and a final project. Ryan was under the impression that it was one or the other and failed the class because they didn't do both. No one else in the class had this confusion, as it was very clear in the course syllabus and via in-class instructions that both parts were required. Ryan has gone through the formal grievance process and was denied. The student is not accepting of this result and wants more support. DoS explains that Ryan has gone through all levels of the appropriate process and that there are no appeal options left or other ways to pursue resolution.

4/25/2025

DoS Office receives an ROI from Counseling. Ryan is still upset about the Prof Plum grievance outcome. Counselor is verifying the student took all the steps they could. The student also mentioned dealing with legal issues.

CCAP search shows:

- 1/2/2025 1st OWI with refusal to take a breathalyzer
- 1/31/2025 Possession of LSD

9/9/2025

DoS receives a report from a classmate stating they feel threatened with possible physical violence from Ryan in class

DoS also receives an email from Prof Plum who is looking for guidance. Prof Plum has Ryan in class again this semester and is doing 1:1 meetings with students to get to know them better. In the meeting with Ryan, Prof Plum states “Ryan gives off a hostile vibe when I interact with him, I’m not sure what to do. At best I’m worried I’m going to be on edge worrying about him being in class twice a week. At worst, I fear he might actually do something to me if things don’t go his way. To be clear, he has made zero threats of any kind – it’s just the underlying hostile tone that I’ve never had before from a student and my inability to discern if he just hates me, which would be fine, or if he’s actually capable of doing harm in some way. I am going to dread coming to campus on the days I know I have to see them. To be clear, I have never felt this way in the 20 years I’ve been teaching at the college level.” Prof Plum notes that this vibe existed before the grievance and that he’s had instances where he thought Ryan was going to do something violent based on actions Ryan made. Prof Plum clarifies that Ryan’s tone is angry and it’s hard to overlook.

Part 2

9/29/2025 (Content warning: Graphic song lyrics)

University PD receives report of a student who feels threatened by Ryan. PD met with the student, Chris, who said they'd arrived early to class and Ryan was there. Ryan started talking with Chris and offered them candy. Ryan then asked for Chris's phone number. Chris declined but did provide their Instagram handle. Ryan then asked Chris if they wanted to go to Kwik Trip. Chris declined. Chris states that Ryan seemed "off" and made them feel uneasy.

After class, Ryan messaged Chris on Instagram a voice recording of Ryan singing the first verse of the song "Bitch I'ma Kill You," with lyrics about making someone scream in pain and being killed. Ryan sent another message asking if Chris was "available for 4:20". Ryan then sent a video message to which Chris replied "This is not cool, gtfo my phone that was weird as hell". Ryan responded with another voice message of them singing the chorus and second verse to "Bitch I'ma Kill You" which references blood dripping on feet, "she thinks we're gonna cuddle up but I'm a muzzle her and sacrifice her to the underworld." At this point, Chris blocked Ryan and contacted law enforcement. Chris was provided information for counseling and advised to meet with DoS. Chris noted they did not want criminal charges pressed, just for someone to talk to Ryan and make it clear Chris didn't want further contact.

University PD then went to Ryan's residence hall. Ryan was reticent to engage with police, refusing to leave their apartment bedroom and telling the police to leave. Eventually Ryan opened their bedroom door to talk with the officers. When asked about the situation, Ryan stated that Chris approached them and asked to exchange contact information. When asked about the voice notes, Ryan said they like to communicate through music and that they felt the lyrics were more about themselves than Chris. When asked if the lyrics were meant to threaten Chris, Ryan talked in circles and didn't really answer the questions. During this conversation, UWPD made clear that there should be no attempt to continue to contact Chris, online or otherwise, and that further contact could result in criminal charges or citations. Ryan stated that he understood and told Officers that he had no intention of contacting Chris further as he felt as though, "things probably won't work out."

10/1/2025

DoS receives SOC report from Prof Plum that Ryan responded to a discussion post about stress by saying they have constant suicidal ideation and that they've "done everything I can, and there's a chance I can't do anything."

10/3/2025

DoS receives 2 more SOC reports from additional professors. Another psychology class did a check-in survey and said Ryan's response seemed very despondent but had a few protective factors noted. Second report is from another class check-in where Ryan noted "I seem to have been left behind with nothing to find."

A UWPD mental health assessment was done on Ryan. Ryan stated he was not suicidal and had supportive roommates. He also shared that he was engaging with campus counseling but didn't find it effective.

10/15/2025

DoS receives a Title IX report of harassment from Chris listing Ryan as the respondent. DoS checks CCAP status and sees the LSD charges resulted in a deferred agreement. Chris meets with the Title IX coordinator and ultimately decides not to pursue an investigation; however, a no contact order is put in place. Ryan meets with the Title IX coordinator, who shares that Chris isn't requesting an investigation, but that the alleged behaviors appear to be serious and if Chris changed their mind it would result in an investigation that could impact Ryan's deferred agreement. Ryan notes that they'd kill themselves before being "put in a box."

Part 3

12/9/25

Ryan was sharing concerns with a classmate about failing their classes and if that happened, they'd be homeless. Ryan then asked "What do you think is the worst thing I could do?" and then answered their own question with "I think suicide is probably the worst thing, but I have something worse than suicide planned," and then indicated that they had a recording of their plan on their phone. A classmate reported these statements to University PD. Ryan denied being suicidal and police determined that the video was a song mostly about drugs. The local crisis line was called. Ryan refused to speak with the crisis worker.