



EDU-497

Threat Assessment for Educators

The University of Virginia's College at Wise Center for Teaching Excellence
1 College Avenue, Wise, VA 24293

Instructor: Scott Addison, ThD, EdD, MBA
Contact Info: gsa5e@uvawise.edu (276)275-8584
Office Hours: By Appointment
Grading: 3 hour college credit
Course Texts: No Required Text

I. **Course Description:**

The majority of the nation's students will complete their education without ever being touched by peer violence. Nevertheless, televised images of frightened and injured students fleeing school grounds have imprinted themselves on the American consciousness. Compared to the other types of violence and crime children face both in and outside of school, school-based attacks are rare. Statistics indicate that few students will fall prey to serious violence in school settings.

However, highly publicized school shootings have created uncertainty about the safety and security of this country's schools and generated fear that an attack might occur in any school, in any community. Increased national attention to the problem of school violence has prompted educators, law enforcement officials, mental health professionals, and parents to press for answers to two central questions: "Could we have known that these attacks were being planned?" and, if so, "What could we have done to prevent these attacks from occurring?"

II. **Course Aims and Objectives:**

Students in this course should be able to:

- Identify common threat assessment practices.
- Understand indicators of targeted school violence.
- Practice intervention strategies that will translate to the real world.
- Research various materials to improve threat assessment and crisis management.

Specific Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Use the patterns of effective communication to assess threatening behavior and evaluation indicators for early intervention.
- plan and manage behavior intervention
- To be able to identify the underlying causes of behavior
- Discuss problems of behavior in conflict situations
- Develop strategies to respond during a crisis situation.
- Become acquainted with the best practices of threat assessment and crisis management and create a school toolkit.