

Carleton University Postvention Strategy

A student death within a school community is devastating to students, staff, faculty, and families. Carleton University recognizes that following the death of a student, our community can feel isolated and frustrated at the seeming lack of communication from the institution.

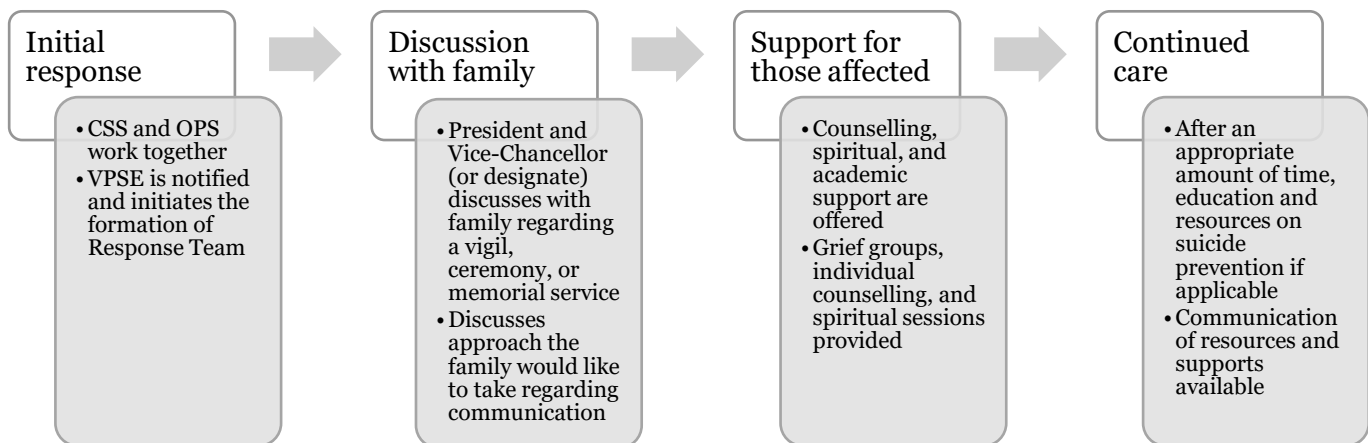
In the event of the death of a student, our top priority is to respect the wishes of the student's family and provide support to those affected by the death. In all cases, we follow the family's direction on how they would like to honour their loved one, including any communications.

The *Carleton University Postvention Strategy* has been developed to inform our community of the actions we take following a student death. We encourage our community members to read this strategy and learn more about postvention.

Guiding Principles

1. Support for those affected
2. Discretion and proper procedures when accessing and communicating information regarding the deceased student
3. Accountability to the family of the deceased and the university community

Following a Student Death



*CSS: Campus Safety Services

*OPS: Ottawa Police Services

*VPSE: Vice President (Students and Enrolment)

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did Carleton not make an announcement following the death of a student?

Following the death of a student, our priority is to respect the wishes of the student's family. We follow the family's direction on how they would like to honour their loved one. Some families decide to keep the student death private, which is why you will not always see a formal communication from Carleton following a student death. We still support those affected by the death through direct outreach.

How does Carleton care for the students and the community following a death by suicide?

Following a death by suicide, Carleton offers immediate counselling (individual and group) sessions with students, faculty, and staff who knew the student. Support is also offered from our Spirituality Centre, and support with any accommodations needed by those immediately affected. Often times, we will attend classes the student was registered in to provide group support. We also offer resiliency and skills-building workshops, community safety training (safeTALK), and resource overview training.