

Professor Claude Miller, Burton Hall 210, TR, 12:00-1:15 PM  
Office hours: TR 10:30-11:30 by appointment; [cm@ou.edu](mailto:cm@ou.edu).

### DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course is designed to acquaint you with the major theories, principles, and latest research findings relevant to nonverbal communication and its role in the process of social interaction, including the basic elements of nonverbal human communication across a range of settings and contexts. As such, it should be an important complement to other advanced topics in human communication. Emphasis is on the functions that nonverbal communication performs in daily relations. The content, which is multidisciplinary in nature, will be approached through scientific observation as well as intuitive and experiential perception.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Recognize how verbal and nonverbal communication relate to each other.
2. Understand the functions performed through various nonverbal channels in daily interactions.
3. Comprehend the nature of nonverbal behaviors within different contexts and relationship types.
4. Observe specific instances of nonverbal communication as they occur across a range of contexts.

### REQUIRED TEXT

Burgoon, J. K., Manusov, V. & Guerrero, L. K. (2021). *Nonverbal Communication 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* Routledge.  
Paper \$64; rent eTextbook \$66; pdf \$38. (Ch. 1 is provided on Canvas to tide you over until you can receive your copy)

Several other readings will be provided free through Canvas: <https://canvas.ou.edu/>

### COURSE FORMAT

This course makes use of lecture and discussion as well as various activities to identify and explain important theoretical concepts and highlight practical applications of those concepts within your own everyday life experiences. A combination of text and journal article readings, lecture, in-class activities, and out-of-class assignments will be accompanied by an AI assisted term paper.

Attendance: To excel, you'll want to attend classes regularly and arrive on time; grades are strongly correlated with attendance, practice, and participation. Students who skip class will be surprised at how quickly they fall behind. Any material missed during a class session due to an absence—including announcements, modified assignments, explanations, etc. is your responsibility to obtain, whether due to sickness or other sanctioned absences. Check with me if you arrive after attendance has been taken. *You may receive 20 points of extra credit for perfect attendance (allowing for sanctioned absences).* You may miss two classes before 5 points will be deducted from your participation score, however, you will no longer qualify for EC for perfect attendance. Participation & attendance account for 20% of the course grade (i.e., 200 points)

### TIPS FOR TAKING EFFECTIVE NOTES IN THIS CLASS

I use PowerPoint as a visual aid to supplement the lectures. The ppt slides are only an outline of the main points and are not a substitute for your own notes. There is a great deal of information presented during lecture and class discussions that may not be on the slides. The slides will be provided on Canvas, so copying down what is on the slides is an inefficient use of your time since. My suggestion is to forgo copying them word-for-word because you'll likely miss what the key terms mean or not think much about the examples discussed. Rather, a better strategy is to read what is on the slides and write down only a few key words or phrases along with some examples we discuss that will help you remember the concepts. Also, ask questions; in fact, ask a lot of questions.

Laptops are not recommended because they distract you and the people around you, and their use is negatively correlated with grade scoring (mostly due to social media, email, texting, and other non-course related online distractions). Moreover, on average, people who use their laptops solely for course-related work do not do as well as

people who forego them during class. Having said this, I will not take away your choice to use one, but if you use a laptop, you must sit in the back of the class so as not to create a distraction for others.

## ASSIGNMENTS

### *Exams:*

There will be two exams covering the readings, class discussions, and lectures (see course schedule) in a combination of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay. There will be many quizzes @10 points each before the midterm, and before the final, and each quiz will shrink the size of the midterm or final by 10 points (e.g., five quizzes before the midterm means it will be worth 250 points instead of 300). The Final will not be cumulative, although certain concepts will carry over to later portions of the class. Exams and quizzes will account for 60% of the course grade (i.e., 600 points).

### *AI-Assisted NVC Term Paper:*

You will write a five-to-seven-page paper (10 page max.) about an instance, occasion, or episode where you or someone you know (e.g., an acquaintance, friend, relative, or romantic partner) positively (or negatively) violate someone else's expectations through a nonverbal channel (i.e., artifacts & environment, haptic, chronemic, kinesic, oculosic, olfactic, proxemic, or vocalic) in a way that resulted in a pleasing (or displeasing) outcome.

Expectancy violations theory ([EVT; Burgoon, 2015](#)) and/or interaction adaptation theory ([IAT, Burgoon, Stern, & Dillman, 1995](#)) will provide the theoretical framework for guiding the composition of this paper. You will work with an artificial intelligence (AI) large language model (LLM) to organize and compose your paper using the assumptions of EVT and/or IAT to identify the psychological mechanisms involved and explain the role of nonverbal behavior in generating the outcomes. This is a relatively short paper, so it needs to be well-written since it will account for 20% of the course grade (i.e., 200 points). See the assignment rubric at the bottom of this syllabus for more details.

## COURSE POLICIES

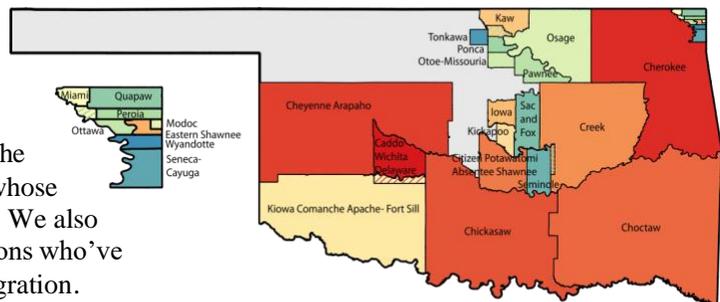
To be successful, you need to read the assigned material ahead of time and come in ready to *actively* engage the subject matter in an intelligent way (i.e., *be ready to talk and participate in the discussion*). As mentioned, regular attendance is critical. We will cover a lot of fascinating material, so doing the readings before class, and coming in ready to talk about the material will help get you involved, and will be rewarded by a grade of your liking.

**Cell phones must be powered off, put away, and out of view during class—no exceptions. Repeated offenders will lose participation points (@ 5 points per instance once you've been warned twice). Exams will not be scheduled around individual travel plans.**

It is the policy of the University of Oklahoma to excuse (i.e., positively sanction) absences of students resulting from religious observances. Students participating in officially sanctioned activities (prearranged athletics-related, or otherwise college-sanctioned absences, or documented medical or family emergencies) may be excused from class and allowed to make up missed work. Please notify me ahead of time if you need to reschedule any required class work that may fall on a religious holiday. **Note:** *If you miss a class assignment due to a sanctioned absence, it must be made up within two weeks of the absence (not at the last minute, during the final days of the semester).*

## UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA TRIBAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We appreciate, honor, and respect the diverse native peoples connected to this land. We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereign rights of all of Oklahoma's 39 tribal nations. We are particularly beholden to the Hasinai Caddo Nation, the Kirikir?i:s Wichita Nation and their affiliated tribes whose traditional home is the land upon which OU now sits. We also thank the Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Osage nations who've traditionally used this land for hunting, trade, and migration.



**COURSE SCHEDULE** ~ Readings for each date should be done *before* coming to class. NVC = Burgoon et al. (2021) Text

**This Schedule may be modified** as the term progresses to allow more or less time for certain topics.

**Quizzes may occur at any time**, but usually on Thursdays. Attendance will be taken via sign-up sheet.

DATE	CONTENT	READINGS (G&S chapter #s vary depending on edition)
1/14	Introduction	
1/16	NV Comm. Affect. & Emotion	Dillard (1998)
1/21	Intro to NV Comm	NVC 1
1/23	Overview, codes & functions	Quiz 1
1/28	Bio-evolutionary approaches	NVC 2
1/30	Socio-cultural approaches;	NVC 3 Quiz 2
2/4	Expectancy violation theory (EVT)	Burgoon (2015);
2/6		Miller (1997) EVT & tattoos. Quiz 3
2/11	The body	NVC 6
2/13	Film: "The Human Face"	
2/18	Kinesics	NVC 4
2/20	Vocalics	NVC Paper Proposal due; Quiz 4
2/25	Haptics	NVC 5
2/27	Proxemics	Quiz 5
3/4	Chronemics: Temporal agency	NVC 7; McGlone & Harding (1998)
3/6	Artifacts and environment	Quiz 6
3/11	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
3/13	*go over exam*	*Attendance required for curve adjustment credit*
3/16-23	<b>Spring Break</b>	
3/25	Identity displays	NVC 8
3/27	Impression formation	Quiz 7
4/1	Emotional experience	NVC 9
4/3	Expressing emotion	
4/8	Relational messages and affection	NVC 10
4/10	Expressing intimacy	Quiz 8
4/15	Managing conversations	NVC 12
4/17	Interaction adaptation	AI 1-pager & NVC Term Paper Due
4/22	Dominance, power, and status	NVC 11
4/24	Social influence	NVC 13 Quiz 9
4/29	Deception	NVC 14
5/1	Deception (continued)	Quiz 10
5/6	<b>Final Exam 1:30-3:30 PM, Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b>	

**ACCESSIBILITY & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC):**

Boomer Outreach Building, 300 Kellogg Drive; Email: [adrc@ou.edu](mailto:adrc@ou.edu)  
 Norman, OK 73019; (405) 325-3852 (Voice) - (405) 217-3494 (VP); (405)

If you are experiencing any mental health issues that may be affecting your academic performance, counseling is available at the University Counseling Center (UCC). The Center is located on the second floor of the Goddard Health Center, at 620 Elm Rm. 201, Norman, OK 73019. To schedule an appointment call (405) 325-2911.

### Rubric for the AI Assisted EVT Paper

For this five-to-seven-page (10 page max.) paper, you will write about an instance, occasion, or episode wherein you or someone you know (e.g., an acquaintance, friend, relative, or romantic partner) positively (or negatively) **violated someone else's expectations through a nonverbal channel** (i.e., artifacts & environment, haptic, chronemic, kinesic, oculusic, olfactive, proxemic, or vocalic) in a way that resulted in a pleasing (or unpleasing) outcome. **Expectancy violations theory (EVT; Burgoon, 2015)** and/or **interaction adaptation theory (IAT, Burgoon, Stern, & Dillman, 1995)** provide the theoretical framework for guiding the composition of this paper.

You will work with an **artificial intelligence (AI) large language model (LLM)** to organize and compose your paper using the assumptions of EVT and/or IAT to identify the psychological mechanisms involved and explain **the role of nonverbal behavior in producing the interpersonal consequences and outcomes**. This is a relatively short paper, so it needs to be very well-written since it will account for 20% of the course grade. AI will help you.

**OU provides an LLM platform called Copilot** (from Microsoft) free of charge. You may elect to use other LLM platforms such as OpenAI's *o1*, *Chat-GPT 4o*, Meta's *Llama 3.1*, Google DeepMind's *Gemini, 1.0*, Anthropic's *Claude 3.5 Sonnet*, or custom Agents offered by You.com such as *Smart, Research, Genius, and Creative* [Agents are sophisticated software programs designed to interact with their environment, perceive data, learn, make decisions, and act autonomously]. Most of the above models have free versions; their paid subscriptions, which offer more capabilities, are normally \$20-30/month. However, you may choose to subscribe to a bundle with all of the above AI models (plus 12 others) in a student discounted subscription via [You.com](https://you.com/plans/edu) (<https://you.com/plans/edu>) for \$5 per month—for which you get full functionality of all their LLMs and Agents, which is an incredible deal.

Whether you use Copilot for free through OU, or any other free or subscription LLM, you will need the prompt below to begin your AI interaction. **Everyone will use this same prompt initially**, after which, as you interact with your AI model, each of you will compose your own prompts as appropriate for how you choose to proceed toward completing your project. To begin the assignment, you must first carefully read the initial prompt below and make sure you fully understand what you are asking of the AI model. When you understand the prompt, you can then enter it into your chosen model's chat box and proceed to work on the assignment as outlined below:

#### Initial AI prompt:

I am a college student at the University of Oklahoma in an upper division undergraduate course studying nonverbal communication. My professor has instructed me to seek your assistance as a tutor and research assistant to aid me in completing a course assignment focusing on nonverbal behavior. This assignment should also acquaint me with the utility and ethics of using AI technology. As instructed, I will copy and paste the assignment into this chat.

I am not asking you to complete this assignment for me, rather my wish is for you to aid and guide me in the process by suggesting useful resources and asking me probing questions designed to help me navigate the issues involved, gather resources and references, and work toward completing a five-to-seven-page paper that will clearly demonstrate my understanding of the relevant theory and psychological mechanisms involved while also showing my ability to work both ethically and efficiently with AI assistance to successfully complete my work to the best of my ability. I know that my work will reflect my character and who I am as a student, so I would like to excel at completing the assignment and be proud to affix my signature to the finished product, giving credit to you to appropriately acknowledge your help.

Please read the assignment and proceed by asking me one question at a time and/or making one suggestion at a time to help me formulate my approach to writing the term paper. Please consider my responses, and provide further guidance and suggestions as we proceed, including questions I might ask my professor if clarification of the assignment parameters is desired. You may also provide me with summary reviews of various reference files if they are uploaded.

It is important to me to use your assistance ethically and responsibly and to site your contributions appropriately, so your guidance in doing so will be very much appreciated.

In a moment I will upload the assignment, after which I would be grateful for your tutorial assistance.

**Note:** I use the terms “LLM” and “AI model” interchangeably. If you use the *Copilot* LLM, which is OU’s free AI platform via Microsoft, it has a max character limit, so you’ll need to enter the above prompt first, then once you receive a response, enter the assignment below. If you use another paid platform (such as *o1*, or *ChatGPT4o* or *Claude 3.5 Sonnet* via You.com), you can upload the prompt along with the assignment all at once. After you enter the above, **read the assignment below and then enter it in the AI chat box.**

To demonstrate its capabilities, I loaded the above **Initial AI Prompt** into Anthropic’s *Claude 3.5 Sonnet* (which is one of my favorite LLMs), and here is the response it gave me:

Thank you for the detailed and thoughtful introduction! I appreciate your commitment to working both ethically and responsibly with AI tools. I’m here to guide you step by step through this process, helping you understand the concepts, brainstorm ideas, and refine your approach to the assignment. I’ll ask you questions to spark your thinking, suggest resources, and guide you on how to best use me as a tool in your research and writing process.

Go ahead and upload the assignment, and once I’ve reviewed it, I’ll begin asking you questions or making suggestions one at a time to help you tackle it systematically and effectively!

### Here is the assignment:

**AI Assisted EVT Paper:** The aim of this project is to write a five-to-seven-page paper (10 page max) about an instance, occasion, or episode wherein you or someone you know (e.g., an acquaintance, friend, relative, or romantic partner) positively or negatively violated someone else’s **nonverbal expectations** in a way that resulted in a positive, pleasing, and agreeable or negative, unpleasing, and disagreeable outcome. Expectancy violations theory ([EVT; Burgoon, 2015](#)) and/or interaction adaptation theory ([IAT, Burgoon, Stern, & Dillman, 1995](#)) will provide the theoretical framework for guiding the composition of this paper. You will work with an artificial intelligence (AI) model to organize and compose your paper using the assumptions of EVT and/or IAT to identify the nonverbal channel involved (i.e., haptic, chronemic, kinesic, oculosic, olfactory, proxemic, vocalic, or artificial & environmental) and the relevant contexts and behaviors that led to the resulting positive or negative interpersonal/relational consequences.

- Although brief (no more than 10 pages without approval), this paper should summarize the essential propositions and assumptions of EVT or IAT and establish the interpersonal/relational context within which the nonverbal expectancy violations(s) and their consequences took place. The paper should also provide insights into the nature of the nonverbal behaviors and responses involved, and how they can be predicted and explained by EVT or IAT (for example, see Huang & Yao, 2024 below).
- Along with the quality of writing, your work will be evaluated based on how it demonstrates your understanding of the theories involved and how they were used to explain and predict the interpersonal/relational consequences and outcomes you describe related to one or more nonverbal expectancy violation.
- The paper must be written in APA (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) format appropriate for student work and appear as refined and sophisticated as possible. The AI model may be particularly helpful in this regard, especially concerning grammar and the avoidance of awkward sentences. However, the finished writing must be your own, in your own words, **with the AI functioning primarily as an editor and proofreader (not as the author).**
- A 1-page (double-spaced) paper proposal is due on **Thursday, 2/20** identifying the characters involved and outlining your ideas about the expectancy violation(s) and the nature of the relevant nonverbal behaviors. You should also briefly describe the aid you will have received from your AI model up to that point. The proposal accounts for 10% of the grade (i.e., 20 points).

- A separate 1-page (double-spaced) explanation of the process you followed with the AI's help—describing how the AI assisted you, and how difficult and/or successful you consider your collaboration to have been—should be turned in along with your finished paper on **Thursday, 4/17**. This will count for another 10% of the grade (i.e., 20 points).
- Note: Separate from this 1-page AI explanation, you will also need to appropriately cite the assistance you received from your AI model within your paper's reference section. You can consult your AI model on how to do so appropriately. In total, this project accounts for 20% of the total course grade (i.e., 200 pts).
- The final paper is **due Thursday, 4/17** accounting for 80% of the assignment grade (i.e., 160 pts).

## References

Burgoon, J.K. (2015). Expectancy violations theory. In the International encyclopedia of interpersonal communication (C.R. Berger, M.E. Roloff, S.R. Wilson, J.P. Dillard, J. Caughlin, & D. Solomon, Eds). <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9781118540190.wbeic102>

Burgoon, J. K., Stern, L. A., & Dillman, L. (2006). Interpersonal adaptation: Dyadic interaction patterns. Cambridge University Press.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/373244153\\_Interaction\\_Adaptation\\_Theory](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/373244153_Interaction_Adaptation_Theory)

Huang, Q., & Yao, S. (2024). No response? Chronemic expectancy violation and relational turbulence in technologically-mediated romantic relational conflict. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 41(5), 1183-1206. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075231213824>

You should review these articles first, and then if you choose, you may upload them as PDF files to the AI chat and ask for a summary of the articles in outline form. You may want to follow up with the AI for more details depending on what you find interesting about the articles from reading them and from the AI's summaries. If there are any aspects you find difficult to understand, the AI model can assist you; simply ask it to elaborate.

After the **Initial AI Prompt** above, I uploaded the **AI Assisted Paper Assignment** and received the following response from *Claude 3.5 Sonnet*. As you can see, it is straightforward, good-natured, and quite helpful:

Thank you for sharing the assignment! This is a detailed and structured project, and I'm confident we can work together to help you navigate it step by step.

Here's how we can begin:

### **Step 1: Understanding the Assignment**

Before jumping into the specifics, let's break the assignment down into manageable components. Here's a simplified version of the task:

1. **Identify a personal or observed experience** where one or more nonverbal expectancy violations occurred.
2. **Explain the situation using expectancy violations theory (EVT) or Interpersonal adaptation theory (AIT)** as the theoretical framework.
3. **Analyze the nonverbal behaviors** (positively or negatively valenced) and explain how they connect to EVT or AIT.
4. **Write the overall paper in APA format**, with a clear understanding of EVT or AIT and their application.

5. **Collaborate with AI ethically and document the collaboration process** in a separate one-page explanation.

**My First Question for You:**

Do you have a specific situation or example in mind that you can write about? If so, could you describe it briefly? If not, would you like me to help you brainstorm possible scenarios involving nonverbal expectations based on your experiences or observations?

**Suggestions for Moving Forward:**

Once I know if you have a scenario in mind, I'll guide you on:

- How to connect it to EVT or AIT and their key assumptions and propositions.
- How to identify and explore the nature of the nonverbal channels and behaviors involved.
- How to outline your proposal and structure the eventual paper.

If you'd like, I can also help summarize the two suggested sources after you've reviewed them or uploaded them as PDFs.

Let me know how you'd like to proceed!

As you can see, the AI model seems anxious to assist in a very friendly and thoughtful way! Once you start this process of collaborating with the LLM, you should continue to do so under the heading of your initial prompt (i.e., within the body of your original chat) so the LLM can refer to all the previous prompts and responses associated with your paper as it progresses with you through the assignment.

I've discovered that different AI platforms will offer different approaches, especially in response to the specific, detailed prompts you provide; but they are all very helpful. So far, I've found *Claude 3.5 Sonnet* and *Chat-GPT 4o* to be the most intuitively accommodating in working with me in a comprehensive, detailed, and systematic way. I like their style, but you may find another model more accommodating, so you may want to experiment with a few to see which you prefer.

Also, you should consider experimenting with custom AI Agents, which are particularly useful in helping you track down resources. If you work with an Agent, it will be in a separate chat from your LLM, so your will need to inform your LLM what your agent found. The AI platforms will save your various chats, so you can open and close them as needed; but remember, rather than starting different chats with your LLM, once you have begun your first main chat for this assignment using the **Initial AI Prompt**, be sure to continue working within that chat, rather than starting new ones. New chats will not necessarily have the same context and background knowledge produced with your initial chat.

It is also important to consider that the free versions of the various LLMs out there are limited in their capabilities, and other than *Copilot* (which is free to you but paid for by OU), the free versions will not be able to handle a chat as complex and involved as what you will need for this assignment. So, you should either use *Copilot* or one of the models available through a \$5/month you.com subscription. I highly recommend you.com because of the excellent AI resources it provides (and if you use you.com, I recommend using *Claude 3.5 Sonnet*, or *ChatGPT 4o*, or *o1*, and the custom Agents called *Research* and *Smart*).

If you have any questions about this assignment, please bring them up during class! Personally, I've found Agents and LLMs are not only very helpful, but also fun to work with.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. All work and all grades should result from your own understanding and effort. You are strongly advised to review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at: <https://www.ou.edu/integrity>.

## ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

**Note:** Because of the serious nature and consequences of academic misconduct, if charged, you have certain rights as an OU student. If you are accused of academic misconduct and reported for violating the Academic Integrity Code, you have the right to an investigation and may request one led by the [Integrity Council](#). Please see: <https://www.ou.edu/integrity/students>

## OTHER UNIVERSITY RESOURCES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

### Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss them. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary, and they will be similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see [www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html](http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html) for commonly asked questions.

**Title IX Resources:** For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24-7, counseling services, mutual no contact orders, scheduling adjustments and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office 405-325-2215 (8-5, M-F) or OU Advocates 405-615-0013 (24.7) to learn more or to report an incident.

## Emergency Protocol

During an emergency, there are official university [procedures](#) that will maximize your safety.

**Severe Weather:** If you receive an OU Alert to seek refuge or hear a tornado siren that signals severe weather *1. LOOK* for severe weather refuge location maps located inside most OU buildings near the entrances *2. SEEK* refuge inside a building. Do not leave one building to seek shelter in another building that you deem safer. If outside, get into the nearest building. *3. GO* to the building's severe weather refuge location. If you do not know where that is, go to the lowest level possible and seek refuge in an innermost room. Avoid outside doors and windows. *4. GET IN, GET DOWN, COVER UP.* *5. WAIT* for official notice to resume normal activities. [Link to Severe Weather Refuge Areas](#), [Severe Weather Preparedness - Video](#)

## Armed Subject/Campus Intruder

If you receive an OU Alert to shelter-in-place due to an armed intruder situation or you hear what you perceive to be gunshots:

- 1. Avoid:* If you believe you can get out of the area WITHOUT encountering the armed individual, move quickly towards the nearest building exit, move away from the building, and call 911.
- 2. Deny:* If you cannot flee, move to an area that can be locked or barricaded, turn off lights, silence devices, spread out, and formulate a plan of attack if the shooter enters the room.
- 3. Defend:* As a last resort fight to defend yourself. [OU's Emergency Preparedness site](#), [Shots Fired on Campus Procedure – Video](#)

## Fire Alarm/General Emergency

If you receive an OU Alert that there is danger inside or near the building, or the fire alarm inside the building activates:

- 1. LEAVE* the building. Do not use the elevators.
- 2. KNOW* at least two building exits
- 3. ASSIST* those that may need help
- 4. PROCEED* to the emergency assembly area
- 5. ONCE safely outside, NOTIFY first responders of anyone that may still be inside building due to mobility issues.*
- 6. WAIT* for official notice before attempting to re-enter the building.

[OU Fire Safety on Campus](#)