

PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Pittsburg State University

Support and Advocacy

- Victims Advocate- in collaboration with the Safehouse Crisis Center the university provides an advocate for victims of violence through a quarter time, contract staff member. This position provides advocacy for victims of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking. The Victims Advocate also coordinates the student peer education group, Students for Violence Prevention (SVP).
- The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Title IX Coordinator/Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, and the University Police Department collaborate to investigate and address allegations of sexual assault and provide direct assistance or referral to other campus/community resources for victims.

Partners and Resources

- Safehouse Crisis Center (see above).
- Sexual Assault Prevention Charter Memorandum of Understanding with US Army Cadet Command- a sexual assault prevention charter between the university and the 3rd Brigade Headquarters US Army Cadet Command (USACC) formalizes an ongoing partnership to leverage institutional knowledge and instructional practices along with the Army's resources to develop and implement strategies to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault with the help of the Title IX Advisory Council.
- Gorillas in Your Midst- a peer education group established 1994 with primary focal points to promote healthy relationships and by extension combat relationship and sexual violence. The group has won regional and national recognition for its work on campus and in the region/state.
- Students for Violence Prevention (SVP)- the peer education group, Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and an associated group, Men for Violence Prevention (MVP) were established in 2001 and 2003, both with a primary focus on violence prevention, especially sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking. In recent years, the two groups were merged into SVP. This group has won regional and national recognition for its work on campus and in the region/state.
- Office of Prevention and Wellness – in 2004, the Office of Prevention and Wellness was established to promote responsible decision-making and harm reduction through environmental management and peer health education for issues important to college students, including sexual assault.
- Web Pages - Campus Life and Auxiliary Services and Student Rights and Responsibilities jointly developed a section of their web pages dedicated to promote reporting of sexual assaults and outlining policies/resources. The Title IX Coordinator has an additional dedicated Title IX web page (see below).

Compliance with Federal Rules and Regulations

- PSU complies with multiple federal rules and regulations that mandate specific practices related to receiving, investigating and resolving claims of sexual violence, violence between those in an intimate relationship and stalking. These include:
 - Title IX and the Office of Civil Rights
 - Violence Against Women Act
 - Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act)
 - Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act

Recent Policy Alignment with Updated Federal Rules

- Our *Annual Security Report* (Clery) reflects changes to statistics gathered for additional offenses (domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and hate crimes based on bias against gender identity or national origin) and institutional procedures in cases of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, and description of educational and prevention programs.
- PSU's *Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence* was revised to include victim rights, options for resolution, a comprehensive definition of terms, and an overview of the university discipline process.
- University Discipline procedures were revised to align with SaVE Act requirements (training requirements of hearing officers; equal rights for both the accuser and the accused to representation, notification of outcomes, appeal of decisions; and statement of the "preponderance of evidence" standard utilized in hearings).

Education Initiatives

- Faculty and staff- the online training program, *Eliminate Campus Sexual Violence* by LawRoom, is currently being implemented. The course focuses on educating faculty and staff to recognize sexual misconduct, report any suspected instances to the Title IX Coordinator, and inform participants of resources and processes available to support victims.
- Students- *Think About It* by CampusClarity, implemented in Fall 2014, is a Title IX and Campus SaVE Act compliant education program that combines sexual assault and substance abuse prevention in a comprehensive online training program. It is mandatory for all new freshman and is available and promoted to all students.
- The "It's on Us" initiative was implemented last fall. PSU SGA was among the first 200 institutions to engage in this effort.

Upcoming Initiatives

- Identify Deputy Title IX Coordinators.
- Campus Climate Survey- will measure the extent of the issue on our campus and the impressions of those in the campus community.

More Information

- Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence: <http://www.pittstate.edu/dotAsset/efb06a92-3811-405a-b487-de2625193957.pdf>
- Reporting Incident of Sexual Misconduct or Relationship Violence: <http://www.pittstate.edu/dotAsset/efb06a92-3811-405a-b487-de2625193957.pdf>
- Resources for Victims of Sexual Misconduct or Relationship Violence: <http://www.pittstate.edu/dotAsset/c549bfe2-56ad-42a8-9acf-c1b82506cffb.pdf>
- Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Article 20 Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence: <http://www.pittstate.edu/audiences/current-students/policies/rights-and-responsibilities/sexual-assault.dot>
- Title IX: <http://www.pittstate.edu/office/eoaa/title-ix/>
- Notice of Nondiscrimination: <http://www.pittstate.edu/office/eoaa/notice-of-nondiscrimination.dot>
- Grievance Procedures: <http://www.pittstate.edu/office/eoaa/grievance-procedures/grievance-procedures-for-students.dot>
- Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office: <http://www.pittstate.edu/office/eoaa/index.dot>