



Information for Faculty, Staff, and TAs: Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking

This document is intended for faculty, staff, teaching assistants, and others who work directly with students at UW-Madison. As a faculty member, staff member, or teaching assistant, your relationships with students put you in a unique position to offer guidance and help. Often you may be the first person to whom victims disclose their experiences. Most students do not disclose to law enforcement; however, victims do confide in friends and trusted adults.³ By educating yourself and following some simple guidelines, you can confidently and effectively respond to students who are experiencing dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Sexual assault is any sexual contact made without consent. Consent is a clear yes, not the absence of a no.

Dating or domestic violence refers to an ongoing pattern of controlling and abusive behaviors that individuals use against their intimate partners. These behaviors include physical, sexual, or emotional attacks and/or economic control. For more information, see the [College Relationship Power and Control Wheel](#).

Stalking is repeated harassment that causes the victim fear. Examples of harassment include approaching the victim, sending the victim unwanted items, or repeatedly contacting the victim through email or text.

- Nationally, 1 in 5 college women will experience a sexual assault by the time they graduate.¹
- Only 13% of student sexual assault victims report the assault to law enforcement, and only 2% of victims report when alcohol is involved.²
- 32% of students experience dating violence by a previous partner.³
- At UW-Madison, 9.9% of students reported experiencing physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse by a dating partner in the past 12 months.⁴
- 3 in 10 college women are injured emotionally or psychologically from being stalked.⁵

Find more information about resources available for students at www.youtube.com/uwevoc

Campus Resources

evoc.wisc.edu

Rape Crisis Center
(608) 251-7273

Domestic Abuse
Intervention Services
(608) 251-4445

University Health Services
(608) 265-5600

UW Police Department
(608) 264-2677



EVOC
end violence on campus

TONIGHT



UW-Madison is committed to responding to and preventing sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

All first year students are required to complete the Tonight program. For more information, please visit evoc.wisc.edu.

If a student discloses to you:

1. **Listen with empathy.** Listening is the single most important thing that you can do. No one deserves to be the victim of violence, regardless of the circumstances. Let the victim know they are *not* to blame for the assault. Avoid asking questions that imply fault, such as “How much were you drinking?” or “Why didn’t you call the police?” Instead, say something simple and kind, like:

“I’m sorry that this happened to you.” or “Thank you for telling me.”

2. **Support and respect his or her decisions.** Victims are often met with disbelief when they tell someone. They may be hesitant to trust others with their story. Many victims do not immediately file a report with law enforcement. This is okay. Remember, you are not an investigator; you are someone the victim trusts. Avoid telling the victim what he or she “should” or “must” do. One of the most important things you can do is help the victim take back the power he or she has lost. Try phrases like:

“What kind of help do you need?” or “When you are ready, there is help available.”

3. **Know where to refer the victim for further help.** There are many offices on the campus and in the community that specialize in these issues. You are not expected to be an expert on sexual assault, dating violence or stalking; however, you can direct the victim to people who are experts and can provide advocacy and support. Refer to the [Sexual Assault and Dating Violence Services](#) brochure or the [service provider videos](#) for more information about crisis response, medical care, counseling, support groups, and legal advocacy. Ask gentle questions, like:

“Would you like to see a nurse or doctor?” or “Are you interested in talking to a counselor?”

4. **File a confidential third-party disclosure form in cases of sexual assault.** All UW employees are required by state law to report any first-hand student disclosures of sexual assault to the Division of Student Life. These reports are confidential and do not include identifiable information about the individual victim. It is the responsibility of UW personnel to file this form; do not give students the form to fill out on their own.

- **Sexual Assault of Students:** Information on reporting and Wisconsin Statute 36.11(22) is available at: www.provost.wisc.edu/memos/mandsas.html. For more information, please contact the Dean of Students Office: www.students.wisc.edu
- **Sexual Harassment:** Information about Title IX, sexual harassment, and training opportunities can be found via the Office for Equity and Diversity: www.oed.wisc.edu
- **Mandatory Child Abuse reporting:** Per Executive Order #54, effective December 19, 2011, all employees of UW System are now required to report child abuse and neglect to local law enforcement or Child Protective Services.

5. **Follow up with the student.** Let the student know that you take his or her disclosure seriously and that you care about his or her well-being. You could begin the conversation with:

“I was thinking about the conversation we had the other day. How are you doing?”

For more information, see uhs.wisc.edu/assault or e-mail violenceprevention@uhs.wisc.edu

¹Krebs, C., Lindquist, C., Warner, T., Fisher, B., & Martin, S. (2007). The Campus Sexual Assault Study. National Institute of Justice.
²64-70% of sexual assault victims disclose to someone in their lives. Krebs, C., Lindquist, C., Warner, T., Fisher, B., & Martin, S. (2010). Campus sexual assault (CSA) study, final report. US Dept. of Justice, National Institute of Justice. RTI International.
³ C. Sellers and M. Bromley, “Violent Behavior in College Student Dating Relationships,” *Journal of Contemporary Justice*, (1996).
⁴ American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment II: UW-Madison Executive Summary and Institutional Data Report. (2011, Spring). Linthicum, MD.
⁵ Fisher, B., Cullen, F., Turner, M., (2000). U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.