EVOC: An initiative at UW–Madison to prevent sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Why Students Don’t Seek Help

What they tell us…

Academics
Concerns that instructors will not believe them

Alcohol
Fear of getting ticket for underage drinking if they report to police

Misconception
Unclear that what happened to them is sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking

Privacy
Don’t want parents to find out what happened to them

“[Student] had a couple times that I really, really wanted to go to my teaching assistants and say that I know I’m not doing stellar work, but explain why. I was just kind of afraid. I thought maybe they’d think I was making excuses.”

Safety
Fear of retaliation by the perpetrator

Services Available
Don’t know where to go or who to contact for help

Social Norms
Scared that friends will think it was their fault

Systemic
Unclear about what happens if they report to campus authorities and having to tell their story numerous times

- 25% of college women experience sexual assault
- Only 5% of victims report the assault to law enforcement
- 32% of students experience dating violence by a previous partner
- 3 in 10 college women are being injured emotionally or psychologically from being stalked

Victims who don’t tell anyone what happened are more likely to
• blame themselves
• experience ongoing post-traumatic symptoms
• withdraw from college

We all have a role to play in making it easier for students to get help.

Students are more likely to tell an instructor or an advisor than a campus disciplinary authority

If a Student Tells You…

How you can respond

Listen with Empathy
This is the most important thing you can do.
“I’m sorry that happened to you.”
“Thank you for telling me.”

Support and Respect Her Decisions
Don’t assume you know what is best for her.
“What kind of help do you need?”
“When you are ready, there is help available.”

Know About Available Resources
You don’t have to be an expert to know how to help.
Keep a resource card or brochure handy so you can help a student know more about her options.

As an employee of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, you have certain responsibilities to victims who disclose to you. For more information please contact the Office of Administrative Legal Services.