

# Talking with your Student about Sexual Assault and Dating Violence

*a parent handbook*  
2016–2017







### Welcome to UW–Madison!

We are thrilled that you and your student are joining us on this dynamic campus for an incredible educational and life-changing experience. The transition to college is an important time for students and their families, and we want to provide you with information about how UW–Madison addresses sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and stalking.

Please use this resource guide as a tool to equip your student as they prepare to attend UW–Madison. With your student entering college, your role and relationship will change. This may be a great time to begin or continue conversations about consent, sexual assault, and dating violence. We understand that these are challenging topics, and each family has unique personal values that reflect what is important to them. We also understand that these issues may be incredibly difficult not only for students, but also for parents and families. UW–Madison is committed to creating a safe space for working and learning, and hopes to engage parents as part of that process.

***It is common for parents of survivors to experience their own feelings of anger, shock, shame, or denial. Support is available for you, too.***

UW–Madison prohibits the offenses of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking. These behaviors will not be tolerated on campus and are violations of Wisconsin law, campus policy, and/or the student code of conduct. UW–Madison uses comprehensive strategies, policies, and programs to address sexual assault and dating violence, including: preventing violence before it happens, providing support and options to victims, responding to reports, and ensuring that campus policies foster an equitable campus climate conducive to learning.

***We take the safety of your student and the UW–Madison community seriously.***

If you have questions or concerns, we encourage you to contact one of us. UW–Madison dedicates staff and resources to focus on sexual violence prevention, victim support, investigation, and policy development.

**Dr. Sarah Van Orman**  
Executive Director,  
University Health Services  
svanorman@uhs.wisc.edu

**Lori Berquam, PhD**  
Vice Provost for Student  
Life and Dean of Students  
lori.berquam@wisc.edu

**Sue Riseling**  
Associate Vice Chancellor  
and Chief of Police  
riseling@wisc.edu

**Dave Blom**  
Title IX Coordinator  
Office of Compliance  
david.blom@wisc.edu

# Table of Contents

Defining Sexual Violence .....	4
Starting the Conversation.....	6
Preventing Violence Before it Happens .....	9
Victim Support .....	10
Confidential Support Services: On Campus .....	12
Confidential Support Services: Off Campus .....	13
Reporting Options .....	14
Campus Policies.....	15

# Defining Sexual Violence



## PREVALENCE

According to a 2015 survey of UW–Madison students, over 1 in 4 female undergraduate students had experienced sexual assault by force or incapacitation since enrolling. Over half of all students experienced of sexual harassment, and about 10% of students had experienced dating or domestic violence in their time at UW–Madison.

To learn more: [uhs.wisc.edu/AAUSurvey/](https://uhs.wisc.edu/AAUSurvey/)



*The power and control wheel describes the complex interface of coercive control exercised by one intimate partner over another. This wheel depicts common tactics employed in dating or domestic violence. To see a power and control wheel specific to college students, see [uhs.wisc.edu/assault/documents/powerwheel.pdf](https://uhs.wisc.edu/assault/documents/powerwheel.pdf).*

Sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating/domestic violence, and stalking affects all genders and sexual orientations.

**Consent** is the presence of a free and clearly given yes, not the absence of a no. It’s the job of the person pursuing sexual activity to get consent. Students who are incapacitated from alcohol and/or other drugs cannot give consent.

To learn more, see [Wisconsin State Statutes: 940.225\(4\)](#).

**Dating and/or domestic violence**, also commonly referred to as intimate partner violence, is an ongoing pattern of power and control used by one intimate partner over another, such as verbal, physical, and/or sexual violence. It does not have to be physical to be abuse.

To learn more, see [Wisconsin State Statutes: 968.075](#).

**Sexual assault** is any sexual contact without consent. This can include groping someone without their permission. It can include sexual touching or fondling without consent as well as rape, which is the penetration of the mouth, anus, or vagina with fingers, a penis, or an object without consent.

To learn more, see [Wisconsin State Statutes: 940.225](#).

**Sexual harassment** means unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome requests for sexual favors, unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature, or unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Differences in power or status (such as a therapist/client, supervisor/supervisee, or TA/student) can be a significant component in sexual harassment. The Title IX Coordinator manages allegations of sexual harassment at UW–Madison.

To learn more, see [Wisconsin State Statutes: 111.32\(13\)](#).

**Stalking** is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person under the same circumstances to suffer serious emotional distress or to fear bodily injury or death.

To learn more, see [Wisconsin State Statutes: 940.32](#).



# Starting the Conversation

## DID YOU KNOW?

College sexual assault survivors are more likely to disclose their experiences to parents who discuss sex with them in nonjudgmental and positive ways.

## THINGS YOU CAN SAY

Though these topics may be difficult, the conversations do not have to be. We have provided a few tips for ways you can start or continue conversations with your student about the realities of sexual violence as they prepare to attend UW–Madison. See page 8 for tips on starting conversations and page 11 for tips on how to support a survivor.

## KEEP IT SIMPLE

Look for opportunities to weave topics of sex, gender, dating, and communication into everyday interactions. Open the door for conversations early, often, and casually. Rather than attempt lengthy conversations, ask simple, open-ended questions and listen without judgment. Find opportunities to ask them what they think about a TV show, news story, or blog post. Encourage them to explore what they want out of their social life or dating experiences in college. You don't have to be an expert!

## EXPLORE RED FLAGS

Encourage your student to think about the red flags for sexual assault and dating violence. They may be in a position to safely intervene in a potentially harmful situation. Red flags can include someone who does not respect boundaries, who is sexually aggressive, or who is jealous and controlling in dating relationships. Your student has likely seen many red flags already; what will their plan be for noticing and interrupting them when they see those behaviors on campus? Reinforce that they are going to a world-class institution that expects them to look out for their peers.

“Let me be clear: Sexual assault is a crime and will not be tolerated in our campus community. When sexual violence occurs at UW [–Madison], we work hard to encourage a climate where survivors feel comfortable coming forward to report it and know that they’ll have access to emotional and physical support services. We have a caring and trained staff and have in place clear procedures to investigate and adjudicate these cases, while also being respectful of the wishes of the survivor with regard to confidentiality and privacy. We will support survivors whether or not they choose to report the crime to law enforcement.”

— Rebecca Blank, UW–Madison Chancellor, July 2014





# Be Part of the Solution

## PREVENTION WORKS

96%

After completing the Tonight program, 96% of first-year students at UW–Madison were able to define consent accurately.

*results: fall 2015 post-test*

## Tips for Promoting Prevention

Talk to your student about respect and communication.	
<b>Try...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communication is an important part of sex and dating.</li><li>• No one has the right to cross your boundaries or push you further than you want. This is something you can always talk to me about.</li></ul>	<b>Instead of...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sex and dating are filled with mixed signals and messages.</li><li>• Some girls dress in such skimpy clothing. What do they expect?</li></ul>
Ask your student about their plans to be active bystanders.	
<b>Try...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Watch out for others. Alcohol and partying is never an excuse for inappropriate or hurtful behavior.</li><li>• What did you think about the Tonight program?</li><li>• What do you think would be realistic ways for you to intervene if you saw something that was a red flag for sexual assault?</li></ul>	<b>Instead of...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rape and dating violence are personal issues. Don't get involved.</li><li>• It's just college. You'll see people getting handsy at parties, and it's useless to try to interrupt that!</li></ul>
Talk to your student about how they would help.	
<b>Try...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How would you respond if your friend or roommate was being stalked or was in an abusive relationship?</li></ul>	<b>Instead of...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Don't let what happened to your friend/roommate happen to you.</li></ul>

“Parents can play a vital role in this effort. If you haven’t already, I urge you to have an open, honest, and direct conversation about alcohol use and sexual assault with your student before they come to Madison.”

— Rebecca Blank, UW–Madison Chancellor, July 2014

# Preventing Violence Before it Happens

UW–Madison takes sexual violence very seriously and understands that parents and new students do as well. UW–Madison works to prevent violence through a series of innovative and empowering strategies that build upon the realities, skills, and values of being a Badger.

## PRIMARY PREVENTION

Primary prevention is about preventing violence before it happens. UW–Madison violence prevention efforts address attitudes about sexual assault, dating violence, and gender; promote healthy relationships, respect, and consent; and build skills to intervene in harmful situations, support survivors, and contribute to a safe, healthy campus.

## Required Programs for First Year Students

Online



### Tonight Program

The **Tonight** program is an interactive online program that focuses on consent, options for victims, campus policies, how to intervene in harmful behaviors, and improving campus climate. Students who do not complete the program will be unable to register for the classes the following semester.

For students enrolling in summer or fall 2016: The program will be available for completion in your student’s Learn@UW account after August 1, 2016. The deadline for completion is Friday, September 16, 2016. Students who do not complete the program will be unable to register for spring 2016 courses.

For more information:  
[uhs.wisc.edu/tonight](http://uhs.wisc.edu/tonight)  
[tonight@uhs.wisc.edu](mailto:tonight@uhs.wisc.edu)

In Person

### In Person Dialogue

After new students complete the **Tonight** program, they will need to participate in one of many violence prevention programs to discuss consent, supporting survivors, healthy relationships, and/or gender. They will have the option to choose among large group presentations, small group discussions, bystander intervention trainings that are all led by trained students and professionals. These programs will be available throughout the first semester your student is enrolled, and they can find out more once they get to campus.

Students who do not participate in one of these in-person prevention dialogues will be unable to register for fall 2017 courses.

For more information:  
[evoc.wisc.edu](http://evoc.wisc.edu)  
[violenceprevention@uhs.wisc.edu](mailto:violenceprevention@uhs.wisc.edu)



# Victim Support

No parent wants to think about the possibility of their student being the victim of sexual assault or dating violence. We hope this guide can help you in the instance your student would turn to you for help, either for themselves or for a friend. It is common for college student victims to reach out to people they trust, like friends and family, after experiencing victimization. A validating, trustworthy support system is often the most important determinant in how a student heals from trauma, pursues their educational opportunities, and regains a sense of equilibrium. Your love, words, and actions make all the difference.



**24-hour Hotlines**

**Dane County Rape Crisis Center**  
**608-251-7273**

**National Sexual Assault Hotline**  
**800-656-4673**

**For a complete listing of resources on campus and in the greater Madison area, see [evoc.wisc.edu](http://evoc.wisc.edu)**

## It starts by listening, supporting, and referring.

### THINGS YOU CAN SAY: SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENT

Listen with patience and without judgement. Allow your student to share as much or as little as they want to, understanding that there may be parts that they may not feel comfortable sharing with you. Thank them for trusting you and continue to reaffirm that, even from far away, you are there for them. Being empathetic and listening may be the most important things you can do. Some students have already experienced victimization before coming to college and may only feel comfortable telling their families after they have come to campus.

Support your student in whatever they decide to do. It is a sign of trust for them to tell you. Sexual violence is about having power taken away. Allowing the survivor to decide how they proceed after an assault or leaving an abusive partner is how they regain control over their own body and psyche. You can offer to serve as a support person to accompany your student to any related meetings or appointments following sexual violence incidents, or help them find a victim advocate from campus or the greater Madison area. Focus on their options, not your opinions.

Refer them to places that can assist them. Know that UW–Madison and the greater Madison area has a wide variety of reporting and confidential support options available to your student.

**Listen**

**Try...**

- *I love you. I'm here for you. I support you.*
- *Thank you for trusting me enough to share this with me. Do you want to talk about it some more?*

**Instead of...**

- *What were you thinking would happen when you went to that party?*
- *We never need to talk about this again.*

**Support**

**Try...**

- *There are people on campus and in the community who can help, even if you don't want to report.*
- *If you want to report, who would you like to be there with you?*
- *You can come home if you need. I will support you in the choices you make.*

**Instead of...**

- *We need to report right now. You don't have a choice in the matter.*
- *I know what's best for you. If you knew what was best for you, this wouldn't have happened.*

**Refer**

**Try...**

- *Have you thought about getting a STI test or a forensic exam?*
- *What do you think will make you feel most supported? Do you want help talking to your professors?*

**Instead of...**

- *Why aren't you going to class?*
- *I don't know what to tell you. You'll have to figure out how to get out of this mess on your own.*

In the long-run, you may want to follow up with your student. Don't avoid talking about it. Make sure you recognize that your student is a whole person with many elements to their developing identity. It is common for survivors to continue to experience trauma symptoms for months and years after their experiences. Remind your student that they can get help at any time—even if the incident(s) happened months or years ago.



# Confidential Support Services

There are offices on campus and in the community where students can go for confidential support. Services provided by these offices will not result in a report to campus or law enforcement for students aged 18 and older, except as required by law. For a more complete listing of resources and options available to survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking, see [evoc.wisc.edu](http://evoc.wisc.edu).

## On campus

**UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES**  
**333 EAST CAMPUS MALL**  
**608-265-5600 (24 HOURS)**

### UHS Victim Advocacy

UHS provides no-cost confidential victim advocacy for student victims of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and/or stalking, including supportive counseling, case management, support groups, assistance in coordinating/requesting services, and accommodations.

Email or call for an appointment.

**608-265-5600 (option 3)**  
*(business hours only;  
not a 24-hour service)*

**8th floor**  
[evoc@uhs.wisc.edu](mailto:evoc@uhs.wisc.edu)  
[evoc.wisc.edu](http://evoc.wisc.edu)

### UHS Mental Health

Mental health support including individual counseling, group counseling, 24-hour mental health crisis support, and psychiatric services.

First-time appointments can be made by calling or dropping in at the reception desk.

**608-265-5600 (option 9)**  
*24-hour mental health  
support is available*  
**7th floor**  
[uhs.wisc.edu/services/counseling](http://uhs.wisc.edu/services/counseling)

### UHS Medical Care

Medical services including treatment of injuries, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing, HIV testing, wellness services, and screening and treatment for other STIs. UHS does NOT complete toxicology tests or forensic medical exams.

Appointments can be made over the phone or through the MyUHS portal:  
<https://myuhs.uhs.wisc.edu>  
**5th and 6th floors**  
[uhs.wisc.edu/services/medical](http://uhs.wisc.edu/services/medical)

## Off campus

### Forensic Nurse Examiner

The Forensic Nurse Examiner program provides 24-hour medical and forensic examination for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence. Nurses will examine for injuries, collect evidence, and offer medications to prevent STIs and/or pregnancy. Evidence can be collected within 5 days of an assault. There is no requirement to report to law enforcement.

**608-417-5916 (24 hours)**

**Unity Point Health-Meriter Hospital**  
**202 South Park Street**  
**Emergency Room entrance**  
[meriter.com/sane](http://meriter.com/sane)

### Rape Crisis Center (RCC)

RCC provides free victim advocacy for victims of sexual assault including a 24-hour help line, counseling, youth program, support groups, medical and legal advocacy, self-defense program, and an office located on the UW–Madison campus.

**608-251-RAPE (7273) (24 hours)**

**2801 Coho Street #301**  
**or 333 East Campus Mall**  
**7th floor**  
[info@danecountyrcc.org](mailto:info@danecountyrcc.org)  
[danecountyrcc.org](http://danecountyrcc.org)

### Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS)

DAIS provides free victim advocacy for victims of intimate partner violence including a 24-hour help line, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, a children’s program, crisis response, support groups, and assistance in fostering pets.

**608-251-4445 (24 hours)**  
**2102 Fordem Avenue**  
[info@abuseintervention.org](mailto:info@abuseintervention.org)  
[abuseintervention.org](http://abuseintervention.org)

## Just like you support your student, support is available for you, too.

Some parents and guardians find it helpful to receive their own support and consultation so that they can better support their student. It is common for parents of survivors to have questions, concerns, and experience their own feelings of anger, shock, shame, or denial. Many offices on campus, including the Parent Program, University Health Services, the Dean of Students Office, and University Housing, can provide you with information about campus policies and services.

It is important for you to know that many campus offices are not able to discuss a student’s specific situation or any contact we may have with them without the explicit, written permission of that student.



As a parent, you may have questions about campus policies, procedures, and reporting options. A complete and detailed listing of campus crime data, policies, and other information regarding campus safety can be found in UW–Madison’s Annual Security and Fire Safety Report. To read the report, please see [uwupd.wisc.edu](http://uwupd.wisc.edu). You can also contact the UW–Madison Title IX Coordinator, Dave Blom: 608-890-3788 or [david.blom@wisc.edu](mailto:david.blom@wisc.edu).

REPORTING

UW–Madison encourages student victims to make the best decisions for themselves, which may include reporting. Students have the option to report to a campus office, a law enforcement agency, both, or neither. All reports will be taken seriously, and investigated thoroughly, promptly, and fairly. Sexual assault, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and/or stalking are forms of gender discrimination and violations of Title IX, state law, and the UW System Administrative Code. Victims of these crimes are entitled to accommodations, safety measures, and access to information.

To report to a UW–Madison office

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE (DoSO)

DoSO is designated to receive reports of student misconduct. Upon receiving a report, DoSO will ensure that victims are provided with assistance and referrals. DoSO can also provide information and assistance to students who are being investigated for allegations of misconduct.

608-263-5700  
70 Bascom Hall  
[dean@studentlife.wisc.edu](mailto:dean@studentlife.wisc.edu)  
[students.wisc.edu/doso](http://students.wisc.edu/doso)

TITLE IX COORDINATOR

UW–Madison’s Title IX Coordinator receives and investigates Title IX complaints/reports, including allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sex discrimination. The Title IX Coordinator is designated to investigate allegations made against students or employees, and to oversee UW–Madison’s compliance with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

David Blom  
Title IX Coordinator  
Office of Compliance  
608-890-3788  
190 Bascom Hall  
[david.blom@wisc.edu](mailto:david.blom@wisc.edu)

To file a criminal report

UW–MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT (UWPD)

UWPD is a full-service, 24-hour agency with more than 70 sworn officer positions with the power and authority to make an arrest. Criminal reports are best filed in the jurisdiction in which incident(s) occurred; UWPD will work with students to identify other law enforcement agencies when appropriate.

(608) 264-2677 or 911  
Non-Emergency: 608-264-COPS  
1429 Monroe Street  
[uwupd.wisc.edu](http://uwupd.wisc.edu)

MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD)

911  
608-255-2345 (non-emergency)  
211 S. Carroll Street  
[cityofmadison.com/police](http://cityofmadison.com/police)

UWS Chapter 17: Nonacademic Misconduct Policy

The University of Wisconsin System Chapter 17 is the state administrative code that outlines the student disciplinary process for investigations of all allegations of student misconduct. In addition, UW–Madison has additional policies regarding investigations of sexual violence.

In accordance with Title IX, upon being put on notice or receiving a report of sexual violence, UW–Madison will act promptly to investigate, provide safety accommodations for the victim, and address any concerns for a hostile environment.

For more information about UWS 17 and possible sanctions, see [docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/uws/17.pdf](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/uws/17.pdf).  
For more information about UW–Madison specific policies, see [students.wisc.edu/reporting-allegations-of-sexual-assault-dating-domestic-violence-and-stalking/](http://students.wisc.edu/reporting-allegations-of-sexual-assault-dating-domestic-violence-and-stalking/).

Alcohol Amnesty and Responsible Action Guidelines

UW–Madison is committed to addressing common barriers to reporting sexual assault and ensuring the safety of its students. Both Wisconsin law and UW–Madison policy prohibit campus officials and law enforcement from issuing certain disciplinary sanctions and/or legal citations against victims who were drinking—even underage—at the time of the crime.

For more information, see:  
UW–Madison Responsible Action Guidelines:  
[students.wisc.edu/alcoholinfo/resp\\_action\\_guide.html](http://students.wisc.edu/alcoholinfo/resp_action_guide.html)

2015 Wisconsin Act 279:  
<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/acts/279.pdf>

“Victims of Crime – In those cases where a student has been a victim of sexual assault and/or a violent crime while under the influence of alcohol, neither the Dean of Students, University Housing, nor UW–Madison Police will pursue disciplinary actions against the student victim (or against a witness) for his or her improper use of alcohol (e.g., underage drinking). A student victim who is under the influence of alcohol at the time of a sexual assault is entitled to university and community assistance and encouraged to seek help.”

— Responsible action guidelines

Choosing NOT to report

If a student absolutely knows they do NOT want to report for any reason, they may want to explore the offices and services clearly designated as confidential. University employees who are not specifically designated as confidential, including house fellows, may have obligations to report disclosures of sexual violence made to them to the campus Title IX coordinator and/or designee, who may investigate the report. More information about confidential and reporting options—both on campus and off campus—can be found at [evoc.wisc.edu](http://evoc.wisc.edu).

More information about victim rights can be found here:  
[uhs.wisc.edu/assault/bill-of-rights.shtml](http://uhs.wisc.edu/assault/bill-of-rights.shtml).







**University Health Services**  
**333 East Campus Mall, Floors 5–8**  
**Madison, WI 53715**

608-265-5600  
[uhs.wisc.edu](http://uhs.wisc.edu)

This document provides a summary of services available to students and university policies. A complete and detailed listing of each of these services and policies can be found in the most recent UW–Madison Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, at [uwpd.wisc.edu](http://uwpd.wisc.edu).

