

A Villanova University Guide for Community

Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct

Resources, Policies and Procedures



Download the SAVUR app for easy access
to all sexual violence resources.



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY

Villanova University Policy:

Villanova University seeks to foster and maintain a community of mutual respect and concern for all of its members. There can be no greater violation of the terms of that community, or of the essential dignity of any member of it, than an act of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or other forms of misconduct described in this Policy (referred to as “sexual misconduct”). These acts constitute the deepest affront to University standards and will not be tolerated in any form.

All members of this community—students (current and applicants), faculty, staff, applicants for employment, persons doing business with or acting on behalf of the University, and visitors to campus—are protected under this Policy and share in responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment that promotes the safety and dignity of each person. Towards that end, this Policy provides the framework for eliminating sexual assault, sexual harassment, and other sexual misconduct from our community, preventing its recurrence, and addressing its effects.

Pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), Villanova prohibits all forms of sexual harassment, including sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct. Any person found responsible for such violations will face disciplinary actions up to and including dismissal or expulsion from the University. Acts of sexual assault or sexual misconduct may also be prosecuted under the Pennsylvania Criminal Code. This Policy applies to all on-campus conduct, as well as any off-campus conduct that has an adverse impact on any member of the University community or the University.

Sexual Misconduct is:

SEXUAL ASSAULT. Causing or attempting to cause sexual intercourse or sexual contact with another individual without consent. This includes sexual intercourse or sexual contact achieved by the use or threat of force or coercion, where an individual does not consent to the sexual act, or where an individual is incapacitated. Sexual assault includes rape, fondling, incest and statutory rape.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION. Sexual exploitation is an act or omission to act that involves taking non-consensual, unjust, humiliating, or abusive sexual advantage of another, either for his or her own advantage or to benefit or advantage anyone other than the Complainant.

STALKING. Stalking is a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety, or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress. The course of conduct means two or more acts in which the stalker follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person’s property. This includes cyber-stalking, a particular form of stalking in which electronic media such as the internet, social networks, blogs, cell phones, texts, or other similar devices or forms of contact are used to pursue, harass, or make unwelcome contact with another person.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other physical, visual, or verbal behavior of a sexual nature where: 1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment or education; or 2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting the individual; or 3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of: unreasonably interfering with an individual’s academic or professional performance; or creating an intimidating, hostile, or demeaning employment or educational environment. A single isolated incident of sexual harassment may create a hostile environment if the incident is sufficiently severe. The more severe the conduct, the less need to show a repetitive series of incidents to provide a hostile environment, particularly if the harassment is physical.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. Includes physically, sexually, and/or psychologically abusive behavior that arises in the form of a direct violent act, or indirectly as acts that expressly or implicitly threaten violence. Domestic violence also occurs when one partner attempts to maintain power and control over the other through one or more forms of abuse, including sexual, physical, verbal, or emotional abuse. Specifically, domestic violence is a crime of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner, or by a person with whom the Complainant shares a child in common. Domestic violence also includes a crime of violence against a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the Complainant as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the Complainant under domestic or family violence laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or by any other person against an adult or youth Complainant who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

DATING VIOLENCE. Includes physically, sexually, and/or psychologically abusive behavior that arises in the form of a direct violent act, or indirectly as acts that expressly or implicitly threaten violence. Dating violence also occurs when one partner attempts to maintain power and control over the other through one or more forms of abuse, including sexual, physical, verbal, or emotional abuse. Specifically, dating violence is violence or the threat of violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the Complainant. The existence of such a relationship is determined based upon the length of the relationship, the type of the relationship and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

RETALIATION. Retaliation is defined as attempts or acts to seek retribution including, but not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intent to prevent participation in University proceedings under University Policy. Retaliation may include continued abuse or violence, other harassment, and slander and libel. Retaliation may be committed by any individual or group of individuals, not just a Respondent or Complainant. It may be committed against the Complainant, Respondent, or any individual or group of individuals involved in the investigation and/or in the resolution of an allegation of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or other sexual misconduct. Retaliation could occur before, during or after an investigation and/or University proceedings.

Consent is:

- Explicitly communicated
- Reversible
- Informed
- Actively given without force or threat of force
- Voluntary
- Mutual agreement in which all parties are capable of making a decision

If, at any time, it is reasonably apparent that either party is hesitant, confused, or unsure, both parties should stop and obtain verbal consent before continuing any sexual activity.

Bystander Intervention:

Bystanders play a critical role in the prevention of sexual violence. The University strongly encourages all community members to take reasonable and prudent actions to prevent or stop an act of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or other sexual misconduct. Taking action may include direct intervention, calling Public Safety or law enforcement, or seeking assistance from a person in authority. Community members who choose to exercise this positive moral obligation will be supported by the University and protected from retaliation.

3D's of Intervention:

Many times people want to help but they either don't know what to do (knowledge) in a particular situation or how to do it (skills). In most situations, there is more than one way to take action. Each situation is unique, and each person will have different strengths when it comes to intervention. Think about the 3D's of intervention:

DIRECT: these strategies involve approaching one of the key people involved in the situation and attempting to prevent the situation from escalating further. For example, if you feel that a friend is drinking too much, a direct intervention would be to tell them that you're concerned and suggest that they take a break or bring them a non-alcoholic drink.

DELEGATE: in some situations, it is best if you involve other people to prevent the situation from worsening and to keep yourself safe. For example, this could mean recruiting friends of the student about whom you are concerned or calling Public Safety directly. You are taking action by asking others to help.

DISTRACT: by creating a distraction, you can alter the flow of the situation and potentially prevent a situation from worsening. For example, you might spill a drink or enter a conversation with a couple to try to interrupt the situation and shift it in another direction.

When considering your options, it is most important to make the safest choice available to you that somehow interrupts or intervenes in a potentially dangerous situation.

Effective Intervention is Prevention:

Remember that:

- Most problems begin in group settings.
- Friends are usually in the best position to do something.
- You will be in a situation in which you can help in the future.
- We all have a responsibility to look out for each other.

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

- Edmund Burke

How to Help a Friend Who Has Been Sexually Assaulted:

- Listen and offer support.
- Believe them.
- Let them know what has happened is not their fault.
- Put aside your feelings and deal with them elsewhere.
- Help connect your friend to campus and community resources.
- Respect their privacy.
- Support their choice of solution to the assault.
- Be dependable and available when they need you.
- Be patient.
- Rape Trauma Syndrome may occur several weeks, months and even years following the incident. Seek counseling at any time to help you or your friend.

Learn about emotional reactions to sexual violence by reading the sexual assault topic sheet on the University Counseling Center [Web site](#). Encourage your friends to read it, too.

What to Do if You or a Friend is Sexually Assaulted:

- Remain calm and alert.
- Get to a safe place: your home, residence hall or the residence of a trusted friend.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible to make sure that you are physically healthy. Contact the Student Health Center at 610-519-4070 or visit its office on the third floor of the Health Services Building. Medical professionals are available 24 hours a day. Medical attention at the local hospital is required in order to preserve valuable evidence should you decide to seek prosecution through the criminal justice system. It is important to know if you go to the hospital the local police will be contacted and you may choose whether or not to speak to the police.
- Bryn Mawr Hospital provides professional medical services to anyone who is sexually assaulted. Villanova's on-call Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator or VEMS are available for transport to the hospital.
- Because preservation of physical evidence in the first 72 hours after an assault is of the utmost importance, you should:
NOT change your clothing or shower. If you change your clothes, it is important that they are kept in a paper bag to preserve evidence. **NOT** apply medication to any injuries that have been sustained unless absolutely necessary. **NOT** disturb anything in the area where the assault occurred. **NOT** drink or chew gum.

- Call the Title IX Investigator to report the assault at 484-434-6926.
- Call the local police to report the assault (911). If you are calling from on campus, Villanova Public Safety and its police officers will respond.
- Contact the on-call Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator (SARC) at 484-343-6028. The SARC is available for support and to explain all of the options available to a survivor of any form of sexual violence.
- If you suspect that you have been given a predatory drug, like Rohypnol or GHB, please let the Student Health Center know. A urine sample can be collected within 72 hours of a sexual assault for predatory drug testing, and all testing at the Student Health Center is FREE for survivors of sexual assault.
- Seek free, confidential counseling at the University Counseling Center. Call 610-519-4050 or stop by 206 Health Services Building. Help is available for the person assaulted and for a person's friends who are concerned about her/him.
- Seek confidential support from priests in their pastoral role.

The Realities of Sexual Violence:

REALITY #1: Most sexual assaults are committed by someone the person knows.

REALITY #2: No one deserves to be sexually assaulted. Being in a person's room or car does not mean someone has agreed to have sex.

REALITY #3: A person is a victim of sexual violence when they are forced to have sex against their will, whether they fight back or not.

REALITY #4: Without affirmative consent, it is SEXUAL ASSAULT!

REALITY #5: False reports of sexual violence are less than 4%, the same rate as other reported crimes.

REALITY #6: Most males who rape other males are heterosexual.

REALITY #7: Every day there are opportunities for men and women to prevent sexual violence by discouraging pro-violent language, intervening in situations where someone might be in trouble, getting trained in effective bystander intervention strategies, and getting involved in on-campus organizations like POWER. We are all part of the solution!

How to Report:

There is no time limit on reporting, and a student does not need to decide whether or not to request a specific action by the University at the time of their report.

Villanova is committed to supporting the rights of a person reporting an incident of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or other sexual misconduct to make an informed choice among options and services available, including on-campus reporting options, reporting to local law enforcement, and the right to not report at all. Additionally, the Title IX Coordinator, Dean of Students Office and Public Safety can issue no contact orders. A Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator (SARC) and/or Public Safety can assist a student in obtaining orders of protection, if they choose to pursue them. The following are the reporting options available.

- Title IX Investigator, 484-343-6926
- Title IX Coordinator, 610-519-8805
- Local law enforcement, 911
- Resident Assistants/Residence Life Staff, 610-519-4154 or RAs located in each residence hall
- Anonymous reporting hotline ([Ethicspoint](#)), 1-855-236-1443

What to Expect When Reporting an Incident of Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment or Other Sexual Misconduct at Villanova:

- You will be treated with care and support.
- You will be encouraged to talk to a Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator (SARC).
- In general, the University will consult you prior to pursuing an investigation. In some cases, if an incident suggests an ongoing threat to the community, the University must evaluate requests for confidentiality against the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for all community members, including you.
- Timely reporting is of critical importance, since proof of criminal offense requires that local police collect and preserve evidence immediately after an assault. Ideally, you should not wash, douche, use the toilet, drink, chew gum, or change your clothing prior to a medical exam.
- If you decide to seek treatment at a local hospital, be aware that the hospital is obligated to contact the local police. You may choose whether or not to talk with the police.

What to Expect When Pursuing Disciplinary Action at Villanova:

Villanova's procedures for student disciplinary action are set forth in the Student Handbook which can be found at www.villanova.edu/studentlife/dean/publications.

These are also the procedures under Title IX for addressing claims of sexual assault, sexual harassment and other sexual misconduct where the Respondent is a student. These procedures are designed to provide a prompt and impartial response for the resolution of such complaints for the reporting person in the event an incident of sexual assault, sexual harassment or other sexual misconduct is determined to have occurred.

- Individuals responsible for adjudication of the complaint participate in training to review policy, procedures, and the issues of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct on college campuses.
- The Complainant and Respondent are entitled to the same opportunities to present relevant statements and witnesses during a campus disciplinary proceeding.
- The Complainant and Respondent may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice.
- Both the Complainant and Respondent are informed in writing of the final results of the campus disciplinary process.
- Responsibility for alleged violations of the Code of Student Conduct will be determined by a preponderance of the evidence.
- Should a student be found responsible for violating the University's policy on sexual assault, sexual harassment or other sexual misconduct, they are subject to the full range of sanctions up to and including expulsion.

***For more detailed information see
www.villanova.edu/sexualassault***

Resources:

On Campus:

Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator* (SARC)	484-343-6028
Title IX Investigator*	484-343-6926
Respondent Resource Coordinator	610-519-8807
Public Safety for Emergencies*	610-519-4444
Villanova Emergency Medical Services* (VEMS)	610-519-4444
Student Health Center*	610-519-4070
Title IX Coordinator	610-519-8805
University Counseling Center	610-519-4050
Dean of Students	610-519-4200
Residence Life	610-519-4154
Health Promotion	610-519-7407
Student Life	610-519-4550
Campus Ministry	610-519-3546
Clergy Members	610-519-6485
Sexual Harassment Complaint Officer	610-519-4550
Financial Assistance	610-519-4010
Visa & Immigration Services	610-519-4095
Health Advocate (Employee Assistance Program)*	866-799-2728

Off Campus:

Women Against Rape*	610-566-4342
Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County*	610-565-4590
Delaware County District Attorney	610-891-4162
Law Enforcement*	911
Radnor*	610-688-0503
Lower Merion*	610-649-1000
Conshohocken*	610-828-4032 /4033
Upper Merion*	610-265-3232
Tredyffrin*	610-647-1440
Bryn Mawr Hospital*	484-337-3000
Lankenau Medical Center*	484-476-2000
Catholic Social Services of Philadelphia (Visa Immigration Services)	267-331-2490
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia	215-981-3700
Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center*	215-425-1625
PA Coalition Against Rape	www.pcar.org
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)	www.rainn.org
The Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT)	www.fvsai.org

*24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Statistics:

- 1 in 5 college women are survivors of attempted or completed sexual assault.
- 1 in 6 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime.
- Fewer than 1% of acquaintance rapes are reported on college campuses.
- Alcohol is the #1 predatory drug.

**Sexual assault is an act of control, using sex as a weapon.
It is not motivated by sexual desire, but by the desire
to overpower and dominate another person.**

Fisher BS, Cullen FT, Turner MG. 2000. The sexual victimization of college women. Washington: Department of Justice (US), National Institute of Justice; Publication No. NCJ 182369.



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