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 sexual misconduct. These acts constitute the deepest affront to University standards and will not be tolerated in any form. Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct are forms of sexual harassment and are prohibited. 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 Assault Is:

Having or attempting to have 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 the following acts:

1. Attempted or Actual Penetrations: Having or attempting to have non-consensual vaginal, anal, or oral penetration, however slight, with any object or body part, with another person.

2. All Other Forms of Non-Consensual Sexual Contact: Having or attempting to have any non-consensual, non-accidental touching of a sexual nature. This touching can include, but is not limited to, kissing or touching the private parts of another, or causing the other to touch the harasser’s private parts.

Prohibited sexual misconduct also includes sexual exploitation and intimate partner violence. For a full definition of prohibited sexual misconduct, see the Blue Book, www.villanova.edu/studentlife/dean.

Consent is:

- Based on choice
- Active, not passive
- Given without force or threat of force
- Possible only when there is equal power
- Given under sober conditions
- Reversible and can be withdrawn at any time

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.
What You Can Do to Prevent Sexual Assault

What one man can do:

• **Believe** a person when he or she says no. Don’t see it as a challenge.
• **Never force** someone to have sex with you, no matter what sexual activity has occurred in the past.
• **Don’t overpower** someone if you are physically stronger. The person may stop fighting back or resisting, but still be unwilling to have sex. Having sex under these circumstances is rape.
• If you pay for a date, **do not expect** your date to owe you sex.
• Recognize that **intoxication is no excuse**: Up to 70% of all campus sexual violence involves the use of alcohol.
• **Do not assume** you know what someone wants. **ASK**. If, at any time, it is reasonably apparent that either party is hesitant, confused, or unsure, both parties should stop and obtain mutual verbal consent before continuing sexual activity.

What one woman can do:

• **Communicate** your boundaries and intentions clearly. If you feel that you are not being heard, leave or call for help. This is not a time to be “polite” and accommodating.
• **Trust your intuition**. If you feel uncomfortable, you may be in danger. Leave or call for help.
• Go on a **date in a public place** where other people are around.
• **Use the buddy system** when going out. Look out for each other.
• **Be prepared**. Always have a plan for how you will get home. Always carry cab fare.
• **Remain in control**. Set your own limits and communicate them.

What men and women can do:

• If you witness sexual violence, call Public Safety. You may **save a life**.
• **Respect each other’s feelings**. You do not need to agree on everything, but you do need to respect each other’s opinions and decisions. If one person says no—then listen and respect their decision.
• **Respect each other**. Say what it is you **DO** want and what you **DO NOT** want to happen. Sex without discussion does not allow consent or respect to occur.
• **Know that alcohol and other drugs can influence decisions and communication**. Many perpetrators see an intoxicated person as an easy target. In reported cases, 75% of the men and 55% of the women have been under the influence of alcohol and other drugs.
What to do if you or a friend is sexually assaulted:

• Listen and offer support.
• Believe your friend.
• 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 normal emotional reactions to sexual violence by reading the Sexual Assault topic sheet on the Holloway Counseling Center Web site at: http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/counselingcenter/infosheets/sexualassault.html. Encourage your friends to read it, too.

What to help a friend who has been sexually assaulted:

• Remain calm and alert.
• Get to a safe place: your home, residence hall or the residence of a trusted friend.
• Because preservation of physical evidence 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.
• Contact the Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator (SARC) at 610-519-7408. The SARC is available 24 hours, 7 days a week, and can review all of the options available to a survivor of sexual assault.
• 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.
• Bryn Mawr Hospital provides professional medical services to anyone who is sexually assaulted. The Villanova Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator or VEMS is available for transport to the hospital.
• 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.
• Seek free, confidential counseling at the Holloway 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.
• Speak with a POWER peer educator. POWER peer educators are trained to serve as a resource for their fellow students on the issue of sexual assault and can help direct you to the appropriate resources on campus. You may identify a POWER peer educator by calling 610-519-7407, or by visiting Health Promotion, located on the first floor of the Health Services Building.
Myths and Realities:

Myth: The greatest danger of being sexually assaulted is from a stranger.
Reality: Most sexual assaults are committed by someone the assaulted person knows.

Myth: People who are victims of sexual violence deserve it, especially if they agreed to go to someone’s room or accepted a ride.
Reality: No one deserves it. Being in a person’s room or car does not mean someone has agreed to have sex.

Myth: People who don’t fight back aren’t victims of sexual violence.
Reality: You are a victim of sexual violence when you are forced to have sex against your will, whether you fight back or not.

Myth: If a person allows someone to buy them dinner or pay for a movie or drinks, he/she really means “yes.”
Reality: No one owes sex as a payment to anyone else, no matter how expensive the date.

Myth: When a person says no, they really mean yes.
Reality: No means NO! Without consent, it’s SEXUAL VIOLENCE!

Myth: Women often lie about being victims of sexual violence.
Reality: False reports of sexual violence are less than 4%, the same rate as other reported crimes.

Myth: Men who sexually assault other men are homosexual.
Reality: Most males who rape other males are heterosexual.

Myth: There is nothing any one man can do to stop sexual violence.
Reality: Every day there are opportunities for men to prevent sexual violence by discouraging pro-violent language and intervening in situations where someone might be in trouble.

Myth: There is nothing that can be done if I have been drugged.
Reality: If you suspect that you were given a predatory drug such as Rohypnol or GHB, the Student Health Center can take a urine sample to test for these drugs. It is important to have this test done as soon as possible as predatory drugs remain in the system for only a short time (24-72 hours).

Statistics:

• Both men and women are sexually assaulted.
• 1 in 5 college women are survivors of attempted or completed sexual assault.
• 1 in 7 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 Violence 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.

How to report:

A student does not need to decide whether or not to request any specific action by the University at the time a report is made, nor is there a time limit on reporting. 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. The following are the reporting options at Villanova:

- Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator, 610-519-7408
- Public Safety, 610-519-6670
- Local law enforcement, 911

What to expect when reporting an incident of sexual assault or sexual violence at Villanova:

- You will be treated with care and support.
- You will be encouraged to talk to the Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator (SARC).
- In general, it will be up to you to decide whether you wish to pursue an investigation through Public Safety, local police, or both. In some cases, such as when the incident suggests an ongoing threat to the University community, an investigation of the incident may still occur. Working with the SARC, you will be encouraged to cooperate with Public Safety should an investigation occur.
- 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.
- 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 or change your clothing prior to a medical exam.

For more detailed information, see http://www1.villanova.edu/content/dam/villanova/hr/documents/villanova_university_sexual_assault_policy.pdf

Office of Health Promotion

We can prevent sexual violence:

Health Promotion provides educational materials, resources, and training to the campus community on many topics, including sexual violence. To assist with outreach, Health Promotion trains students each year to be Peers Offering Wellness Education & Resources peer educators. POWER provides presentations in the residence halls, classrooms, and in the community; sponsors awareness months and campaigns; distributes resource materials around campus and refers students to the appropriate resources. If you would like more information on POWER, please call 610-519-7407 or go to: www.villanova.edu/healthpromotion/power.
**Resources**

**On Campus:**
- Student Health Center ........................................... 610-519-4070
- Holloway Counseling Center................................610-519-4050
- Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator ...............610-519-7408
- Public Safety for Emergencies ............................610-519-4444
- Villanova Emergency Medical Services ...........610-519-4444
- Dean of Students ..............................................610-519-4200
- Health Promotion ..............................................610-519-7407
- Campus Ministry ..............................................610-519-4080
- Title IX Coordinator ........................................610-519-4237

**Off Campus:**
- Women Against Rape........................................... 610-566-4342
- Domestic Abuse ................................................610-565-4590
- Delaware County District Attorney .....................610-891-4162
- Radnor Police Department
  - Business .....................................................610-688-0503
  - Emergency .................................................911
- Bryn Mawr Hospital ............................................484-337-3000
- Lankenau Medical Center ....................................484-476-2000
- Philadelphia Sexual Assault
  - Response Center ..........................................215-425-1625
- PA Coalition Against Rape .................................www.pcar.org
- Rape, Abuse & Incest .........................................www.rainn.org
- Family Violence & Sexual Assault .......................www.fvsai.org

*24 hours, seven days a week*