Sexual Harassment

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity receiving federal funding. This prohibition extends to sexual harassment from professors or other students.

Sexual harassment takes two forms: hostile environment and quid pro quo.

Hostile or abusive environment sexual harassment consists of conduct which is so offensive or intimidating that it interferes with your participation in academic activities or functions. This can include sexually offensive or derogatory comments or gestures.

Stalking is a pattern of threats or harassment that is directed repeatedly towards a specific person and is experienced as unwelcome, intrusive or fear inducing.

Quid pro quo sexual harassment occurs when specific academic benefits are promised or withheld as a means of coercing sexual favors, or where you are punished for refusing to comply with sexual demands from your professors.

If you believe you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may file a complaint. You may also discuss the possibility of civil action with a private attorney.

Sexual Misconduct Policy Summary

Forced intercourse or other unwanted sexual contact is defined as rape or sexual assault whether the perpetrator is a stranger or an acquaintance of the complainant.

Intoxication of the victim or assailant shall not diminish the assailant's responsibility for sexual assault.

The University encourages all members to become aware of both the consequences and impact of sexual assault and the options available to victims.

(Remember! You Are Not Alone)

VSU Department of Police & Public Safety
On Campus Emergency………….……..524-5411
Off Campus Emergency………….……..911

Sexual Assault Prevention…………..524-5939
Students who report an incident of sexual assault will receive the assistance of the Sexual Assault Coordinator who will ensure close coordination among the university’s support services.

Residence Life………….…………….524-5011
Sometimes it is easier to turn first to an RA or GA for initial and additional support.

Assistant V.P. of Student Affairs………..524-5350
The Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs can advise a student of available support services and provide information about your rights, options and the judicial process.

Student Health Services…………..….....524-5711
Student Health Services can provide follow-up medical services after your evaluation and treatment at the hospital emergency room.

University Counseling Center…………..524-5939
Counseling can be an important step in coping with the physical and emotional effects of sexual assault and provide support in your recovery.

The James House………………………458-2840
(24 Hour Crisis Line)

Southside Regional Medical Center………765-5000
(ER) 200 Medical Park Boulevard - Petersburg

Chesterfield Domestic and Sexual Violence Resource Center ……………………706-1267

http://www.vsu.edu/pages/322.asp

Revised 3-20-09
Sexual Misconduct Policy

Virginia State University is a community of trust whose existence depends on strict adherence to standards of conduct set by its members. Sexual misconduct is a serious violation of these standards and will not be tolerated in any form, including date and acquaintance rape. Sexual assault is any sexual activity undertaken without consent; or when forced by use of threats, intimidation, physical restraint or violence. Where there is probable cause to believe that the college regulations prohibiting sexual misconduct have been violated, disciplinary actions will be taken and sanctions can include expulsion from the University.

Legal Definition

Sexual misconduct includes a range of behaviors to obtain sexual contact against a person’s will. Sexual misconduct is defined as sexual contact without consent by an acquaintance or a stranger and includes: intentional touching without consent, either of the victim or when the victim is forced to touch, directly or through clothing, another person’s genitals, breasts, groin, thighs, or buttocks; rape (sexual intercourse without consent or whether by an acquaintance or a stranger; attempted rape; sodomy (oral sex or anal intercourse) without consent; or sexual penetration with an object without consent. To constitute lack of consent, the acts must be committed either by threat, force, intimidation, or through the use of the victim’s mental and physical inability such as when the victim is physically or mentally incapacitated by alcohol or other drugs.

*Scope of the Problem on College Campuses*

A majority of sexual assaults involve acquaintance rape which is prevalent on college campuses. Studies indicate:

- The highest number of persons victimized by sexual assault are college students between the ages of 16 and 19 years of age.
- The second largest victimization rates are women between the ages of 20 and 24 years.
- 1 in 4 women report being victims of sexual assault or attempted rape.
- 9 of 10 rape or sexual assault offenders were known to the victim (acquaintance, boyfriend, classmate, friend, co-worker),
- 57% of assaults occurred while on a date.
- 67% of sexual assaults involved alcohol.


IF YOU ARE RAPED OR SEXUALLY ASSAULTED:

- Go to a safe place. Think safety first.
- Preserve Evidence: Do not bathe, shower, douche, change clothes or straighten up the crime scene.
- Seek Medical Attention at a Hospital Emergency Room:
  - to assess and treat any physical injuries.
  - to determine the risk of sexual transmitted diseases or pregnancy and to take appropriate measures
  - to collect evidence

Reporting to VSU Department of Police & Public Safety (524-5411) Helps:

- Protect yourself and others from future harm.
- Apprehends the alleged assailant.
- Maintains future options regarding prosecution.
- Disciplinary action, criminal, and/or civil action against the perpetrator.

Filing Charges

Charges may be filed through the University Judicial system, if the assailant is a member of the University community, or with police in the jurisdiction where the assault occurred.

Decisions and Options:

- √ Register a complaint (report) with the police but not prosecute.
- √ Report the crime to the police with the intent of Pursuing Criminal prosecution.
- √ Not to report the crime to police.
- √ File a Civil suit for damages.
- √ Report anonymously

This is a decision that only the victim of sexual assault can make. However, the victim is encouraged to seek assistance and utilize resources listed in this document.

University Judicial System/Board

The University has specific provisions against sexual misconduct. The University views sexual misconduct as a serious violation that will not be tolerated. The Code of Student Conduct prohibits sexual misconduct. The University Judicial Board is the student hearing body for violations of the Code of Student Conduct. Taking action through the University Judicial System does not rule out prosecution through the legal system, but anyone interested in doing both is advised to consult with the Commonwealth’s Attorney to determine how