

# SUNY Ulster

## Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey

### Summary - August 2023

#### Executive Summary

During the spring of 2023, SUNY Ulster administered the Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey online. This survey was administered to students and employees and addressed student and employee knowledge about:

- The Title IX Coordinator's role;
- Campus policies and procedures addressing sexual assault;
- How and where to report sexual violence as a victim/survivor or witness;
- The availability of resources on and off campus, such as counseling, health, academic assistance;
- The prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on and off campus;
- Bystander attitudes and behavior;
- Whether victims/survivors reported to the College/University and/or police, and reasons why they did or did not report.
- The general awareness of the difference, if any, between the College's code of conduct and the criminal proceedings; and
- The general awareness of the definition of affirmative consent.

In reviewing the results, it appears that students are somewhat aware of how to report sexual assault to the College, however, a majority of students do not know how to contact the Title IX Coordinator. Based on these results, more outreach is needed to ensure that the student population is aware of how to contact the Title IX Coordinator and the process to report Title IX offenses. The survey results indicate that virtually all employees are aware of how to report sexual harassment or sexual assault to the College.

- Thirty-nine percent of students indicated that they knew how to report a sexual assault to the College.
- Twenty-six percent of students reported that they were subject to sexual harassment in the prior year; most of whom identified as a woman.

- Nearly three-quarters (74%) of Ulster students do not know how to contact the Title IX Coordinator, even though over half of students are aware the Title IX Coordinator receives reports regarding sex discrimination, sexual assault, and sexual misconduct.
- Sixty-one percent of students indicated they do not know how to report sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic/dating violence, and/or stalking to the College.
  - Virtually all (95%) employees indicated they know how to report one or more of those types of incidents.
- Sixty-one percent of students and 80% of employees know the difference between the college disciplinary process and the criminal justice system.
- Three-quarters of employees know the difference between confidentiality and privacy when it comes to who is responsible for reporting Title IX offenses and who may keep that information confidential.

Survey results are being reviewed by the Title IX Office to inform additional training sessions and develop a Title IX Fact Sheet for distribution to students.

If you have any questions about the survey or the results included in this report, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, Jamie Capuano at [capuanoj@sunyulster.edu](mailto:capuanoj@sunyulster.edu)

## Background

The SVP survey is administered every other year by all SUNY campuses, who work closely with SUNY System Administration to coordinate the survey administration itself. An effort is made to keep the questions from one administration to the next as consistent as possible to allow for reliable and meaningful longitudinal data. System-wide IRB review takes place for each survey administration.

Our campus administered the student and employee surveys between March 6, and March 26, 2023. Excluded survey populations were individuals under 18 years of age, all incarcerated individuals regardless of age, and all students concurrently enrolled in high school regardless of age.

- All eligible survey participants received an invitation to take the survey.
- SUNY Ulster did not offer any incentives to take the survey.
- Employees and students were notified of the survey through emails sent from the Deputy Title IX Coordinator.

## Results

- The survey was completed by one-hundred-twenty-five (125) students and 171 employees completed the survey, for response rates of 11% and 51%, respectively.
- Thirty-nine percent of students indicated that they knew how to report a sexual assault to the College, and about a quarter (26%) indicated they knew how to contact the Title IX Coordinator.
- Twenty-six percent of students reported that they were subject to sexual harassment in the prior year; most of whom identified as a woman. This included experiencing unwanted sexual comments, slurs, or demeaning jokes (23%), unwanted sexually

suggestive digital communications (17%), and/or someone viewing or recording one's sexual activity or nakedness without consent (2%).

- Fourteen percent of students reported that they were subject to attempted or completed sexual assault in the prior year; again, most of whom identified as women.
- Seventy percent of students indicated familiarity with affirmative consent.
- Nearly three-quarters (74%) of Ulster students do not know how to contact the Title IX Coordinator to report sexual discrimination, sexual assault and sexual misconduct. Although over half of students are aware the Title IX Coordinator receives reports of those allegations.
- Nearly a quarter of employees do not know how to contact the Title IX Coordinator or are unsure, though most are aware of the role of the Coordinator on campus.
- Over half of students (56%) reported they have not received written and/or verbal information about the definition or reporting of sexual assault, where to go for help if they or someone they know is sexually assaulted, to whom they can speak confidentially about a sexual assault, and/or policies prohibiting sexual assault. Almost all (95%) employees reported they have received such information.
- Sixty-one percent of students indicated they do not know how to report sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic/dating violence, and/or stalking to the College.
- Virtually all (95%) employees indicated they know how to report one or more of those types of incidents.
- Seventy percent of students know the definition of Affirmative Consent, and 79% know that someone who is incapacitated is unable to provide consent. Eighty percent of employees report knowing the definition of Affirmative Consent, and most (89%) know that someone who is incapacitated is unable to provide consent.
- Sixty-one percent of students and 80% of employees know the difference between the college disciplinary process and the criminal justice system.
- Three-quarters of employees know the difference between confidentiality and privacy when it comes to who is responsible for reporting Title IX offenses and who may keep that information confidential.
- Employees were asked how they thought the College would handle a complaint of sexual violence made by them on behalf of a student. Most Ulster employees reported they agreed or strongly agreed that the College would take their report seriously (95%), would provide the student with necessary support (90%), and would conduct a fair investigation (88%).

## Discussion and next steps

Survey data indicates that a higher percentage of students were subject to sexual harassment in the prior year, when compared to previous survey results (26% vs 18%). This increase is alarming and indicates a greater need for sexual harassment training and support services throughout campus. In

addition, the percentage of students who reported that they were subjected to an attempted or completed sexual assault, nearly doubled from prior survey results. This alarming increase reflects the need to develop targeted support program support throughout campus, enhance training programs around sexual assault and engage with community stakeholders to raise awareness about sexual assault and ways to prevent its occurrence.

The College will use the data collected through the survey to develop targeted training materials aimed at addressing identified gaps in student/employees understanding of Title IX, partner with community stakeholders to offer sexual assault prevention programs, and develop additional campus support services for victims of sexual assault.

Enhanced training materials will focus on the following main areas of concern:

- Contacting the Title IX Coordinator;
- Definitions of, and the process for, reporting sexual misconduct; and,
- Alcohol and/or drug amnesty policies.

While SUNY Ulster's employee response rate increased from 34% to 51%, our student response rate dropped from 24% to 11%, when compared to the 2021 survey results. This indicates that the College must do additional outreach to encourage student participation.

The College will use existing resources, supplemented with community partnerships to raise awareness about sexual harassment and assault on the Stone Ridge and Kingston Center campuses. In addition, the Title IX Coordinator and the Deputy Title IX Coordinators will conduct student focused round table discussions regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, and the role of the Title IX Coordinator.