

SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT, GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policy Statement

Salve Regina University strives to provide an environment that is free from all forms of discrimination, harassment and other unreasonable interference. Although the University promotes freedom of expression, this freedom implies a responsibility to observe the rights of others. Conduct that diminishes, exploits or abuses another's position or personal worth is not acceptable, and harassment in any form is not tolerated. The University does not condone sexual harassment, gender-based harassment or sexual violence, including dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault, regardless of the sexual orientation or gender identity of individuals involved. The University will remedy all unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature and will impose serious sanctions on anyone who violates this policy. Any student, staff member, faculty, or administrator found to have violated this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or termination. Resolution by the University is intended to bring an end to harassing or discriminatory conduct, prevent its recurrence and remedy the effects on the complainant and the community.

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Purpose of Policy

This policy document informs members of the University community about sexual harassment, gender-based harassment and sexual violence, and explains what they can do if they encounter or observe it in connection with any University program or activity.

Jurisdiction

This policy applies to all University community members including faculty, adjunct faculty, staff, students, visitors, and participants in University programs and activities, both on campus and in other locations, including Study Abroad locations and at University sponsored events within and outside of the U.S.

Violations of the Sexual Harassment, Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy

Violation of this policy is a serious offense and such violations are subject to any combination of disciplinary actions as described in the Staff Handbook under Discipline. The university reserves the right to take whatever measures it deems necessary in response to an allegation of violating this policy in order to protect employee's rights and personal safety.

Violations of the University's Sexual Harassment, Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy include, but are not limited to:

Dating Violence: Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim is dating violence. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based upon the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the following factors: the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. The nature of dating violence includes, but is not limited to physical, psychological, sexual abuse and/or the threat of violence. As an example, dating violence is a type of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Examples of dating violence include, but are not limited to:

- Hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, pulling hair or other physical misconduct;
- Isolating a partner from family and friends;
- Coercing a partner to have sex without protection or pursuing sexual activity when a partner is afraid to say no;
- Threatening to reveal a person's sexual orientation without the person's permission;
- Exhibiting excessive possessiveness and jealousy;
- Constantly belittling or insulting a partner;
- Checking a partner's cell phone or email account without permission;
- Demanding that a partner dress or act in a certain way; and/or
- Threatening violence against the victim's acquaintances, friends, or family members.

Domestic Violence: Is abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

Rhode Island Definitions of Domestic Violence and Relationship Violence

Rhode Island General Law 12-29.2 defines domestic violence as crimes when committed by one family member or household member against another. Family or household member is defined as:

- Spouses
- Former spouses
- Adult persons related by blood or marriage and persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together
- Adult persons who are currently residing together or who have resided together during the past three years
- Persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together
- Persons who are or have been in a substantive dating or engagement relationship within the past 6 months which shall be determined by the court's consideration of the length of time of the relationship, the type of relationship and the frequency of the interaction between parties.

Domestic violence includes but is not limited to any of the following crimes when committed by one family or household member against another: simple and felony assaults, vandalism, disorderly conduct, trespassing, kidnapping, child snatching, sexual assault, homicide, violations of court orders, stalking, refusal to relinquish or to damage or to obstruct a telephone, burglary and unlawful entry, arson, cyberstalking and cyber harassment, and domestic assault by strangulation.

Rhode Island Law defines domestic abuse as “attempting to cause or causing physical harm, placing another person in fear of immediate physical harm, or causing another to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, threat, or duress, stalking via harassment or following a person, and cyberstalking.”

There are many forms of physical, verbal, emotional, and sexual abuse that may be used between roommates, friends or couples.

Examples of verbal and emotional abuse include using threatening gestures or language, stalking or harassing, shouting, swearing, blocking the doorway or using body size to intimidate, claiming to be the authority, blaming or accusing, insulting, mocking, driving recklessly to scare the victim, isolating the victim from friends or family, or refusing to listen or respond. All forms of domestic violence, domestic abuse and relationship violence are in violation of the sexual misconduct policy.

These crimes carry sentences up to one year in prison and may result in the serving of a restraining order against the assailant and the requiring of the assailant to attend a recognized treatment program for batterers.

Gender-Based Harassment: Gender-Based Harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct of a nonsexual nature based on a person’s perceived sex, including conduct based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and nonconformity with gender stereotypes, which may include acts of aggression, intimidation, or hostility, whether verbal, nonverbal, graphic, physical, or otherwise, that is persistent, pervasive and/or severe. Examples of gender-based harassment may include, but are not limited to: using derogatory comments and terms toward a male or female who does not act in ways that align with gender stereotypes, telling someone to use a restroom that does not align with that person’s gender identity, making generalized derogatory comments about one’s gender, and exclusion from an activity, employment opportunity, or academic program based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Gender-based harassment is prohibited when:

- A. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment or education; and/or
- B. Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for academic or employment decisions; and/or
- C. Such conduct substantially interferes with an individual’s academic or professional performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment, educational, or living environment based on gender.

While gender-based harassment, which is based on non-sexual factors, may be distinguished from sexual harassment, these types of behaviors may contribute to the creation of a hostile environment. The definition of hostile environment provided under the sexual harassment section also applies in the context of gender-based harassment.

Retaliation: Exists when an individual harasses, intimidates or takes other adverse action(s) against a person because of the person’s complaint of harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct or because of the person’s participation in an investigation of harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct or their support of someone involved in an investigation of harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct. Retaliatory actions include, but are not limited to, threats or actual violence against the person or their property, adverse educational or employment consequences, ridicule, intimidation, bullying, or ostracism. The University will impose sanctions on any student or employee found to be engaging in retaliation.

Sexual Assault: Any sexual act directed against another person, without consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

- A. **Non-consensual Sexual Intercourse** (or attempts to commit the same) often referred to as rape: Any sexual intercourse (anal, oral or vaginal), however slight, with or without an object, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by physical force and/or abusive.

Intercourse includes sexual penetration which is defined as any contact, however slight, of the vagina or anus of a person by any body part (penis, tongue, finger) of another person or an object; and/or any contact, however slight, of the mouth of a person by a sex organ of another person. Evidence of emission of semen is not required to prove sexual penetration.

- B. **Non-consensual Sexual Contact** (or attempts to commit the same) often referred to as fondling: Any intentional sexual touching, including but not limited to breast, buttocks, inner thigh, groin, genitalia or surrounding area, however slight, with or without an object, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by physical force and/or abusive.

Sexual contact includes intentional contact with the breast, buttocks, groin, or genitals, or touching another with any of these body parts, or making another touch you or themselves with or on any of these body parts; any intentional bodily contact in a sexual manner, though not involving contact with/of/by breast, buttocks, groin, genitals, mouth or other orifice.

- C. **Incest:** Sexual intercourse between two persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law
- D. **Non consensual sex with a minor** (often referred to as statutory rape): Any sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent, however slight, with or without an object, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by physical force and/or abusive. This is consensual sexual penetration by a person 18 years of age or older of a person over 14 years of age, but under the age of consent (16 years old).

Sexual Assault as legally defined in Rhode Island

Sexual assault is a felony crime in Rhode Island which we strongly encourage victims to report to local police authorities. State law defines sexual assault as three degrees:

- **First Degree Sexual Assault**, also called rape, has two major components: Any forced, coerced penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth by any part of another's body or an object; and legally, lack of consent does not necessarily require physical resistance or verbal refusal. For instance, someone who is incapacitated or asleep is, by definition of the law, unable to give consent.
- **Second Degree Sexual Assault** is non-consenting sexual contact with another person. This includes any forced or coerced contact with a person's genital area, inner thigh, buttocks, or the breast of a female.
- **Third Degree Sexual Assault** is consensual sexual penetration by a person 18 years of age or older of a person over 14 years of age, but under the age of consent (16 years old).

Sexual Exploitation: Taking non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for one's own advantage or benefit, or to benefit a person other than the one being exploited. Examples of sexual exploitation include, but are not limited to:

- Prostituting another University community member;
- Non-consensual video or audio recording of sexual activity;
- Exceeding the boundaries of explicit consent, such as allowing friend to hide in a closet to be witness to one's consensual sexual activity;

- Engaging in voyeurism;
- Knowingly transmitting sexually transmitted infections or HIV to another University community member;
- Invasion of sexual privacy;
- Sexually-based stalking and/or bullying;
- Exposing one's genitals in non-consensual circumstances; inducing another to expose their genitals; and/or
- Sexually-based stalking and/or bullying

Sexual Harassment: Defined as unwelcomed conduct of a sexual nature. Examples of sexual harassment may include but are not limited to – unwelcomed sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; verbal or physical contact of sexual nature; situations in which benefits are granted or withheld based on submission to or rejection of unwelcomed requests or conduct based on statutorily-protected characteristic, such as sex; situations in which the University environment is sexually hostile or oppressive to members of the University because of the actions of students, co-workers, supervisors or other members of the University community; written contact, such as sexually suggestive, harassing or obscene letters, texts, faxes, emails, notes, invitations, etc.; verbal contact, such sexually suggestive or obscene comments, phone calls, threats, slurs, epithets, jokes about gender-specific traits, sexual propositions; physical contact, such as intentional touching, pinching, brushing against another's body, impeding or blocking movement, assault, coercing sexual intercourse; visual contact, such as leering or staring at another's body, gesturing, displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons, posters or magazines.

- A. **Hostile Environment:** Includes situations where sexual harassment is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent and objectively offensive that it unreasonably interferes with, limits or denies the ability to participate in or benefit from the University's academic programs, employment program, Campus Life program or University activities. Sanctions can be imposed for the creation of a hostile environment. The determination of whether an environment is "hostile" may be based on a multitude of circumstances including, but are not limited to:
- The frequency of the speech or conduct;
 - The nature and severity of the speech or conduct;
 - Whether the speech or conduct was physically threatening;
 - Whether the speech or conduct was humiliating;
 - The effect of the speech or conduct on alleged victim's mental and/or emotional state;
 - Whether the speech or conduct arose in the context of other discriminatory conduct;
 - Whether the speech or conduct unreasonably interfered with the alleged victim's educational or work performance;
 - When a statement is a mere utterance of an epithet, which engenders offense in a person or offends by mere discourtesy or rudeness.
- B. **Quid Pro Quo:** Exists when there are unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where submission to, or rejection of, such conduct results in adverse educational or employment action. Quid pro quo harassment may also exist when a threat of adverse action or a promise of a benefit is explicitly conditioned on submission to, or rejection of, such requests. For example, quid pro would exist if a supervisor tells an employee that they will not be given a promotion if they refuse to have a sexual relationship with the supervisor.

Sexual Violence: Is divided into three categories: 1) use of physical force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act against his or her will, whether or not the act is completed; 2) attempted or completed sexual act involving a person who is unable to understand the nature or condition of the act, to decline participation, or to communicate unwillingness to engage in the sexual act (e.g., because of illness, disability, or the influence of alcohol or other drugs, or because of intimidation or pressure); and 3) abusive sexual contact.

Stalking: Any behavior or activities occurring typically on more than one occasion that collectively instill fear and/or threaten a person's safety, mental health or physical health. Stalking may occur in a range of formats including, but not limited to, in-person conduct, writings, texting, voicemail, email, social media, following someone with a global position system (GPS), and video/audio recording.

Examples of stalking behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- repeated unwanted or unsolicited contact or leaving unwanted gifts or items;
- posting disturbing messages or threats online;
- creating, attempting to create, or disseminating unauthorized recordings of another;
- gathering information about an individual from family, friends, co-workers, and/or classmates, or by electronic means by installing spy-ware on a computer or using GPS;
- threats in any form about an individual or their loved ones or threats to harm oneself;
- damaging, stealing, borrowing, or relocating property, trespassing and vandalism;
- pursuing, waiting, or showing up uninvited at a workplace, residence, classroom, or other locations frequented by an individual; and
- directing a third party to take any of the above acts.

A person who commits sexual harassment or sexual violence in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion and termination.

Other Definitions

Advisor: – A member of the University community that may accompany an employee as a support and for guidance through the conduct process. The role of the advisor is restricted to advising only and the advisor may not speak on behalf of or for the employee during a conduct meeting/hearing.

Complainant: The person who is alleging the occurrence of a violence violation of this policy.

Consent: defined as words or actions that show an informed and voluntary agreement to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Consent cannot be gained by force, by ignoring or acting in spite of the objections of another or by taking advantage of the incapacitation of another, where the other person(s) knows or reasonably should have known of such incapacitation. Sexual activity with someone whom one should know to be – or based on the circumstances should reasonably have known to be – mentally or physically incapacitated (by alcohol or other drug use, unconsciousness), constitutes a violation of this policy. Consent is also absent when the activity in question exceeds the scope of consent previously given.

What is consent? Consent, as noted above, means words or actions that show an informed and voluntary agreement to engage in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity. Consent to one form of sexual activity should not, and cannot, be taken as consent to any other sexual activity. Under this policy, “No” always means “No” and “Yes” may not always mean “Yes.” For example, when alcohol or other drugs are being used, a person will be considered unable to give valid consent if they cannot fully understand the details of the sexual interaction (who, what, where, when, why, or how) because they lack the capacity to reasonably understand what they are doing. Consent cannot be given by an individual who is incapacitated or asleep. In addition, silence – without clear actions demonstrating permission – cannot be assumed to indicate consent. Anything but a clear, informed and voluntary consent to any sexual activity is equivalent to a “no.”

Consent:

- Requires Communication
- Words or actions must be used to establish consent. The absence of “no” does not equal “yes.”
- Must entail an uninfluenced “yes”
- Consent cannot be established if one person is pressuring the other – this can be physical or emotional. Pressuring another person by saying things like “If you love me you’ll do this” or “I’ll

find it elsewhere if I don't get it from you" does not lead to consent and is not respectful of the other person's wishes.

- Happens one step at a time, every time. Just because your partner agrees to one thing that does not mean they agree to everything. Oral sex does not give consent for intercourse and vice versa. Also, hooking up one time, does not give permission for every other time – even if you are in a relationship, even if it has happened many times before.
- Is free to be taken back at any time. At any point during a sexual encounter each partner should feel free to change his or her mind and the other partner must respect that person's decision.
- In order to give consent, one must be of legal age.

Days: For this document, is defined as calendar days

Designee: Any campus administrator assigned a role or responsibilities within this policy shall have the right to designate an appropriate person to fulfill the stated role/duty.

Force: The use of physical violence and/or imposing on someone physically to gain sexual access. Force also includes threats, intimidation (implied threats) and coercion that overcome resistance or produce consent for example, "Have sex with me or I'll hit you." "Okay, don't hit me, I'll do what you want."

Coercion is unreasonable pressure for sexual activity. Coercive behavior differs from seductive behavior based on the type of pressure someone uses to get consent from another. When someone makes clear to you that they do not want sex, that they want to stop, or that they do not want to go past a certain point of sexual interaction, continued pressure beyond that point can be coercive.

NOTE: There is no requirement that a party resist the sexual advance or request, but resistance is a clear demonstration of non-consent. The presence of force is not demonstrated by the absence of resistance. Sexual activity that is forced is by definition non-consensual, but non-consensual activity is not by definition forced.

Intimidation: Defined as implied threats or acts that cause a reasonable fear of harm in another.

Incapacitation: A state where an individual is temporarily or permanently impaired to the extent they do not have command over their own decisions. Incapacitation may be caused by mental or physical disability, illness, sleep or when a person has used alcohol or other drugs, including prescribed medication, to an extent where that person can no longer make rational, informed decisions. A person who does not comprehend the "who, what, when, where, why or how" of a sexual interaction may be incapacitated. Sign of incapacitation includes, but are not limited to:

- Amount of alcohol/drugs consumed
- Stumbling or shaky equilibrium
- Vomiting
- Slurred speech
- Bloodshot eyes
- Smell of alcohol
- Outrageous or unusual behavior
- Unconsciousness (short or long periods of time)

If a person may be incapacitated, then all potential sexual activity should cease until consent can be clearly given. If a person knows or should reasonably know that someone is incapacitated, then all potential sexual activity must cease until consent can again be freely given.

Remember, a person being intoxicated or impaired by drugs or alcohol is NEVER an excuse for sexual misconduct, stalking, dating or domestic violence, and does not diminish that person's responsibility to obtain consent or recognize incapacitation.

Other guidance on consent and assessing incapacitation:

A person who wants to engage in a specific sexual activity is responsible for obtaining consent for that activity. The lack of negative response or protest does not constitute consent. Lack of resistance does not constitute consent. Silence and/or passivity does not constitute consent. Relying solely on non-verbal communication before or during sexual activity can lead to misunderstanding and may result in a violation of this policy. It is important not to make assumptions about whether a potential partner is consenting. In order to avoid confusion or ambiguity, participants are encouraged to talk with one another before engaging in sexual activity. If confusion or ambiguity arises during sexual activity, participants are encouraged to stop and clarify a mutual willingness to continue that activity.

Consent to one form of sexual activity does not, by itself, constitute consent to another form of sexual activity. For example, one should not presume that consent to oral-genital contact constitutes consent to vaginal or anal penetration. Consent to sexual activity on a prior occasion does not, by itself, constitute consent to future sexual activity. In case of prior relationships, the manner and nature of prior communications (verbal and/or non-verbal) confirming consent between the parties and the context of the relationship may have bearing on the presence of consent at the time of the reported incident. Once consent has been given, it may be withdrawn at any time. Once consent is withdrawn, the sexual activity must cease immediately.

In evaluating consent in cases of alleged incapacitation, the University asks two questions: (1) Did the person initiating sexual activity know the other person was incapacitated? And if not, (2) should a sober, reasonable person in the same situation have known the other party was incapacitated? If the answer to either of these questions is "YES", then consent was absent and the conduct is likely a violation of our policy(s).

Preponderance of the evidence: This standard of proof refers to the criteria or measure of proof that is used to assess when finding a respondent responsible for violating the Sexual Harassment, Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy. The Preponderance of evidence standard is defined as the greater weight of the evidence/information or 'more likely than not' that the violation has occurred. Salve Regina University strives to assure fairness to all parties in the adjudication of all cases. However, University investigation procedures are not identical to a civil or criminal proceeding; therefore a lower standard of proof is required to reach a conclusion than in a criminal proceeding. Investigation procedures will be adhered to as faithfully as possible, but variation dictated by circumstances may occur and will not invalidate the process.

Respondent: The person whose actions are alleged to have violated the University's sexual harassment, gender-based harassment and sexual violence policy.

Sexual penetration: Any contact, however slight, of the vagina or anus of a person by any body part (penis, tongue, finger) of another person or an object; and/or any contact, however slight, of the mouth of a person by a sex organ of another person. Evidence of emission of semen is not required to prove sexual penetration.

Mandatory Reporting

Salve Regina University has decided to adopt a policy that defines all employees as mandatory reporters. If you learn about sexual harassment, gender-based discrimination or sexual violence, you are expected to promptly contact the campus Title IX Coordinator, (Malcolm Smith, Associate VP and Dean of Students, 401-341-2145) or the Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Employees, (Nancy Escher, Assistant Director of HR, 401-341-2157). The Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator will take responsibility for prompt notification to

Campus Safety and Security and other appropriate University officials. The University will promptly and effectively remedy all reported incidents by providing resources to the victim and addressing the effects on the victim and the community. Failure to report an allegation of sexual harassment, discrimination or sexual violence may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

For additional details on the University's Mandatory Reporting policy, refer to Appendix J in the University's Staff Handbook.

Reporting Incidents of Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) and the Violence Against Women Act prohibit sexual harassment, including sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking and require a prompt and equitable resolution of complaints. Acts of sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking should be referred to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator. If an act of sexual violence is in progress or imminent on campus, dial 911.

Incidents of sexual violence may be criminal in nature, and members of the University community who have been subjected to it may, if they wish, file reports with local law enforcement authorities. If a member of the University community wishes to notify law enforcement, he or she may obtain assistance from the Office of Campus Safety and Security. Victims of sexual violence may also decline to notify law enforcement authorities if they so choose.

Regardless of whether a report is filed with local law enforcement, individuals should preserve all evidence that could be relevant to any criminal charges that may be brought or that might be needed to obtain a protection order. Individuals who have been subjected to sexual violence are encouraged to obtain physical examination by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). This exam may be obtained at Newport Hospital 401-846-6400. Before obtaining a SANE exam, individuals should avoid showering, washing, changing clothes, combing hair, drinking, eating or altering their physical appearance. Even if a SANE exam is not sought, all victims of violence should consider obtaining medical attention so that any issues relating to possible injury or disease from the incident may be addressed.

Confidentiality

Confidential versus Formal Reporting - Know the Options

The University encourages victims of sexual violence to talk to somebody about what happened – so they can get the support they need, and so the University can respond appropriately. Different employees on campus have different responsibilities. Some are required to maintain near complete confidentiality (Counseling Services, Health Services, and University Chaplains). They can talk with a victim in confidence and generally only report to the University that an incident occurred without revealing any personally identifiable information. Disclosures to these employees will not trigger a University investigation into an incident against the victim's wishes.

All other employees are required to report all the details of an incident (including the identities of both the victim and alleged perpetrator) to the Title IX Coordinator. A report to these employees (called "responsible employees") constitutes a report to the University – and generally obligates the University to investigate the incident and take appropriate steps to address the situation.

The following describes more about the two reporting options at Salve Regina University:

Confidentially Reporting Sexual Harassment or Sexual Violence

University officials, depending on their roles at the University, have varying reporting responsibilities and abilities to maintain confidentiality. In order to make informed choices, one should be aware of confidentiality and mandatory reporting requirements when consulting campus resources. On campus, some resources (Counseling Services, Health Services, and University Chaplains) may maintain confidentiality,

offering options and advice without any obligation to inform an outside agency or individual unless the reporting party has requested information to be shared. These offices will submit an anonymous report regarding the incident for purposes of the Clery Act and Title IX reporting, but this anonymous report does not include any personally identifiable information.

If the reporting party would like the details of an incident to be kept confidential, they may speak with a member of Salve Regina's Health Services office, Counseling Services office, the University Chaplain or an off campus rape crisis center counselor who will maintain confidentiality. Members of Salve Regina's health and counseling services will only submit the anonymous report, which does not include any personally identifiable information. The purpose of an anonymous report is to maintain the victim's confidentiality while taking steps to ensure future safety of the campus community. With this information, the University can maintain accurate records about the number of assaults within the University's jurisdiction; determine whether there is a pattern of assaults with regard to particular location, method, or assailant; and alert the campus community to potential danger.

Formal Reporting and Responsible Employees

A "responsible employee" is a University employee who has the authority to redress sexual violence, who has the duty to report incidents of sexual violence or other policy violations, or who a student or employee could reasonably believe has this authority or duty. All University employees – including Resident Assistants (RAs), faculty, student organization advisors, and staff members, are the University's "responsible employees," with the following exceptions:

- Food Service staff
- Cleaning/Housekeeping staff
- University Chaplain, Counseling and Health Services staff, who will maintain confidentiality

Before a victim reveals any information to a responsible employee, the employee should ensure that the victim understands the employee's reporting obligations – and, if the victim wants to maintain confidentiality, direct the victim to confidential resources (Counseling Services, Health Services, and University Chaplain).

When a victim tells a responsible employee about an incident of sexual violence, the victim has the right to expect the University to take immediate and appropriate steps to investigate what happened and to resolve the matter promptly and equitably.

A responsible employee must report to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy IX Coordinator all relevant details about the alleged sexual violence or sexual harassment shared by the victim. The University will need to determine what happened – including the names of the victim and alleged perpetrator(s), any witnesses, and any other relevant facts, including the date, time and specific location of the alleged incident.

To the extent possible, information reported to a responsible employee will be shared only with people responsible for handling the University's response to the report. A responsible employee should not share information with law enforcement without the victim's consent or unless the victim has also reported the incident to law enforcement.

If the victim wants to tell the responsible employee what happened but also maintain confidentiality, the victim should understand that the University may consider the request, but cannot guarantee that the University will be able to honor it. In reporting the details of the incident to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator, the responsible employee will also inform the Coordinator of the victim's request for confidentiality.

If a victim discloses an incident to a responsible employee but wishes to maintain confidentiality or requests that no investigation into a particular incident be conducted or disciplinary action taken, the University must weigh that request against the University's obligation to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all

students and employees, including the victim. If the University determines that an investigation and disciplinary proceedings will be taken, the University will inform the victim prior to the start of investigations and will, to the extent possible, only share information with people responsible for handling the University's response. The University will remain mindful of the victim's well-being and take steps necessary to protect and assist the victim. The University may not require a victim to participate in any investigation or disciplinary proceeding.

Formal Reporting of incidents of sexual harassment and sexual violence is encouraged by the University. A complainant has the right to, and can expect to have complaints of policy violation taken seriously by the University when formally reported, and to have those incidents investigated and properly resolved through adjudication procedures. Formal reporting still affords privacy to the reporter, and only a small group of officials who need to know will be told. Information will be shared as necessary with investigators, witnesses, and the responding party. The circle of people with this knowledge will be kept as limited as possible to preserve the complainant's rights and privacy. It is also encouraged that incidents be reported to local law enforcement. Formal reporting options include contacting the local police department in which the incident occurred.

Complaint Procedures

Formal Procedures for Complaints

This section provides the procedure for an employee to file a formal complaint against another employee, student, contractor or vendor.

Please note: Retaliation against any individual who reports sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, or sexual violence or who cooperates in an investigation of a sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, or sexual violence complaint will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. It shall be a violation of this policy for anyone to willfully make false allegations of harassment or sexual harassment.

An employee may file a formal complaint by making a report to either Malcolm Smith, Associate VP for Student Affairs, Dean of Students and Title IX Coordinator or Nancy Escher, Assistant Director of HR/Deputy Title IX Coordinator.

During any in person meeting to report or discuss the allegations, the complainant may be accompanied by an advisor or support person of their choice. The complainant and the respondent are entitled to the same opportunity to have an advisor of their choice present during any investigation related meeting. Advisors may not speak for or on behalf of any student or employee during the adjudication process. While an advisor cannot speak on behalf of student or employee, they can confer with the student or employee as necessary. If deemed appropriate, by the investigator, a recess can be granted for the advisor and student or employee to confer. Complainants and respondents are not required to use advisors.

The role of the advisor will be restricted to advising the respective parties. No advisor may speak at any time in place of the complainant or respondent. The responsible investigator(s) reserves the right to exclude an advisor from the proceedings for failure to abide by these guidelines.

The Title IX Coordinator will provide information to the complainant for possible informal resolution of the complaint after securing details of the allegations from the complainant. This will occur only if it is determined that exploring informal resolution is appropriate after evaluating the complaint. An informal resolution may include the possibility of a meeting between the complainant and respondent to discuss an informal resolution of the matter. Importantly, if the matter is resolved informally, an investigation will not be conducted.

Any complaint that cannot or should not be resolved informally will be considered for an investigation by the Title IX Coordinator and/or designee. If it is determined that an investigation must take place, the case will be assigned to an investigator(s). Investigations shall generally be completed within sixty (60) calendar days unless circumstances prevent the completion of an investigation or disposition.

Procedures for a student to file a formal complaint related to sexual harassment, sexual discrimination or sexual violence can be found in the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy within the Student Code of Conduct.

Federal Timely Warning Obligations

Victims of sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking should be aware that University administrators must issue timely warnings for incidents reported to them that pose a substantial threat of bodily harm or danger to members of the campus community. The University will make every effort to ensure that a victim's name and other personally identifiable information are not disclosed, while still providing enough information for community members to make safety decisions in light of the danger.

Complainant's Bill of Rights

The University will take interim steps to protect victims of sexual harassment, gender-based harassment and sexual violence to maintain a positive learning environment. This may be done by minimizing or eliminating contact with the accused student or employee and providing reasonable academic and administrative accommodations in accordance with the Clery Act and Title IX.

- The complainant has the right to have any and all incidents of sexual harassment and sexual violence treated seriously and the right to be treated with dignity.
- The complainant will be informed in a timely manner of available options including the necessary steps and potential consequences of each option.
- The complainant has the right to be free from undue coercion from any member of the University community to pursue or not pursue any course of action.
- The complainant has the right to be notified of her/his option to notify appropriate law enforcement authorities, including local police and to be informed about how to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and receive assistance from University personnel in notifying these authorities, if requested.
- The complainant will receive information on how to make a confidential report for the purposes of tracking campus crime (Anonymous Reporting form).
- The complainant has the right to be informed of the investigation process and procedures.
- The complainant has the same right as the accused to have others present throughout the investigation process.
- The complainant has the right to be informed of the outcome, in writing, of any Salve Regina student or employee conduct proceeding involving an alleged sexual misconduct offense and the right to appeal the outcome.
- The complainant has the right to request a change in academic, working and living situations after an alleged sexual harassment or sexual violence offense and be informed of the reasonably available options for those changes.
- The complainant will be informed about campus and community resources for counseling, medical services, advocacy, and other services for victims of sexual harassment or sexual violence.

Assistance For Victims of Sexual Violence

Victims of sexual violence may obtain confidential counseling from the Office of Counseling Services. Counselors can be reached during office hours from 9am-5pm Monday through Friday and are on call 24 hours a day/7 days a week by contacting the Office of Safety and Security.

Members of the University community may obtain further information about resources relating to sexual violence from the University's Title IX Coordinator, Malcolm Smith (Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students) and Deputy Coordinators, Nancy Escher (Assistant Director of HR) or Emily Diomandes (Assistant Dean of Students).

The University will provide victims of sexual violence with written notice about existing counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance and other services, as well as options for changing academic and working situations, if requested, if reasonably available, and regardless of whether reports are made to local law enforcement.

On campus resources for complainants and respondents:

- Office of Safety & Security, 401-341-2325, Tobin Hall, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Title IX Coordinator, Malcolm Smith, 401-341-2145, Miley Hall, 8:30am – 4:30pm
- Deputy Title IX Coord. for Students, Emily Diomandes, 401-341-2640, Miley Hall, 8:30am -4:30pm
- Deputy Title IX Coord. for Employees, Nancy Escher, 401-341-2157, Walgreen Hall, Admin. Wing, 8:30am-4:30pm
- Health Services, 401-341-2904, Miley Hall, Garden level, 9am-5pm
- Office of Counseling Services, 401-341-2919, Miley Hall, Garden level, 9am – 5pm
- Mercy Center for Spiritual Life, Mercy Chapel, 401-341-2326, 8:30am – 4:30pm
- Office of the Dean of Students, 401-341-2145, Miley Hall, Rm 118, 8:30am – 4:30pm
- Office of Residence Life, 401-341-2210, Walgreen Hall, Admin. Wing, 9am – 5pm

Off campus resources for victims:

- Day One The Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center, 100 Medway, Providence, RI, 401-421-4100
- Women's Resource Center, 114 Touro St., Newport, RI, 401-846-5263
- Newport Police Department, 120 Broadway, Newport, RI, 911 or 401-847-1306 (non-emergency)
- Newport Hospital, 11 Friendship St., Newport, 401-846-6400

Respondent's Bill of Rights

The Respondent has the right to:

- Be treated with respect by all University officials;
- Be informed of the policy (or policies) alleged to have been violated;
- Be notified of available counseling, mental health, and medical services both on campus and in the community;
- Be free from any form of retaliation and be able to report any forms of retaliation against them;
- Bring an advisor of their choice to any investigational interview or meeting;
- Receive updates and be informed of the status of the investigation;
- Identify witnesses or third parties who may have relevant information;
- Present relevant evidence;
- Be informed of the outcome of the investigation in writing;
- A timely investigation;
- Request orders of protection or accommodation;
- Decide not to answer questions;
- Decline participation in an investigation (If a respondent chooses not to participate in an investigation, the investigation will still move forward. A decision, including sanctioning, may be rendered without participation or input from the respondent)

- Initiate the appeals process, under the standards for appeal.

Interim Actions and Accommodations

The University may take interim actions, as appropriate, while incidents involving allegations of sexual violence are investigated and resolved. Interim action may be taken regardless of whether an individual chooses to report an incident to local law enforcement and may include interim suspension, removal from University housing, “no contact” orders, and/or changing academic, living, transportation or working arrangements for one or more parties.

Investigation and Adjudication Process

To initiate a formal investigation and adjudication process, a complainant may file a report with the Office of Safety & Security, the Title IX Coordinator, or the Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Employees. The report should include: the respondent’s name; the date, time and place, circumstances surrounding the alleged policy violation; the names of any witnesses to the incident(s), and any other information believed to be relevant. This report will be shared with the responding party in order for them to be aware of the allegations that initiated the investigation.

All reports will be taken seriously and will be investigated and addressed in a timely manner. Every reasonable effort will be made to preserve the privacy of all parties to the extent that the investigation allows. Only relevant information will be disclosed to those people with a need for information regarding the investigation.

The case will be assigned to 2 investigators. The investigation may include, but is not limited to:

- All parties are notified in writing when the investigation/adjudication processes have been initiated.
- The investigative process may include interviews with the complainant, the respondent, any witnesses, and review of any documents or materials deemed potentially relevant.
- Both the complainant and respondent have the right to be interviewed separately and to present any information relevant to the charge and to provide names of witnesses and/or evidence helpful to them. Information of a prior consensual dating or sexual relationship between the parties does not imply consent or preclude a finding of sexual misconduct.
- Both the complainant and respondent are permitted to provide names of potential witnesses to the investigator. The investigator will determine which of those potential witnesses, or other persons, may have relevant information about the alleged conduct and may request statements, either orally or in writing.
- Witness statements should not be character evaluations, as all parties will be presumed to have good character. In addition, how individuals present themselves in other contexts (*e.g.*, friendly, kind, and well-liked) has little probative value in evaluating whether particular conduct occurred. Moreover, the sexual history of the parties will not generally be deemed relevant, as described below.
- Both the complainant and the respondent are permitted to provide other relevant evidence to the investigator. Evidence includes any facts or information presented in support of an assertion and may include text messages, email exchanges, timelines, receipts, photographs, etc. Any documentation shared by the complainant or the respondent with the investigator will be provided to the other party. The investigator may also consider additional documents, items or other relevant information.
- Information that does not directly relate to the facts at issue, but instead reflects upon the reputation, personality, qualities, or habits of an individual is character evidence and is not relevant to the determination of whether there is a policy violation.
- ***Pattern Evidence:*** Evidence of an occurrence or occurrences of prohibited conduct so distinctive and so closely resembling either party’s version of the alleged encounter as to tend to prove a material fact may be considered. Where there is evidence of a pattern of

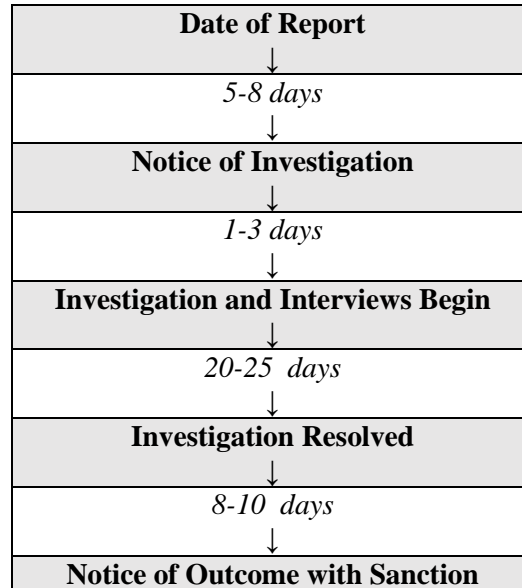
similar prohibited conduct, either before or after the conduct in question, regardless of whether there has been a prior finding of a policy violation, this information may be deemed relevant to the determination of policy violation or assigning of a sanction. Instances will be rare and the determination of relevance will be based on an assessment of whether the previous or subsequent incident was substantially similar to the conduct cited in the report or indicates a pattern of behavior and substantial conformity with that pattern.

- ***Prior Sexual History of the Parties***: An individual's character or reputation with respect to other sexual activity is not relevant and will not be considered as evidence. Similarly, an individual's prior or subsequent sexual activity is typically not relevant and will only be considered as evidence under limited circumstances. For example, prior sexual history may be relevant to explain the presence of a physical injury or to help resolve other questions raised by the report. The investigator will determine the relevance of this information and both parties will be informed if evidence of prior sexual history is deemed relevant.
- ***Prior Sexual History Between the Parties***: Even in the context of a relationship, consent to one sexual act does not, by itself, constitute consent to another sexual act, and consent on one occasion does not, by itself, constitute consent on a subsequent occasion. Where the parties have a prior sexual relationship, and the existence of consent is at issue, the sexual history between the parties *may* be relevant to help understand the manner and nature of communications between the parties and the context of the relationship, which may have bearing on whether consent was sought and given during the incident in question. However, this does not assume that the prior sexual history was consensual and this should be a factor in considering relevance.
- There is no right for any employee or student to confront the complainant or the respondent or to be present at the same time. The investigators determine the relevancy of what information is included in the report.
- The complainant and the respondent will have the opportunity to read/review/respond to the investigative report.
- Witnesses do not have the right to review the investigative report.
- Copies of the final investigative report are not given to the complainant or respondent; they can view it and take notes, but copies or photographs are not allowed. The final report can also be viewed by the advisor of their choice (of the respondent/complainant)
- When the investigation is completed, the investigators will determine, based on the **preponderance of the evidence**, if there has been a violation of the Sexual Harassment, Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy.
- The investigative report and the findings will be given to the Director of Human Resources or designee who will confer with appropriate members of the Cabinet and define the corrective and/or disciplinary action to be taken and will inform both the complainant and the respondent, simultaneously, of the outcome in writing. The University will not require the respondent or complainant to abide by a nondisclosure agreement that would prevent them from sharing information related to the outcome

If deemed necessary, the university may defer a case to an external investigator. This investigator will follow the same investigation and adjudication procedures listed. External investigators are external professionals who are trained on Title IX issues and the policies and procedures of Salve Regina University. Each external investigator has experience and training on how to conduct trauma-informed investigations that are neutral and equitable to parties. They are utilized on an as needed basis.

Title IX Investigation Timeline

Below please find an average timeline for a Title IX investigation. Please keep in mind that this timeline is based on averages from past investigations---however, each investigation is handled on a case by case basis and time can vary depending on the report. Salve Regina University takes every report of sexual harassment, gender-based harassment and sexual violence very seriously and therefore will dedicate the appropriate time to investigate.



Informal Resolution

A complainant and respondent may voluntarily agree to participate in an informal resolution. Informal resolution does not involve a full investigation and adjudication, and must be deemed appropriate by the Title IX Coordinator. Prior to entering an informal resolution, both parties must be informed of all options available to them, including the formal investigation process. Before an outcome is finalized, either party may change their mind at any time and decide to discontinue the informal resolution process. To complete the informal resolution process, both parties must voluntarily agree to the outcome with the understanding that the outcome is final, and cannot be reversed in the future. Reports that are resolved using informal resolution, and therefore closed, cannot be re-opened or re-investigated using the formal investigation process.

Advisors

The complainant and the respondent are entitled to the same opportunity to have one advisor of their choice present during any phase of the investigation. Advisors may not speak for or on behalf of any employee during the investigation process. While an advisor cannot speak on behalf of employee, time will be granted for the advisor and employee to confer, if deemed appropriate, by the investigator or the university personnel overseeing the proceedings. An employee is not required to use an advisor.

The role of the advisor will be restricted to advising the respective parties. No advisor may speak at any time in place of the employee. The investigator or university personnel overseeing the proceedings reserves the right to exclude an advisor from the proceedings for failure to abide by these guidelines.

Disciplinary Actions A violation of the Sexual Harassment, Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy is a serious offense and will be subject to any combination of disciplinary actions as described in the Staff Handbook under Discipline.

The Director of Human Resources or designee will notify the President of the corrective and/or disciplinary action to be taken before it is communicated to the Complainant and Respondent. The University will act to end the discrimination, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects on the victim and the University community.

In the event that the respondent rejects the findings in part or entirely, the respondent may have the right to an appeal. All complaints shall be handled as confidentially as possible, with disclosure of allegations provided only to those with a need to know.

Appeal Process

Both the complainant and the respondent have the right to appeal the outcome. This appeal must be received in writing within 5 business days of the date of the outcome letter.

To initiate an appeal, the party requesting the appeal must write and submit, on his or her own behalf, a request to the Title IX Coordinator within five business days after receiving (written) notification of the initial decision.

The request for an appeal must be accompanied by the Appeal Form (to be issued by the Title IX Coordinator) and must include a statement explaining the grounds for the appeal, all relevant supporting information and documentation and the desired outcome of the appeal request.

The grounds for an appeal must be based upon one of the following:

1. Procedural Error: A procedural error(s) occurred during the original conduct process that significantly impacted the outcome.
2. New Information: Specification of new information, unavailable at the time of the investigation, that if introduced would have significantly affected the outcome. A detailed account of the new information must be clearly specified. Information is not considered new if the student/employee was given an opportunity to present it during the original investigation or voluntarily withheld the information during the original investigation.

If the Title IX Coordinator or designee determines within 5 business days that the request satisfies one or more of the aforementioned grounds, they will provide the appeal documentation to the President or designee for review. Before reviewing the appeal, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will notify all parties that the Title IX Coordinator has approved the appeal to move forward and each party will be given the opportunity to read and rebut the appeal by submitting a written response within 2 business days. The purpose of the appeal is not to provide a second hearing of the case. The President or designee will not meet with the student/employee, or re-investigate the case.

Appeal Procedure

Copies of all pertinent documentation will be made available to the President or designee at the time of the review. All materials received shall be returned at the conclusion of the final committee decision.

The President or designee shall have the power to uphold or modify the original disciplinary action within ten University business days of the procedure being initiated. When there is an appeal on the grounds of new information and the President or designee finds that the new information may have significantly affected the finding of the investigation, then the Title IX Coordinator will provide to the Investigators and/or the Director of Human Resources for consideration. This is not a re-investigation but an opportunity for the new information to be presented by the respondent and examined by the complainant. The President or designee will only review the grounds in which the party appealed. The decision of the President or designee to uphold, modify or dismiss the initial outcome is final and binding.

The complainant and the respondent will be notified in writing, simultaneously, of the outcome of the appeal.

Title IX Coordinators

The US Department of Education and the Office of Civil Rights have issued specific requirements for educational institutions regarding sexual misconduct. Gender-based harassment, sexual harassment, which includes acts of sexual violence, are forms of sex discrimination prohibited by federal law under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and therefore is a civil rights violation. In compliance with the Title IX requirements, the University has named the following Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators.

Title IX Coordinator

Malcolm Smith, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students
Miley Hall, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone 401-341-2145
Email malcolm.smith@salve.edu

Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Employees

Nancy Escher, Assistant Director of Human Resources
Walgreen Hall, Admin. Wing, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone 401-341-2157
Email nancy.escher@salve.edu

Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students

Emily Diomandes, Assistant Dean of Students
Center for Student Development, Miley Hall, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone 401-341-2640
Email emily.diomande@salve.edu

Individuals with complaints of this nature also always have the right to file a formal complaint with the United States Department Education:

Office for Civil Rights (Boston office)

U.S. Department of Education
5 Post Office Square, eighth floor
Boston, MA 02109-3921
Phone: (617) 289-0111
Fax: (617) 289-0150
ocr.boston@ed.gov

Risk Reduction Tips

Salve Regina University believes it is never the victim's fault when a sexual assault occurs. However, recognizing patterns can help reduce both the risk of victimization and the risk of perpetrating.

Generally, sexual assault by a known offender follows a pattern:

Steps in the Sexual Assault Sequence:

1. Target and gain the victim's trust
2. Isolate the victim
3. Sexual exploitation/assault
4. Maintaining control

Helpful Safety Tips

1. Be aware of your surroundings. Knowing where you are and who is around you may help in finding a way out of an uncomfortable or unsafe situation.
2. When you go out, go with a group of friends. Take care of your friends and ask them to take care of you.
3. When you hang out with someone new, let one of your friends know—give them a heads up about who you are with and where you are going. Ask them to check in with you.
4. Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe in any situation, trust your gut.
5. Don't accept drinks from people you do not know or trust. Avoid large common sources of alcohol (such as punch bowls, large containers of mixed drinks).

Tips for Consent

If you find yourself in a position of being the initiator of sexual behavior, you owe sexual respect to your partner.

1. Do not make assumptions about:
 - a. Consent;
 - b. Someone's sexual availability;
 - c. Whether a person is attracted to you;
 - d. How far you can go; or
 - e. Whether a person is physically or mentally able to consent to you.

(If there are any questions or confusion, then you do NOT have consent.)

2. Clearly communicate your intentions to your sexual partner and give them a chance to clearly communicate their intentions to you.
3. Mixed, confusing, or unclear messages from your partner should be a clear indication that you should stop. Perhaps you are misreading your partner, or perhaps your partner has not figured out how far they want to go with you yet. You must respect the timeline for sexual behavior for which your partner is comfortable.
4. Do not take advantage of someone's intoxication or drugged state. Know the signs of incapacitation.
5. Understand that consent to some forms of sexual behavior does not necessarily imply consent to other forms of sexual behavior.
6. Silence and passivity cannot be interpreted as consent. Pay attention to verbal as well as non-verbal communication and body language.
7. Never force someone to have sex with you, or have sex with a partner who has not clearly consented to you by words or actions unmistakable in their meaning.

Frequently Asked Questions

The following are some of the most commonly asked questions regarding the University's Sexual Harassment, Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy and Procedures.

Does a report remain confidential or private?

Reports made to clinical counselors, health service providers and University chaplains will be kept confidential. All other reports are considered private. The privacy of all parties with regard to a complaint of sexual misconduct will be maintained, except insofar as it interferes with the University's obligation to fully investigate allegations of sexual misconduct. Where information is shared, it will still be tightly controlled on a need-to-know basis. Dissemination of information and/or written materials to persons not involved in the complaint procedure is not permitted.

In all complaints of sexual misconduct, the complainant will be informed of the outcome. Certain University administrators are informed privately (e.g. University President, Title IX Coordinator, Director of Human Resources etc.) of the outcome and any change to an employee's status, as necessary. The University must statistically report the occurrence of major violent crimes on and adjacent to campus, including certain sex offenses, and hate crimes in an annual report of campus crime statistics. This statistical report does not include personally identifiable information.

Do I have to name the responding party?

Yes, if you want formal conduct action to be taken against the responding party. No, if you choose not to file a formal complaint, (but you should consult the complete confidentiality and reporting procedures policy above to better understand the university's obligations depending on what information you share with different university officials). You can report the incident without the identity of the responding party, but doing so may limit the institution's ability to respond comprehensively. You may also make an anonymous report of the incident using this anonymous reporting form which can be found here:

<http://www.salve.edu/sexual-misconduct-anonymous-reporting-form>

Will the responding party know my identity?

Yes, if the university determines there is reasonable cause to believe a violation has occurred and investigates the matter. Sexual misconduct is a serious offense and the responding party has the right to know the identity of the complainant.

Will I have to confront the alleged perpetrator?

No (refer to the Investigation and Adjudication procedures described within this document)

What should I do if I am accused of sexual misconduct?

First, do not contact the reporting party. You may want to contact the Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator who can explain the University's procedures for dealing with sexual misconduct complaints and provide resources, including counseling services and other outside resources.

Will the use of drugs or alcohol affect the outcome of a sexual misconduct complaint?

The use of alcohol and/or drugs by either party will not diminish the responding party's responsibility. On the other hand, alcohol and/or drug use is likely to affect the complainant's memory and, therefore, may affect the outcome of the complaint. A person bringing a complaint of sexual misconduct must either remember the alleged incident or have sufficient circumstantial evidence, physical evidence and/or witnesses to prove that the policy was violated. If the complainant does not remember the circumstances of the alleged incident, it may not be possible to impose sanctions on the respondent without further corroborating information. Use of alcohol and/or other drugs will never excuse a violation by the respondent.

Will either party's prior use of drugs and/or alcohol be considered when reporting sexual misconduct?

Not unless there is a compelling reason to believe that prior use or abuse is relevant to the present complaint.

What should I do if I am uncertain about what happened?

If you believe that you have experienced sexual misconduct, but are unsure of whether it was a violation of the University's Sexual Harassment, Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy and Procedures, you should contact the Title IX Coordinator, a Deputy Title IX or the Office of Safety & Security. You could also meet with a member of the Counseling Services office who can help to define and clarify the event(s), and advise you of your options.

What should I do to preserve evidence of a sexual assault?

Police are in the best position to secure evidence of a crime. Physical evidence of a sexual assault must be collected from the alleged victim's person within about 96 hours of the assault, though evidence can be often obtained from towels, sheets, clothes, etc. for much longer periods of time. If you believe you have been a victim of a sexual assault, you should go to a hospital emergency room before washing yourself or your clothing. The Office of Safety & Security can provide you with transportation. Typically, a sexual assault health professional (a specifically trained nurse called a SANE) at the hospital is on call and will counsel you. If you go to the hospital, local police will be called at your request. The hospital staff will collect information, check for injuries and address the possibility of exposure to sexually transmitted infections. If you have changed clothing since the assault, bring the clothing you had on at the time of the assault with you to the hospital in a clean, sanitary container such as a clean paper grocery bag or wrapped in a clean sheet. (Plastic containers do not breathe, and may render forensic information useless.) If you have not changed clothes, bring a change of clothes with you to the hospital, if possible, as they will likely keep the clothes you were wearing as evidence. You can take a support person with you to the hospital, and they can accompany you through the exam, if you want. Do not disturb the crime scene – leave all sheets, towels, etc. that may bear information for the police to collect. If a person believes they have been drugged, then they have 12-24 hours for medical professionals to determine if drugs are still present in the body.

Training and Prevention

The University recognizes the importance of providing education and training on the subject of sexual violence and sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. New employees are required to complete the following courses within 90 days of hire and all employees must take the courses biennially:

- Prevent Discrimination and Harassment
- Prevent Sexual Violence Together

The University shall take all reasonable steps to see that this policy prohibiting sexual violence and sexual harassment is followed by all students, employees, supervisors and others who have contact with our University community members. This prevention plan will include online and in-service training sessions, ongoing monitoring of the University, and annual distribution of the Sexual Harassment, Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy and Procedures to employees.