

La Salle University is committed to the development of a safe community free from sexual violence, intimidation, and exploitation. Any form of sexual activity without effective consent will not be tolerated.

This pamphlet provides information about:

- Facts concerning sexual misconduct
- How you can reduce your risk of being assaulted
- Strategies for preventing assaults on others
- Resources related to sexual assault

Sexual Misconduct involves any sexual contact or act imposed on another person without the person's effective consent. It can be by a person you know or by a stranger. Sexual misconduct includes situations in which a person is not able to consent to a sexual act, for example when drinking and drugs are involved or when forced threats, intimidation, or coercion are utilized. Sexual misconduct is never the victim's fault! No one has the right to violate another person. Rape, Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Exploitation are expressions and abuses of power; they are not sex.

Sexual Misconduct: Definitions of terms

Rape/ Date Rape/ Acquaintance Rape: Sexual intercourse or penetration with an object (vaginal, oral, or anal) without the person's effective consent.

Sexual Assault: Forced or coerced sexual acts imposed on another person without the person's effective consent.

Sexual Harassment: Unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed towards a person's sexuality or sexual identity that create an intimidating environment.

Sexual Exploitation: Any act involving sexual behavior which places another person in a degrading, exploitative, or humiliating situation (example: placing photographs of a sexual nature involving a sexual partner on the Internet).

Know the facts!

- 22% of college women report having been forced to engage in sexual intercourse on a date. One study showed that 11% of college men surveyed acknowledged using physical restraint to gain sexual advantage over a woman.

-More than 80% of sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows.

-Men also report being placed in situations in which they were subjected to unwanted sex. The chance of being a victim of sexual assault for men is 1 in 7.

-Females between the ages of 12 and 18 have 4 times the risk of being sexually assaulted.

-In cases of acquaintance rape, 75% of men and 55% of women had been drinking or taking drugs prior to the attack.

-Date rape drugs such as Rohypnol and GHB are colorless, odorless substances that can easily be slipped into someone's drink and can cause disorientation, unconsciousness, memory loss, and death, particularly when mixed with alcohol.

-For sources or more information, contact Health Services at (215) 951-1955.

How you can reduce the risk of being assaulted:

STAY ALERT!

-Speak up if someone tries to violate your body space, even with people you know.

-Walk with confidence! Show that you're in control. Be aware of your surroundings.

-Know that if you're drinking or using drugs, your judgment may be foggy and it may be difficult to communicate effectively. Always keep your drinks or foods under a close eye—a potential attacker may try to drug you. Partner up with a friend and agree to watch each other.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS!

-Assess your situation. If you feel uncomfortable or threatened, get out! Move to a space where you feel safe.

-Try to act quickly. If you feel that you do not have the power to leave a situation, use a combination of strategies, like yelling, fighting, and running to escape. However, different strategies may work in various situations. Your brain and instincts are your best tools.

-Remember that sometimes it is someone you know and trust who may try to hurt you. Don't be afraid to respond to inappropriate words or touches immediately.

CHOOSE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE!

-Build mutually supportive relationships.

-Take a self-defense class.

-Promote positive changes in your environment. Join advocacy groups.

Students' Rights

- To set boundaries and have them be respected
- To be free from harassment and intimidation
- To say "no" and be listened to
- To express your feelings if you feel others are behaving in ways that make you uncomfortable

- To be treated without prejudice regarding race, class, lifestyle, sex, age, occupation, or religious beliefs

What you can do to reduce the risk of assaulting someone:

ACT RESPONSIBLY!

-Don't make assumptions about what your friend or partner wants. Ask for clarification if you feel confused or uncertain.

-Separate desire from action—remember that every act carries a consequence! Recognize your desires and control your actions.

RESPECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS!

-Having sexual contact with someone who is incapable of giving full consent is a **CRIME**. If you have sex with someone who is drugged, intoxicated, passed out, incapable of saying no, or unaware of what is happening, you are guilty of rape.

-Intoxication is **NOT** an excuse. You are responsible for your actions whether you are sober or not. If you are not sure if someone is truly capable of giving consent, wait until you are both sober.

RESOURCES

On-Campus Emergency: Safety and Security
x 2111

Off-Campus Emergency: Police emergency
911

Understanding Your Options:

Resident Director on Duty (page by calling Safety and Security)
x 2111

Associate Dean of Students
x 1916

Dean of Students
x 1017

Medical Care for Sexual Assault:

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital:
Rape Crisis Center
(215) 955-6840

Episcopal Hospital:
Rape Crisis Center
(215) 427-7287

La Salle's Student Health Center
(215) 951-1565

24 Hour Hotlines:
Women Organized Against Rape

Women Against Abuse
(215) 386-7777

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network)
(800) 656-4673

Emotional Support (On-Campus):
La Salle University's Counseling Center
(215) 951-1355

S.A.V.E. (Sexual Assault and Violence Ends – a La Salle student organization)
SAVE_leaders@yahoo.com (e-mail for confidential information, support, and resources)

University Ministry and Service
(215) 951-1048

Sexual Harassment:
Women's Law Project
(215) 928-9801

Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations
(215) 686-4692

Spanish/Bilingual Services: Congreso de Latinos Unidos:
(24-hour bilingual domestic violence hotline)
(215) 291-8742

(Sexual Assault):
(215) 763-8870 x1300

Bilingual Domestic Violence Project
(215) 235-9992(en español)

Services for Lesbian and Bisexual Women:
Women in Transition Hotline (battered lesbians)
(215) 751-1111

Gynecology/Health Concerns:

AIDS Hotline
(215) 985-AIDS

Choice
(215) 985-3300

Prosecution:
Police Sex Crimes Unit
(215) 685-1180/81/82

Rape Prosecution Unit
(215) 686-8083

Resources for Abusers/Perpetrators:

Men's Resource Center
(610) 971-9310

Menergy
(215) 242-2235

If you feel you have been a VICTIM OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, see the La Salle University Student Handbook or the La Salle University brochure, "Sexual Misconduct; If It Happens to You or Someone You Know," for information on options for courses of action as well as resources for emotional, medical, and legal support.