

# 2015 Narrative Report to UW System

as required by Wis. Stat. §36.11(22)

## Programming and Services on Sexual Assault Prevention, Education, and Victim Assistance

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### INSTRUCTIONS:

Please type into this document the responses to the following questions and submit via email to [bwynn@uwsa.edu](mailto:bwynn@uwsa.edu) by **February 15, 2016**.

1. Provide a description of the method used to annually distribute the required information, as described in Wis.Stat. §36.11(22) (1) (a-d), to all new and continuing students electronically or in printed format.

During the Student Orientation, Advising and Registration (SOAR) program, incoming freshmen students participate in an evening program with New Student Leaders and discuss the definition of sexual assault and consent, resources available and the **requirement** to complete the online prevention program “Tonight.” “Tonight” addresses sexual assault, dating violence and consent, including information about the legal definitions of sexual assault and penalties that can be imposed on those who commit it, available data about victimization statistics, victim rights, responsible bystander action, campus policies, and protective behaviors. “Tonight” also helps to ensure UW-Madison’s compliance with federal requirements regarding primary prevention of sexual violence for new students. Transfer students receive similar information during their SOAR checkout with a Transfer Ambassador.

Parents are provided with information about sexual assault, consent, and resources for victims as part of their orientation to campus through a Health and Safety presentation at SOAR, UW-Madison’s summer orientation, advising and registration program. The session is facilitated by University Health Services and University of Wisconsin Police Department staff. In addition, each parent attending SOAR receives a discussion guide called “Talking with your student about sexual assault and dating violence” which covers sexual assault prevention and resources available on campus. Parents are encouraged to have conversations with their students about these topics prior to their arrival on campus.

Information about sexual assault is printed in orientation and welcome week materials. In addition, new students and transfer students are provided with an academic planner that includes additional information on sexual assault and resources. Continuing students

receive information about sexual assault via the Clery annual security report, which is distributed each fall via e-mail to the campus community (faculty, staff, and students) and is housed in prominent places on multiple University websites including <http://uwpd.wisc.edu/crime-data/clery-act/> and [www.students.wisc.edu](http://www.students.wisc.edu).

2. Provide an explanation of how the chosen methods ensure that all new and continuing students annually receive the required information. Wis.Stat. §36.11(22) (2).

The attendance rate at orientation is 99.9+%, and the academic planner with health and safety information is distributed during the SOAR check-in process, ensuring that all students who attend are given a copy. The information is also referenced verbally during the program. All students and employees are issued a university e-mail account to which the annual campus security report is distributed per the federal Clery Act. This report is available through the [www.uwpd.wisc.edu](http://www.uwpd.wisc.edu). Since students are more inclined to use electronic media, UW-Madison also utilizes e-mail, websites, and social media outlets such as Twitter and Facebook to communicate about this report and its content. Continuing students receive annual Clery information through an electronic memo sent from the Chief of Police and addresses specific information about sexual assault.

The “Tonight” program is required for all degree-seeking first-year undergraduate and transfer students, including Farm and Industry short course students. Students who do not complete the program are unable to register in the next semester’s classes until they do so.

3. Provide a summary of the format, focus, goals, and numbers of students attending the orientation programming which includes the required oral and written information to new students, as described in Wis.Stat. §36.11(22) (1) (a-d).

New freshmen and transfer students attended an orientation session prior to attending fall and spring semester courses. Approximately 150-180 students (and their parents) attend each of these sessions. The primary focus of these programs is academic advising and course enrollment, however; other introductory information regarding sexual assault and campus safety is shared in print and during presentations.

The “Tonight” program is made available during the summer orientation months (or winter orientation months, for students enrolling in spring semesters) and provides legal definitions and penalties for sexual assault; generally available national, state, and campus statistics about sexual assault; the rights of victims under both state law and federal law/guidance; protective behaviors, victim resources, and safe options for bystander intervention.

4. Describe two or three best examples of institutional initiatives, programs or services which assist student victims of sexual violence. The description should include the **impact, benefit, or significant innovation** of these highlighted programs.

In 2015, UW-Madison allocated significant resources to the participation in the American Association of Universities (AAU) climate survey, an effort that assessed UW-Madison’s

victimization prevalence and incidents, student perceptions, and knowledge of available services to victims. Over 20% of the student population participated in this climate survey, providing UW-Madison with a very clear picture of the scope of the problem of sexual violence specific to our campus. Recommendations were made in response to the climate survey findings including:

- Additional required educational programs for the Greek community
- Expand “Tonight” into multi-dose prevention program for students in the residence hall
- Require sexual assault and misconduct training for graduate and professional students
- Expand victim advocate services in UHS End Violence on Campus office

More information, including the UW-Madison Sexual Assault Climate Survey Task force report can be found at <http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/AAUSurvey/>

Also, in 2015, UW-Madison hired a full-time, designated Title IX Coordinator. In the past, the staff person designated as the UW-Madison Title IX Coordinator had multiple other roles on campus. Part of the role of a Title IX Coordinator is to ensure that victims are afforded with safety measures and accommodations that help them to pursue their educational opportunity.

UW-Madison offers highly trained, confidential victim advocacy services through the University Health Services End Violence on Campus (UHS EVOC) unit. These staff members support victims of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, and sexual harassment, regardless of the student’s decision to report. UW-Madison values its partnerships with three local agencies that provide support to victims of sexual violence: The Meriter Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, and the Rape Crisis Center. All three are available 24-hours a day, meeting the needs of UW-Madison students as well as the greater Dane County community. The Rape Crisis Center has an office located centrally on campus next to University Health Services (333 East Campus Mall, Room 7901), and provides free and confidential individual counseling, support groups on campus, and legal and medical advocacy which can be accessed through the Center’s 24-hour crisis line. The Rape Crisis Center receives partial funding for these services via a contract with the Associated Students of Madison (UW-Madison’s student government). Additionally, since 1998, UW-Madison supports the partnership with the Rape Crisis Center through the contribution of a rent-free office space.

5. Describe two or three best examples of ways the institution offers education or training in sexual assault prevention and protective behaviors, and the **impact, benefit, or significant innovation** of these highlighted programs.

**A. First year primary prevention program, “Tonight:”**

UW-Madison requires all incoming first-year and transfer students to participate in an online primary prevention program on sexual assault and dating violence. This program is deployed to students prior to their arrival on campus, and e-mail

reminders are sent through each semester on a regular basis. Students who do not complete Tonight by deadline will not be able for the next semester's classes until they have completed the program. More information about the program can be found at the following link: [www.uhs.wisc.edu/tonight](http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/tonight)

The program is also utilized as part of the training for student staff in residence life.

*Impact and benefit:* Assessment data indicates that “Tonight” increases student knowledge of sexual assault, dating violence, consent, and signs of incapacitation. It also increases student likelihood to intervene in situations that could lead to sexual violence. Students who complete the program are more likely than students who have not completed the program to believe the campus would take action upon receiving reports, to know which services are available to victims, and were more likely to intervene in situations that could lead to sexual assault.

- B. Student leadership and peer education:** University Health Services (UHS) and the School of Social Work provide support to two courses (SW 672-001 and 672-002) focusing on the prevention of sexual assault and other forms of gender-focused violence. The first course, a service-learning course designed to prepare students to facilitate prevention workshops to their peers, is coordinated with the student organization Promoting Awareness and Victim Empowerment (PAVE). The 25 students who enroll in this course each semester utilize primary prevention methodologies to address sexual assault and dating violence. These students along with PAVE peer advocates presented 55 programs in 2015.

*Impact and benefit:* Those served by SW 672 workshops are more likely to know about options for victims, respond to disclosures in compassionate ways, and understand the dynamics and definitions of sexual assault. The university’s support of this course and the student leaders in the course also allows violence prevention efforts to represent and be driven by student need and experiences.

- C. Men’s project:** Men’s project creates a space for critical self-reflection and dialogue about what it means to be a man and how masculinity impacts us and those around us. The experience focuses on the examination of societal images, expectations, and messages around masculinity to empower men to better understand themselves, promote the advancement of gender equity, and raise consciousness in their communities. Topics include Media and Pop Culture, Vulnerability, Sexuality, Hook-up Culture, Alcohol, Relationships, and Violence.

Men’s Project begins with an off-campus overnight retreat and follows with six consecutive weekly sessions. Each semester, the programs hosts 40 students who are split into two cohorts of 20 students. The program is open to all those who

identify as men without regard to race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, religion, ability, or experience.

*Impact and benefit: The Men's Project builds a community of men who can use their experience to affect other men in the University community. Bystander intervention, challenging societal myths, and modeling healthy relationships are a few of the ways they can change our campus community.*

## **Notes about reporting numbers**

UW-Madison has engaged in efforts to ensure that reports made to employees and incidents of sexual assault witnessed on campus—including experiences that happened prior to a student's arrival to campus—were reflected in this report. The increase in assaults recorded in this report over the past several years may likely be attributed to increased prevention, training, transparency, and awareness initiatives. All UW-Madison employees, including those who must maintain confidentiality as part of their licensure and professional ethics, such as mental health services staff, victim advocates, medical providers, and disability coordinators, comply with the state statute to report sexual assaults to the Dean of Students Office. Staff designated as confidential do not, in their obligation to report, generally include identifying information about an assault, including location, name of involved parties, victim's relationship to the offender, or the use of alcohol/drugs. Wisconsin Statutes 36.11(22)(c) requires all university employees, including mental health clinicians, medical providers and victim advocates to report sexual assault disclosures through, at minimum, a statistical report. Given the reality that clinicians are bound by legal privilege and/or professional codes of ethics which do not allow these professionals to reveal information about the sexual assault survivors that they serve, a significant percentage of the reports received by the university are difficult to categorize and are included in the unknown categories. The UW-Madison policy on protecting victim confidentiality is below.

## **Protecting Victim Confidentiality**

When a student or employee victim reports to an office or official who is not explicitly designated as confidential, UW-Madison takes every precaution to protect victim privacy and confidentiality by sharing information only with university officials who have a legitimate educational interest and/or those who need to know for the purposes of institutional response.

In an effort to protect victim safety and privacy, UW-Madison maintains information about sexual violence in a secure manner. If the University has notice of an incident, UW-Madison will balance the victim's request to keep identifying information confidential with Title IX's mandate to investigate hostile environments.

To the extent permissible by law, UW-Madison will endeavor to keep victim information private. However, once a report is made to the University, or the University has notice of an incident of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, confidentiality

cannot be guaranteed unless that information is reported directly to one of the confidential resources listed. UW-Madison will strive to maintain as confidential any accommodations or protective measures provided to the victim, but keeping victim information confidential may limit UW-Madison's ability to provide accommodations or protective measures.

For victims aged 18 and older who report to non-confidential sources, relevant information will be shared only with those who need to know, such as Title IX Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators, complaint investigators, and other individuals who are responsible for handling the school's response to incidents of sexual violence. In the case of minors, UW-Madison employees must report child abuse to Child Protective Services or local law enforcement.

For Clery Act reporting and disclosures, a victim's name or identifying information will never appear in a Crime Warning, on the Daily Crime Log or in the ASR. UW-Madison will redact a victim's identifying information when responding to requests for information pursuant to the Wisconsin Public Records law, which governs the disclosure of student education records. The University also will not disclose identifiable information about research subjects if prohibited by an NIH-issued Certificate of Confidentiality, HIPAA regulations and state laws pertaining to the privacy of health information or promises of confidentiality made to research subjects pursuant the federally required consent form and authorization form. UW-Madison must respond to court ordered subpoenas that are not prohibited by other applicable law, and may not be able to redact information when responding to a subpoena.

Victims have the option to access confidential resources such as UHS Counseling and Consultation, UHS EVOG, UHS Clinical Medicine, a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, the Rape Crisis Center, UW-Madison Ombuds and the Employee Assistance Office. Other licensed healthcare providers, counselors and social workers employed by the University follow the confidentiality requirements of their profession when they providing care to a patient or a client. Additionally, staff from the McBurney Disability Resource Center, campus Disability Coordinators, Divisional Disability Representatives and interpreters do not disclose reports of prior victimization that they become aware of as part of the disability accommodation process or when providing translation services.