Sexual misconduct and sexual assault are forms of sexual harassment. The University of Oklahoma creates a safe environment for all students. This brochure provides an overview of what sexual misconduct is, how to get help for those experiencing sexual misconduct, where to report incidents of sexual misconduct, and campus and community resources.

Additional Websites

For more detailed information on any of the information included in this brochure, visit www.ou.edu/sexualmisconduct

Offices on campus that can help

• OUPD: 405-325-1911
• Sexual Assault Response Team 24/7: 405-615-0013
• Women’s Outreach Center: 405-325-4929
• Sexual Misconduct Officer: 405-325-2215
• University Counseling Center: 405-325-2911
• Student Affairs: 405-325-3161

Off Campus Support

• Norman Rape Crisis Center: 405-701-5660
• Norman Police Department: 405-321-1600
• YWCA –OKC 405-943-7273

Student Life is a department in OU’s division of Student Affairs. The University of Oklahoma is an Equal Opportunity Institution. For information or accommodations on the basis of disability please call the Women’s Outreach Center at 405-325-4929.
What is Sexual Misconduct?

Sexual Misconduct offenses include, but are not limited to sexual harassment/discrimination, non-consensual sexual intercourse actual or attempted non-consensual sexual contact (or attempts to commit same), sexual coercion and sexual exploitation.

1. **Sexual Harassment** – can be defined as unwanted sexual attention or action based on one’s gender that is so severe and pervasive that it unreasonably interferes with the work or educational environment.

2. **Sexual Violence** – means physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person’s will or where a person is incapable of giving consent. A number of acts fall into the category of sexual violence, including but not limited to rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual misconduct and sexual coercion.

3. **Sexual Coercion** – is the act of using pressure (including physical pressure, verbal pressure or emotional pressure), alcohol, medications or drugs, or force to have sexual contact against someone’s will or with someone who has already refused.

4. **Sexual Exploitation** – taking abusive sexual advantage of another.

5. **Consent** – The act of willingly and verbally agreeing to engage in sexual contact or conduct. Individuals who consent to sex must be able to understand what they are doing. “No” always means “No,” and the absence of “No” may not mean “Yes”. In order to give effective consent, one must be of legal age and have the capacity to consent. Incapacity may result from mental disability, intellectual disability, unconsciousness, age, or use of alcohol, drugs, medication, and/or other substances.

6. **Retaliation** – any attempt to penalize or take an adverse employment, educational or institutional benefit action because of participation in a complaint.

What to do you if you or a friend experiences sexual violence?

If you or someone you know has safety concerns or needs medical attention call 911 or go to a local emergency room immediately. After a sexual assault, a victim has many choices and decisions to make, and a university Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) advocate, available 24/7, can help. If there are no safety risks or serious injuries, consider obtaining a forensic exam. The Norman Rape Crisis Center (RCC) or the YWCA in OKC offers exams. An advocate from OU can accompany the victim to the exam; the RCC also has advocates on-call 24/7.

Although taking a shower may be the first thing the assaulted person would like to do, it is important that you do not bathe, douche, or wash any involved clothes or bedding. Doing so will wash away evidence of the crime and make it harder to prosecute.

If someone decides not to report sexual misconduct, the individual should consider professional counseling with a trained professional who can provide significant support and assistance in the healing process.

The university can also assist victims with housing changes and academic challenges. OU SART or Student Affairs are great resources for help.

Options for Reporting Sexual Assault, Discrimination or Harassment

Sexual assault, sexual violence, and sexual battery are crimes. Victims are encouraged to report these crimes to the local police department. The quicker law enforcement learns of the assault, the more likely evidence can be collected and preserved and an investigation can proceed. If victims do not wish to pursue criminal charges, they may submit informational reports to local law enforcement.

When sexual misconduct occurs, students also have the option of filing a complaint with the university. The Equal Opportunity Office (“EOO”) receives reports of any incident of sexual misconduct for staff, students and faculty. The EOO takes reports, conducts the investigation, and recommends corrective action.

The university has an obligation to investigate reports of sexual violence and take prompt and appropriate action. If a victim does not want to come forward, it will limit the university’s ability to take action.

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