Service for Students with Disabilities

Each division within the University is aware of the needs of the disabled student and is ready and willing to work with each student to solve problems as they arise. The Director of Disability Resources and Services is located in the Student Services Building, 3rd floor, (903-886-5835). The Compliance Office for the Disabled is located in the Business Administration Building, 2nd floor, Room 296. Services for the disabled are provided through student support services/ MACH III (tutoring, mobility assistants, readers, interpreters, and so on), the Counseling Center, the Communication Skills Center, and the Mathematics Skills Center. Learning disabled students must file an application for eligibility for assignment to the Academic Support Committee during the first semester of enrollment at the university. Applications are available through MACH III or Academic Advisement. Other campus services are available to the disabled through the Department of Residence Life, the University Police Department, the Student Health Services, the James G. Gee Library, and the Morris Recreation Center. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the Texas Commission for the Blind work closely with A&M-Commerce to offer support to students who qualify.

Sexual Harassment Procedure

Sexual harassment of students and employees at Texas A&M University-Commerce is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

The Sexual Harassment Procedure defines sexual harassment as any unwelcomed sexual advances, request for sexual favors, or other physical conduct or expressive behavior (verbal or non-verbal) of a sexual nature where:

1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or education;
2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic or employment decisions affecting that individual; or
3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic or professional performance creating an intimidating, hostile, or demeaning employment or educational environment.

The Office of EEO receives and considers complaints dealing with sexual harassment.

Complaints of sexual harassment may be made to the department head or EEO Office.

A copy of the Sexual Harassment Procedure may be obtained from the EEO Office.

Sexual Assault

Definitions:

Sexual Assault—generally defined as attempted or actual unwanted sexual activity.

Forcible and Non-Forcible Sex Offenses—A forcible sex offense is "any sexual act directed against another person, forcible and or against that person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent," and includes forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object and forcible fondling. Non-Forcible sex offenses are acts of unlawful, non-forcible sexual intercourse such as incest and statutory rape.

Pursuant to the Sexual Assault Victim's bill of Rights, it becomes important to promote the reporting of all sex crime violations as well as to outline the procedures to facilitate the reporting of all alleged violations. Therefore, students are hereby informed of the following programs and options.

Educational Programs—Various programs addressing sexual assault, date rape, and related issues are presented throughout each academic year. Primarily the Counseling Center, the Student Activities Board, The Residence Life Dept., UPD, and other departments and agencies campus wide conduct these programs.

Procedures for Reporting Offenses—In those instances where sexual assault is alleged, the victim is strongly encouraged to report the incident to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868. The victim will be given information as to how to go about bringing formal charges against the accused. The victim will also be informed of the University Disciplinary Action that may be taken against the accused. Victims may choose to merely report a sex offense for statistical purposes only by filling out a form and mailing it to the University Police Department. The form can be found at www7.tamu-commerce.edu/upd/reports/crimereportingfrm.pdf

The importance of preserving physical evidence—If you, or someone you know, is a victim of a sexual assault, it is imperative that the victim be aware of methods to preserve physical evidence, even if they think they don't want to file charges.

- Don't destroy evidence by bathing, douching, washing hands, brushing teeth, changing clothes or linens, eating or drinking.
- DO notify someone immediately. It may help you if a friend or neighbor goes with you to the hospital and police.
- DO seek medical attention in the ER of a local hospital. You need to have a rape exam even if you decide not to press charges. The exam is used to collect evidence (which will be needed if you later decide to prosecute) as well as assure you that you did not sustain injuries, which may not be visible yet (i.e., internal injuries, bruises).
- DO call police as soon as possible. Even if you don't want to file any charges, you can file an informational report that may help police locate your attacker and protect others. Most rapists are repeat offenders!