

Your Right to Know, Your Right to Speak

A Guide for International Students and other members of the University Community

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Important Information

Sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence is more often reported in the U.S. than in most other countries because, here in the U.S.

it is O.K. to talk about these issues,
there are many resources available,
both victims and offenders receive help,
these behaviors are against the law.

Counseling services are confidential; however, police and/or protective services will be notified if

someone under the age of 18 is being harmed.

This brochure gives examples of sexual harassment and suggests effective ways for you to respond. This brochure also helps you understand the realities of these issues so you can be more comfortable here in U.S.

Sexual Harassment Legal Definition

Sexual harassment is behavior that is unwelcome, sexual in nature and which is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive so as to create, for the recipient, a hostile, offensive or intimidating environment. Such conduct constitutes sexual harassment when such conduct limits the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from his or her education.

Suggestion

If a person's words or actions cause you to feel uncomfortable, you can let that person know by:

- Describing the behavior.
- Telling the person how it affected you or how you felt about it.
- Telling the person what behavior is acceptable.

You do not have to suffer unpleasant and uncomfortable situations. You have the right to take care of yourself, to be treated with respect, to have space of your own, to express your feeling and to say "No." You can get help on campus.

Some Possible Situations of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is unwelcome behavior that is sexual and which is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive so as to reasonably be construed to create a hostile environment. Depending on the total circumstances, the behavior described in the following situations may constitute sexual harassment.

Situation: Male or female teachers make sexual remarks or comments about your body and you feel uncomfortable.

Suggested Response: 'I need to talk about something. I would like you to stop commenting on my body.'

Situation: Your TA visits your apartment and asks to watch a video with you in your room.

Suggested Response: 'I don't want you to visit my apartment. I'd like to maintain a professional relationship until the end of the semester.'

(It is generally inappropriate for TAs and faculty members to meet their students off campus and outside regular business hours.)

Situation: You are a TA. A female student goes to see you to tell you she is worried about her grade and ask you what she can do it. She expresses her concern and tells you that she will "do anything" to improve her grade.

Suggested Response: 'I can't offer special help for you. I'd like to treat all my students equally.'

(You have to take responsibility to maintain professional relationship with your students.)

Situation: Your professor is returning your paper after reviewing it. He suggests that you and he discuss the paper over a beer at his house that evening. He explains that it's not just grades that count, but "who you know." He again presses you about the invitation.

Suggested Response: 'I'm not willing to discuss the paper over a beer. Can we discuss my paper during your office hour tomorrow?'

Sexual Assault Legal Definition

Sexual contact or penetration without consent occurs if the victim: is coerced by the use or threatened use of force; is unable to give consent to the sexual act because of mental disorder, drugs, alcohol, sleep or any other similar impaired state (which is known or should have reasonable been known to the perpetrator); or is intentionally deceives as to the nature of the act.

Myth: Its not really rape if the two people know each other.

Fact: Anytime a person is made to have sex against his/her will is sexual assault.

Myth: Most incidents of rape are by strangers.

Fact: Sexual assaults are far more likely to be committed by someone known to the victim than by a stranger. 87% of all sexual assaults are committed by an acquaintance of the victim.

Myth: It's not really rape if both of you have been drinking and someone has sex with you without your consent.

Fact: It is always risky someone has sex without consent and alcohol is involved and people are impaired under the influence. No one deserve to be raped.

Myth: If I report this crime, your visa will be taken away or you have to return home.

Fact: Reporting these crime is important. You will be protected. Your status of international student is not affected.

When you go home late, you can call the Escort Service.

Escort Service

Sunday - Thursday 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

621- SAFE (7233)

Relationship Violence and Domestic Violence Legal Definition

When the individuals involved are of the opposite sex and reside or have resided in the same household, have a child in common or are related by blood or marriage. Relationship violence may be treated by the legal system as simple assault or disorderly conduct when the individuals involved are or have been dating (but have never lived together and do not have a child together) or are gay or lesbian. In addition to the physical, sexual and/or psychological assaults associated with relationship violence, other related issues which may or may not be criminal (depending on specific facts) include verbal, emotional and/or economic abuse, threats of harm or attacks against property or pets.

Myth: "Forced marital sex" is not "real rape."

Fact: Forced sexual contact from a stranger, between dating partners, or within a marriage is illegal. No relationship justifies forcible sexual behaviors.

Myth: Abuse is a "family matter" and the community should not interfere.

Fact: Assault is assault, rape is rape, abuse is abuse, regardless of the relationship between the people. Violence within the family is no more justifiable than violence between strangers.

Myth: Keeping silent about sexual assault or other forms of violence is safer than reporting it.

Fact: Violence that is unreported often results in greater risks for future violence to occur. Without legal or counseling intervention, the violence won't go away.

Child Abuse

Regardless of national origin, parents around the world are concerned for the safety of their children. There are specific laws in the United States for the purpose of protecting children who live here. Child abuse includes neglecting basic needs of a child or behaviors that cause emotional, physical, or sexual harm to a child.

There are many resources available for both parents and children in our community.

Counseling and Support

Las Familias **327-7122**

The Parent Connection **321-1500**

Report Child Abuse

1-888-767-2445

Things you should know if you need help.

*Don't blame yourself. Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault are against the law and university policy.

*Find emotional support from trusted friends or relatives.

*Have the right to be safe.

*Ask for legal and counseling support

To ask for professional support is very common in the U.S. Don't hesitate to ask for help.

Who Do You Call if You Need Help?

University Of Arizona

Medical

General Health Services **621-6493**

Women's Health Services **621-6512**

Legal

U of A Police Department **621-8273**

Affirmative Action Office **621-3081**

Counseling & Referrals

Oasis Center For Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence at **626-2051**

Tucson Community Emergency Services

Medical

Emergency Medical Care 24 hours. **911**

Planned Parenthood **624-1761**

Legal

Victim Witness Advocacy Program **740-5525**

Counseling 24 hours

Tucson Rape Crisis Center (24 hours) **327-7273**

Safe Shelter, Counseling & Domestic Violence Services **622-6347**

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This webpage and brochure were created by international students
for international students

University of Arizona

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