You Are Not Alone
Boston College Student Sexual Misconduct
Resources and Policy

BC Student Affairs
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Introduction

*You Are Not Alone* is written for survivors of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, stalking, and relationship violence, to provide support as well as important information about prohibited conduct, available resources on and off campus, and ways to file a complaint in order to assist survivors in the recovery process and in their efforts to heal from this unacceptable form of violence. If you have survived sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, please be assured that there are people who care about what you have endured.

You are not alone in what happened to you, or in how you feel, no matter what form your experience took. It is important for you to know that the feelings, reactions, and questions you may be experiencing are similar to those of other people who have been victimized through no fault of their own. You, as others have, can learn to regain a sense of power over your life. You may feel very isolated and alone, but there are resources and support available and people ready and able to help you. Sexual misconduct is never the fault of the victim. You are not to blame for what another person has done to you.

Supporting All Students

While the needs and issues of different populations on campus may be unique, the resources, support, policy, and procedure apply to all students. Whether you are an undergraduate student, a graduate student, a woman or man, identify as LGBTQ or cisgender or straight, you receive the same dedicated support and services at Boston College. Emotional support, counseling regarding options, medical treatment, and academic assistance are all available.

*For LGBTQ students:* In addition to the complex thoughts and feelings common to many survivors of sexual assault, members of LGBTQ communities may have special concerns. The sexual assault may have happened as part of a hate crime if you were targeted because of your sexual orientation or gender identity. If you have experienced intolerance, hate, or other violence at an earlier time in your life, a sexual assault can add to the pain of the past. You may be worried that the assault will “out” you if you talk about it or report it to the police. You may feel like people who are supposed to help you will judge you instead. You may fear that if you reach out for help you will be rejected or misunderstood, which could make the hurt worse.

Boston College offers many ways to support you on your healing journey. You can call the SANet Hotline any time to talk about your concerns and questions as well as explore any of the resources listed in this guide.

*For men:* Sexual violence can be devastating to all victims, and reactions are often shared by survivors of all genders. You may feel anger, guilt, fear, distrust, loss of control, and symptoms of physical illness. However, there are special issues that may be different for you, such as questions about your sexuality, shame, stigma related to masculinity or reluctance to be examined for medical procedures. You may hesitate to report the act of sexual violence to the police for fear that they will not believe you. Please know that at no point and under no circumstances does anyone have the right to violate or control another. Please consider contacting on or off campus resources to address any of the concerns you might have in order to take care of yourself.
Sexual misconduct, including sexual assault and harassment of any kind, is prohibited by Boston College and will be responded to accordingly. Boston College strives at all times to maintain a safe environment that supports its educational mission and is free from exploitation and intimidation and discrimination based upon gender.

What is Sexual Misconduct?

The Boston College Student Sexual Misconduct Policy provides definitions for sexual misconduct and the behaviors that are prohibited under the policy. These definitions are listed below. Massachusetts criminal law definitions may be different, and are outlined in the Clery Campus Sexual Violence Response and Prevention Program.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT is a broad term that encompasses a range of behaviors including all forms of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, as well as other forms of misconduct or violence of a sexual nature, including, without limitation, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation. Sexual misconduct can occur between individuals who know each other, have an established relationship, have previously engaged in consensual sexual activity, and between individuals who do not know each other. Sexual misconduct can be committed by persons of any gender identity, and it can occur between people of the same or different gender.

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT is unwanted or offensive sexual behavior that has the purpose or effect of creating a hostile or stressful living, learning, or working environment, or whenever toleration of such conduct or rejection of it is the basis for a personnel or academic decision affecting an individual. Examples of behavior that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, sexual advances, any form of retaliation or threat of retaliation against an individual who rejects such advances, sexual epithets, jokes, or comments, comment or inquiry about an individual’s body or sexual experiences, unwelcome leering, whistling, brushing against the body, sexual gestures, and displaying sexually suggestive images. Sexual harassment includes any conduct or incident that is sufficiently serious that it is likely to limit or deny a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the University’s educational programs, which may include a single incident of sexual assault or other serious sexual misconduct.

SEXUAL ASSAULT is any sexual penetration or sexual contact with another individual without consent.

COERCION is to force a person to act based on fear of harm to self or others. Means of coercion may include, but are not limited to, pressure, threats, emotional intimidation, or the use of physical force.

SEXUAL CONTACT includes intentional contact with the intimate parts of another person, causing another person to touch one’s intimate parts, or disrobing or exposure of another person without permission. Intimate parts may include the breasts, genitals, buttocks, groin, mouth, or any other part of the body that is touched in a sexual manner. Sexual contact also includes attempted sexual penetration.

SEXUAL PENETRATION includes vaginal or anal penetration, however slight, with a body part (e.g., penis, tongue, finger, hand, etc.) or object, or oral penetration involving mouth to genital contact.
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION means taking sexual advantage of another person and includes, without limitation: indecent exposure; causing or attempting to cause the incapacitation of another person in order to gain a sexual advantage over him or her; causing the prostitution of another person; recording, photographing, or transmitting images of private sexual activity and/or the intimate parts of another person without consent; observing or allowing third parties to observe private sexual acts or otherwise violating a person's sexual privacy without consent; and knowingly or recklessly exposing another person to a significant risk of sexually transmitted infection.

RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE (also known as Dating Violence or Domestic Violence) is a pattern of abusive behavior that is used by an intimate partner to gain power and control over the other partner. Relationship violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. Relationship violence is violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, where the existence of such a relationship is determined based on the following factors: the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. Individuals who are victims of domestic abuse in Massachusetts may seek an abuse prevention order, also known as a “restraining order” or “209A order,” in addition to pursuing criminal charges and charges through the student conduct system, if the offender is a Boston College student. For more information on Massachusetts law, see https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartII/TitleIII/Chapter209A.

STALKING is engaging in a course of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress. Generally, stalking involves a course of conduct which is defined as two or more acts including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property. Examples include but are not limited to: following a person; appearing at a person's home, class or work; making frequent phone calls, emails, text messages, etc.; continuing to contact a person after receiving requests not to; leaving written messages, objects or unwanted gifts; vandalizing a person's property; and threatening, intimidating or intrusive behavior.

What is Consent?

CONSENT is the clear and voluntary agreement to engage in particular sexual activity, communicated through mutually understandable words or actions. Consent is always freely informed and actively given. Silence or lack of resistance cannot be assumed to imply consent. Consent must be ongoing, and it may be withdrawn at any time. Consent for one sexual act does not imply consent for any subsequent sexual activity. Consent may never be obtained through use of coercion, intimidation, force, or threats. Consent cannot be obtained from an individual who is incapable of giving consent because the person:

- Has a mental, intellectual, or physical disability; or
- Is under the legal age to give consent (16 years of age in Massachusetts); or
- Is asleep, “blacked out,” unconscious, or physically helpless; or
- Is incapacitated, including through the consumption of alcohol or drugs.

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You Are Not Alone,
Boston College Sexual Misconduct Policy & Resources (2015)
What is Incapacitation?

INCAPACITATION is the inability to make informed, rational judgments and decisions. If alcohol or drugs are involved, incapacitation may be assessed by evaluating how the substance has affected a person’s decision-making capacity, awareness, and ability to make informed judgments. The impact of alcohol and drugs varies from person to person; however, warning signs of possible incapacitation include slurred speech, unsteady gait, impaired coordination, inability to perform personal tasks such as undressing, inability to maintain eye contact, vomiting, and emotional volatility.

After an Assault

The most common form of sexual misconduct perpetrated on college campuses is sexual assault. If you or someone you know has been assaulted in the last five days (120 hours), it is strongly recommended that you:

- Ensure that you are in a safe place.

- Call the Sexual Assault Network (SANet) Hotline, University Counseling Services, or the Boston College Police Department. Taking care of yourself is the first step in the healing process after an assault.

- Try to preserve all physical evidence.

- Try not to wash your face or hands, bathe, brush your teeth, drink or eat, douche, or change clothes if you can avoid it. If you do change your clothes, put all clothing you were wearing at the time of the assault in individual paper bags (not plastic). It is important to preserve as much evidence as possible should you later decide to press criminal charges.

- Seek medical attention. This can include going to the Emergency Room at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (for which Boston College can arrange transportation) and meeting a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) to both collect forensic evidence and provide medical care and support to you.

- When you feel ready, reach out to additional resources for ongoing support.

24-Hour Services

Please note: Boston College will make every effort to protect your privacy. Detailed information about the following resources, including levels of privacy, confidentiality, or anonymity appear later in this guide in the section Where to Go For Support.

Sexual Assault Network (SANet): 617–552–2211

The Sexual Assault Network Hotline is a 24-hour/7-days-a-week private and anonymous resource that is staffed by advocates who are trained to listen, provide options, and support the survivor or friend of the survivor as they embark on the healing process. Students who call the Sexual Assault Network (SANet) may also request to speak with a man or woman.
Boston College Police Department (BCPD): 617–552–4444
BCPD can assist students in reporting an assault that occurred either on or off campus. For an assault that occurs off campus, BCPS can connect students to the appropriate municipal authorities. Please note that if you call the police, a preliminary investigation must be initiated. The BCPD can also be reached by activating the blue light boxes located throughout campus.

University Health Services: 617–552–3227
Cushing Hall, First Floor
Medical personnel are available 24 hours a day for immediate and follow-up medical attention.

University Counseling Services: 617–552–3310 during the day
617–552–3227 on nights and weekends

Ongoing Steps
If you were sexually assaulted in the past:

It can be difficult to reach out for help, no matter when an assault has occurred, but Boston College is committed to serving survivors in all phases of the healing process. Remember that you can always:

- Call the SANet hotline to speak with an advocate who can discuss all services and options available to you at BC and throughout the larger Boston community.
- Make an appointment with University Counseling Services. They can provide short-term care and connect you with long-term options for emotional and mental health support.
- Learn more about reporting options (page 13) and legal support (page 27).
- Learn more about comprehensive BC and community resources (pages 23–26).
- Ask about joining HEAL, a support group on campus for students directly affected by sexual violence. Please contact Rachel DiBella at rachel.dibella@bc.edu.

What should I call what happened to me?

We understand that healing from an experience of sexual assault can be different for every individual. One of the things that you might have questions about is what to call what happened to you. While some students might have a difficult time naming what they experienced as violence, this does not minimize the impact of what they might be going through. Some students refer to themselves as survivors after recovering from an incident of sexual assault, while others prefer to be recognized as victims of a crime. There is no wrong way to talk about how you feel following an episode of sexual violence, and your support network at Boston College will do its best to respect the language you choose to talk about it.

(BARCC, 2012 University of Virginia, Sexual Assault Education and Resources, 2012)
**What about the way I feel?**

Healing emotionally after a sexual assault can be a complex process. One of the most important things you can do to help yourself is to get as much support as possible. People react and cope differently after being sexually assaulted, so it is important to respect your choices and individual style of coping. At the same time, many sexual assault survivors find it helpful to know that some emotions and reactions tend to be very common. These reactions can be very confusing and upsetting, but they are normal in your situation, and can include post-traumatic stress symptoms. Some of the common reactions and emotions people have are:

**Guilt** | Many survivors feel guilty because we live in a culture that tends to blame the victim. No one deserves to be assaulted, even if they drink to excess, dress in revealing clothing, or consented to other sexual activity.

**Fear** | It is normal to feel afraid after being assaulted. Sexual assault is frightening. Some survivors find it hard to be alone at night or in a setting that is like the one in which they were assaulted.

**Avoidance** | It is common to avoid or want to avoid anything that has to do with the assault, such as getting assistance, because it reminds you of the assault. Although avoidance can initially assist in coping, most survivors find it is not a long-term solution.

**Anger** | You might feel angry—at the perpetrator, people you love, yourself, or the world. Feeling angry can be an important part of healing emotionally after an assault.

**Mood Swings** | Your mood may change rapidly or dramatically. Coping with a sexual assault is overwhelming, and these kinds of intense reactions are normal.

**Distrust** | It may also take a while to feel like you can trust people again. If you were assaulted by someone you knew, you may feel like you’ve lost confidence in your sense of judgment about other people. If you were assaulted by a stranger, you may feel like you can’t trust people you don’t know.

**Loss of Control** | Survivors often feel out of control or powerless. They have been robbed of control over their bodies. One of the most important facets of emotional healing from this experience is regaining control.

**Numbness** | Sometimes it takes a while for survivors to feel anything at all. One of the ways people sometimes cope with crisis is to go numb.

**A Note on Coping** | While the reactions listed above name some of the emotions you might experience after an incident of sexual violence, it is also important to consider how you’re coping with these reactions. Some students find that they cope by talking with others, watching more television, or turning to homework. Others find that they are participating in activities that might compromise their long-term health and safety. These can include sleeping several more or fewer hours than usual, eating much more or much less than usual, exercising for extended periods of time, spending less time with loved ones, increased substance use, and risk-taking behaviors that might be concerning to others, such as increased random hookups, radical shifts in social circles, and isolation.

It’s important for friends and loved ones to avoid expressing judgment to the student, and to instead focus on care, compassion and empowerment. Survivors can heal from sexual violence of all kinds, and many survivors find that seeking support from individuals who can form a trusted community is helpful in ensuring a healthy and hopeful recovery process.
Reporting Sexual Misconduct

The decision to report sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and any other violation of the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy, is yours. Deciding whether or not to report can be difficult for many survivors, and simply might not be a step that is possible for you right now. However, please know that the University cares about you and has many resources available to help you in the healing process. Students affected by sexual violence are strongly encouraged to report these incidents to the Office of the Dean of Students and/or to the Boston College Police.

Boston College encourages students who are victims of sexual misconduct to talk to someone about what happened so they can get the support they need, and the University can respond appropriately. The report may be made by:

- A person who experienced sexual misconduct; and/or
- A person who has information that sexual misconduct may have been committed by a Boston College student or a participant in a University sponsored program

A Note About Privacy

As a student you may have questions or concerns about your privacy and the information you share. All University employees are expected to ensure student privacy to the fullest extent possible. While Boston College employees have differing obligations or duties with respect to maintaining a victim’s confidentiality, the privacy of student information is respected at all times. Even when a victim’s complete confidentiality cannot be maintained, information is shared among a small number of University administrators solely to the extent required to help ensure that the University responds appropriately to a report of sexual misconduct. In those limited situations (discussed below) in which the University concludes that it must investigate and take action against an accused student, information may be shared as necessary in connection with the investigation. Boston College encourages victims to talk to someone identified below.

Boston College encourages survivors to utilize the resources below.

Confidential Resources

**Sexual Assault Network (SANet): 617–552–2211.** SANet is the University's primary resource for students and other members of the Boston College community to report incidents of sexual misconduct and/or for the purpose of getting information, resources, and support. SANet is a private or anonymous hotline that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the academic year for anyone affected by sexual violence.

*SANet is an anonymous hotline to the extent that the caller requests anonymity.*
Privileged Resources

**Pastoral and Professional Counselors.** Pastoral Counselors and Professional Counselors, when acting in their professional capacity as described below, are not required to disclose student reports of sexual misconduct without the student’s consent.

- A Professional Counselor is an employee of the University whose official responsibilities include providing psychological counseling and who is functioning within the scope of his or her license or certification. Contact University Counseling Services (UCS): 617-552-3310 during the day and 617-552-3227 on nights and weekends.

- A Pastoral Counselor is an employee of the University who is associated with a religious order or denomination, recognized by that religious order or denomination as someone who provides confidential counseling and who is functioning within the scope of that recognition as a Pastoral Counselor.

A student (undergraduate or graduate) reporting to any of the above privileged resources may request complete confidentiality, meaning that the staff in question will not share any reported information with anyone without the student’s consent. These counselors will provide support and assistance but will not investigate the complaint.

**NOTE:** While these professional and non-professional counselors and advocates may maintain a victim’s confidentiality with regard to Boston College, they may have reporting or other obligations under state law such as mandatory reporting to the Department of Youth Services in cases involving minors; threat of imminent harm to self or others; or the requirement to testify if subpoenaed in a criminal case.

**University Support and Reporting Options**

**The Assistant Director of the Women’s Center.** The Assistant Director provides support for victims of sexual misconduct, and can help students navigate all options including follow up medical care, reporting options, counseling, and working with University offices to address remedies as needed.

- Contact: Rachel DiBella, 617-552-3489, rachel.dibella@bc.edu.

**Office of the Dean of Students.** The Office of the Dean of Students, working in conjunction with the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator, can assist students in understanding their options in the conduct system, implement interim measures including stay-away orders or other interim administrative actions, and provide guidance and support regarding remedies including academic and housing concerns.

- Contact: 617-552-3470 during normal business hours or the Administrator On-Call (outside of normal business hours) through Boston College Police 617-552-4444 (emergency); 617-552-4440 (non-emergency), deanofstudents@bc.edu.
**Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator.** The Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator oversees the University’s efforts related to the prevention, education, and response to incidents of sexual misconduct by Boston College students, and can help an individual student in pursuing a complaint.

- Contact: Katherine O’Dair, 617-552-3482, katherine.odair@bc.edu.

**Boston College Police Department (BCPD).** BCPD provides assistance to victims including addressing immediate safety concerns, investigating incidents of sexual misconduct, filing a criminal complaint both on-campus and off-campus, and assisting victims with medical attention and care. BCPD will take a report from a student and a specially trained officer will conduct an investigation which involves asking the student to describe the respondent and what happened. An officer may ask questions about the scene of the crime, any witnesses, and what happened before and after.

- Contact: 617-552-4444 (emergency); 617-552-4440 (non-emergency).

**A Note about the Role and Responsibility of Faculty and Staff**

A student may choose to disclose sexual misconduct to a faculty or staff member. Faculty and staff are required to report to the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator when a student discloses sexual misconduct so that the University can respond appropriately. The report would include any information that the student decides to disclose, including the names of the victim and alleged perpetrator(s), any witnesses, and any other relevant facts, including the date, time and location of the alleged incident.

If a victim wants to tell a faculty or staff member what happened but also wishes to maintain confidentiality, a victim should understand that the University will consider the request, but cannot guarantee confidentiality in all cases. In reporting the details of the incident to the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator, the employee will inform the Coordinator of the victim’s request for confidentiality.

While students should expect that faculty and staff will inform the Title IX Coordinator, students who want the University to conduct an investigation or who wish to pursue institutional remedies and/or adjudication are strongly encouraged to contact the Office of the Dean of Students Office and/or the Title IX Coordinator directly to ensure a more immediate response.

For specific information about how the University will weigh a request for confidentiality and respond, see the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy.

**Confidentiality: How Boston College Will Weigh the Request and Respond**

The University respects the privacy interests of victims of sexual violence, and will protect the confidentiality of the individuals involved to the fullest extent possible. In responding to a victim's requests for academic, living, or working adjustments, the University will limit disclosures to the minimum necessary to make reasonable adjustments. The University has designated the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator to evaluate student requests for confidentiality in connection with reporting sexual misconduct. As described more fully in the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy, the Coordinator will weigh a student’s request for confidentiality against the University’s obligation to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all students, including the victim. The University does not include the names or other identifying information of victims of alleged sexual
violence in any publicly available documents, including any publicly available police reports, logs, or safety notices.

The University has designated the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator to evaluate requests for confidentiality and oversee the University’s response to reports of alleged sexual violence or other misconduct involving Boston College students.

If a victim discloses an incident, but requests confidentiality or that no investigation into a particular incident be pursued or no action through the conduct system be taken, the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with a small number of key University administrators, which may include representatives of the Office of the Dean of Students, the Boston College Police Department, and the Office of the General Counsel, will weigh the request against the University’s obligation to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all students, including the victim. When weighing a victim’s request for confidentiality or that no investigation or conduct process be pursued, the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator will consider a range of factors, including whether:

- The alleged perpetrator is likely to commit additional acts of sexual or other violence, such as:
  - Whether there have been other sexual violence complaints about the same alleged perpetrator;
  - Whether the alleged perpetrator has a history of arrests or records from a prior school indicating a history of violence;
  - Whether the alleged perpetrator threatened further sexual violence or other violence against the victim or others;
  - Whether the sexual violence was committed by multiple perpetrators;
- The sexual violence was perpetrated with a weapon or with force;
- The victim is a minor;
- Boston College possesses other means to obtain relevant evidence of the sexual violence (e.g., security cameras or personnel, physical evidence);
- The victim’s report reveals a pattern of perpetration (e.g., via illicit use of drugs or alcohol) at a given location or by a particular group.
- The presence of one or more of these factors could lead the University to investigate and, if appropriate, pursue conduct action against the respondent. If none of these factors are present, the University will likely respect the victim’s request.

If Boston College honors a victim’s request for confidentiality or decision not to participate in an investigation, the University’s ability to meaningfully investigate the incident or pursue conduct action against the alleged perpetrator(s) may be limited.

In some cases, usually rare, the University may not be able to honor a victim’s confidentiality request in order to adhere to its obligation to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for all students. If the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator determines that the University cannot maintain a victim’s confidentiality, the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator will inform the victim prior to starting an investigation and will, to the extent possible, only share information with people responsible for handling the University’s response.
How to File a Complaint

There are multiple ways to file a complaint at Boston College. You do not need to make this decision alone. If you are unsure about whether or not to report, there are many people you can speak with in order to get more information about what reporting would mean and entail. You will not be pressured to provide more details than you are willing to offer.

Filing a Complaint within Boston College

Office of the Dean of Students. Students can file a complaint within the Dean of Student Office. The Dean of Students Office can help students understand their options in the conduct system, implement interim measures including stay-away orders or other interim administrative actions, and provide guidance and support regarding remedies including academic and housing concerns. The Office provides trained guides/advisers and support services to students who are complainants and respondents in the conduct system. The Office, working with the Title IX Coordinator, also oversees the investigation and adjudication of sexual assault complaints against students. • Contact: 617-552-3470 during normal business hours or the Administrator On-Call (outside of normal business hours) through Boston College Police 617-552-4444 (emergency); 617-552-4444 (non-emergency), deanofstudents@bc.edu.

Filing a Criminal Complaint

If a student (undergraduate or graduate) reports sexual violence to the Boston College Police Department (BCPD), the police will conduct an investigation and assist the victim in filing criminal charges against the alleged offender if he or she chooses. BCPD also helps in obtaining protective restraining orders for domestic and dating violence incidents. If the incident occurred off campus, BCPD can assist the victim in informing the appropriate municipal police department if he or she so desires. The Boston College Police have specially trained officers to respond to sexual assault and intimate partner complaints. The police make every effort to offer female victims/survivors.

Under Massachusetts law, victims of dating or domestic violence may be entitled to obtain an abuse prevention order under Chapter 209A of the Massachusetts General Laws, and victims of stalking or harassment may be entitled to obtain a harassment prevention order under Chapter 258E of the Massachusetts General Laws. These orders require the abuse or harassment to cease and can include no contact and stay-away requirements. They may be issued without prior notice to the abuser or harasser if there is a substantial likelihood of immediate danger of abuse or harassment. The Boston College Police will assist victims in pursuing these orders.

The University Response

The Office of the Dean of Students, in conjunction with the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator, provides assistance and support to students. For students who report sexual misconduct, the Office of the Dean of Students can connect a student with support and counseling, and will focus on the response and interim remedies needed to help the student. Students who report sexual misconduct violations in situations where they may also be responsible for Code of Student Conduct violations (e.g. possession of alcohol) will generally not be charged for these ancillary violations. The Office of
the Dean of Students can also provide the complainant and respondent with support and counseling as well as a trained guide/adviser (see full Student Sexual Misconduct Policy). Note: victims do not need to participate in the conduct process to receive resources and support.

The Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator coordinates the University's efforts to:

- Assist the victim in accessing other available victim advocacy, academic support, financial aid, counseling, disability, health or mental health services, and legal assistance both on and off campus (See resources in Section IX below);
- Assist international students with immigration and/or visa related issues;
- Provide other security and support, which could include issuing a no-contact or stay away order, helping arrange a for a change in living or working arrangements and for course adjustments and other academic support; and
- Inform the victim of the right to report a crime to campus or local law enforcement, and provide the victim with assistance if the victim wishes to do so.

A report of sexual violence (including non-identifying reports) may also prompt the University to consider broader remedial action – such as increased monitoring, supervision or security at locations where the reported sexual violence occurred; increasing education and prevention efforts, including to targeted population groups; conducting climate assessments/victimization surveys; and/or revisiting policies and practices. If the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator determines that the University can respect a victim's request for confidentiality and not pursue conduct against the alleged perpetrator, the University will nonetheless take steps to protect and assist the victim.

**Retaliation**

It is a violation of University policy to engage in any form of retaliation or intimidation in connection with complaints of sexual misconduct. Any student engaging in any such retaliation or intimidation may be found responsible for a conduct violation. Any such acts of retaliation or intimidation by a Boston College student should be promptly reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. This policy and related processes may also apply to any allegation that a student has attempted to prevent an individual from reporting sexual misconduct, has acted in complicity with another individual who has engaged or attempted to engage in sexual misconduct, or has engaged in any acts of intimidation or reprisal with respect to any reported sexual misconduct.

**Interim Measures**

Upon a victim's request, the University will provide appropriate interim measures designed to prevent further acts of misconduct, harassment, or retaliation and address the victim's safety concerns. These include, but are not limited to, temporary no contact orders, University stay-away orders, or other administrative action. A detailed description of the range and scope of interim measures can be found in the [Student Sexual Misconduct Policy](#).

**Investigation**

For sexual misconduct complaints reported to the Office of the Dean of Students or when the University otherwise determines a thorough investigation and/or conduct action is appropriate, the University, under the oversight of the Office of the Dean of Students with consultation from the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator, will conduct an investigation of the complaint. The

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investigation will be conducted through the use of one or more internal and/or external investigators specifically trained in sexual misconduct investigations. The University will endeavor to complete its investigation within sixty (60) calendar days.

A detailed description of the investigation process can be found in the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy.

Where to Go for Support

On-Campus Resources

Sexual Assault Network
617–552–2211
The Boston College Sexual Assault Network (SANet) is an anonymous 24/7 hotline for anyone affected by sexual violence. The hotline is staffed by trained advocates who can assist callers with information about options available for professional support and counseling, medical evaluation and treatment, evidence collection, and reporting options.

What Will Happen If I Call the SANet Hotline?

You will reach a recording that gives you the option to press “1” to speak with a staff advocate or “2” to be connected to the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC). All advocates are trained to respond to incidents of sexual violence, stalking, and relationship violence, and to help you understand your options regarding medical attention, legal and judicial procedures, and counseling and support services. While all SANet services are private, callers may also choose to remain anonymous. A person reporting to SANet does not have to give a name, but if they choose to provide a name, the SANet advocate will include the name along with the nature, date, time, and general location of an incident in a report that is sent to the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator.

How Can SANet Help?

You always have the right to choose which services to utilize. SANet Hotline advocates are available to assist survivors in a variety of ways including connecting callers with:

- Emergency medical services, including accompanying the survivor to the hospital, the police, etc., as requested.
- Guidance and support throughout the University student conduct process and/or the criminal justice process if the survivor chooses to pursue this course of action.
- Information about internal University Stay Away Orders or criminal restraining orders.
- Assistance with academic concerns.
- Alternative living arrangements if desired.
- Contact with community resources such as rape crisis centers, support groups, etc., if desired.
- General support and assistance as needed.

For more information: [www.bc.edu/sanet](http://www.bc.edu/sanet)
**Assistant Director, Women’s Center**  
Rachel DiBella, Maloney Hall 441  
617–552–2735  
rachel.dibella@bc.edu  
The Assistant Director serves as a primary point of contact and advocate for survivors and anyone in the University community affected by sexual violence.

**Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator**  
Katherine O’Dair, Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator and Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, Maloney Hall 412  
617–552–3482  
katherine.odair@bc.edu  
The Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator, acting as Deputy to the University Title IX Coordinator (TitleIXCoordinator@bc.edu), oversees the University's response to complaints of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, stalking, and relationship violence in cases where a Boston College student is the complainant. The coordinator or designee is available to meet with students as needed. The coordinator will help ensure that appropriate measures are taken to adequately address complaints and protect the safety and well-being of victims. The Title IX Coordinator also maintains records of all cases, documents the University’s response, and sees that appropriate measures are taken to identify and address any patterns or systemic problems that may contribute to a hostile environment at the University.

**Boston College Police Department**  
Maloney Hall, 1st Floor  
617–552–4444  
Officers are trained and available 24/7 to respond to victims and to provide assistance with medical treatment and in pursuing complaints both on and off campus. If a student chooses to report the incident to the Boston College Police, a specially trained officer will conduct an investigation, which involves asking the student to describe the respondent and what happened. An officer may ask questions about the scene of the crime, any witnesses, and what happened before and after.

**Boston College Harassment Counselor**  
Linda Riley, 129 Lake Street, 340A  
617–552–0486  
linda.riley@bc.edu  
The University Harassment Counselor, Linda Riley, is responsible for responding to complaints of harassment brought against faculty and staff in accordance with the Discriminatory Harassment Policy.

**Campus Ministry**  
McElroy Hall 215  
617–552–3475  
The staff in the Campus Ministry is available to help students with private (but not confidential) pastoral counseling and spiritual direction. Some members of the staff reside in the residence halls. A resident minister is also available 24 hours a day by contacting BCPD at 617–552–4444.

**Campus Ministry SANet Liaisons:**  
Rick Rossi (617–552–6592, richard.rossi@bc.edu)  
Maura Colleary (617–552–3170, maura.colleary@bc.edu)
University Health Services
Cushing Clinic: 617–552–2225 (9–5, M–F), Cushing Primary Care: 617–552–3227 (24 hours a day during academic year)
Medical personnel are available on campus 24 hours a day. In addition, the University has developed a relationship with Beth Israel Hospital and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, both in Boston, for the treatment of sexual assault and rape survivors. The Primary Care Center in Cushing Hall is also available 24 hours a day to provide a safe haven or a meeting place for students to access campus support services. Medical personnel are available 24 hours a day
Basic medical treatment | STI/STD testing and treatment
Please know that emergency contraception and evidence collection are not available.

University Counseling Services
Gasson 001
617–552–3310 (during normal business hours)
University Counseling Services (UCS) is available 24 hours a day to assist students affected by sexual harassment, misconduct, or assault. UCS is available during normal business hours at 617–552–3310. During nights, weekends, and holidays, a University psychologist is available on call by contacting either Boston College Health Services (617–552–2225) or the Boston College Police (617–552–4444). UCS SANet liaisons: Julie AhnAllen julie.ahnallen@bc.edu and Johanna Malaga (johanna.malaga@bc.edu); (617–552–3310)

Administrator On-Call
Available through SANet (617–552–2211) or BCPD (617–552–4444)
The Administrator On-Call is able to assist with immediate University concerns, such as the issuance of No Contact Orders.

Office of the Dean of Students
617–552–3470
Maloney Hall 448
Offers information about the internal student conduct system as well as guidance, support, information, and referrals.

University Counseling Services
Gasson 001
617–552–3310 (day) | 617–552–3227 (nights and weekends)
Professional and confidential counseling is available, including a 24-hour on-call psychological clinician. Counseling is available to survivors and friends of survivors.

Women’s Center
Maloney Hall 441 (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
617–552–3489
www.bc.edu/wc
The Women’s Center is open to all students, faculty, and staff and offers a comfortable atmosphere to seek information about partner violence, sexual assault, etc. The Women’s Center offers individual peer support or group support through HEAL.

HEAL Survivor Support Group
Rachel DiBella
617–552–2735
HEAL (Hope, Empower, Accept, Listen) is a closed, confidential weekly support group for survivors of sexual assault. The group is run by a trauma specialist and opens to new participants at the beginning of each semester.

**Off-Campus Resources**

**Evidence Collection and Medical Treatment**

- **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)** are specially trained nurses who provide immediate, compassionate, and comprehensive medical-legal evaluation and treatment.
  - Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center: 617–754–2323
  - Brigham and Women’s Hospital ER: 617–732–5636

**Counseling and Support**

- **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center 24–hour hotline** 800–841–8371 | www.barcc.org
  “Dedicated to healing. Advocating for change.”
  The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) is the only rape crisis center in the Greater Boston area.

- **Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program at Newton-Wellesley Hospital | 617-643-6521**
  Provides Crisis intervention, Safety planning, Individual counseling and advocacy, referral to community resources (legal, housing, shelter, immigration, etc.), and compassionate, survivor-focused medical care and evidence collection services.

- **Fenway Community Health Violence Recovery Program** 617–927–6250 | www.fenwayhealth.org
  Provides counseling, support groups, advocacy, and referral services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) victims of sexual violence, bias crime, domestic violence, and police misconduct.

**Domestic Violence Support and Advocacy**

- **Jane Doe, Inc. | http://www.janedoe.org/**
  Comprehensive list of all sexual assault and partner violence resources in Massachusetts, including those for special populations.

- **REACH Beyond Domestic Violence 24-hour hotline** 800–899–4000 | www.reachma.org
  Committed to advancing the safety, healing, and empowerment of those who experience domestic or relationship violence.

- **The Network La Red (partner abuse hotline)** 617–742–4911 | www.thenetworklared.org
  Provides support regarding partner abuse in LGBTQ relationships.

- **GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project 24-hour hotline** 800–832–1901 | www.glbtqdvp.org
  Provides crisis intervention, support, and resources to victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
Reporting and Legal Support

- **Greater Boston Legal Services**
  617–371–1234 | www.gbls.org/
  Free legal services for domestic violence cases.

- **Victim Rights Law Center**
  617–399–6720 | www.victimrights.org/
  Free legal representation for sexual assault survivors in criminal, civil, and school-based hearings.

- **Boston Police Domestic Violence Unit**

- **Newton Police Department**
  617–796–2100 or
  Domestic Violence Officer
  617–796–2161 | http://www.newtonpolice.com/COMMUNITY_SERVICE.htm

Government Resources

- Website for the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault:
  www.notalone.gov.

**How to Help a Friend Affected by Sexual Violence**

**Believe What You Hear**
Remember that survivors of sexual violence often worry that sharing what has happened to them will lead others to abandon, reject, or even retaliate against them. Being able to show you care could be the reason that your friend feels safe continuing to utilize support.

**Don't Judge**
For students who have been sexually assaulted on college campuses, feeling judged and having their privacy violated by trusted peers, friends, and roommates can feel as traumatizing as the assault itself. To best help your friend, discuss your discomfort or concerns later with a trusted private resource like SANet, not in the moment.

**Remember Your Role**
While we might feel an instinct to gather details of the incident first, the best way to support a friend after an assault is often to affirm what they tell you. Ask whether your friend feels safe now, what they feel would be most helpful now, and whether they are interested in expanding their support system.

**Offer to Connect**
If and when your friend feels like the time is right to reach out for more support (i.e., academic, housing accommodations, conduct process), you can offer to connect them to SANet or a trusted professional on campus. Remember that there are many trusted resources on and off campus that they and their support system can utilize.
Seek Support
This is a very important part of helping a friend through the healing process. Throughout your conversations with

References: NIJ, 2002; Lisak et al., 2007; OVW, 2011

Action Steps for Responding to Disclosures from Friends

1. Thank your friend for coming to you, and tell them “I’m listening.” Mirror the language they use to avoid labeling their experience.

2. If you are acting in a staff role on campus in the moment, tell them as soon as possible what your reporting obligations are: “As a staff member here, I am required to report what you share with me to ______. I can also help connect you to resources that may follow up if you’re open to that.”

3. Ask your friend whether they feel safe now. Do they need immediate medical attention and can they access it (at Health Services or Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center)?

4. Ask open-ended questions beginning with, “If you feel comfortable sharing...” in order to learn more about what happened. If you begin to ask “Why...?” don’t ask.

5. Although you might be eager to get a better sense of what happened leading up to or during the assault, avoid asking for invasive details about it. These are most likely not necessary to support your friend now.

6. Avoid being directive, and instead be empowering by asking, "What can I do right now to be helpful?" or “What do you need in this moment?”

7. Check in with yourself throughout the disclosure: Are you struggling with bias and discomfort or feeling triggered? Can you take a deep breath and continue?

8. Remind your friend that there is no obligation to do anything now, and that their options are just that—optional.

9. Offer to connect the student with SANet when they are ready. SANet can arrange for transport to the hospital—especially if within 5 days of the assault.

10. Consider getting support from a counselor, therapist, SANet, or a trusted professional who can help you cope while also protecting your friend’s privacy.

References: NIJ, 2002; Lisak et al., 2007; OVW, 2011
Myths and Realities about Sexual Assault

**MYTH:** It could never happen to me.

**REALITY:** Any person of any age, gender, race, class, physical ability, occupation, sexual orientation, or physical appearance can be sexually assaulted.

**MYTH:** Sexual assault is only committed in dark alleys by strangers.

**REALITY:** 76% of sexual assaults reported by college women are perpetrated by someone known to the survivor. The most common locations are within residence halls on campuses. The perpetrators may range from classmates to neighbors. Students of all genders are primarily assaulted by acquaintances.

**MYTH:** Women give mixed messages because they do not want to admit that they do not want to have sex.

**REALITY:** Rape is a crime for which the perpetrator holds responsibility. Rape is rape regardless of the relationship between two people and regardless of the behavior of the survivor prior to or during the assault.

**MYTH:** Only women are sexually assaulted and only men perpetrate it.

**REALITY:** While victims who report sexual assaults identify as women in the vast majority of cases, and while it is believed that perpetrators are men in 90% of cases on college campuses, it is important to note that only a small percentage of men (about 6%) ever commit sexual violence, and those who do often commit assaults against an average of six people. (Lisak et al., 2007)

**MYTH:** Someone who was drinking or drunk when sexually assaulted is at least partially to blame.

**REALITY:** Sexual assault survivors are never responsible for the attack, no matter what, no matter how much alcohol they consumed. Based on research conducted on perpetrator behavior, it is believed that many perpetrators of sexual assault on college campuses strategically use alcohol to incapacitate their targets. Responsibility lies with the perpetrator and the survivor is never responsible for the assailant’s behavior. Substance use may increase the vulnerability to sexual assault, and may make someone incapable of giving consent or protecting themselves, but it is never the cause of an assault. (National Institute of Justice, 2008)

**MYTH:** It is not sexual violence if the couple is dating.

**REALITY:** Unwanted sexual activity in any relationship qualifies as sexual violence.

**MYTH:** If the victim did not fight or try to run away, or there was no weapon or injuries sustained, rape did not occur.

**REALITY:** Threats of violence are a weapon, and a woman may not resist vigorously for fear of injury or death.
Know that there are people who care about you and what you have endured. Believe in yourself and know that it is not your fault. Take comfort in the resources available and people who want to help.

You Are Not Alone is sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs. www.bc.edu/sar