



SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ON CAMPUS: RESPONDING TO STUDENTS A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

As a Boston College faculty or staff member, you may be in a unique position to assist students who have experienced sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or other forms of sexual misconduct. Students typically confide in individuals they trust. If a student discloses information to you relating to some form of sexual misconduct, please use the following information as a guide in responding to this disclosure.

WHAT IS SEXUAL MISCONDUCT?

University policy prohibits a broad range of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, and intimate partner violence. 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, and it can occur between people of the same or different gender, regardless of sexual orientation.

For the definition of consent and other terms related to sexual misconduct, please see the complete Student Sexual Misconduct Policy by visiting, bc.edu/sar.

WHAT IS TITLE IX?

Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in the educational programs and activities of institutions that receive federal funding. Sexual harassment under Title IX is addressed in the University's Title IX Harassment Policy at <https://www.bc.edu/content/dam/bc1/sites/policies/Title-IX-Harassment-Policy.pdf> which applies to all students, faculty, and staff.

If a student discloses sexual misconduct to you:

Step 1: Care for the student

- Ensure the student is safe
- Listen and avoid questions that could be interpreted as being judgmental —don't ask any question that starts with "why"
- Inform the student of your duty to report

Step 2: Connect the student with resources

(see reverse side)

Step 3: Contact the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator

Melinda Stoops
Associate Vice President for
Student Health and Wellness
Phone: (617) 552-3482
E-mail: melinda.stoops@bc.edu

What do I say?

Sexual misconduct can be a difficult topic to discuss, particularly given your reporting responsibilities. Below is a suggestion for how you might respond to a student's disclosure:

"I appreciate what you have been able to share with me. Before you tell me more, I want to let you know that I will need to contact Melinda Stoops, the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator. She is the one person on campus whose responsibility it is to know about incidents of sexual assault **involving students** and she helps support students and coordinate possible next steps."



Boston College Resources and Response

BOSTON COLLEGE SEXUAL ASSAULT NETWORK HOTLINE (SANet): (617) 552-2211

- 24/7 confidential hotline* for anyone affected by sexual violence (even if the caller is not a survivor)
- Staffed by trusted and trained advocates
- Callers have the option to remain anonymous

* No information disclosed to SANet is shared without the expressed permission of the caller.

Advocates assist callers with:

- Understanding all options available to survivors or friends of survivors, including accompaniment through this often difficult journey
- Seeking professional support (on and off campus)
- Pursuing medical evaluation and treatment (on and off campus)
- Evidence collection
- Reporting internally or through the police department

CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT RESOURCES

SANet CARE Team

Maloney Hall 441 | (617) 552-8099

e-mail: sanet@bc.edu | bc.edu/sanet

Confidential resource that advocates for survivors.

- Provides all available options/next steps to survivors or friends of survivors.
- Accompanies survivors on their healing journeys.

Confidential Resource Provider

Claire Johnson Allen, LICSW, Associated Director, Women's Center
(617) 552-3489

Available as a resource to provide the following types of information to students:

- reporting options and the effects of these options;
- available counseling services;
- available medical and health services;
- supportive measures;
- the student conduct process;
- the legal process.

University Counseling Services

Gasson 001 | (617) 552-3310

- Provides professional and confidential counseling; clinicians on-call for emergencies 24 hours a day.
- Counseling available for survivors and other affected members of the community including a group dedicated to survivors of sexual assault.

University Health Services

2150 Commonwealth Avenue (St. Thomas More Road Entrance) | (617) 552-3225

- Open 24 hours a day for patient care and for urgent evaluations during the academic year, with the exception of winter break.
- Outpatient services are available Monday-Friday throughout the year, with the exception of the week of 12/23/24-12/27/24.

Mission and Ministry

bc.edu/pastoralcounseling

Rick Rossi: (617) 552-6592 (Confidential)

- A licensed social worker, Rick provides professional and confidential pastoral counseling to students and other affected members of the BC community.

STUDENT REPORTING OPTIONS

Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator

Melinda Stoops, Associate Vice President for Student Health and Wellness

(617) 552-3482

- Oversees the University's response to sexual misconduct reports involving students.
- Provides students with information about resources and reporting options.

Office of the Dean of Students

Melissa Woolsey, Associate Dean, Student Conduct
(617) 552-3470

- Offers information to students about options through the internal conduct system as well as information about resources and support.
- Provides students with details for stay-away orders and other immediate concerns.

Boston College Police

(617) 552-4444 (emergency); (617) 552-4440 (non-emergency)

- Can provide assistance in pursuing legal action or connecting the student with proper resources both on and off campus.
- Can aid students in making contact with the Administrator on Call and Psychological Emergency Clinician outside of normal business hours.
- Can provide transportation to local hospitals for related medical services with no requirement to file a police report.
- Reports will be taken by trained officers and, if an investigation occurs it will be conducted by specially trained investigators. This may involve questions about the assault, the assailant(s), location, and if there were witnesses.

