Welcome to UW–Madison!

We are thrilled that you and your student are joining us on this dynamic campus for an incredible educational and life-changing experience. The transition to college is an important time for students and their families, and we want to provide you with information about how UW–Madison addresses sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and stalking.

Please use this resource guide as a tool to equip your student as they prepare to attend UW–Madison. With your student entering college, your role and relationship will change. This may be a great time to begin or continue conversations about consent, sexual assault, and dating violence. We understand that these are challenging topics, and each family has unique personal values that reflect what is important to them. We also understand that these issues may be incredibly difficult not only for students, but also for parents and families. UW–Madison is committed to creating a safe space for working and learning, and hopes to engage parents as part of that process.

It is common for parents of survivors to experience their own feelings of anger, shock, shame, or denial. Support is available for you, too.

UW–Madison prohibits the offenses of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking. These crimes will not be tolerated on campus and are a violation of Wisconsin law as well as the student code of conduct. UW–Madison uses comprehensive strategies, policies, and programs to address sexual assault and dating violence, including: preventing violence before it happens, providing support and options to victims, responding to reports, and ensuring that campus policies foster an equitable campus climate conducive to learning that does not tolerate these crimes.

We take the safety of your student and the UW–Madison community seriously.

If you have questions or concerns, we encourage you to contact one of us. UW–Madison dedicates staff and resources to focus on sexual violence prevention, victim support, investigation, and policy development.

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Definitions and Prevalence ............................................. 4
Starting the Conversation.............................................. 6
Preventing Violence Before it Happens ............................. 9
Victim Support ............................................................. 10
Confidential Support Services: On Campus ..................... 12
Confidential Support Services: Off Campus .................... 13
Reporting Options ......................................................... 14
Campus Policies ........................................................... 15
Defining Sexual Violence

The power and control wheel describes the complex interface of coercive control exercised by one intimate partner over another. To see a power and control wheel specific to college students, see uhs.wisc.edu/assault/documents/powerwheel.pdf.

PREVALENCE

National research indicates that an estimated 19–25% of women and approximately 6% of men have experienced sexual assault during their college careers. Results from the spring 2015 National College Health Assessment survey at UW-Madison indicated as many as 10.9% of students experienced sexual assault, as many as 7.4% experienced dating or domestic violence, and 2.3% experienced stalking.

Sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating/domestic violence, and stalking affects all genders and sexual orientations.

Consent is the presence of a free and clearly given yes, not the absence of a no. It’s the job of the person pursuing sexual activity to get consent. Students who are incapacitated from alcohol and/or other drugs cannot give consent. To learn more, see Wisconsin State Statutes: 940.225(4).

Dating and/or domestic violence, also commonly referred to as intimate partner violence, is an ongoing pattern of power and control used by one intimate partner over another, such as verbal, physical, and/or sexual violence. It does not have to be physical to be abuse. To learn more, see Wisconsin State Statutes: 968.075.

Sexual assault is any sexual contact without consent. This can include groping someone without their permission. It can include sexual touching or fondling without consent as well as rape, which is the penetration of the mouth, anus, or vagina with fingers, a penis, or an object without consent. To learn more, see Wisconsin State Statutes: 940.225.

Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome requests for sexual favors, unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature, or unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Differences in power or status (such as a therapist/client, supervisor/supervisee, or TA/student) can be a significant component in sexual harassment. The Office for Equity and Diversity/Title IX Coordinator manages allegations of sexual harassment at UW-Madison. oed.wisc.edu. To learn more, see Wisconsin State Statutes: 111.32(13).

Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person under the same circumstances to suffer serious emotional distress or to fear bodily injury or death. To learn more, see Wisconsin State Statutes: 940.32.
Starting the Conversation

THINGS YOU CAN SAY

Though these topics may be difficult, the conversations do not have to be. We have provided a few tips for ways you can start or continue conversations with your student about the realities of sexual violence as they prepare to attend UW–Madison.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Look for opportunities to weave topics of sex, gender, dating, and communication into everyday interactions. Open the door for conversations early, often, and casually. Rather than attempt lengthy conversations, ask simple, open-ended questions and listen without judgment. Find opportunities to ask them what they think about a TV show, news story, or blog post. Encourage them to explore what they want out of their social life or dating experiences in college. You don’t have to be an expert!

EXPLORE RED FLAGS

Encourage your student to think about the red flags for sexual assault and dating violence. They may be in a position to safely intervene in a potentially harmful situation. Red flags can include someone who does not respect boundaries, who is sexually aggressive, or who is jealous and controlling in dating relationships. Your student has likely seen many red flags already; what will their plan be for noticing and interrupting them when they see those behaviors on campus? Reinforce that they are going to a world-class institution that expects them to look out for their peers.

Let me be clear: Sexual assault is a crime and will not be tolerated in our campus community. When sexual violence occurs at UW [Madison], we work hard to encourage a climate where survivors feel comfortable coming forward to report it and know that they’ll have access to emotional and physical support services. We have a caring and trained staff and have in place clear procedures to investigate and adjudicate these cases, while also being respectful of the wishes of the survivor with regard to confidentiality and privacy. We will support survivors whether or not they choose to report the crime to law enforcement.

— Rebecca Blank, UW–Madison Chancellor, July 2014
Be Part of the Solution

Tips for Promoting Prevention

Try...  Instead of...
Talk to your student about respect and communication.
• Communication is an important part of sex and dating.
• No one has the right to cross your boundaries or push you further than you want. This is something you can always talk to me about.

Ask your student about their plans to be active bystanders.

Try...
• Watch out for others. Alcohol and partying is never an excuse for inappropriate or hurtful behavior.

• What did you think about the Tonight program?
• What do you think would be realistic ways for you to intervene if you saw something that was a red flag for sexual assault?

Instead of...
• Sex and dating are filled with mixed signals and messages.

• Rape and dating violence are personal issues. Don’t get involved.

Talk to your student about how they would help.

Try...
• How would you respond if your friend or roommate was being stalked or was in an abusive relationship?

Instead of...
• Don’t let what happened to your friend/roommate happen to you.

— Rebecca Blank, UW–Madison Chancellor, July 2014

Preventing Violence Before it Happens

UW–Madison takes sexual violence very seriously and understands that parents and new students do as well. UW–Madison works to prevent violence through a series of innovative and empowering strategies that build upon the realities, skills, and values of being a Badger.

Primary sexual violence prevention education commonly addresses attitudes about sexual assault, the impact of gender roles, healthy relationships, consent, conflict resolution, respecting personal boundaries, and skill building for these topics (CDC, 2004).

Preventing sexual assault and dating violence requires everyone’s commitment. Even if your student is not in a dating relationship or sexually active, they may encounter situations that require them to speak up, intervene, or support a friend who needs help. The concept of empowering individuals who are not necessarily at risk for victimization or perpetration to be part of the solution is known as bystander intervention. Bystander intervention rests upon the assumption that all members of a community can help to prevent violence, not just potential victims or perpetrators.

TONIGHT PROGRAM
UW–Madison expects all first-year undergraduate students to complete the Tonight program as part of their entry to campus. The program focuses on consent, options for victims, campus policies, how to intervene in harmful behaviors, and improving campus climate. Our expectation for Badgers is that they engage in healthy, mutually respectful relationships. Students who do not complete the program will be unable to register for the classes the following semester.

For students enrolling summer or fall 2015: The Tonight program will be available for completion in your student’s Learn@UW account after July 13, 2015. The deadline for completion is Friday, September 18, 2015. Students who do not complete the program will not be able to register for spring 2016 courses.

For more information: uhs.wisc.edu/tonight tonight@uhs.wisc.edu

ENGAGING AND SUPPORTING MEN
UW–Madison offers several prevention programs with and for men who want to learn more about healthier expressions of masculinity and respect, an internationally-recommended strategy for promoting health and reducing sexual violence. Support is available for male victims, too.

Bystander Intervention
UW–Madison offers ongoing training and education for students long after they have taken the Tonight program. Encourage your student to talk with a student organization, house fellow, and classmates about the problem of sexual assault and dating violence on campus. There are many clubs, resources, workshops, and events that equip students with the skills they need to change social norms, understand campus policies, and refer survivors to services.
No parent wants to think about the possibility of their student being the victim of sexual assault or dating violence. We hope this guide can help you in the instance your student would turn to you for help, either for themselves or for a friend. It is common for college student victims to reach out to people they trust, like friends and family, after experiencing victimization. A validating, trustworthy support system is often the most important determinant in how a student heals from trauma, pursues their educational opportunities, and regains a sense of equilibrium. Your love, words, and actions make all the difference.

It starts by listening, supporting, and referring.

THINGS YOU CAN SAY: SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENT

Listen with patience and without judgement. Allow your student to share as much or as little as they want to, understanding that there may be parts that they may not feel comfortable sharing with you. Thank them for trusting you and continue to reaffirm that, even from far away, you are there for them. Being empathetic and listening may be the most important things you can do. Some students have already experienced victimization before coming to college and may only feel comfortable telling their families after they have come to campus.

Support your student in whatever they decide to do. It is a sign of trust for them to tell you. Sexual violence is about having power taken away. Allowing the survivor to decide how they proceed after an assault or leaving an abusive partner is how they regain control over their own body and psyche. You can offer to serve as a support person to accompany your student to any related meetings or appointments following sexual violence incidents, or help them find a victim advocate from campus or the greater Madison area. Focus on their options, not your opinions.

Refer them to places that can assist them. Know that UW-Madison and the greater Madison area has a wide variety of reporting and confidential support options available to your student.

Refer

Try…
- Have you thought about getting a STI test or a forensic exam?
- What do you think will make you feel most supported?
- Do you want help talking to your professors?

Instead of…
- Why aren’t you going to class?
- I don’t know what to tell you. You’ll have to figure out how to get out of this mess on your own.

In the long-run, you may want to follow up with your student. Don’t avoid talking about it. Make sure you recognize that your student is a whole person with many elements to their developing identity. It is common for survivors to continue to experience trauma symptoms for months and years after their experiences. Remind your student that they can get help at any time—even if the incident(s) happened months or years ago.
Confidential Support Services

There are offices on campus and in the community where students can go for confidential support. Services provided by these offices will not result in a report to campus or law enforcement for students aged 18 and older, except as required by law. For a more complete listing of resources and options available to survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking, see [evoc.wisc.edu](http://evoc.wisc.edu).

**On campus**

**UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES**

**333 EAST CAMPUS MALL**

608-265-5600 (24 HOURS)

**UHS Victim Advocacy**

UHS provides no-cost confidential victim advocacy for student victims of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking, including supportive counseling, case management, support groups, assistance in coordinating/requesting services, and accommodations. Email or call for an appointment.

608-265-1483 (business hours only; not a 24-hour service)

8th floor

evoc@uhs.wisc.edu

evoc.wisc.edu

**UHS Mental Health**

Mental health support including individual counseling, group counseling, 24-hour mental health crisis support, and psychiatric services. First-time appointments can be made by calling or dropping in at the reception desk.

7th floor

uhs.wisc.edu/services/counseling

**UHS Medical Care**

Medical services including treatment of injuries, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing, HIV testing, wellness services, and screening and treatment for other STIs. UHS does NOT complete toxicology tests or forensic medical exams. Appointments can be made over the phone or through the MyUHS portal: https://myuhs.uhs.wisc.edu

5th and 6th floors

uhs.wisc.edu/services/medical

**Off campus**

**Rape Crisis Center (RCC)**

RCC provides free victim advocacy for victims of sexual assault including a 24-hour help line, counseling, youth program, support groups, medical and legal advocacy, self-defense program, and an office located on the UW–Madison campus.

608-251-RAPE (7273) (24 hours)

2801 Coho Street #301

or 333 East Campus Mall

7th floor

info@danecountyrcc.org

danecountyrcc.org

**Meriter Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)**

SANE provides 24-hour medical and forensic examination for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence. Nurses will examine for injuries, collect evidence, and offer medications to prevent STIs and/or pregnancy. Evidence can be collected within 5 days of an assault. There is no requirement to report to law enforcement.

608-417-5916 (24 hours)

Meriter Hospital

202 South Park Street

Emergency Room entrance

meriter.com/sane

Just like you support your student, support is available for you, too.

Some parents and guardians find it helpful to receive their own support and consultation so that they can better support their student. It is common for parents of survivors to have questions, concerns, and experience their own feelings of anger, shock, shame, or denial. Many offices on campus, including the Parent Program, University Health Services, the Dean of Students Office, and University Housing, can provide you with information about campus policies and services.

It is important for you to know that many campus offices are not able to discuss a student’s specific situation or any contact we may have with them without the explicit, written permission of that student.

**Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS)**

DAIS provides free victim advocacy for victims of intimate partner violence including a 24-hour help line, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, a children’s program, crisis response, support groups, and assistance in fostering pets.

608-251-4445 (24 hours)

2102 Fordem Avenue

info@abuseintervention.org

abuseintervention.org
Reporting

As a parent, you may have questions about campus policies, procedures, and reporting options. A complete and detailed listing of campus crime data, policies, and other information regarding campus safety can be found in UW–Madison’s Annual Security and Fire Safety Report. To read the report, please see [safeu.wisc.edu](http://safeu.wisc.edu).

**REPORTING**

UW–Madison encourages student victims to make the best decisions for themselves, which may include reporting. Students have the option to report to a campus office, a law enforcement agency, both, or neither. All reports will be taken seriously, and investigated thoroughly, promptly, and fairly. Sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking are forms of gender discrimination and violations of Title IX, state law, and the UW System Administrative Code. Victims of these crimes are entitled to accommodations, safety measures, and access to information.

**To report a UW–Madison office**

**DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE (DoSO)**

DoSO is designated to receive and investigate allegations of student misconduct. Upon receiving a report, DoSO will also ensure that victims are provided with assistance and referrals. DoSO can also provide information and assistance to students who are being investigated for allegations of misconduct. Investigations conducted by DoSO can result in non-academic sanctions for students found responsible of violating the student code of conduct, including expulsion. DoSO works closely with the campus Title IX Coordinator; students do not need to file a report to both offices.

- **608-263-5700**
- 70 Bascomb Hall
- dean@studentlife.wisc.edu
- students.wisc.edu/doso

**OFFICE FOR EQUITY AND DIVERSITY (OED)/TITLE IX COORDINATOR**

OED receives and investigates Title IX complaints/reports, which includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sex discrimination. OED works closely with the Dean of Students Office; students do not need to file a report to both offices. OED is designated to investigate allegations, discrimination, and misconduct by employees, and provide oversight of UW–Madison’s compliance with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

- **Title IX Coordinator**
- 608-263-2378
- 179-A Bascomb Hall
- oed.wisc.edu

**To file a criminal report**

**UW–MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT (UWPD)**

UWPD is a full-service, 24-hour agency with more than 70 sworn officer positions with the power and authority to make an arrest. Criminal reports are best filed in the jurisdiction in which incident(s) occurred; UWPD will work with students to identify other law enforcement agencies when appropriate.

- **(608) 264-2677 or 911**
- Non-Emergency: 608-264-COPS
- 1429 Monroe Street
- uwpd.wisc.edu

**MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD)**

- **911**
- 608-255-2345 (non-emergency)
- 211 S. Carroll Street
- cityofmadison.com/police

**Campus Policies**

**UWS Chapter 17: Nonacademic Misconduct Policy**

The University of Wisconsin System Chapter 17 is the state administrative code that outlines the student disciplinary process for investigations of all allegations of student misconduct. In addition, UW–Madison has additional policies regarding investigations of sexual violence. In accordance with Title IX, upon being put on notice or receiving a report of sexual violence, UW–Madison will act promptly to investigate, provide safety accommodations for the victim, and address any concerns for a hostile environment.

**Alcohol and Responsible Action Guidelines**

UW–Madison is committed to addressing common barriers to reporting sexual assault and ensuring the safety of its students. The UW–Madison Responsible Action Guidelines ensure that students who have been drinking—even under age drinking—at the time of a crime such as sexual assault, will be helped and supported rather than penalized. For more information, see [students.wisc.edu/alcoholinfo/resp_action_guide.html](http://students.wisc.edu/alcoholinfo/resp_action_guide.html).

**Choosing NOT to report**

If a student absolutely knows they do NOT want to report for any reason, they may want to explore the offices and services clearly designated as confidential. University employees who are not specifically designated as confidential, including house fellows, may have obligations to report disclosures of sexual violence made to them to the campus Title IX coordinator and/or designee, who may investigate the report. More information about confidential and reporting options — both on campus and off campus — can be found at [evoc.wisc.edu](http://evoc.wisc.edu).

“Victims of Crime — In those cases where a student has been a victim of sexual assault and/or a violent crime while under the influence of alcohol, neither the Dean of Students, University Housing, nor UW– Madison Police will pursue disciplinary actions against the student victim (or against a witness) for his or her improper use of alcohol (e.g., underage drinking). A student victim who is under the influence of alcohol at the time of a sexual assault is entitled to university and community assistance and encouraged to seek help.”

— Responsible action guidelines

This document provides a summary of services available to students and university policies. A complete and detailed listing of each of these services and policies can be found in the most recent UW–Madison Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, at safeu.wisc.edu.