



Sexual Offenses, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Policy

IMPORTANT NOTICE: In compliance with the U.S. Department of Education's Title IX Final Rule, effective August 14, 2020, Seattle University implemented a new ~~(.)~~-2019 web page

 for additional information.

Seattle University affirms respect, responsibility, and care between all persons. Conduct constituting domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or a sexual offense whether forcible or non-forcible such as non-consensual sexual intercourse, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual exploitation or sexual assault, will not be tolerated. Behavior of this nature is inconsistent with Seattle University values, and is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct and this Sexual Offenses, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Policy ("Policy"). Students committing a sexual offense in any form can be prosecuted under the Washington State Criminal Code (RCW 9A) and/or disciplined under the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Definitions

"Sexual offense" is a broad term that encompasses a range of behaviors including sexual assault, as well as other forms of misconduct or violence of a sexual nature, including, without limitation, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. A sexual offense 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. A sexual offense can be committed by persons of any sex, sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression.

"Dating Violence" is violence committed by a person (a) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (b) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) the length of the relationship; (ii) the type of relationship; and (iii) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

"Domestic Violence" is violence committed (a) by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; (b) by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; (c) by a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; (d) by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred; or (e) by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or



family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.

“Stalking” is engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to (a) fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or (b) suffer substantial emotional distress.

“Sexual Assault” is any sexual penetration or sexual contact with another individual without consent.



What Are Possible Interim Actions And Measures?

Appropriate interim actions and measures are determined on a case-by-case basis, and may



Dr. Elizabeth Trayner
Assistant Vice President for Institutional Equity
Title IX Coordinator, and ADA/504 Coordinator
(206)220-8515
etrayner@seattleu.edu

Overview of the Student Conduct Process for Sexual Offenses, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking



As part of the investigation, the Investigator will provide an opportunity for all parties to present written statements, identify witnesses and submit evidence. Prior to the conclusion of the investigation, the Complainant and Respondent will be given the opportunity to respond to a summary of the information developed through the investigation.

b. Standard of Proof

The determination as to whether the Respondent is responsible for violating the Policy will be made using the preponderance of the evidence standard. This standard requires that the information supporting a determination of responsibility be more convincing than the information in opposition to it. Under this standard, determinations of responsibility are based upon what is more likely than not to have occurred.

c. Investigation Findings and Outcome Notification

At the conclusion of an investigation, the Investigator will submit a written investigation report, including a summary of the investigation, the Investigator's findings of fact, and a summary of the Investigator's rationale in support of the findings of fact, to the Dean of Students or designee, and Assistant Vice President for Institutional Equity or designee. Upon the approval of the investigation report and findings of fact, the Dean of Students or designee, in consultation with appropriate University officials, will determine responsibility for violations of the Policy and the appropriate sanctions if there is a determination of responsibility. Both parties will be notified in writing of the outcome of the investigation, any sanctions and how to file an appeal.

d. Time Frame

The University will resolve all complaints and reports under the Policy in a prompt manner, endeavoring to do so within one hundred twenty (120) business days of the initial report.

Extenuating circumstances may arise that require an extension beyond 120 business days. Extenuating circumstances may include, but are not limited to, the complexity and scope of the allegations and investigation, the number of witnesses involved, the availability of the parties or witnesses, the effect of a current criminal investigation, any intervening University break or holiday, or other unforeseen circumstances.

In the event that the process departs the 120-business day time frame, the University will notify the Complainant and Respondent of the reason(s) for the departure and the expected adjustment in the time frame.



e. Coordination with Law Enforcement

The University's conduct process and the legal system work independently from one another. The University will proceed with responding to and investigating complaints under the Policy regardless of action or inaction by law enforcement agencies. If a law enforcement agency initiates an investigation, the University may temporarily delay its investigation and conduct process at the request of the agency in order to facilitate its initial evidence gathering. In the event that there is a delay in the investigation and conduct process, the University will notify the Complainant and Respondent.

Decisions made or sanctions imposed under the Policy and Grievance Procedures are not subject to change because of the outcome of any criminal or civil case arising from the same conduct.

f. Advisors

The Complainant and Respondent are both permitted to be accompanied by one advisor of their choice at any meeting during the investigation and conduct process. The advisor may not actively participate in the investigation or conduct process. The advisor may not submit



the outcome of the appeal to both parties simultaneously in writing within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of submission of all appeal documents by both parties. Extenuating circumstances may arise that require an extension beyond 15 days. In the event that the process departs this time frame, the Appeal Officer will notify both parties of the reason(s) for the departure and the expected adjustment in the time frame.

What other actions will the University take to prevent sexual offenses, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking?

The University will have education programs for incoming students and new employees plus ongoing campaigns for student and faculty designed to promote awareness and prevention of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual offenses and stalking. Those programs will provide information about the following: the University's prohibition of sexual offenses, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking; how to file criminal complaints; relevant definitions used in the criminal process, including the definition of consent; safe and positive options for bystander intervention whenever there is a risk that a sexual offense, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking will occur; risk reduction and strategies to avoid potential attacks; and warning signs of abusive behavior.

The University will also provide information about the following: disciplinary procedures and sanctions, including protective measures it may impose; procedures for survivors to follow; how the University will protect a survivor's confidentiality including when a crime might be reported if a victim is unwilling or unable to make a report; services available both on and off campus for survivors; and options and assistance in providing accommodations to survivors, regardless of whether a report is filed with campus or local law enforcement.

Resources for Survivors and Students Accused

On-Campus Resources

[Seattle University Department of Public Safety](#)

1313 E. Columbia St. (Columbia Building)
Lower Level (Room 002)
Seattle, WA 98122
206-296-



staff available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to provide resource information (on and off-campus), reporting options available both through the University Conduct System and local law enforcement, medical care options, basic safety planning and information on current civil orders for protection.

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)

Student Center Pavilion 120

206-296-6090

Office Hours (By Appointment)

Mon. - Fri. 8am - 12pm & 1pm - 3pm

CAPS counselors provide supportive counseling and consultation for individuals coping with the impact of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and relationship violence, as well as students experiencing social misconduct.



Wellness and Health Promotion provides sexual misconduct prevention education on campus and staff members are familiar with information and resources. Additionally, the office is home to certified peer health educators known as the Health and Wellness Crew (HAWC) who serve as a great resource for a student looking to speak with another student about a sexual misconduct.

[Campus Ministry](#)

Student Center 120

206-296-6075

Campus Ministry is a place where students can confidentially talk to a priest, member of the clergy, or campus minister who is serving as a pastoral counselor. **People of all faith traditions and spiritual practices are welcome.**

[Office of the Dean of Students: Integrity Formation](#)

Student Center 320

206-296-6060

Integrity Formation, located in the Office of the Dean of Students, manages alleged violations of the Redhawk Commitment and Code of Student Conduct. Students who become aware of a sexual offense, incident of dating violence or domestic violence, or stalking, or may have been involved in a sexual offense, incident of dating violence or domestic violence, or stalking can come to this office to receive information about the campus student conduct process as well as immediate resources such as course changes, no-contact orders, or housing relocation.

[Housing and Residence Life](#)

Campion 100

206-296-6305

Housing and Residence Life offers 24-hour/day assistance to students. Area Coordinators and Assistant Area Coordinators are available during posted office hours as well as serving in an on-call capacity outside of the University's normal hours of operation.



[Harborview Center for Sexual Assault & Traumatic Stress](#)

401 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 744-1600

The Center for Sexual Assault & Traumatic Stress provides the highest quality, evidenced based services to help persons impacted by sexual assault and other traumatic events. In addition to direct services, the Center also provides education and consultation for health, mental health, and legal professionals; conducts research and evaluation; promotes prevention and works with communities to promote social change.

Local Emergency Rooms

[Swedish Medical Center-Cherry Hill](#)

500 17th Avenue (between Cherry and Jefferson)
(206) 320-2000

[Swedish Medical Center-First Hill](#)

700 Minor Ave (between Cherry and Marion)
(206) 386-6000

[Harborview Medical Center](#)

325 9th Avenue (at Jefferson)
(206) 744-300

Hotlines

[King County Sexual Assault Resource Center](#)

1-888-99-VOICE (24 hr.)

KCSARC is a victim-advocacy organization that provides critical support, tools, and direct services to children, teens, women and men who are victims of sexual assault. KCSARC works with clients of all ages and from all backgrounds.

[National Sexual Assault Hotline](#)

1-800-656-HOPE (24 hr.)



[Online Hotline](#)

In partnership with 1,100 rape crisis centers across the nation this hotline, provides free, confidential advice 24/7.

[National Domestic Abuse Hotline](#)

800-799-SAFE (24 hr.)

The Hotline is free, confidential, and anonymous. It operates in more than 170 different languages through interpreter services, with a TTY line available for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing.

[Crisis Connections](#)

1-866-4CRISIS (24 hr.)

The 24-Hour Crisis Line provides immediate help to individuals, families and friends of people in emotional crisis. We can help you determine if you or your loved one needs professional consultation and we can link you to the appropriate services.