

DUTCHESS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Spring 2021

SUNY Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP)

Campus Climate Survey Report

To view the Dutchess Community College Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment in full please visit:

<https://www.sunydutchess.edu/administrative/title-ix.html> and
<https://www.sunydutchess.edu/around-campus/student-life/rights-responsibilities/sexual-harassment-violence.html>

If you need to report an issue or have questions regarding Title IX, sexual violence prevention or upcoming campus trainings, please contact:

Marc Bowman, Associate VP of Human Resources and Title IX Coordinator, at marc.bown@sunydutchess.edu or (845) 431-8673.

If you have any questions regarding the survey administration and this report, please contact:

Roza Pacile, Grants and Institutional Research Analyst at roza.pacile@sunydutchess.edu or (845) 431-8682.

For additional information regarding SUNY Policies please go to:

SUNY Policies on Sexual Violence Prevention and Response <http://system.suny.edu/sexual-violence-prevention-workgroup/policies/> and <http://system.suny.edu/sexual-violence-prevention-workgroup/policies/response/>

Campus Resources and Best Practices <http://system.suny.edu/university-life/sexual-assault-prevention/>

Sexual Assault and Violence Response Resources <https://www.suny.edu/violence-response/> with resources on or off campus by location, campus, city.

Background

Dutchess Community College is committed to providing an environment that respects and encourages the development and growth of all students, faculty and staff. In order to better understand our campus and make informed decisions regarding providing a safe environment for all, in the Spring of 2021 the College conducted the SUNY Sexual Violence Prevention Campus Climate Survey. The Survey was administered to students, faculty and staff.

By SUNY policy this uniform survey ascertains faculty and staff awareness of policies and resources, and student experience with and knowledge of reporting and college adjudicatory processes for sexual harassment, including sexual violence and other related crimes.

SUNY-wide Campus Climate Survey - Administered Spring 2021 Sexual Violence Prevention and Awareness - Survey Response Rates

	# Invited to Participate	# of Responses	Response Rate
Faculty/Staff Survey	648	150	23.1%
Student Survey*	3,826	486	12.7%

* Invitations to participate to this survey were sent to all students not concurrently in high school over the age of 18 (DCC email addresses were used).

Response rates for the survey were 23.1% for the faculty/staff survey and 12.7% for the student survey. Students were offered a chance to win a \$100 Amazon gift card prize for participation. Student response rate in Spring 2021 was much higher than in Fall 2017 (2.8%). Based on student responses, the demographic information is below:

- 3.3% lived on campus in 2021 as compared to 8% in 2017
- Male to female invites were 42:58, but more than twice as many women responded than men
- 4.3% identified with a gender identity other than man or woman, compared to 6.6% on the Fall 2017 SUNY Sexual Violence Prevention Survey
- Only 69.8% of those who responded to the survey (and to the particular survey question) identified their sexual orientation as heterosexual, compared to 73% on the SUNY Sexual Violence Prevention Survey
- 30.5% of the respondents reported they were first in their family to go to college
- 17.7% of the respondents reported having a disability, compared to 9.7% students with documented disabilities amongst those invited to participate
- Over 72% of the students invited to participate were under 25 years old, and 62% of respondents were under 25 years old
- Nearly 55% of the students invited to participate were enrolled full-time, and 62% of respondents were enrolled full-time

Results

Role of the Title IX Coordinator

The majority of faculty and staff are aware of how to find the Title IX coordinator (73%). Students are less likely to be aware of how to contact the coordinator (53.5%, significantly up from 20% in 2017).

More than half of faculty/staff (53-69%) and students (53-61%) are aware of at least some of the roles of the Title IX coordinator. These roles include receiving reports, coordinating campus response, ensuring training and education is provided to the community, and providing reporting individuals with accommodations and services during an investigation. Seventy four percent of faculty/staff and 68% of students know that they could formally disclose a sexual assault on campus to the Title XI coordinator.

Campus Policies and Procedures for Addressing Sexual Assault

Most faculty/staff (93.3%, up from 78% in 2017) and the majority of students (71%, up from 57% in 2017) said that they had received written (e.g. brochures, emails) or verbal (e.g. presentations, training) information from the college about Title IX protections against sexual assault, the definition of sexual assault, how to report a sexual assault, where to go to get help if sexually assaulted, and who you can talk to confidentially about a sexual assault.

Availability of Resources

Due to the COVID-related remote school and work arrangements, availability and/or awareness of campus resources has decreased compared to Fall 2017. Faculty/staff were less aware of college police or public safety (69% vs. 97% in 2017), Human Resources (73% vs. 97% in 2017), health services (52% vs. 76% in 2017), the counseling center (55% vs. 70% in 2017), the office of student conduct (61% vs. 80% in 2017), the local police/sheriff (53% vs. 88% in 2017), and local crisis (33% vs. 50% in 2017) and advocacy (21% vs. 41% in 2017) centers.

Similar trends were apparent amongst students, as well. Students were aware of college police or public safety, but to the lesser degree than prior to COVID (49% vs. 74% in 2017), health services (46% vs. 76% in 2017) and the counseling center (60% vs. 70% in 2017). They were even less aware of Human Resources (40% vs. 51% in 2017) the local police/sheriff (49% vs. 75% in 2017), and local crisis (29% vs. 33% in 2017) and advocacy (20% vs. 28% in 2017) centers. However, students were more aware of the office of student conduct (45% vs. 41% in 2017).

Prevalence of Victimization and Perpetration of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Dating Violence

Students were asked a set of questions about the prevalence of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking both on and off campus. Most of these questions appeared later in the survey and were answered by about 85% of the respondents. The results discussed below include only those students who responded to the questions (n=414). Of the 414 respondents, 109 (26.3%) experienced some form of non-consensual sexual harassment or assault within the past year. For example, 13% of the respondents reported receiving unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs, or demeaning jokes. Another 9% reported receiving unwanted sexually suggestive digital communications, either words or images or both, including emails, texts, social media communications, or in letters or other written communications.

Of students who responded, 9% reported that someone tried to sexually assault them. Just under half (4.1%) of those attempts were completed by the perpetrators.

Reporting Behavior of Victims

Rates for reporting incidents were significantly lower than those pre-pandemic. Only 5% of those students who indicated that they had been the victim of sexual harassment or violence reported it via formal campus procedures (vs. 15% in

2017) and only 24% told anyone about it (vs. 35% in 2017). Primary reasons for not reporting/sharing the incidents were: not thinking it was important enough, not recognizing it as sexual assault/harassment at the time, not wanting to deal with it, and feeling ashamed or embarrassed.

Discussion and Next Steps

Results indicated that faculty and staff are generally aware of the policies and laws, and on campus resources, even though the results are lower during the COVID years. Employees are also aware of the roles and responsibilities of the Title IX coordinator. There is an indication, however, that more information, outreach and follow-up is needed to provide up to date information to faculty, staff, and students regarding resources available in the local area, including local crisis and advocacy centers.

Student responses indicated that they are more aware of policies related to sexual harassment and violence than in 2017, but are less aware of the resources available to them. The results clearly suggest that students need more information, outreach and training on sexual violence response and prevention.

Based on the results from the survey, representatives from Campus Safety and Security, Student Conduct and Community Standards, Student Services, Student Life, Counseling, and Human Resources will continue to collaborate and provide further educational opportunities to the College community. Beginning with the student onboarding process and New Employee Orientation, students and employees will learn about Title IX, personal safety and other appropriate College policies. Throughout the year, programs and activities will be offered to the College community to further educate members about the prevention of sexual violence and how to be supportive if someone discloses that they have been the victim of sexual violence.

Our goal is that continuous outreach will create greater awareness on campus. The impact of the outreach will be evaluated for satisfaction and effectiveness, and we expect to see improved awareness the next time the survey is administered.