

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

PURPOSE

The first step in educating the community in the fight against sexual assault is to show the public how the criminal sexual conduct law works to protect them. The University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) Department of Public Safety has provided University resources and several local agencies that offer educational programs which provide techniques to avoid sexual assault and date rape.

Prevention programs and prompt reporting of sexual assault are essential to help keep the University community safe from these often traumatic incidents. Sexual assault education also helps to encourage those who have been victimized to report the offense.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students, employees, contractors, consultants, temporary help, and other workers at the University of Detroit Mercy, including all personnel affiliated with third parties.

SEXUAL ASSAULT DEFINED

Sexual assault is a physical assault forced upon an individual who does not or cannot consent and involves a sexual act or an attempted sexual act with that individual. Sexual assault includes, but is not limited to sexual intercourse. Sexual assaults are acts of violence used to humiliate, dominate, and overpower another person.

POLICY

In compliance with federal regulations UDM maintains, enforces, and discloses to the University community sexual assault prevention and coordinated response system information. A Safety Disclosure Report is made available annually to keep the University community apprised of safety information.

The Department of Public Safety offers sexual education and information programs to UDM students and employees upon request. Literature on date rape education, risk reduction, and UDM's response system is available through the UDM Personal Counseling Center. Students needing help dealing with sexual assault experiences are encouraged to consult the Dean of Students for referral to the appropriate office and/or agency.

Outside sexual assault assistance agencies are listed on the UDM Department of Public Safety website. UDM does not maintain these sites but offers them as resources for those seeking supportive information on sexual assault.

If you are a victim of a sexual assault at UDM, your first priority is to get to a place of safety. You should then obtain the necessary medical treatment. UDM's Department of Public Safety strongly advocates that a victim of sexual assault report the incident in a timely manner. Time is a critical factor for evidence collection and preservation. An assault should be reported directly to a UDM officer and/or to a Housing and Residential Education representative. Filing a police report with a UDM officer will not obligate the victim to prosecute, nor will it subject the victim to scrutiny or judgmental opinions from officers.

Filing a police report will:

- Ensure that a victim of sexual assault receives the necessary medical treatment and test, at no expense to the victim
- Provide the opportunity for collection of evidence helpful in a prosecution that may not be obtained later (ideally a victim of sexual assault should not wash, douche, use the toilet, or change clothing before a medical/legal exam)
- Assure the victim has access to free confidential counseling from counselors specifically trained in the area of sexual assault crisis intervention.

When a sexual assault victim contacts the UDM Department of Public Safety, the Detroit Police Department Sex Crimes Unit will be notified as well. The Dean of Students shall be notified of student-related incidents.

The victim of a sexual assault may choose for the investigation to be pursued through the criminal justice system and the UDM judicial process, or only the latter. A UDM representative from the Department of Public Safety or a representative from the Student Affairs Division will guide the victim through the available options and support the victim in his or her decision.

Various counseling options are provided by UDM Student Health Center, University Ministries, and Personal Counseling Services. Employees needing additional assistance may contact the Human Resources Department to discuss applicable health care benefits and services. Counseling and support services outside the University can be obtained through the Student Handbook, Personal Counseling Services, and by contacting the Department of Public Safety in person or by visiting www.udmercy.edu/publicsafety.

University disciplinary proceedings, as well as special guidelines for cases involving sexual misconduct, are detailed in the Student Handbook. The Handbook provides, in part, that the accused and the victim will each be allowed to choose one person who has no formal legal training to accompany them throughout the hearing. Both the victim and accused will be informed of the outcome of the hearing. A student found guilty of violating the UDM sexual misconduct policy could be criminally prosecuted in the state courts and may be suspended or expelled from UDM for the first offense. Student victims have the option to change their academic and/or on-campus living situations after an alleged sexual assault if such changes are reasonably available.

Agencies and Resources

To schedule an appointment for UDM personal counseling, call during business hours Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

McNichols Campus:

UDM Personal Counseling Services
4001 W. McNichols Road, Detroit
313- 993-1562
personalcounselingwc@udmercy.edu

Detroit Police Department

Sex Crime Unit Rape Counseling Center
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.
Crisis Line (313) 833-1660

Detroit Police Department

Police Community Services Unit
313-596-2520

Interim House

Y.W.C.A. of Metropolitan Detroit - Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 21904
Detroit, MI 48221
24-Hour Crisis Line 313-861-5300
Write D.V. Shelter at ywcaih@aol.com

First Step

Western Wayne County Project on Domestic and Sexual Violence
26650 Eureka Road
Taylor, MI 48180
Toll-free helpline 1-888-453-5900

If you need additional emotional assistance because you are a secondary victim (i.e. parent, friend) of a sexual assault victim, you may call any of the listed crisis lines 24-hours a day for support or additional referrals:

Interim House

(313) 861-5300

First Step

1-888-453-4900 (toll-free)