

## Information Regarding Sex Offenses

In recent years there has been concern at both the national and state levels regarding the incidence of sex offenses on college campuses. In an effort to educate our College community, we are providing the following information to all students.

It is best to keep in mind that any college is not a "safe haven" where personal safety issues can be ignored. All students, staff and visitors must take reasonable precautions and use sound judgment regarding their behavior. Unfortunately, college campuses are not immune from crime.

Sex offenses occur on and off college campuses. While some victims are assaulted by assailants who are unknown, more frequently the campus victim is assaulted by a person known to the victim. These incidents are described as "acquaintance rapes." The assailant may be a date or a dating partner of the victim. However, they may also be someone who is identifiable because they are in a class with the victim, a resident of the same residence hall as the victim, or a friend of a friend of the victim. Alcohol and/or use of other mind-altering substances are frequently involved in these situations. Sound, unimpaired judgment and bystander intervention can help prevent such victimizations. (See State Penal Law Pertaining to Sex Offenses - Appendix B.)

### I. College Regulations Regarding Sex Offenses

Geneseo students who are victims of sexual offenses [e.g., rape, sexual abuse, nonconsensual sexual activity; (see previous section)] which occurred either on the Geneseo campus or at a location off-campus are encouraged to report their experiences to the Title IX Coordinator, or other designated official. If a student is a victim of such an offense, they should report the incident as soon as possible to one of the following offices:

Office of Dean of Students  
MacVittie Union 354      585-245-5706

Office of University Police\*  
Schrader 119      585-245-5651

Title IX Coordinator\*\*  
Doty 303      585-245-5023  
24/7 hotline      585-376-0759

\*open 24 hours

\*\*Access via phone 24/7

Students may also contact their RA or RD to report the incident and seek assistance. Pathways, a confidential peer advocacy hotline 585-237-8860 can also provide assistance.

If immediate emergency assistance is required, on-campus residents should contact University Police at 585-245-5222 or utilize one of the blue light emergency telephones on campus. If the victim lives off-campus and the assault occurred off-campus, the 911 system should be utilized first. An off-campus student should file a subsequent report with College officials (listed above) if the offense was perpetrated by a Geneseo student.

In a situation where there is the potential for a criminal complaint, it is extremely important that the victim does not disturb any physical evidence. Therefore, the victim should try not to change clothing, bathe, shower, douche, or wash before seeking assistance. College personnel in the above mentioned areas have been trained to work with victims and to follow appropriate protocols for victims of sexual assault.

The College prohibits sexual misconduct through the "Student Code of Conduct," which may be found in this publication, the on-line Student Handbook or the Geneseo Undergraduate Bulletin.

Student victims have several options regarding reporting sexual misconduct which include:

1. Reporting the incident to and pursuing criminal charges through a law enforcement agency.
2. Reporting the incident to the Title IX Coordinator, Dean of Students/Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards.
3. Filing a sexual harassment grievance.
4. Documenting the incident that has occurred, but do not pursue further actions.

When a complaint regarding a sex offense is made to the Title IX Coordinator, or other college official, these options will be reviewed with the student. The Title IX Coordinator will also give the student both medical and counseling resources if needed. Employee policies and procedures regarding sexual harassment are found in Section 150 of the Geneseo Policies and Procedures Manual.

## II. Support for Victims of Sexual Misconduct

Counseling and support services are provided to victims of sexual misconduct through several Campus offices:

- Counseling Services, in Lauderdale 205, provides crisis intervention, supportive psychotherapy and/or referral for survivors of rape, attempted rape, sexual assault and child sexual abuse. Contacts with Counseling Services are strictly confidential. Support is provided in an atmosphere of acceptance, respect and empathetic understanding which focuses on survivors' empowerment. Concerned friends, family and/or partners of students who are survivors of sexual victimization are also welcome to contact this office for assistance in responding to the survivor. Appointments may be made by visiting Counseling Services or by telephoning 585-245-5716.
- Health Services provides medical care and support to victims of sex offenses. While Health Services does not conduct evidence collection ("rape kits"), the staff can provide immediate medical attention, help students explore their options, and facilitate getting those students who wish to undergo evidence collection to a nearby hospital. Either walk-in visits or scheduled appointments (585-245-5736) are available.
- The Title IX Coordinator (Blake 118C; 585-245-5023) maintains links with community services which assist victims of sex offenses. A visit or call to the Title IX office will assist in identifying and securing assistance from an outside agency. The Office will also work with the Dean of Students to provide accommodations if the student victim needs to leave their residence hall, change classes, or notify their professors that they have experienced a crisis.
- The Office of University Police in Schrader 19 is available 24 hours per day to assist in emergency situations. (Emergency telephone number 585-245-5222 or any Campus "blue light telephone" provides a direct emergency connection.) University Police will respond to the scene of an emergency situation, process complaints regarding any violation of state, federal, or local law and coordinate outside law enforcement and/or medical assistance, if necessary.

Several off-campus resources are also available:

- RESTORE offers a free and confidential 24-hour hotline which is staffed by trained advocates who provide short-term counseling, offer referrals, and are available to accompany victims to the hospital, the police station, and any conduct hearings.
- RESTORE 24 hr. Hotline: 1-800-527-1757
- RESTORE Advocate also located in Doty 303.
- Chances & Changes, Inc. offers free and confidential counseling and advocacy services to victims of domestic violence in Livingston County, New York.
- Chances & Changes 24 hr. Hotline: 1-585-658-2660 or 1-888-252-9360
- Chances & Changes Advocate also located in Doty 303.
- Livingston County Sheriff
  - 585-243-7100
  - 911 (Emergency)
- Geneseo Village Police
  - 585-243-2420

## III. Education

The College educates students regarding security procedures through annual Title IX training, residence hall programs, signage, safety campaigns, College publications, and specific websites. Each semester, programs regarding such topics as personal safety, rape prevention, alcohol and other substances, and prevention of burglary and theft are presented. Specific program information may be found at [go.geneseo.edu/safe](http://go.geneseo.edu/safe).

The Title IX Prevention Coordinator, located in Doty 303, and the Coordinator of Health Promotion, located in the Lauderdale Center, are available to offer programs concerning sexual violence awareness, along with a range of other issues. HealthGuards is a student group of peer health educators who are trained to present health-related programs to residents, student groups, and faculty and staff.

If someone you know has been a victim of a sexual offense:

- Make sure they are safe;
- Believe them;
- Reinforce that no matter what the circumstances, the offense was not their fault;

Refer them to:

- Title IX (585-245-5023)
- Health Services (585-245-5736)
- Counseling Services (585-245-5716)
- Their Area Coordinator
- University Police (585-245-5651; 585-245-5222)
- Dean of Students (585-245-5706)
- RESTORE - Rape Crisis Center (1-800-527-1757)

- Chances & Changes

If they live off campus:

- Livingston County Sheriff (585-243-7100; 911)
- Geneseo Village Police (585-243-2420; 911)

Allow them to make their own decisions concerning medical attention and pressing charges. Encourage them to preserve evidence.

#### **IV. Title IX Working Group**

To promote student safety, encourage reporting (with the College and local law enforcement) and prevent sexual harassment (dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking), the charge of the Title IX Working Group is to:

- Distribute campus-wide communication to promote transparency and develop trust amongst members of the campus community;
- Facilitate dialogues (formal and informal), specifically with members of high-risk populations, in an effort to better understand and eliminate the barriers to reporting incidents of sexual and physical violence with the College and law enforcement;
- Strengthen collaboration with off-campus partners and resources;
- Identify and recommend nationally recognized and established best practices regarding the implementation of a Title IX peer education program.

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