

DUTCHESS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SUNY Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) Campus Climate Survey Report

Executive Summary

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 Fall of 2016 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.

Results indicated that faculty and staff generally are aware of the policies, laws and campus resources. They also are 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 and staff regarding resources available in the local area, including local crisis and advocacy centers.

The results of the student survey should be treated with caution because of a low response rate and a sample that is not representative of the student body as a whole with respect to gender, gender identity and sexual orientation. The response rate was 2.8%, and among those who took the survey only about three-fourths completed it. Among those who responded, students indicated that about half the population knows how to report an incident of sexual violence, and most are unsure of how to find the Title IX coordinator. Many students (36%) are unaware of the SUNY Alcohol and/or Drug Use Amnesty policy in sexual violence cases. Over one-third of the student respondents had experienced some form of non-consensual sexual harassment or assault within the past year. While the response rate was lower than we would have liked, the results clearly suggest that students need more information, outreach and training on sexual violence response and prevention.

Dutchess Community College takes great pride in providing a safe and healthy learning environment for all and is committed to continued participation in the Sexual Violence Prevention Survey. The College will use the findings of the survey to continue to improve training, prevention, and support as part of our ongoing effort to achieve a campus environment free of sexual harassment, including sexual violence and related crimes.

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

<https://www.sunydutchess.edu/studentlife/sexualharassmentpolicy.html>

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

Esther Couret, Director of Human Resources Management and Title IX Coordinator, at esther.couret@sunydutchess.edu or (845) 431-8673.

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

Scott Schnackenberg, Director of Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment at scott.schnackenberg@sunydutchess.edu or (845) 431-8680.

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/>
 SUNY Policies <http://system.suny.edu/compliance/topics/sexual-violence-prevention/>

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 a safe campus for all students, faculty and staff. The SUNY System-wide Student Information Survey was put into place based on Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy for the State University of New York, which was adopted by the SUNY Board of Trustees. This new tool will allow students a means to voluntarily self-identify their parents’ education levels, employment plans for the term, sexual orientation, gender identity, birth gender, disability information and Veteran statuses.

The new policy broadly defines diversity to include race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, age, socioeconomic status, status as a veteran, status as a student with a disability, first-generation students, and international students or those transferring between colleges. The policy aims to improve services and support for these students, ensure that SUNY’s student, faculty, and staff populations mirror that of New York State, as well as ensure that SUNY’s commitment to being welcoming and inclusive to all diverse populations is clear.

Dutchess Community College agreed to participate in the pilot phase of survey implementation in order to get baseline information on topics for which no information had ever been collected. The survey was designed by SUNY Administration with input from a group of diverse SUNY campus representatives and reviewed by all pilot campus Institutional Research offices prior to administration. SUNY contracted with Campus Labs to handle the survey administration for all SUNY campuses.

Institutional Research and SUNY administration had access to the survey data. However, respondent identifiers were hidden, and at no time were SUNY or campus representatives able to see the respondent identifiers linked to individual responses.

SUNY-wide Campus Climate Survey - Administered Fall 2016
 Sexual Violence Prevention and Awareness - Survey Response Rates

	# Invited to Participate	# of Responses	Response Rate	Avg time to Complete (minutes)
Faculty/Staff Survey	785	171	21.8%	13.5
Student Survey*	6190	173	2.8%	14

* Invitations to participate to this survey were sent to all students not concurrently in high school over the age of 18 by October 1, 2016 (DCC email addresses were used).

Response rates for the survey were 21.8% for the faculty/staff survey but only 2.8% for the student

survey. In addition, over a quarter of the students who responded did not complete the entire survey, likely because the student survey was extremely lengthy. The demographic questions were at the very end of the student survey and were answered by only 74% of the respondents. Based on those responses:

- 8% of responses were from on campus students
- Male to female invites were 46:53, but more than twice as many women responded than men
- 6.6% identified with a gender identity other than male or female, compared to 1.6% on the Fall 2016 SUNY Student Information Survey
- Only 73% of those who responded to the survey (and to the particular survey question) identified their sexual orientation as heterosexual, compared to 91% on the Fall 2016 SUNY Student Information Survey
- The majority of students invited (94%) and responding (81%) were pursuing an associate's degree
- Over 81% of the students invited to participate were under 25 years old, and 78% of respondents were under 25 years old
- The same percentage of transfer in students were invited and responded (13%)

For the following demographic criteria the respondent population is representative of the DCC student population: race/ethnicity, matriculation status, on/off campus residence, and age. However the respondents are not representative of the student population with respect to gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation. For this reason the results of the student survey should be used with caution and should not be considered to be representative of the student body as a whole. No incentives were offered to students for their survey participation. Some campuses that offered student incentives for survey participation had a greater percentage of student respondents. DCC should consider both offering meaningful student incentives and a more robust marketing campaign to encourage greater student participation the next time this survey is administered.

Results

Role of the Title IX Coordinator

The majority of faculty and staff are aware of the Title IX Compliance Office (83%) and are aware of how to find the Title IX coordinator (80%). Students are much less likely to be aware of the office (30%) or how to find the coordinator (20%).

Most faculty/staff (90-97%) and slightly more than half of students (51-57%) 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. Ninety percent of faculty/staff and 57% of students know that they could formally disclose a sexual assault on campus to the Title IX coordinator.

When students were asked to whom they would report a sexual assault on campus, 47% chose the Title IX coordinator and 40% chose the campus police.

Campus Policies and Procedures for Addressing Sexual Assault

Most faculty/staff (71-78%) and the majority of students (56-67%) 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.

The majority of students (67%) and a significant minority of faculty/staff (43%) feel that the college officials (administrators, public safety officers) should do more to protect students from harm. However, when asked in a slightly different way on a different question, only 15% of students and 20% of faculty/staff disagree with the statement “My college does enough to protect the safety of students.” Only 8% of students and 12% of faculty staff disagreed with the statement “If a crisis happened on my campus, my college would handle it well.” Eighteen percent of students and 20% of faculty/staff felt the college moves too slowly in difficult situations. Only 4% of students and 9% of faculty/staff disagreed with the statement “College officials handle incidents in a fair and responsible manner.” A large majority of faculty/stuff and students agreed that there was a good support system on campus for students going through difficult times.

Availability of Resources

Faculty/staff generally were aware of college police or public safety (97%), Human Resources (97%), health services (76%), the counseling center (70%) and the office of student conduct (80%). Faculty/staff were less aware of the Employee Assistance Program (57%). While faculty/staff were generally aware of the local police/sheriff (88%), they were less aware of local crisis (50%) and advocacy (41%) centers.

Students were generally aware of college police or public safety (74%), health services (76%) and the counseling center (70%). They were less aware of Human Resources (51%) and the office of student conduct (41%). Students were generally aware of the local police/sheriff (75%), but they were less aware of local crisis (33%) and advocacy (28%) centers.

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

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 three-fourths of the respondents. The results presented below include only those students who responded to the questions.

The table below summarizes student reports of sexual experiences without their consent during the past year. The percentages are based on a sample of 128 respondents for each question. Of the 128 respondents, 45 (35.6%) experienced some form of non-consensual sexual harassment or assault within the past year. Of those 45, 29 (64%) knew the other person involved in the incident and 19 (42.2%) said the person was affiliated with the campus community. In each case where the victim knew that the person was affiliated with the campus community, the person was another student. While the sample sizes are small, it is worth noting that women (39%) and non-heterosexuals (48%) were more likely to report being a victim.

Prevalence of Different Types of Victimization Among Student	Students
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Respondents			
During the last year, have you:	Yes	No	Not sure
Received unwanted sexually suggestive communications, either words or images or both, including emails, texts, social media communications, letters or other written communications	21%	76%	3%
On campus, has someone viewed your sexual activity or nakedness without your consent, or taken pictures or recordings without your consent	3%	89%	8%
Someone fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of my body even though I did not give consent for that activity	12%	85%	3%
Someone removed some of my clothes even though I did not give consent for that activity	5%	93%	2%
Someone TRIED to sexually penetrate me (that is, someone tried to put a penis or insert fingers or objects into my vagina or anus) even though I did not give consent for that activity	6%	92%	2%
Someone sexually penetrated me (that is, someone put a penis or insert fingers or objects into my vagina or anus) even though I did not give consent for that activity	4%	94%	2%
Someone TRIED to perform oral sex on me or tried to force me to perform oral sex on them even though I did not give consent for that activity	4%	94%	2%
Someone performed oral sex on me or forced me to perform oral sex even though I did not give consent for that activity	3%	95%	2%

Fifteen student respondents (12%) reported that they had been the victim of stalking behaviors like being obsessively followed, watched, texted, called, written, or e-mailed in a way that made them concerned for their safety. Twenty-five students (21%) indicated that in the past year a casual, steady, or serious dating or other intimate partner may have taken actions against them that were non-consensual and/or undesired. Most commonly those behaviors were name calling, uncontrolled anger, and controlling who the victim could see or what they could do.

Reporting Behavior of Victims

Only 15% of those students who indicated that they had been the victim of sexual harassment or violence reported it via formal campus procedures and only 35% told anyone about it. Nearly two-thirds did not tell anyone with the primary reasons being not thinking it was important enough, not recognizing it as sexual assault/harassment at the time, not wanting to deal with it, and worry that they were partly at fault. Of the 6 students who did report the behavior to someone on campus, 5 felt the campus formal procedures helped them a lot.

Bystander Attitudes and Behavior

As indicated in the table below, most faculty/staff and students feel that they would express their discomfort if someone makes a joke about a person's body, call for help if they hear someone yelling "help", talk to a student/friend who they suspect is in a sexually abusive relationship, express their discomfort if someone says rape victims are to blame for being raped, and get help for a student/friend who tells me they have been assaulted.

Bystander Attitudes and Behavior	Students			Faculty/Staff		
	Very likely or Likely	Very unlikely	Don't know	Very likely or Likely	Very unlikely	Don't know
Please read each of the following behaviors. Indicate how likely or unlikely it is that you would do the following:						
Express my discomfort if someone makes a joke about a person's body	69%	16%	15%	84%	7%	9%
Express my discomfort if someone says that rape victims are to blame for being raped	83%	6%	11%	96%	1%	3%
Call for help (ie. Call 911) if I hear someone calling for "help"	78%	3%	19%	97%	1%	2%
Talk to a student/friend who I suspect is in a sexually abusive relationship	85%	1%	14%	66%	16%	18%
Get help and resources for a student/friend who tells me they have been assaulted	84%	5%	11%	99%	0%	1%

Awareness of SUNY's Policy for Alcohol and/or Drug Use Amnesty in Sexual and Interpersonal Violence Cases

Most faculty/staff (84%) and the majority of students (64%) are aware that a bystander acting in good faith or a victim/survivor who reports sexual violence would not be disciplined for violating campus alcohol policies if they were drinking at or near the time of the assault.

Awareness of the Definition of Affirmative Consent

Most faculty/staff (83%) and students (78%) are aware that SUNY has a definition of affirmative consent. Nearly all faculty/staff (97%) and most students (86%) understood that someone who is incapacitated cannot provide consent.

Discussion and Next Steps

Results indicated that faculty and staff are generally aware of the policies and laws, and on campus resources. They 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 and staff regarding resources available in the local area, including local crisis and advocacy centers.

The results of the student survey should be treated with caution because of a low response rate and a sample that is not representative of the student body as a whole. The response rate was 2.8%, and among those who took the survey only about three-fourths completed it. Among those who responded, students indicated that about half the population knows how to report an incident of sexual violence, and most are unsure of how to find the Title IX coordinator. Many students (36%) are unaware of the SUNY Alcohol and/or Drug Use Amnesty policy in sexual violence cases. Over one-third of the student respondents had experienced some form of non-consensual sexual harassment or assault within the past year. While the response rate was lower than we would have liked, 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 collaborate to 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 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 this additional 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.

Appendix i

About Campus Labs:

The Campus Labs® platform offers integrated software and cloud-based assessment tools for higher education. The corporate mission is focused on empowering and transforming colleges and universities through strategic data insights. Campus Labs is headquartered in Buffalo, New York. Specific to the SUNY Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) Campus Climate Survey, Campus Labs is providing the technology to administer the survey and analyze the collected data. Campus Labs has also provided consultation in the form of two consultants whose role is to advise SUNY representatives on the logistics and administration of the survey.

Data Security:

Campus Labs is committed to maintaining the highest standards in data security. To protect information used in internet transactions (e.g. online surveys, data reports), Campus Labs uses the following security techniques and procedures:

- Secure login access (username and password) is required to access all data reports
- Information is exchanged via Secure Socket Layer (SSL) that uses 128-bit encryption
- Information requests must pass through multiple hardware and software security firewalls
- Campus Labs' data center is monitored 24/7 and access is restricted to authorized parties with validated key cards
- Data is backed up every hour internally
- Data is backed up every night to a centralized backup system, with offsite backups in the event of catastrophe.
- Campus representatives will have access to all data for their campus only.
- SUNY Administrators will have access to the data of all participating campuses
- Respondent identifiers are hidden from the SUNY and campus representatives administering the SVP Campus Climate Survey. At no time will SUNY or campus representatives be able to see respondent identifiers linked to individual's responses.

Appendix ii

SUNY Policies

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/>

SUNY Policies <http://system.suny.edu/compliance/topics/sexual-violence-prevention/>

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.

Appendix iii

Have suggestions for improving the survey? Please contact us!

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