A Monarch’s Guide...

- Stalking
- Sexual Assault
- Relationship Violence
- Sexual Harassment

Women’s Center
1000 Webb Center
757-683-4109
womenctr@odu.edu
http://StudentAffairs.odu.edu/WC
Introduction

As a member of the ODU community, you are an integral part of the support system for students experiencing sexual and/or relationship violence. The Women’s Center is here to provide support and guidance as you assist the students of ODU.

The Women’s Center offers programs and services designed to promote gender equity and address the special challenges and opportunities female students encounter in the pursuit of higher education. Recognizing the critical role that both women and men play in promoting an environment free of gender bias, Center programs are designed to educate and inspire all students to achieve their personal, academic, and professional potential.

The Sexual Assault Free Environment (SAFE) program educates the ODU community on issues of relationship and sexual violence, provides advocacy and support for survivors, and empowers everyone on campus to recognize and stop abuse and sexual assault.

For Assistance

24-HOURS A DAY
Call the Response Hotline:
757-622-4300

ODU Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. -5 p.m.
Call the Women’s Center:
757-683-4109
**Defining the Terms…**

**SEXUAL ASSAULT:**

Sexual assault is a broad term that encompasses any forcible sexual activity that occurs without the victim’s consent. It is a crime of violence, power and control; and it is one of the most under-reported crimes in the United States.

Sexual assault is defined at Old Dominion University as rape; forcible sodomy; sexual penetration with an inanimate object; fondling or touching of an unwilling person’s intimate parts (genitalia, groin, breast or buttocks, covered or uncovered); or forcing an unwilling person to touch another’s intimate parts. Included in the offense of any of these acts are persons known to the victim as well as persons unknown to the victim. The offending acts can be committed through the use of force, the threat of force, by intimidation or not forcibly or against the person’s will if the victim is incapable of giving consent due to the substantiated use of alcohol or drugs or for other verified reasons.

**STALKING:**

Old Dominion University defines stalking as repeatedly contacting, following or remaining in the physical presence of another person when the contacting person knows or should know that the contact is unwanted, the contact causes the other person reasonable expectation of imminent physical harm or the contact causes substantial impairment of the other person’s ability to perform the activities of daily life. Contacting includes, but is not limited to, telephoning, texting, writing and sending letters through the U.S. Mail service, transmitting letters or notes or contacting through the use of electronic media.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT:**

Old Dominion University defines sexual harassment as unwelcomed and unsolicited conduct of a sexual nature, physical or verbal, by a member of the university community. A variety of sexual conduct directed at another may be considered sexual harassment including, but not limited to: offensive sexual innuendos, advances, propositions, threats, jokes, suggestive comments; graphic or degrading comments of a sexual nature about a person’s appearance, whistling in a suggestive manner or obscene gestures; uninvited physical contact or touching; and solicitation of sexual favors through implicit or explicit promises of rewards or threats of punishment. Sexual harassment is prohibited by Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972 and Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

**RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE:**

Relationship or dating violence is a pattern of verbally, physically, sexually and/or emotionally abusive behaviors used to assert power or maintain control over another in the context of an intimate relationship. Relationship violence can also occur between family members and friends.
Old Dominion University takes all forms of sexual and relationship violence very seriously. We are committed to assuring the most appropriate response to issues involving the safety of our students, faculty and staff. Policies and procedures regarding sexual assault and stalking can be found in the University Catalog. Acts of sexual and relationship violence carried out by or against members of the Old Dominion University community will not be tolerated and are punishable under university policy and Commonwealth of Virginia law.

**TO ADDRESS ISSUES REGARDING SEXUAL AND RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE, OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES, WHICH INCLUDE:**

- Policies and procedures that address sexual and relationship violence behaviors
- Educational programs, awareness events, and print and video resources that provide information regarding sexual and relationship violence to the campus community
- Short-term counseling and crisis intervention services for individuals who have been sexually assaulted or have concerns about sexual and relationship violence
- Referrals to appropriate on- and off-campus support services for individuals who have been sexually assaulted
- Protocol for assisting individuals who have been sexually assaulted and require medical and/or counseling intervention
- Protocol for assisting students who have been sexually assaulted and choose to file a student conduct complaint with the Office of Student Conduct & Academic Integrity
- Protocol for assisting individuals who have been sexually assaulted and choose to file an official report for criminal action
- Anonymous report form for students, faculty and staff who wish to report sexual assault or relationship violence incidents
Old Dominion University’s Response to a Sexual Assault Report

Individuals who have been assaulted are encouraged to seek medical care and report the incident to someone. It can be a friend, a Women’s Center advocate, a residence hall advisor, a teacher, or any other trusted individual. Telling someone about the assault is an important step in the healing process. Old Dominion University encourages those who have been assaulted to seek medical care through Student Health Services or Sentara Norfolk General Hospital even if the individual does not want to make a report to the police. The health care provider can check for injuries and discuss possible pregnancy concerns and/or sexually transmitted infections. If the person thinks she/he may want to report the assault, the health care provider can collect evidence from the victim’s body. This is called a Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (P.E.R.K) exam. Since Student Health Services does not collect evidence, students wanting a P.E.R.K. should seek medical care at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. If the victim chooses to report the assault, she/he may contact the ODU Police Department or Norfolk Police Department.

Even if the individual who has been assaulted decides not to press charges against the perpetrator, reporting the incident to university authorities provides administrators with a clearer understanding of what students are experiencing on our campus and how services to students can be improved.

**Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART)**

The Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART) is a coordinated team of professionals committed to providing sexual assault resources, support services and education to ODU students, faculty and staff. The SART plays a critical role in keeping sexual assault policy and protocol current and effective. Any office or department serving as part of the SART may be contacted regarding questions or concerns the campus community may have about sexual assault.

**SART representatives from:**

- ODU Police Department
- RESPONSE Sexual Assault Support Services
- ODU Women’s Center
- ODU Student Health Services
- ODU Office of Student Affairs
- Norfolk Police Department
- ODU Housing and Residence Life
- ODU Faculty Representatives
- ODU Counseling Services
- SANE Program
- Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office
- Military Victim Advocates
- ODU Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity
When someone discloses to you that she/he has been the victim of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking or sexual harassment, your role is to help the person regain the feelings of power and control that may have been lost as a result of the incident. Listen, be supportive, and offer suggestions for services.

**YOU CAN DO THIS BY:**

- Communicating to the victim that the assault, stalking or harassment is/was not the victim’s fault
- Asking the victim what you can do to help...this allows the victim to remain in control of the situation
- Encouraging the victim to seek help from professional resources listed in this handbook
- Keeping an open-mind and not being judgmental. It is not your place to decide whether or not an assault has occurred, what has happened, who the perpetrator was, etc.

**REMEMBER, IT IS YOUR JOB TO LISTEN AND PROVIDE SUPPORT!**

**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

When an individual discloses that a sexual assault has occurred, it is not your job to ask questions to determine what has happened or to confront the alleged perpetrator. It is your job to listen and provide support. Please refer all victims of sexual assault to the Women’s Center, Response Sexual Assault Support Services, ODU Police, Student Health Services, or Student Engagement and Enrollment Services for additional information, support and services.

Each of these areas has professionals trained to assist the individual who has been assaulted. Please encourage the person to contact one of these offices. Not only can you assist the individual by listening, you can assist by offering to walk with the victim to the appropriate university office or allow her/him to make the contact from your office. Please allow the individual to proceed at her or his own pace. It is important to allow the victim to maintain feelings of control in this situation.

Please tell the individual that making a referral or reporting the incident to campus authorities does not mean that the student must or should pursue filing a student conduct complaint or an official report for criminal action.

There are campus security authorities mandated by federal law* to report incidents of sexual violence. These authorities include the ODU Police Department and security officers, the Women’s Center, Housing and Residence Life, Student Engagement and Enrollment Services, faculty/staff advisors to student organizations, and Athletics. Employees are encouraged to use the Sexual Assault Incident Report (SAIR) form and submit it to the SAFE Coordinator in the Women’s Center. The SAIR form can be found in the Women’s Center and on our website. This form does not require the name of the victim or the alleged perpetrator. It only requires information stating that the assault has occurred. All employees are encouraged, without sharing the name of the victim, using the SAIR form to report the incident in order to assist with maintaining safety on campus.

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Resources

Campus Resources

Women’s Center- sexual and relationship violence victim advocacy, crisis intervention, education and outreach. 1000 Webb Center, 757-683-4109

Student Health Services- medical care for sexual assault victims, not including evidence collection, by appointment or as a walk-in. 1007 Webb Center, 757-683-3132

Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity- to file a student conduct complaint, University policy and procedure questions, hearing information, and violations of the student code of conduct. 2122 Webb Center, 757-683-3431

ODU Police Department- to report crimes, information about crime statistics or safety issues. 4516 Monarch Way, 757-683-4000

Student Engagement and Enrollment Services- to reach the Student Ombudsperson (regarding class matters) or the Dean of Students. 2008 Webb Center, 757-683-3442

Counseling Services- supportive counseling for sexual assault victims including assessment and referral. 1526 Webb Center, 757-683-4401

Community Resources

Response Sexual Assault Support Services- sexual assault support, counseling, education and legal advocacy. 5215 Colley Avenue, 757-622-4300 (24 hour hotline), 757-451-0174 (office)

Women in Crisis- domestic violence program, support group, emergency shelter, legal advocacy. 5215 Colley Avenue, 757-625-5570 (24-hour hotline), 757-625-4248 (office)

HER Shelter- Portsmouth domestic violence hotline, counseling, emergency shelter. 757-485-3384 (hotline), 757-485-1445 (office)

Transitions Family Violence Services- Hampton hotline and shelter, support groups, advocacy. 757-723-7774 (hotline), 757-722-2261 (office)

The Genieve Shelter- Suffolk domestic violence shelter, hotline, counseling, advocacy. 1-800-969-HOPE, 757-925-4365 (office)

Samaritan House- Virginia Beach domestic violence shelter, hotline, counseling and services. 757-430-2120 (hotline), 757-631-0710 (office)

Navy Family Advocacy Program- Norfolk program for Navy families, counseling, support, advocacy, crisis intervention. 757-433-2555

VA Family Violence and Sexual Assault hotline- statewide hotline, 1-800-838-8238

Sentara Norfolk General Hospital- medical care for sexual assault victims that includes evidence collection. 24-hour emergency services, 757-388-3551 or 911

National Sexual Assault Hotline- the call will be instantly connected to the nearest community rape treatment center. 1-800-656-HOPE

Old Dominion University

We are committed to assuring the most appropriate response to issues involving the safety of our students, faculty and staff. Policies and procedures can be found in the University Catalog.