SEXUAL ASSAULT/VIOLENCE FAQs

Sexual Assault is any sexual act done to another person without their consent. Just because someone does not say “NO” does NOT mean that they have given consent.

What is Consent?
Consent is based on choice. Consent is active not passive. Consent is possible only when there is equal power. Giving in because of fear is not consent. Persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol are incapable of giving consent. Minors under the age of 18 are not legally able to give consent to sexual intercourse.

What Are Some Examples of Sexual Assault?
Sexual assault is a broad term used to describe many forms of sexual violence, including, but not limited to:
- Unwanted fondling or touching
- Child molestation
- “Flashing” or indecent exposure
- Incest
- Forced or unwanted oral sex
- Rape

Where Can Someone Go for Help if They Are Raped or Sexually Assaulted?
The reality is, sexual assault can happen to anyone: men, women or children, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status. It can happen anytime: day or night.
- National Sexual Assault Hotline RAINN (800) 656-HOPE; www.rainn.org
- Santa Clara County Rape Crisis, Community Solutions, 408-779-2115
- San Benito County, Community Solutions 831-637-SAFE (831-637-7233)

THE CRISIS LINE IS A COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL AND ANONYMOUS SERVICE, where individuals can share their experiences with someone who understands, and receive information and referrals

What is The Process of Reporting A Sexual Assault Crime?
Each sexual assault crime is different so the reporting process and case outcomes may vary.
- A report is taken by law enforcement.
- Survivors are informed that they have the right to an advocate who will provide ongoing support and information.
- Notify Campus Security by calling 408-848-4703 or 408-710-7490.

Gavilan College Does Prosecute!
Any sexual assault or physical abuse, including rape as defined by California law, whether committed by an employee, student, or member of the public, occurring on District property, or on an off-campus site or facility maintained by the District, or on grounds or facilities maintained by a student organization, is a violation of District policies and regulations, and is subject to all applicable punishment, including criminal procedures and employee or student discipline procedures. Employees who violate the sexual assault policy and procedures may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. Students who violate the sexual assault policy and related procedures may be subject to disciplinary measures up to and including expulsion.

Services Available
Survivors of sexual assault can meet with a victim advocate for up to 10 peer counseling sessions. During these sessions, survivors are given a safe place to talk about their experiences with someone who understands what the survivor is going through and will listen without judgment. The sessions also provide an opportunity for the advocate to discuss future safety, healthy goal setting and the availability of other community resources with the survivor. Sexual assault advocates also provide medical, law enforcement and court accompaniment/support services. Professional counseling may also be available to encourage the healing process.

Trained Advocates are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist survivors, their family members and their friends through:
- Santa Clara County Rape Crisis, Community Solutions, 408-779-2115
- Confidential counseling is also available on campus through Counseling (408-848-4723) or Student Health Services (408-848-4791) during business hours.
You Are NOT Alone
Sexual assault is a crime regardless of when or where it occurs, or what the relationship is between the attacker and the victim. Gavilan College is committed to providing a safe environment for students and staff. Reports of sexual misconduct will be thoroughly investigated and the survivor informed of the outcome.

If you or someone you know is a Gavilan student and a survivor of sexual assault, and needs support, notify Gavilan Campus Security at 408-848-4703 (408-710-7490) or Student Health Services at 408-848-4791. Confidential counseling is available on and off campus.

Who Can Be Assaulted?
- 1 in every 4 college women will be sexually assaulted by the time they graduate.
- 1 out of 6 boys will be sexually assaulted before the age of 18. We can no longer think of rape as “just a women’s issue.” Sexual violence impacts both men and women.
- 3 out of 4 disabled people will be sexually assaulted before the age of 18.
- In 94% of cases of sexual assault of college students, the perpetrator is known to the survivor.
- Less than 5% of completed and attempted rapes of college students were reported to law enforcement officials.
- 85% of rapes on college campuses are acquaintance rapes.
- 90% of acquaintance rapes involve alcohol.
- 3 in 1000 college students are HIV positive.
- 43% of college aged men conceded to using coercive behavior to have sex (including ignoring a woman’s protest using physical aggression and forcing intercourse) but did not admit that it was rape.

What Affect Does Sexual Violence Have On Academics and Achievement?
- In nearly every case of sexual violence, survivors cannot perform at the same academic levels that they did prior to the attack.
- Survivors regularly withdraw from classes altogether.
- In more traumatic incidents, victims leave school until they recover – sometimes transferring to another school.

Statistics provided by:
1. Community Solutions
3. I Never Call It Rape, Robin Warshaw
4. R.A.P.E. Center, Pennsylvania State University
5. American Association of University Women

Images provided by: acclaimimages.com

Information provided complies with Assembly Bill 1088