

Hello. Welcome to ECC's presentation of Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act. This program is designed to educate students on their rights under Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act, what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, and what resources are available to them at ECC. To continue this presentation, either make sure that the autoplay setting is enabled on your computer, or navigate the presentation using the right arrow key located on your computer's keyboard. At any time you can go back to a previously viewed slide using the left arrow key. Thank you.

What is Title IX?

Title IX is legislature designed to protect students from sex based discrimination. It applies to all public educational facilities including ECC. Sexual misconduct, harassment, assault, stalking and intimate partner violence are all considered discriminatory actions under Title IX.

What is the Violence Against Women Act?

The Violence Against Women Act is legislature that was enacted in 2013 to amend what types of incidents colleges have to gather information on and report. It amended the already in place Clery Act to include domestic and dating violence, and stalking to its list of required reportable crimes. Since this legislation has been put into effect, the State University of New York and all of its college campuses have adopted uniform policies on the reporting and definition of sexual violence and have developed programs like this one devoted to its prevention through education.

Does this actually happen on college campuses?

The short answer is yes. More and more we have seen news reports of sexual assault scandals throughout the nation. Now, more than ever, it is important that we learn how to identify what sexual assault is, and what signs are present to indicate that an attack could be imminent or has already happened.

How can I help?

By completing this presentation and becoming aware of the facts on sexual violence and educating yourself on what to do or who to go to is already an important step in helping ensure the safety of you and your peers.

What is sexual violence?

Sexual violence is an often misunderstood concept. It can involve all levels of sexual contact from verbal harassment, all the way to extreme cases such as rape. The next video does a good job of explaining the differences between classifications of sexual violence and who can be considered victims.

My significant other can't actually be my attacker, can they?

Unfortunately, yes they can. Dating and domestic violence is among the greatest concerns to the safety of college students and often one of the most deadly. A majority of sexually and violence crimes are committed by those that the victim knew or had been in intimate contact with. It's important to remember that just by agreeing to be someone's boyfriend or girlfriend, it does not give them the right to do anything to your body without your consent. Verbal or physical abuse, stalking or isolation from friends and family from a significant other are all signs that could escalate to potential serious injury. If you, or if you feel like someone you know is being victimized by intimate partner violence, it is always best to speak up and report your concerns to school officials.

What is consent?

Consent can be tough to fully define. SUNY's definition is a clear, unambiguous, knowing, informed and voluntary agreement between all participants to engage in sexual activity. This means that consent needs to be understood between all partners engaged in the sexual activity. It also cannot be a result of coercion or harassment, and it needs to be actively stated. Silence or lack of resistance is not consent. Furthermore, a person cannot give consent when they are incapacitated, or lack the ability to fully, knowingly choose to participate in sexual activity. Remember, consent can be withdrawn at any time. If you withdraw your consent and the sexual activity does not stop, an act of sexual violence has occurred.

Where can I go for help?

Your first source of help for all students at any time would be the college safety department. There is one located at each of ECC's three campuses. Eric county crisis services also has a 24 hour hotline for anyone who is experiencing a personal, emotional or mental health crisis.

Who else can I go to?

When an instance of sexual violence occurs, there are many people available to talk to. The important thing is to just reach out. Your Dean of Students, or our Title IX coordinator are the best options for reporting instances of sexual violence, but places such as the student support service center are also available for students to seek help. Here is a handy flow chart, also located on your My ECC portal that lists resources available to students at ECC.

What if I was using drugs or alcohol when the incident occurred? Will I get in trouble at ECC for the alcohol or drug use?

The protection of our students from sexually violent acts is our primary concern at ECC. Students who have witnessed or were victims of sexual violence are encouraged to come forward and seek help regardless of the circumstances surrounding the incident. Any person reporting an act of sexual violence in good faith will not be subject to campus conduct violations of alcohol and drug use policies in connection to the incident.

I don't know if I want to talk to anyone about my experience yet, what should I do?

If you think that you have been a victim of sexual violence, you should always talk to someone about your experience. This can be a very scary and emotionally taxing time that no one should have to face alone. It is understandable that you may be afraid to speak to someone at school about your experience, so ECC has many online resources available on your MyECC homepage. Just remember, once you're ready to talk about it, someone at ECC is ready to help.

Are there any safety services on campus?

ECC offers many safety services across the three campuses. These services are meant to both prevent sexual violence and to help those who are survivors. More safety services are available to victims and survivors by contacting our Title IX Coordinator.

What if I only witnessed a violation?

Sometimes you may not be sure what you witnessed is an act of sexual violence or you might not know if it is your place to tell anyone. In any case, even just a suspected one, the right thing to do is report the activity. Our title IX Coordinator is available for third parties who wish to report a violation. Once a violation has been reported an investigation is launched immediately by the director of equity and diversity. ECC maintains a policy that all investigations are conducted adequately, reliably and impartially.

So remember...

We need your help to make sure sexual violence on college campuses becomes a thing of the past. Thank you for completing the student edition of ECC's Violence Against Women and Title IX Training.