

Mission

The **Sexual Assault & Violence Education Committee (SAVE)** is a coordinated community response team composed of students, administrators, staff, and faculty working to nurture a campus community that is healthy, safe, and supportive for all. **SAVE** works to foster this environment by providing education on the topics of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking. The **SAVE** Committee works to create opportunities for open campus dialogue on these sensitive topics, promote prosocial and proactive bystander intervention, and empower all members of the community to gain knowledge of support resources.

Vision

SAVE will inclusively support all members of the WPI community of any gender expression or identity through:

Education **SAVE** is committed to keeping informed of best practices, current research, and relevant news events. The committee will provide engaging presentations and forums addressing sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking.

Cultivating Awareness **SAVE** is committed to assessing and fostering awareness of campus climate and culture and connecting departmental offices to prevent fractured services.

Promoting Prevention **SAVE** is committed to providing campus education activities that encourage open and honest dialogue between community members, with a focus on encouraging prosocial and proactive bystander intervention.

Empowerment **SAVE** is committed to empowering survivors to make their own decisions about treatment as well as criminal, civil, and student conduct proceedings. **SAVE** will work to inform all community members about intervention and support resources available on the WPI campus and in the greater Worcester community.

For information on becoming involved in the **SAVE** Committee, contact sdcc@wpi.edu.

SAVE works in partnership with WPI's Title IX Coordinator and Deputies. The University has designated individuals that are responsible for receiving complaints of and investigating allegations of sexual misconduct by a WPI student in connection with a University program or activity. For more information on the sexual misconduct policy, including contact information for the Deputy Title IX officers please visit:

wpi.edu/offices/policies/antiharassment.html

If you have questions or concerns about how to support a student, contact the Student Development and Counseling Center.

For detailed information on Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention at WPI visit,

wpi.edu/offices/sdcc/savp.html

WPI Student Development & Counseling Center

WPI SDCC
157 West Street
Worcester, MA
01609

Phone: 508-831-5540
Fax: 508-831-5139
Email: sdcc@wpi.edu

SAVE

Sexual Assault & Violence Education Committee

Responding to
Sexual Violence:
A Guide for Faculty and Staff
wpi.edu/+save



WPI

Supporting Students Who Disclose Sexual Violence

Role as Faculty and Staff

As faculty and staff members, you have contact with many students and are in a position to identify and assist those who may need help. This brochure is designed to provide you with important information about resources available to all WPI students and how to support students who have been or may be impacted by sexual assault.

What is Sexual Violence

Sexual assault is defined as any unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature that occurs without the consent of each participant or when a participant is unable to give consent freely. A person is legally incapable of giving consent if under 18 years of age; if intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol; or if developmentally disabled.

Sexual violence includes a wide range of behaviors including non-consensual physical touching or kissing of a sexual nature, rape, sexual assault, attempts to commit rape or sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and/or domestic violence.

National statistics suggest that between 20 and 25 percent of women and 6 percent of men will be sexually assaulted or experience attempted sexual assault during their college career. Approximately 50 percent of transgender people experience sexual violence at some point in their lifetime.

Helping a Student

A student who has been sexually assaulted may talk to you 15 minutes or 15 years after an attack.

- If a student discloses the assault to you, a sensitive response will help her or him heal more quickly. It is important to believe the student and validate their experience. If a student tells you about an incident, it shows s/he trusts you. Open-ended questions such as “How can I help?” or “What do you need?” will prevent you from asking intrusive or judgmental questions (e.g., “Why did you trust him?” or “Couldn’t you scream?”) and convey a sense of support to the student.
- *It is important to note that WPI has a responsibility to make every effort to maintain a safe environment for all of its community members. If an administrator, faculty member, or staff member learns that a student has been sexually assaulted, they are expected to report the incident to the appropriate campus departments (Dean of Students Office, WPI Police, and/or the Title IX Coordinator) so that the campus can take action to support the student and the community.*
- Ensure that the student is currently safe. If not, contact Campus Police.
- Thank them for sharing this information with you, and acknowledge how challenging it might be to talk about this. Let them know that they are not alone and that what happened is not their fault.
- Know your limits. Let the student know how much support you can provide and that you don’t have all the answers. You can refer to the next panel to help the student identify different confidential and non-confidential options, yet let them make their own choices, and decide what to do next.
- Encourage the student to contact a Sexual Violence Advocate or the Counseling Center. Offer to contact an advocate together or to walk with them to the Counseling Center.

Confidentiality Chart

Confidential

Student Development & Counseling Center	508-831-5540
Student Health Services	508-831-5520
Collegiate Religious Center	508-757-6097
Pathways for Change (local rape crisis center) 24/7 hotline	508-852-7600 800-870-5905
Daybreak (domestic violence/relationship abuse) 24/7 hotline	508-755-9030
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	800-273-TALK

Semi-Confidential

Sexual Violence Advocates work directly with students to provide emotional support and connect victims with other services (on campus and within the Worcester community). These advocates will share non-identifying information with the Title IX Coordinator for Clery reporting purposes. For more information:

wpi.edu/offices/sdcc/judicial-assault.html

Non-Confidential

Campus Police	508-831-5433
Dean of Students Office	508-831-5201
Title IX Coordinator	508-831-5470
All other faculty and staff	

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