

California State University, Northridge  
Campus Plan to Address Sexual Assault

PREPARED BY

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*on behalf of*

THE CSUN SEXUAL ASSAULT COMMITTEE

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## Introduction: Campus Plan to Prevent Sexual Assault

California State University, Northridge (CSUN) is acutely aware that sexual assault is an issue of critical concern in colleges and universities throughout the United States and that no institution is immune from this crime. Despite our zero tolerance policy concerning sexual assault in any form, we realize this is an extremely underreported crime. The University takes seriously its obligation to be proactive in educating students, faculty and staff about sexual assault and takes a systems approach to establishing protocols to deal with this issue. A comprehensive institutional approach to address sexual assault ensures appropriate education as well as support services and creation of an environment that is intolerant of this crime.

CSUN has had a history of having committees that addressed a wide variety of issues related to acquaintance rape and other forms of sexual assault. Until 2006, these committees were ad hoc and were never officially appointed. In 2006, the Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Terry Piper, acted upon the recommendation of the ad hoc Sexual Assault Committee (2005-2006). The Committee recommended that this group should become a formal and permanent committee and that recommendation was granted as the group became formalized under the auspices of the Division of Student Affairs. The charge to the committee was and is as follows:

*The Sexual Assault Committee will serve as a forum for the review of existing, new or proposed practices, educational opportunities, outreach programs, prevention efforts, and other initiatives to reduce the incidence of sexual assault and sexual violence on the CSUN campus. As appropriate and necessary, on-campus and off-campus partnerships should be developed that provide assistance, support, and resources that strengthen the university's ability to provide assistance either directly or indirectly to students and other community members who become the victims of sexual assault or sexual violence. The Committee should annually review campus compliance with the sexual assault policy and report the findings and any recommendations to the Vice President of Student Affairs.*

The members of the Sexual Assault Committee constitute a diverse group of professional practitioners, educators, support services, students, faculty and external community crisis intervention professionals. This group is representative of all of the university entities that deal with sexual assault in some manner. In this context the group is the ideal forum for tracking campus sexual assault policies, practices, educational initiatives and concerns as well as this plan.

The campus plan for sexual assault is a compendium of policy, protocol, reporting practices, victim services, delivery systems and most of all educational efforts which the University

employs in an effort to reduce the incidence of sexual assault. It is a work in progress that requires continuing analysis and educational effort. The Sexual Assault Committee is the focal point for annual reviews of the plan, new or proposed practices, educational opportunities, prevention efforts and other initiatives that relate to this topic. It is through this continuing effort that the University hopes to provide the structure and tools needed to combat this societal problem.

## California State University, Northridge Sexual Assault Policy

POLICY NO.: 900-03 REVISION: Revision ISSUED: 7/25/2008 EFFECTIVE: 7/25/2008

### POLICY:

California State University, Northridge (CSUN) does not tolerate sexual assault in any form. It is important for all members of the community to know that anyone can be a victim or perpetrator of sexual assault. It is therefore extremely important to know that the campus sexual assault policy applies to all registered students and all faculty, staff, student assistants, graduate assistants, teaching associates, interns, and volunteers employed at California State University Northridge or any of its authorized auxiliary organizations.

### DEFINITIONS:

**Sexual assault** (as defined in Section 67385 of the Education Code) California Education Code includes (but is not limited to) rape, forced sodomy, forced oral copulation, rape by a foreign object, sexual battery, and threat of sexual assault.

**Sexual battery** (as defined in California Penal Code Section 243.4) include incidents in which the victim's or person's intimate part is touched without consent of the victim, and with specific intent to achieve sexual arousal, gratification or sexual abuse.

**Rape** (as defined in California Penal Code Section 261) is forced sexual intercourse that is perpetrated against the will of a person or when the person is unable to give consent (i.e., unconscious, asleep, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs) and may involve physical violence, coercion, or the threat of harm to the individual.

### PROCEDURES:

Every allegation of sexual assault will be taken seriously. Where there is reason to believe that a crime has been committed or University regulations prohibiting sexual assault have been violated, the University will pursue criminal charges and strong disciplinary action.

Employees and students will be held accountable under the California Education Code and California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 41301 (for student or a recognized student organization conduct) and the CSUN Sexual Assault Policy. Disciplinary sanctions, guided by the appropriate collective bargaining unit agreement if applicable, include the possibility of suspension or termination from the University. If a sexual assault occurs at an event sponsored by a chartered campus organization or club, the University may impose sanctions within a range of discipline from probation up to and including withdrawal of recognition of student organizations which are in violation of this policy.

The victim of a sexual assault occurring on campus should report the incident to the University Police <http://www-admn.csun.edu/police/>, if occurring off campus to the local police, and the **Klotz Student Health Center** in either circumstance. The victim should make every attempt to preserve physical evidence of the assault. This includes not showering, or disposing of any damaged clothing or other items that were present during the assault. Victims may also be asked by University Police to submit to a voluntary

forensic medical exam which is conducted at the **SART (Sexual Assault Response Team)** facility at Northridge Hospital.

Individuals who believe they may have experienced a sexual assault and would like to discuss their options can contact Valley Trauma Center's 24 hour confidential crisis line 818-886-0453. Alternatively a victim can contact the Klotz Student Health Center; however, health center staff will be required to report the incident to the appropriate law enforcement agency as mandated by law.

The University Police will meet with the victim to collect information for the purposes of conducting an investigation, the victim's participation is critical to the investigative process. The University Police are committed to a "victim centered" response; however, the decision to pursue the investigation lies solely with the Law Enforcement Agency.

A rape crisis advocate from the University Police Department or **Valley Trauma Center** <http://www.csun.edu/vtc/> is available to accompany victims of sexual assault to medical facilities. Counselors from the Valley Trauma Center or University Counseling Services will also assist victims in notifying the University Police (either anonymously or voluntarily) of the circumstances of the sexual assault if they are not already involved in the situation.

The **University Police**, with the victim's consent, will immediately conduct an investigation of a reported sexual assault. The victim and/or the University may also initiate University disciplinary action if the assailant is a student, faculty or other employee by filing a report with the Office of the **Vice President for Student Affairs** <http://www.csun.edu/studentaffairs/>, the **Office of the Provost** <http://www.csun.edu/academic.affairs/>, or the **Office of the Assistant Vice President for Human Resources** <http://www-admn.csun.edu/ohrs/>, as appropriate. In the event of a campus disciplinary procedure, the accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during a disciplinary proceeding. Additionally, both the accuser and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of any institutional disciplinary proceeding brought alleging a sex offense (the institution's final determination and any sanction against the accused).

## **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The University will commit available resources to assist and support and accommodate victims of sexual assault.

Examples of accommodations may include but may not be limited to: changes in academic program or living arrangements in campus housing, night escorts, etc.

The **Sexual Assault Policy Committee** is charged with responsibility of conducting annual review of the campus sexual assault policy. The committee also coordinates campus prevention education programs designed to promote awareness of rape, acquaintance rape and other sexual crimes. For further information please contact The Chief of Police and Chair of the Committee.

**RESOURCES:**

The University has a variety of services that cooperate to provide effective protection of health and safety for victims of sexual assault, assure confidentiality, investigate the incident, initiate sanctions if appropriate and maintain records. These resources are also helpful if you are not sure about your experience and not sure where to turn.

**University Police:**

If a victim wishes to report a sexual assault to university police, a crime report will be taken. CSUN Police encourage victims to report incidents of assault whether or not a victim chooses to move forward within the criminal justice system.

Police officers, male or female, will meet with victims privately at a time and location of the victim's choice to take a police report. A sexual assault investigator will be assigned to each case for in-depth investigation. The department also has an on staff rape crisis advocate to provide emotional support during the law enforcement investigation accompany the victim to forensic exams and to facilitate communication between the police officers, medical personnel and the victim.

If a forensic exam is necessary, victims will be transported to the SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) facility in Northridge for a forensic medical exam and will be provided with a range of long term assistance information, including victim/witness program information and criminal prosecution information. University Police will work closely with the District Attorney's Office on all cases in which the victim chooses to move forward with prosecution.

The University Police Department also provides educational materials and programs concerning sexual assault and provides rape awareness and self defense training with its RAD program and RAD Kids program. University Police also partners with Kinesiology in providing RAD for course credit ([http://www-admn.csun.edu/police/rad/.](http://www-admn.csun.edu/police/rad/))

**Counseling Services:**

University Counseling Services offers up to eight free confidential counseling sessions for students who have been sexually assaulted and for students who have had a loved one who has been sexually assaulted (recently or in the past). Students can arrange immediate services and can request to see either a female or male counselor.

**Project D.A.T.E.:**

This is an on-campus rape and sexual assault male and female prevention program sponsored by University Counseling and the Valley Trauma Center. Students who enroll in the program can earn academic credit and receive priority registration while they receive education and training on the various issues surrounding rape and sexual assault. These students become peer educators who in turn raise awareness and educate the campus community by giving presentations and engaging in other outreach efforts.

**Office of Student Housing:**

Student and professional staff at CSUN Housing are committed to advocating for victims and survivors of sexual assault/rape for on-campus residential students. These services are provided through a 24 hour emergency response duty program, referrals to our campus partners (i.e. Counseling Services, Police Services, Valley Trauma Center, etc.)

and with excellent training and commitment to assisting students in their pursuit to end sexual assault violence for themselves and others. In emergency situations, housing staff can arrange for emergency housing for victims of sexual assault. This includes housing bed spaces, guest housing spaces and hotel rooms if housing and guest spaces are all full.

**Klotz Student Health Center:**

The Student Health Center provides a variety of services for victims of sexual assault: pregnancy testing, emergency contraception pills, antibiotics prophylactically to treat possible sexually transmitted disease exposure, baseline HIV testing and HIV prophylaxis and referrals to Counseling Services.

**Human Resources:**

The **Human Resources Employee Assistance Program** provides resources to CSUN employees and consultation with departments in coping with traumatic situations. Human Resources provide information about health benefits and workers compensation to faculty and staff.

**Valley Trauma Center:**

The Valley Trauma Center (VTC) is affiliated with the Educational Psychology Department of CSUN and has several locations off campus. The VTC center provides a 24-hour crisis hotline and accompaniment services utilizing volunteer State Certified Rape Crisis Advocates. Advocates will accompany victim/survivors to police stations, forensic examinations and the courts for all initial and subsequent interviews and proceedings. In addition, the center provides 10 free counseling sessions to individuals and their significant others who have been affected by sexual violence. The center will also assist all victims/survivors, when appropriate, in the eligibility process for the Victims Assistance program, which may entitle the individual to extended counseling sessions.

**Women's Resource and Research Center**

The Women's Resource and Research Center is a walk in center for resources which serves students and others in the campus community. The Women's Resource and Research Center hosts and supports occasional events, workshops and guest speakers and provides printed materials and brochures on rape and sexual assault regarding education, prevention and resources.

**FORMS:**

N/A

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**Department of Police Services:** Mon. –Fri., 8-5 (818) 677-2201. All other hours: (818) 677-2111.

**Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs:** (818) 677-2391

## **Protocol for Responding to Sexual Assault**

The CSUN Police Department is an accredited law enforcement agency and has formal sexual assault response protocols in place. These protocols incorporate police response procedures, evidence collection and preservation, confidentiality of case information and victim support notification and coordination. It is every victim's decision whether or not to report such a crime to the police. The CSUN Police encourage victims to report incidents of assault whether or not a victim chooses to move forward within the criminal justice system. This allows the victim to record her/his experience of the assault while the incident is fresh in their mind. It also allows police to have the facts available in a timely manner in order to interview witnesses (if any) and investigate the assailant if the victim wishes to proceed with the criminal justice process.

Police officers, male or female, will meet with victims privately at a time and location of the victim's choice to take a police report. A specially trained sexual assault investigator will be assigned to each case for in-depth investigation. The University Police also has on staff a rape crisis advocate to provide emotional support during the law enforcement investigation and to facilitate communication between the police officers, medical personnel and the victim. The advocate accompanies the victim to the medical facility and is available during the forensic medical examination, if the victim wishes. A rape crisis advocate is also available from the Valley Trauma Counseling/Advocacy Center if the CSUN Police advocate is not available. The support of a rape crisis advocate is a right of a victim and they may choose to have an advocate present at any time during the investigation.

During the sexual assault investigation, the victim will be asked by police if they wish to sign a confidentiality agreement as prescribed under California law. This agreement allows police to withhold the victim's name from becoming a public record. If this statement is not signed by the victim, law enforcement authorities are required by law to release certain information on crime reports upon request, as a matter of public record. Additionally, CSUN Police will ask CSUN student victims for permission to release their names to university support personnel such as University Counseling Services, Office of Student Affairs and the Student Housing management (if a student lives in campus housing ) in order to facilitate all means of university support. The decision on this permission is up to the student.

Victims who consent to a medical exam will be transported to the SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) facility in Northridge for a forensic medical exam and will be provided with a range of long term assistance information, including victim/witness program information and criminal prosecution information. University Police work closely with the District Attorney's Office on all cases in which the victim chooses to move forward with prosecution.

## **Reporting of Sexual Assault Statistics**

The California State University, Northridge Police Department is committed to assisting all members of the CSUN community in providing for their safety and security. As part of this responsibility, the Department compiles crime statistics in compliance with state (California Department of Justice Uniform Crime Report) and federal law. Under federal law (the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act) the

Department reports crime statistics (including rape and sexual assaults) as well as informing members of the community (and anyone who requests a report) of institutional policies concerning campus security. This includes University Police law enforcement authority, crime reporting policies, alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, and other matters of related importance. This report is available to the community and public both in hard copy and online (<http://www-admn.csun.edu/police/crimereport.htm>).

## **Victim Services Delivery System**

CSUN's sexual assault response protocols strive to make victim services a priority. For those victims who choose to identify themselves within the university resource system, there is a wide array of support services that stand ready to assist. For those individuals who report an incident of sexual assault to University Police, this process begins with the assignment of a rape crisis advocate whose primary purpose is to provide emotional support to the victim during law enforcement investigation and to facilitate communication between all parties. Additionally, the advocate can provide information and referrals on campus and non-campus victim resources for short and long term assistance. If a victim chooses not to report to police, other campus resources also have the ability to provide referrals. Amongst the resource providers for victim services on the campus are University Police, the Klotz Student Health Center, Counseling Services, Women's Research and Resource Center, Student Housing, peer education through Project DATE to name a few. Additionally, the Valley Trauma and Counseling Center (off campus) is a primary referral resource for all victims of sexual assault whether the incident occurred on or off campus. A chart with detailed information on CSUN's programs and services for sexual assault support and prevention is in the appendix of this plan. More information and reference resources and links are available on the CSUN Department of Police Services website.

## **Campus Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Programs**

California State University, Northridge utilizes a universal sexual assault training strategy that is aimed at the entire university population, as well as periodically employing a selective sexual assault training strategy when there is a need to "target" those who have a heightened risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of sexual violence.

The majority of sexual assault training focuses on victimization issues or sexual assault avoidance and is best described as “risk reduction” training. For example, programs offered by the CSUN Police are designed to raise awareness of crime prevention practices and procedures while at the same time providing options as to what to do if and when a potential victim is involved in an assault/rape situation. Self-defense training offered by the CSUN Police in partnership with the Kinesiology Department in the form of the RAD program (Rape Aggression Defense) provides students with increased assertiveness, improved self-esteem, increased sense of control and empowerment, improved physical competence/skills in self-defense and other benefits. Such self-defense training for women constitutes one of the most promising directions in the field of sexual assault prevention.

The University also provides mixed gender education and prevention programs such as Project D.A.T.E., TAKE and Classrooms and Community as well as rape prevention programs for men such as Men C.A.R.E. (Creating Attitudes for Rape-Free Environments) and the University Police program RAD for Men (Resist Aggression with Defense). Educational efforts are annually reviewed by the Sexual Assault Committee and, when necessary, recommendations for changes and enhancements are provided to the Vice President for Student Affairs through the Chair of the Committee. (See prevention programs chart for additional resources at the end of this plan.)