

# University Policies

## Promoting Safety and Security



University policies exist for the purpose of providing a basis for quality campus life and for setting a standard of conduct for all members of the university community conducive to achieving the objectives of the university. Stated below are excerpts from university policies as they relate to issues of safety and security. For your safety and the safety of others, please read and become familiar with these policies.

### Standards of Conduct

The Code of Student Conduct and other appropriately published rules of conduct play an important role in the university's commitment to provide for the safety and security of all its community members. Failure of students, faculty, staff, or student organizations to comply with duly established laws or university regulations may subject violator(s) to appropriate action by university or other appropriate civil authorities. Such action might include referral to university disciplinary processes and even the possibility of arrest. The University of Florida does not attempt to shelter students or employees from federal, state, or local laws.

### Policy on Sexual Assault

The University of Florida values the health and safety of every individual on campus and expects its students to treat other persons with respect and dignity. Any behavior causing the sexual abuse/assault of another person will not be tolerated, is a violation of the university's Code of Student Conduct, and may result in sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. Disciplinary action on the part of the university does not preclude the possibility of criminal charges against the individual.

The term "sexual assault" as used by the university is synonymous with sexual battery, stranger rape, gang rape, marital rape, date rape, and acquaintance rape occurring on or off campus. Regardless of the name used or the location where it occurs, sexual assault is a violation of state law and is defined as any "oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by or union with the sexual organ of another, or the anal or vaginal penetration by another with any other object performed without consent" (Florida State Statute 794.011.). Consent is defined as "intelligent, knowing, and voluntary" permission. Consent is not failure to physically resist, forced or coerced submission, inability to make decisions due to intoxication by any substance, or being unconscious, asleep, or physically unable to communicate non-consent.

Sexual assault may take many forms including gang rape, acquaintance rape, date rape, and stranger rape and occurs both on and off college campuses. Sexual assault can occur any time of the day or night, at home, in the work place, in social settings, and in public places. Both men and women have been sexually assaulted by strangers, people whom they have known and trusted, and people whom they have dated.

### What To Do If You Are Sexually Assaulted

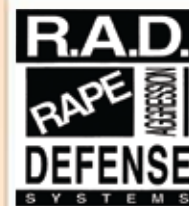
- **Get to a safe place.** For your protection, call the police immediately, especially if the assailant is still nearby. The police will help you whether or not you choose to prosecute the assailant. Call a friend or family member for support and/or the University of Florida Police Department's Office of Victim Services at (352) 392-5648 or (352) 392-1111 after hours, where an advocate is available to assist you 24 hours daily.
- **Get medical attention immediately.** The primary purpose of a medical examination is to check for physical injury, the presence of sexually transmitted diseases, or pregnancy as a result of the assault. The secondary purpose of a medical examination is to aid in the police investigation and legal proceedings.
- **Don't bathe or douche.** Bathing or douching might be the first thing you want to do, but please don't. You might literally be washing away valuable evidence. Wait until you have a medical examination.
- **Save your clothing.** It is all right to change clothes, but save the clothing you were wearing at the time of the battery. Place each item of clothing in a separate paper bag and save for the police. Your clothing could be used as evidence for prosecution.
- **Report the incident to police.** It is up to you, but reporting is not the same thing as prosecution. Prosecution can be determined later. To contact police call 9-1-1, 24 hours a day. Again, the Office of Victim Services and many other university personnel are here to assist you in reporting sexual battery. The Office of Victim Services will also assist you through the entire legal process. Please report assaults to the proper authorities.

**If you are a victim of a sexual assault and decide not to notify law enforcement, please secure medical attention and contact any of the victim support resources listed in this guide.**

### Where To Go For Help

Many sexual assault cases go unreported because the victim fears retaliation or possible humiliation if word gets around she/he has been the victim of a sex offense. It is a violation of Florida State Statute for any agency or media outlet to release the identity of a victim of sexual assault. Victims tend to feel guilty, as though they did something to cause the attack, and often keep the incident to themselves, or share some of the incident with a close friend. While this may be helpful in the immediate sense, we encourage you to talk to a knowledgeable professional about your reactions to being victimized. The various services on and off campus available to all victims of violent acts are designed to assist the victim in overcoming the trauma of the attack and proceeding with their lives. If you were sexually assaulted sometime in the past, you may still need to talk with someone about it. It was a traumatic experience and may still be affecting your life. Talking about being sexually assaulted may help you resolve your feelings.

- **The University of Florida Police Department.** If you are a victim of sexual assault on campus, call (352) 392-1111 (V/TDD). If you are a victim of sexual assault off campus, call the Alachua County Combined Communications Center at (352) 955-1818, and they will put you in contact with the appropriate law enforcement agency (in an emergency, dial 911). Each agency urges victims to report the crime. Many rapists are repeat offenders and will rape again unless they are apprehended and convicted.
- **The University of Florida Police Department's Office of Victim Services.** An advocate is a civilian support person who ensures the right of the victim to be kept informed and treated with fairness. UFPD advocates are available to assist victims 24 hours a day. Victims may consult an advocate directly by calling (352) 392-5648 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or after hours by calling the University of Florida Police Department at (352) 392-1111(V/TDD). Talking with an advocate is not the same as filing a police report, and victim advocates will provide support regardless of whether or not the victim chooses to report the crime



The University of Florida Police Department is proud to offer Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) training to all interested women of the UF community. The R.A.D. approach to personal safety education embodies a practical blend of threat avoidance strategies and real-world assault protection techniques for women. The R.A.D. course of instruction focuses on the development of personal safety skills that are easily mastered and can be safely practiced within a comfortable learning environment, and the integration of these skills with a threat assessment process designed to increase personal safety awareness. The goal of UFPD's R.A.D. training is to reduce victimization through informed decision-making and sensible action. R.A.D. training is not a traditional self-defense course. Instead, it enables women to learn, in a period of just a few hours, a set of cognitive and physical skills which can enhance their personal safety and be of benefit for years to come. If you would like more information or would like to register for the next R.A.D. class, please



call the Community Services Division of the University of Florida Police Department at (352) 392-1409, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.