

COMPLIANCE MATTERS

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE - OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

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SpeakUpMC Climate Survey on Sexual Violence

Condensed Results, 1953 Student Participants

The Title IX office administered a climate survey, during the Spring 2016 semester, to students on sexual violence. The survey asked students to respond to questions on campus safety, the Colleges responsiveness to incidents, available resources, education, attitudes and social norms, and experiences of sexual violence. The below information provides an overview of our student responses, specific takeaways, and how you can help end sexual violence at Montgomery College.

Perception of Safety & College Responsiveness

Students' expectations that the College will respond in a positive way to reports of sexual assault is very high, hovering at about 80% for a range of questions that reflect faith in MC's good intentions. Similarly, 60-67% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they feel safe on campus, with neutral response ratings hovering between 24-30%. Students asked whether Montgomery College has created an environment where sexual harassment, stalking and sexual violence are recognized as problems indicated "yes" at 68.31%; 79.91% said that these issues are safe to discuss at Montgomery College.

Knowledge about available resources

- * 1,038, 53.6% of students surveyed indicated that they would NOT "know where to go to make a report of sexual misconduct." This figure was similar for questions asking about students' understanding of what happens when a report of sexual misconduct is made, and about "where to get help on campus."
- * 64.9% of students reported that they are "not at all aware" of the Title IX office; 75.3% reported that they are "not at all aware" of the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program.

Education

- * Close to 40% of students (726) indicated that they had received no prior information or education about sexual misconduct before coming to Montgomery College.

Attitudes

- * 33.4% agree, strongly agree that, or don't know if sexual assault happens because "men get carried away."
- * 36.6% agree, strongly agree that, or don't know if "dressing provocatively or engaging in promiscuous activity is inviting sexual assault."
- * 27.6% agree, strongly agree that, or don't know if rape and sexual assault happens because people put themselves in bad situations.
- * 41.1% agree, strongly agree that, or don't know if "many women who claim they were raped had sex and regretted it afterwards."
- * 30.4% strongly disagree, disagree that, or don't know if, "consent to engage in sexual activity can be withdrawn at any time."

Sexual intimidation

305 students reported that they has experienced sexual intimidation and 186 indicated, "I'd rather not answer;" twenty-five students reported that this happened on a Montgomery College Campus.

SpeakUpMC Climate Survey on Sexual Violence Continued

Sexual Harassment

461 (23.71%) of students reported that they had experienced sexual harassment, and 137 indicated, “I’d rather not answer;” 51 indicated that the experience had happened on a Montgomery College Campus.

Stalking

348 students (18%) reported that they had experienced stalking and 100 indicated “I’d rather not answer;” 50 of these students indicated that the experience had happened on a Montgomery College Campus.

Dating Violence

155 students reported that they had experienced dating violence and 75 indicated “I’d rather not answer;” six reported that the event had occurred on a Montgomery College campus.

Domestic Violence

204 students indicated that they had experienced domestic violence, and 105 reported that they would “rather not answer;” eight students reported that they had experienced domestic violence on a Montgomery College Campus

Sexual Activity without Consent

254 students reported that someone had engaged or attempted to engage in sexual activity or behavior with them without their consent; 140 students said “I’d rather not answer;” ten of these students reported that the incident had happened on a Montgomery College campus.

Sexual Assault

194 students indicated that they had experienced sexual assault and 129 indicated that they would “rather not answer;” six students reported that they have been sexually assaulted on a Montgomery College campus.

Rape

94 students told us that they had experienced rape and 123 indicated that they would “rather not answer;” No students said that rape had occurred on a Montgomery College campus.

Secondary Impact

573 students told us that someone close to them had experienced sexual violence, and 161 indicated that they would “rather not answer.” Impacts on these students’ well-being were similar to those of students who reported experiencing sexual violence victimization.

Comments by Students

341 students commented on the survey. Comments discuss students’ experiences of sexual violence and document the pain and suffering of victims: “I feel really depressed about the situation;” and, “I was so young and scared, I didn’t know what to do;” and, “I was going through a violence relationship [that] made me want to drop my classes.” One student wrote about “being assaulted in a classroom full of people” and, when the professor “[did] nothing,” “feeling out of place, scared, disgusted.”

Some comments reveal the dominance of destructive attitudes in some students’ understanding of sexual violence: “some students expose themselves by the way they dress;” and, “people who are abused are the ones who asked for it;” and, “ban women from wearing yoga pants.” One student wrote that “if I saw a girl getting sexually harassed, I probably wouldn’t do anything... I would probably watch if it’s entertaining.”

Overall, students expressed a strong desire to receive more education, to have more opportunities to be involved in violence prevention.

SpeakUpMC Climate Survey on Sexual Violence Continued

Takeaways from the Survey Results

Our students experience sexual violence, and sexual violence does happen on campus.

More often than not, students never tell anyone about what happened to them; when they do, they usually confide in family and friends and do not make formal reports.

Many students do not know about how to get help, even though a great many report “feeling depressed.” Many do not believe that what happened to them “is serious enough to report,” and many fear that they will not be believed, or that they will be blamed for what happened.

The impacts of sexual violence on their lives include: depression; difficulty focusing on school work; arriving late to class; missing one or more class meetings; missing an assignment deadline; failing or dropping a class; missing work, and deferring enrolling in or taking classes.



What does it mean to be a “Responsible Employee”?

Q: I am a part-time faculty and not sure what to do if a student tells me about some sort of sexual assault they’ve experienced. I have yet to have this happen, but want to be sure I know what to do in case it does.

A: As a faculty member, you are considered a responsible employee for reporting requirements under Title IX. Responsible employees must report all information to the Title IX Coordinator or to a Deputy Title IX Coordinator. If you anticipate a student is about to share a report with you, you may want to let them know that you will be required to share it with the Title IX Coordinator, and if they want to share something confidential you can take them to see a counselor, who are Confidential Resources. Students who report do not have to decide at the time the report is made, whether or not to request a particular course of action, or label what happened. Choosing to make a report, and deciding how to proceed after making a report, can be a process that unfolds over time.

How Can You Help?

If a student discloses to you any sexual misconduct, you, as a “Responsible Employee,” must notify the Title IX Coordinator, Mr. Christopher Moy

Be aware of resources on and off campus.

Become a Bystander Intervention Facilitator.

Take the online Title IX training “Bridges: Building a Community of Support.” The training is located on MCLearns under required training.

As Faculty:

The College has an online training available to students to educate them on the many facets of this complex topic: Haven-Understanding Sexual Assault Training. We need all faculty to encourage students to take the training; this is part of our Title IX federal requirements and also helps to build a climate of awareness and prevention among our students.

Have your class participate in, or encourage student participation in Bystander Intervention training.

Add a [Title IX Statement](#) to your syllabi. (Located on page 6, section F)

Bystander Intervention Facilitator Training

Register Now! Bringing In The Bystander: Training for Facilitators at TP/SS, RV and GT this Spring!

This interactive, train-the-trainer workshop will enable participants to implement the Bringing in the Bystander (BITB) In-Person Prevention Program curriculum, designed by the University of New Hampshire, here at Montgomery College. Attendees will gain the skills to facilitate the program themselves, and will be certified to co-facilitate 90-minute Bringing in the Bystander Trainings within the MC Community. Trainers will become part of a cohort working to educate the Montgomery College community about sexual violence and to decrease violence through evidence-based intervention strategies.

BITB Facilitators will be prepared to deliver trainings that:

- Develop skills for both direct and indirect intervention while keeping bystander's own safety in mind.
- Increase knowledge and awareness of scope and causes of sexual violence.
- Increase recognition of inappropriate behavior along the continuum of sexual and relationship violence and how to respond to it safely and appropriately.
- Provide strategies, information and resources for responding to these issues.

This training meets the MC multicultural/diversity requirement.

BITB Course Details:

This two-session training will happen on all three campuses. Each session is 2.5 hours (5 hours total). Participants must complete both sessions to be certified.

Co-facilitators: Esther Schwartz-McKinzie and Bess Vincent

Takoma Park/Silver Spring:

Session I: Friday, February 24, 1:00-3:30, HC120

Session II: Monday, February 27, 1:00-3:30, HC124

Rockville:

Session I: Monday, March 6 1:30-4:00, HU 131

Session II: Friday, March 10 1:30-4:00, HU 131

Germantown:

Session I: Monday, March 20 10:00-12:30, BE160

Session II: Monday March 20 1:00-3:30, BE160 (lunch provided)

Use MC LEARNS to register.

For more information, contact: eschwart@montgomerycollege.edu

Title IX Team



Christopher Moy
Director of ADA & Title IX Compliance

Deputy Title IX Coordinators

The following are Deputy Title IX Coordinators for reporting and information purposes on each of their respective campuses.



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Collegewide Dean of Student Access and
Germantown Student Affairs



Tonya Mason
Collegewide Dean for Student Success
and Rockville Student Affairs



Kristen Roe
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