

FIU POLICY

A safe campus is one in which students, faculty, and staff are free to conduct their daily affairs both inside and outside the classroom without fear of physical, emotional, or psychological harm.

Personal safety is a basic human need that must be preserved if the mission of the university is to be pursued. Florida International University (FIU) is committed to fostering an environment in which the highest moral and ethical standards are upheld and in which all individuals and groups are treated with respect and without prejudice.

FIU has coordinated its policy with regard to relationship violence, stalking and sexual offenses, and has provided for implementation of same. Relationship violence, stalking and sexual offenses will not be tolerated in the FIU community. Victims have the right to report crimes to FIU Police. Victims are encouraged to access all available university services.

If approached by a FIU member who was victimized, or someone who was victimized while visiting FIU, university personnel should always contact Victim Empowerment Program for guidance and to coordinate the transfer of care. If a life threatening emergency, call FIU Police.

Please see Victim Empowerment Program for entire policy and specific checklist procedures for responding at:

vep.fiu.edu

RESOURCES ON CAMPUS

Victim Empowerment Program
24-Hour Hotline.....305 348-2277
Website.....vep.fiu.edu

Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.....305 348-3939

University Police Department MMC305 348-2626

University Police Department BBC305 919-5559

Counseling & Psychological Services MMC.....305 348-2277

Counseling & Psychological Services BBC.....305 919-5305


RESOURCES OFF CAMPUS


Rape Treatment Center.....305 585-5185


Fla. Council Against Sexual Violence Information Line.....1-888-856-RAPE

*Services of Rape Treatment Center are free of charge to victims of sexual assault, whether or not victim wishes to report to police.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 @fiu_vep

 @FIUCounseling

 FIU Counseling

HOW TO HELP A STUDENT WHO HAS BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

FIU

Student Affairs

Counseling and Psychological Services
Victim Empowerment Program

VEP.FIU.EDU
305-348-2277



ABOUT US

The Victim Empowerment Program is a 24-hour confidential service providing support, referral, and information for FIU students, faculty, staff, and university visitors who have been victims of **actual or threatened** violence. Advocates are mental health professionals trained in trauma and crisis counseling.

Confidential services are available for all types of violence, including (but not limited to): dating/domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and hate crimes. Services include information and assistance regarding emergency, medical, academic and legal procedures.

Advocates are available to: accompany clients to the hospital, police, court or other appointments if desired; to help request academic accommodations (if appropriate); and to help with the student conduct complaint process if desired.

Services are **free of charge** to FIU students, faculty and staff. Advocates do not attempt to influence clients' decisions; rather, staff provides information, options and support to help with the recovery process.

Safety planning is also provided when necessary. Advocates provide practical and emotional support to ensure that all issues arising as a result of victimization are addressed according to the wishes of the client. Advocates can help with petitioning the court for a restraining order (Injunction for Protection), making police reports if desired, initiating student conduct complaints, accessing emergency shelter, and facilitating accommodations with FIU administration and faculty.

Faculty and staff spend time with students, and this information is to help them assist students in need. Some of the things you can be alert for:

1. Look for potential signs of trouble, some of which may include:
 - An abrupt attendance problem
 - Sudden change in classroom participation
 - Missing assignments when not previously a problem
 - Unusual patterns of coming late to class and/or leaving early
 - Signs of bruising or injuries
2. Approach the student—let him or her know you are supportive and can be trusted: Ask questions—most victims welcome your concern, and students may not know how to get help. Some examples of questions to ask :
 - “I hope you don’t mind my asking, but is something going on that concerns your safety?”
 - “I have noticed that you’ve been missing classes, which is unusual for you. Is everything ok, or do you want to talk confidentially to someone?”

3. Be supportive—say something like:
 - “I am so sorry this happened to you.”
 - “I am so sorry you are going through this.”
 - “You are not alone—there is help.”
4. Refer to the Victim Empowerment Program. VEP can help students obtain information about all available options. **Police reports are not required to receive services.** VEP staff can come to your location. Ask student for permission to call us.

PROGRAMMING, EDUCATION AND CONSULTATION

Educational Programming:

Professional staff can come to your class, staff meeting, or department meeting to speak about relationship violence, stalking, sexual violence and campus coordinated response, as well as nature of services available. These services are free for the university community.

Trained Peer Educators can come to your class to provide prevention and awareness education.

Visit our website for more information about educational programming and the rest of our services at vep.fiu.edu

Consultations:

VEP staff is available to meet to discuss concerns and strategies for responding. Identities can remain anonymous. VEP Staff can also meet with a student in your location, if preferable.

24 Hour Emergency Hotline
305.348.2277

