

# Addressing sexual assault at USC

## **Sexual Assault Committee**

- Sexual Assault Committee, appointed in fall 2013, includes representatives from Law Enforcement and Safety, Equal Opportunity Programs, Legal, Student Conduct, Student Health Services, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and University Housing
- Using best practice models and federal guidance, the committee developed two-tiered structure for weekly sexual assault case management and coordination, as well as compliance oversight
- Working Group meets weekly to discuss campus coordination in response to specific cases. Membership includes Law Enforcement and Safety, Equal Opportunity Programs, Student Conduct, Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention and Prevention, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Housing
- Compliance Group meets monthly to review compliance with applicable laws and regulations to inform changes to policies, procedures or practices. Membership includes Law Enforcement and Safety, Equal Opportunity Programs, Legal, Student Conduct, Student Health Services, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Athletics
- Communications Committee advises a working group tasked with developing campaigns to increase students' understanding of bystander accountability, consent and campus resources and to increase employee understanding of their role in responding to sexual assault. Membership includes Law Enforcement and Safety, Equal Opportunity Programs, Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention and Prevention, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, University Communications, students and faculty

## **Policies**

- Revised the university's Relationship Violence and Stalking Policy, STAF 1.09, and Sexual Assault Policy, STAF 1.08
- Will review policies further

## **Training**

- Trained hundreds of faculty, staff and student leaders online and in person since August 2013
- All incoming freshmen and transfers under age 23 participate in the Haven sexual assault prevention module, a component of Alcohol.edu
- Beginning fall 2015, employees will be trained through Haven

## **Prevention and education**

- Developing universitywide strategic prevention plan
- Coordinating with Carolina Community Coalition to gather and analyze data, determine priority problem areas and identify capacity and research-based strategies to address problems
- With EverFi, the creators of Haven and Alcohol.edu, hosted regional prevention summit in February 2015. The summit examined the connections between alcohol and sexual violence on college campuses
- Hosted student leaders for session on campus sexual assault

## **Communications**

- Developed standard messaging for universitywide use. Refinement will continue as needed dependent on new practices, resources and guidelines
- Developed a sexual assault resource site—[sc.edu/stopsexualassault](http://sc.edu/stopsexualassault)—in compliance with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013
- Published a sexual assault resources card for survivors, a checklist for survivor's first point-of-contact to verify all compliance notifications have been made and a resources card to provide to all students
- With senior public relations students, administered survey to gauge students' awareness and understanding of sexual assault-related concepts and resources
- Developed a comprehensive communications plan to increase students' understanding of consent, bystander accountability and their awareness of USC resources and to increase employees' understanding of their roles in responding to sexual assault and their participation in sexual assault training. While many communications efforts are already underway, a full launch of student and employee campaigns will begin in August

## **Student-led initiatives**

- Student Government participated in national It's On Us Week of Action in November 2014
- SG hosted Stand Up Carolina training of approximately 75-100 students, promoted It's On Us pledge via social media and at information tables throughout November 2014
- SG partnered with Clemson University student government to host "white outs" to raise awareness on both campuses
- Fraternity Council partnered with Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands to provide training and education to fraternity members. Fraternity Council provided a donation to STSM's "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" program

# Talking Points for Beginning of the Semester Faculty/Staff Meetings

## 1. Your Role

- a. **Everyone at USC has a role** in preventing and responding to sexual assault. Federal regulations require all employees to report and address sexual assault on campus. All USC employees *except for confidential resources* have an obligation to report incidents of sexual misconduct at [sc.edu/stopsexualassault](http://sc.edu/stopsexualassault). At USC, *Student Health Services medical, counseling and sexual assault advocate staff* are considered confidential resources who can support survivors while maintaining their anonymity.
- b. The University of South Carolina cares about the safety and well-being of the Carolina community and has **resources available 24/7 to assist** survivors and members of their support networks by providing emotional support, legal advocacy and protective services.

## 2. Training

- a. All new employees are required to complete the Haven for Faculty and Staff online training module, which is the counterpart to Haven's module for UofSC students. In this online course, employees get an overview of issues related to sexual assault, discover how sexual assault can be prevented and learn how and why they must report it.
- b. Current employees are expected to take this 35 minute course that can be accessed from [sc.edu/stopsexualassault](http://sc.edu/stopsexualassault). Your participation will be recorded by Equal Opportunity Programs.

## 3. How to Support a Survivor

- a. In the tragic event that a sexual assault occurs, each of us must **listen, support and report**. Listen to the survivor and tell him/her it's not his/her fault. Support the survivor by offering the full array of available resources. Report the incident at [sc.edu/stopsexualassault](http://sc.edu/stopsexualassault).

## 4. Website and Resources

- a. The web page [sc.edu/stopsexualassault](http://sc.edu/stopsexualassault) is the central source of information related to sexual assault prevention, response and reporting. The site will be updated as university procedures and policies change and new resources become available. All currently available resources are listed, and if it is a confidential resource.

5. Upcoming materials and timeline

- a. The Sexual Assault Communications Committee will be sending print materials with resources and information to all faculty and staff on the Columbia campus in the coming weeks.

Thank you,

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Sexual Assault Communications Working Group

# SEXUAL ASSAULT

As USC employees, you have a moral obligation and a legal duty to assist survivors and report sexual assault. These guidelines will help. Take the training and get tips for talking with survivors at [sc.edu/stopsexualassault](https://sc.edu/stopsexualassault).

## LISTEN

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Allow survivors to share openly without making judgments or evaluations.

Tell survivors that you cannot guarantee confidentiality. Refer survivors who want that guarantee to the confidential resources listed at [sc.edu/stopsexualassault](https://sc.edu/stopsexualassault).

**Report a sexual assault at [sc.edu/stopsexualassault](https://sc.edu/stopsexualassault).**

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**We believe you. It's not your fault. You are not alone.**  
These resources can help.

### Support, investigation and victim advocacy

USC police — The victim advocate can help survivors get restraining orders and orders of protection. Reporting an assault is different from prosecuting it. Call 803-777-4215 or, in an emergency, 911.

### Victim advocacy and support

USC Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention & Prevention (confidential resource) — Trained advocates are on call 24/7 to provide support, information and referrals to survivors. Advocates also can assist with class schedule and room changes. Call 803-777-8248 (after hours, call USC police and ask for the SAVIP advocate).

Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands (confidential resource) — For an advocate, call 803-771-7273 any time.

## SUPPORT

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USC and the nearby communities have a number of resources available 24/7 to survivors.

To ensure that survivors know the full array of support available, review the information below with them. Cut off the bottom portion of this page and share it with them for later reference.

## REPORT

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In compliance with Title IX, university policy assigns employees (except confidential resources) an obligation to immediately report their knowledge of sexual assault of a student, whether the incident occurred on or off campus.

### Medical attention

Palmetto Richland Hospital (confidential resource) — Medical attention is critical. Visit the ER at 3301 Harden St.

### Campus judicial support and investigation

USC Office of Student Conduct — Conduct staff members can provide no-contact orders, conduct investigations, evaluate conduct charges and determine appropriate resolutions. Call 803-777-4333.

### Title IX rights and process assistance

USC Title IX coordinator — Title IX protects students' rights to an educational environment free from discrimination, including sexual assault. Call 803-777-3854.



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[sc.edu/stopsexualassault](https://sc.edu/stopsexualassault)