

North Country Community College

Sexual Assault Information and Guidelines for Prevention

The term “sexual assault” can include several kinds of crimes; rape, incest, sexual harassment, child molestation, marital rape, exposure, and voyeurism.

North Country Community College will not tolerate sexual harassment. The College observes the New York State Policy on sexual harassment which states that discrimination on the basis of gender is a violation of Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and will not be tolerated.

SEXUAL ASSAULT INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION

For detailed information on the definitions of sexual offenses including misconduct and abuse refer to Article 130-New York Penal Law.

Facts:

- Sexual assaults are acts of violence committed primarily out of anger and/or a need to feel powerful by controlling, dominating, or humiliating the victim.
- Victims of sexual assaults are forced coerced or manipulated to participate in unwanted sexual activity.
- Victims of sexual assault do not cause their assaults and are not to blame. Offenders are responsible for the assaults.
- Most perpetrators know their victims and plan their assaults.
- More assaults occur at or in the victim’s home than at other locations.
- Sexual assaults are crimes and should be reported to the police.

Examples of Sexual Harassment:

Any behavior that is sexual in nature and creates an intimidating hostile or offensive environment. Such behavior can include, but not limited to, sexting, obscene phone calls; unwanted physical contact of breasts, buttocks, or genitalia; insults relating to one’s gender.

Informing Campus Community on Security Procedures:

North Country Community College notifies students of sexual assault awareness and prevention concerns in a number of ways. Most importantly, in a pro-active manner, students are reminded during orientation, the residential check-in process, and periodically during the semester of the importance of good choices and personal security as they go about their daily lives. In addition:

- Flyers reminding students of areas of concern are produced and distributed across the campus.

- The importance of locking doors and securing personal possessions is also widely addressed and student staff is instructed to secure any door that is found unlocked.
- Equally important, students are reminded of the importance of exercising good judgment in the selection of activities in which they engage and individuals with whom they affiliate.
- Students and parents are encouraged to investigate and ask questions about campus crime statistics which are maintained by the Office of Campus Life and Student Life.

Sexual Assault Statistics:

- One in four women report being sexually assaulted.
- It's estimated that 60% of sexual assaults are not reported to police.
- Approximately 2/3 of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.
- 80% are under the age of 30.
- Every 2 minutes, another American is sexually assaulted

Source: Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (www.rainn.org)

Don't Have To Be A Victim But If You Are, You Don't Have To Be Alone.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I'VE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED?

For immediate support call the Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-877-212-2323

Students may also seek support and assistance by initiating a conversation with a friend, Resident Assistant, the Residence Hall Director on the Saranac Lake Campus, the Director of Campus and Student Life, an academic advisor, faculty, human resource specialist in the Office of Organizational Effectiveness and Technology Solutions, support staff in any office about any concern or incident regarding a sexual assault.

North Country Community College can refer students who have been a victim of sexual assault to counseling service agencies in the community. Students who are victims of sexual assault (and any other acts of violence) and students charged with sexual assault can also receive support throughout any investigation, disciplinary process and/or criminal process.

As a community, we will not tolerate any allegations or acts of sexual assault involving any of our employees or students. North Country Community College will apprehend and prosecute persons responsible for bias related crimes committed against any member of our community. We encourage anyone who witnesses or is a victim of sexual assault to come forward for support and to seek justice.

Your safety and wellbeing is a priority to North Country Community College. Note: It's important to read and become familiar with the information now as opposed to after the fact. Don't assume sexual assault can't happen to you or a friend. Be prepared.

- GET TO A SAFE PLACE and call a rape crisis center for information or support. North Country Community College students, employees, friends or family living can call:

The Office of Campus and Student Life
1-518-891-2915 ext. 1205

Sexual Assault Hotline
1-877-212-2323

Or

Call 911

- Take care of your body. Tell a friend for support and go to the hospital whether you plan to press charges or not.
- Determine whether or not you want to report the incident to the police. If there is any chance you do want to report the assault, you should not shower, bathe, douche, change clothes, or straighten up the area until medical and legal evidence is collected because these actions will destroy evidence.

- If you think you've been drugged, tell the nurse at the hospital. Every hour matters. Chances of getting proof are best when the sample is obtained soon after the substance has been ingested.

Anonymous Reporting

North Country Community College also encourages anonymous reporting of sexual assault to the Director of Campus Life and Student Life. Anonymous reporting helps North Country Community College collect valuable information and may help in any investigation current or in the future.

Campus Disciplinary Sanction

Sexual assault offenses may lead to penalties up to and including expulsion from the college. Students charged disciplinarily (refer to the Code of Conduct) and found responsible will be sanctioned accordingly.

We know that the responsibility for sexual assault offenses, as true for other acts of violence, rest squarely on the perpetrator. North Country Community College is dedicated to your safety and will vehemently pursue those who are responsible for acts of misconduct, especially those acts of sexual assault (and any other form of violence). Students need to understand that they are responsible for their individual and group conduct. North Country Community College expects members of its community to exercise not only safe habits, but self-control and civil respect for the dignity of others.

THE FOLLOWING PREVENTION GUIDELINES ARE RECOMMENDED FOR THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY:

- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Examine your own desires and feelings about sex and set sexual limits.
- Be assertive and communicate your limits clearly.
- Do not hitchhike. By doing so you forfeit the ability to change directions to control your movement.
- Alcohol and drugs can compromise your ability to make responsible decisions and are often related to date rape situations.

CAMPUS SAFETY

- Study or work with a friend in buildings at night. Use stairs in well-lit and populated sections of a building. Keep personal belongings in view while in class, the lab or social areas.
- When in an elevator, position yourself next to the controls.
- Report any concerns to the Office of Campus and Student Life. An Incident Report is available on the campus portal. All incidents will reviewed and addressed per the college Code of Conduct, available in the College Catalog and online at www.nccc.edu. As necessary the college will work closely with local authorities to manage events.

DORM SAFETY

- Lock your doors at all times.
- Keep cash, jewelry and medications secured and out of sight.
- Keep all doors, especially fire doors, closed at all times.
- Clear visitors with an RA, Residence Hall Director or Security before entering the dorm.
- Keep your blinds closed to avoid ensuring privacy.
- Leave a voicemail message that does not include your name or address.
- Make sure key chains do not have personal identification on them.

APARTMENT/HOME SAFETY

- Lock your doors at all times.
- List only your first initial with your phone number in the phone book.
- List only your initials and last name on the mailbox.
- Open doors only for people you know.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed so as not to provide a cover for a burglar.
- Have a phone in each room so that help is always within reach.
- Turn lights on in several rooms when you are home alone.
- Get to know your neighbors.

PROTECTING YOUR HOME WHILE AWAY

- Make sure all doors and windows are secured.
- Tell only good friends you will be out of town.
- Make sure your answering machine message doesn't say you are out of town and/or when you will be back.
- Leave a radio set to a talk show station.
- Set interior lights on a timer.
- Stop mail and newspaper delivery

ATM & NIGHT DEPOSIT SAFETY

- Use indoor ATM machines whenever possible.
- Bring a friend when using the ATM, especially at night.
- Be alert and cautious of anyone loitering around the ATM/night deposit.
- Complete your transaction quickly and leave immediately.
- Protect the Personal Identification Number (PIN) for your ATM by covering the screen while you enter the numbers.

EXERCISE SAFETY

- Always exercise with a friend when outdoors at night.
- Stay in well-lit and populated areas at all times.
- Reserve Public Park and use for daylight hours. Carry a personal safety device, such as a sound siren, mace or red pepper gas.

STALKING TIPS

- If you think you are being stalked, seek safety.
- Document the time and dates and contact the Office of Campus and Student Life and/or the Police.

ON THE STREET

- Accept rides only from people you know. Take a friend with you for late night excursions.
- Walk on the part of the sidewalk closest to the street, as far away as possible from shrubs, trees and doorways.
- Stay near people. Whenever possible, appear to be with a group of people. Stay in well-lit areas.
- Avoid short cuts through unpopulated areas.
- Walk in a steady pace, appear confident and purposeful.

Sexual Assault is a Major Life Crisis

It interrupts normal life at home, at work, or at school, with friends, family or co-workers. Women of color, lesbians, gay or straight males must often deal with cultural stereotypes and prejudice as they cope with their victimization.

Some common emotional and physical responses to sexual assault may include:

- Inability to express emotions
- Sleeplessness and/or nightmares
- Sexual dysfunction
- Stress-related illnesses
- Denial
- Drug/alcohol abuse
- Displaced anger
- Lack of concentration and loss of self-confidence
- Appetite loss/overeating
- Feeling of grief and despair
- Problems with authority figures, suicide attempts, and offending behaviors

Recovering from sexual assault is often a slow and confusing process, which can be aided by trained advocates. Contact:

Office of Campus and Student Life (1-518-891-2915 ext. 1205)

Or call

Sexual Assault Hotline (1-877-212-2323)

Crisis Helpline (1-800-342-5767)

Online sources for additional information:

Sexual Assault Support Services:

www.sassnh.org

After Silence Message Board:

<http://www.aftersilence.org>

Office of Campus and Student Life

Feel free to contact any of the representatives below.

Saranac Lake Campus

Bobbie Karp, Director of Campus and Student Life

518-891-2915 ext. 1205 bkarp@nccc.edu

Malone Campus

Bruce Kelly, Coordinator of Campus and Student Life

518-483-4550 ext. 3226 bkelly@nccc.edu

Ticonderoga Campus

Bella Doolittle, Coordinator of Campus and Student Life

518-585-4454 ext. 2203 bdoolittle@nccc.edu

In the event of an Incident, the Director of Campus and Student Life (or designee) will publish information to the campus that contains information intended to sensitize the campus community to the nature of any current concern. The privacy of the individual(s) involved is pre-eminent but in most cases, sufficient detail is included that provides the campus community with valuable information to decrease the likelihood of further occurrence.