Overview of Sexual Violence Prevention & Survivor Assistance
American University
See www.american.edu/sexualassault for additional details

Key Campus Contacts
1. **OASIS: Office of Advocacy Services for Interpersonal and Sexual Violence**: Housed within the Wellness Center, OASIS includes two full time staff: the Sexual Assault Prevention Coordinator (SAPC) and the Coordinator for Victim Advocacy Services (CVAS). Both staff serve as confidential victim advocates on campus, providing support to survivors, or those in contact with survivors of sexual violence, dating violence, or stalking. OASIS staff provide options counseling and psychoeducational support, as well as referrals to campus and community resources. The office provides education and outreach, overseeing the training and supervision of the Men of Strength Club (MOST), Peer Educators for the Elimination of Sexual Violence (PEERS), and Step Up Student Leaders (bystander intervention).
2. **The Counseling Center**: Clinical staff provide confidential counseling, support, and referral.
3. **Ordained Clergy at the Kay Spiritual Life Center**: Clergy provide faith-based confidential guidance, support, and referral.
4. **Student Health Center**: Clinical staff provide confidential medical care, STI testing, emergency contraception and referral. The Student Health Insurance Plan provides free, 24-hour counseling support through the Collegiate Assistance Program (CAP) for all AU community members. CAP staff include rape crisis counselors, and the program is available both domestically and internationally.
5. **Title IX Coordinator**: The campus administrator oversees complaint investigations and resolution. The Dean of Students is the designated Title IX Coordinator. Deputy Coordinators are the Dean of Academic Affairs, Washington College of Law’s Associate Dean for Student Affairs, and the Assistant Vice President of Human Resources. As of March 2015, AU has allocated funding to hire a full-time Title IX Coordinator.
6. **Sexual Assault Working Group**: Chaired by the Dean of Students and including administrators, staff, students, and faculty, the working group and subcommittees meet weekly to discuss policy, program development, assessment, and supportive services.
7. **Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution Services**: This office adjudicates alleged cases of sexual misconduct.
8. **Public Safety**: Campus police manage threat response and provide assistance in filing cases on campus and with the Metropolitan Police Department. Public Safety also provides support with court processes.

General Awareness Efforts
1. **Sexual Assault Information Stickers**: Posted on the back of all bathroom doors across campus, these stickers communicate critical information for survivors including supportive resources and how to file a complaint.
2. **Green Dot Bystander Intervention**: Through overview speeches and training, Twitter and Facebook updates, online articles, and word of mouth, the Green Dot movement spread across campus. Over 225 students and 35 staff participated in the 7-hour bystander training program, including Resident Assistants; Orientation Leaders; Student Government leaders, athletes and fraternity and sorority members. Green Dot was replaced by the Step Up Bystander Intervention program in summer 2014.
3. **Step Up Bystander Intervention**: Launched in Fall 2014, Step Up replaced the Green Dot program. More than 2,400 students have been Step Up trained during the 2014-15 academic year. Step Up concepts are included in the summer orientation of new students. In December 2015, OASIS launched a new peer education program focused on Step Up training. (Details below).
4. **Step Up Bystander Intervention Promotional Film**: Produced and filmed in Summer 2014, this seven minute film provides an overview of the Step Up model and its implementation at American University. The film is available on our Step Up website, as well as on YouTube. It is also being used by the University of Maryland as part of their bystander intervention training.
5. **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**: AU plans to continue our tradition of hosting many significant and diverse awareness events throughout Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April 2015, including a screening and panel discussion of The Hunting Ground, the Clothesline project, Take Back the Night, Anti-street harassment events, Walk a Mile in her Shoes, workshops addressing the law, policy, consent, and communication, as well as many other programs aimed at educating our campus community.
6. **Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)**: PEERS and OASIS tabled throughout October 2014 to raise awareness of domestic violence, a crime that affects 43% of women during their time in college. PEERS focused on
addressing healthy and unhealthy relationships in an effort to engage more community members in education and awareness for DVAM.

7. **Stalking Awareness Month:** PEERS and OASIS tabled in January 2015 to raise awareness of stalking, a crime often minimized by our culture. In addition to handing out buttons and informational brochures to students, PEERS targeted the usual use of “stalking” when not referring to the crime of stalking. PEERS created multiple posters that were displayed at each tabling event that challenged the inappropriate use of the word stalking while also encouraging students to sign a pledge promising not to use the word unless in a context of the crime.

8. **“Resources for Victims and Survivors of Sexual Assault”:** This brochure is distributed throughout campus and is available in large quantities through the Wellness Center and Office of the Dean of Students. The brochure includes updates on confidential resources, consent, and University policy, as well as updated information regarding the SANE program in DC. The Brochure is currently in the process of being revised to include updated policy, additional victim rights, and new information about OASIS.

9. **“Title IX Prohibits Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Where You Go to School”:** An electronic and paper information flyer is posted throughout campus to inform the community about where to report alleged violations of Title IX.

10. **Campus Resources Flowchart:** An effort of the Sexual Assault Working Group, the flowchart is available both online and on paper. The chart visually displays all resources for survivors, clearly identifying resources as either confidential or non-confidential.

11. **Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Prevention Project Team:** The project team recommends policy changes and plans awareness and education initiatives for students, faculty, and staff.

12. **Public Service Announcements/Social Media Campaign:** Bystander intervention messages are displayed on electronic messaging systems throughout campus and distributed through social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

13. **Stand with AU:** A media campaign launched in summer 2014 aimed at strengthening the university’s culture of respect and integrity.

14. **U ASK DC App:** OASIS partnered with Men Can Stop Rape and other DC-area universities to develop a phone app that provides information on campus and community resources for individuals affected by interpersonal violence.

**Student Initiatives**

1. **Women’s Initiative:** This Student Government Department sponsors awareness programs on women’s issues and collaborates with the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and the Wellness Center on a number of programs targeting sexual violence.

2. **Men of Strength Club:** The Men of Strength club has been officially recognized for three academic years. They continue to grow in size and will host or co-host events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month this April.

3. **Stand Up AU:** Growing out of an academic leadership program, the group became a recognized club in spring of 2014. The AU administration looks forward to the growth of this group.

4. **Students Against Sexual Violence:** This new group supports the efforts of OASIS and the groups identified above.

**Education**

1. **General Student Body.**
   a. **Peer Educators for the Elimination of Relationship and Sexual Violence (PEERS):** is a group of Wellness Center peer educators who undergo over 30 hours of training to conduct workshops for student groups focused on issues of stalking, sexual harassment, relationship violence, and sexual assault. PEERS is overseen by OASIS. Since Fall 2011, PEERS have facilitated over 40 workshops for the campus community.
   b. **Step Up Student Leader Program:** Launched in December 2014, the Step Up Student Leader Program consists of 10 students who conduct Step Up bystander intervention workshops for the campus community. Step Up Student Leaders receive 10 hours of training in bystander intervention, presentation skills, and technical practicalities of running workshops.

2. **New Undergraduates:** Approximately 97% of first year students participate in New Student Orientation; 95% of first year students complete Haven—Understanding Sexual Assault, an online education program. Haven addresses the critical issues of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and bystander intervention. During Eagle Summit, new students participate in a live program that specifically addresses issues of sexual assault. Beginning in December 2014, bystander intervention was added to the orientation program.

3. **New Graduate and Law Students:** Beginning summer 2014, all graduate and law students were asked to complete Haven—Understanding Sexual Assault.
4. **Student Athletes:** OASIS conducts workshops for all new student athletes with a focus on sexual and dating violence; the workshop includes elements of bystander intervention training. All 16 intercollegiate athletic teams participate in this mandatory training by team (about 250 athletes).

5. **Fraternity/Sorority Members:** All 39 groups under Fraternity and Sorority Life receive mandatory training on bystander intervention. Fraternities and sororities are also encouraged to request PEERS workshops throughout the year.

6. **Male Students:** OASIS facilitates the recognized student club, Men of Strength, sponsored by the national organization, Men Can Stop Rape. The program helps participants examine and reevaluate their masculinity in order to create healthier, safer, and happier lives for themselves and the men and women they care about.

7. **Study Abroad:** OASIS collaborates with the Study Abroad office to develop pre-departure trainings addressing sexual violence abroad and resources available. OASIS also collaborated with the Study Abroad office to update the AU Study Abroad website with sexual violence resources abroad. OASIS conducts a pre-departure training for all students who study abroad.

8. **ROTC:** OASIS trains ROTC students from all DC University programs. The training addresses myths, utilizing resources, and bystander intervention.

9. **Residential Students:** Resident assistant hold mandatory floor meetings with all resident students at which time they discuss bystander intervention strategies and encourage residents to download the U ASK DC phone application with campus and community resources for interpersonal violence.

**Training**

1. **Resident Directors and Resident Assistants:** All RAs receive training from OASIS on responding to sexual assault and have the opportunity to practice their sexual assault response skills during a “Lab Day” session that includes role plays and additional in-service workshops. All RAs are currently Step Up trained.

2. **Student Conduct Board (Conduct Council):** In 2012, all members of the Conduct Council participated in a Comprehensive Sexual Misconduct Board online training, offered by the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management (NCHERM). All members of the Conduct Council receive annual training on sexual assault as well as domestic and dating violence.

3. **First Responder Training for Campus Life Staff:** Campus Life staff and campus partners, such as academic advisors, participated in training for first responders that focused on working with students who have experienced trauma. This training was provided by our local partner, DC Office of Victim Services.

4. **Orientation, Transition and Retention Programs:** Orientation Chairs and Orientation Leaders participate in bystander intervention training prior to summer orientation sessions, and are trained to facilitate small group discussions around issues of interpersonal violence.

5. **Title IX Compliance:** The Title IX Coordinator (Dean of Students) has completed the Title IX Coordinator certification program offered by the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management and has implemented guidelines to fulfill Title IX requirements. All Title IX investigators have received training on Title IX and how to conduct investigations. The Title IX Coordinator regularly consults with investigators and deputy coordinators regarding university investigation and response.

6. **Faculty and Staff:** All faculty and staff are required to participate in training on Title IX and preventing harassment in the workplace. An additional course is required for supervisors.

7. **Public Safety:** New Public Safety officers participate in a 10-week Academy with a module that places emphasis on sexual assault investigations and attention to the primary responsibilities of law enforcement in sexual assault cases. All Public Safety staff receive annual training through OASIS.

8. **Coaches, Athletic Trainers, and Athletics Administrators:** The Title IX Coordinator presents information on Title IX including reporting requirements to Athletics staff annually.

9. **Office for Violence Against Women Technical Training Institute:** The Title IX Coordinator and Assistant Director of Student Conduct were invited to participate in the February 2015 Technical Training Institute for recipients of VAWA grants. Staff attended sessions on building coordinated community response teams and developing trauma-informed student conduct processes for victims of sexual violence.

**Policy**

1. **Student Conduct Code:** The Code is consistent with best practices in sexual misconduct policy and fully compliant with new Title IX guidance from the Office for Civil Rights. The conduct code is currently in the process of review; current additions under consideration include adding “sexual exploitation” to the list of prohibited conduct, as well as the expansion of complainants’ rights to appeal a decision. Code provisions address Title IX compliance are italicized for easier identification and reading.
2. **AU’s Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policy:** The policy was last revised in summer 2014 and strongly affirms AU’s intolerance for sexual misconduct and incorporates provisions compliant with Title IX guidance. The policy makes clear the university’s expectation that all faculty, staff and students have a duty to report incidents involving interpersonal violence and sexual assault.

3. **Study Abroad Agreements:** The Dean of Students Office worked with the Study Abroad Office to include language in their study abroad agreements with regard to Title IX reporting expectations for overseas partners.

### Campus Climate Assessments

1. **National College Health Assessment:** Campus Life administers the National College Health Assessment to undergraduate, graduate and law students every two years. The next administration is in April 2015. This national survey contains sections on Violence, Abusive Relationships and Personal Safety, and on Sexual Behavior.

2. **Biennial Survey of Sexual Violence, Dating Violence, and Bystander Intervention:** AU Professor Jane Palmer conduct a biennial survey of sexual violence, dating violence and bystander intervention on AU’s campus; the last administration was conducted in March 2015. The 2015 administration of the survey was expanded to include graduate and law students. Survey results are shared with the campus community through a variety of means, including semi-annual Open Forums.

3. **Haven – Understanding Sexual Assault:** All undergraduate, graduate and law students complete the online Haven training program prior to their enrollment in the fall or spring semester. Haven addresses the critical issues of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and bystander intervention. Data collected from the program identifies new student knowledge and attitudes about interpersonal violence and informs educational programming.

### Institutional Recognition of Sexual Violence as a Critical Issue

1. The President’s Cabinet has reviewed the Title IX Dear Colleagues Letter as part of its agenda.

2. **Campus Life Committee of the Board of Trustees** heard a presentation in February 2011 on Sexual Misconduct on Campus. In May 2011, the Committee discussed the Title IX Dear Colleague Letter and how AU handles Title IX/sexual violence complaints.

3. **The President’s Council Retreat** (Cabinet, Deans and top academic administrators) included a presentation on sexual assault at AU and Title IX guidelines.

4. The President’s Summit on Campus Security in October 2011, sponsored by the U.S. Justice Department, was attended by the chair of the Campus Life Committee of the Board of Trustees, Judge Gerald Lee.

### Community Partnerships

1. **DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV) Campus Consortium:** AU has joined with other members of the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV) Campus Consortium to take advantage of a Department of Justice grant to support the development and sharing of best practices and model policies and programs directed at compliance with the federal requirements for the Campus SAVE Act.

2. **DC College Consortium:** AU’s sexual assault prevention coordinator is representing AU at the new DC College Consortium, formed by the DC Office of Victim Services.

3. **NVRDC Legal Clinic:** AU hosts a monthly legal clinic on-campus for victims of violent crimes through the Network for Victim Recovery of DC.

4. **OASIS Community Relationships:** OASIS maintains close working relationships with the following local agencies and organizations:
   - Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network (RAINN)
   - DC Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC)
   - DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)
   - Break the Cycle (BtC)
   - Men Can Stop Rape (MCSR)
   - DC Office of Victim Services (DC OVS)
   - Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC)
   - National Stalking Resource Center (SRC)
   - MPD Victim Specialists Unit
   - DC Victim Assistance Network
   - DC Campus Sexual Assault Consortium

Information Source: Office of the Vice President of Campus Life and the Office of the Dean of Students; last update: April 2015.