Engaged Bears

Savannah Chatham County Metropolitan Police
Special Victims Unit: (912) 651-6742
Memorial University Medical Ctr Security
(912) 350-8600
Safe Shelter: (912) 629-8888
Rape Crisis Center of the Coastal Empire:
(912) 233-7273 or (912) 233-3000

REPORT VIOLENCE IMMEDIATELY

911 POLICE AMBULANCE

Savannah students, report campus policy violations to:
• VP Student Affairs / DOS (478) 301-2685
• Mercer’s Title IX Coordinator (478) 301-2788,
  Brittany M. Raygoza, raygoza_bm@mercer.edu
These individuals can:
• assist you in notifying Mercer (or local) Police, if
  you choose, and identify useful services/resources.
• provide you with a written explanation of your
  rights and options if you report being a victim of
  domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault,
  or stalking, regardless of where the offense oc-
  curred.
• identify your rights to seek protective and other
  similar orders and the university’s obligation to
  help enforce such orders.
• identify possible disciplinary actions for students
  who violate University conduct regulations.

The University uses a preponderance of the evidence
standard in disciplinary hearings, with prompt, fair,
and impartial investigation and resolution.

Understanding Consent

Effective communication plays a vital role in
healthy, mutually respectful relationships.
Mutual understanding serves as evidence of
effective communication.

Georgia law does not define “Consent,” but for
purposes of Title IX and Student Code of Con-
duct investigations Mercer does*.

Consent is . . .
• clear, knowing and voluntary
• mutually understandable
• active, not passive
• invalidated by coercion, force, and threats

Consent can be . . .
• withdrawn at any time
• given by words or actions

Consent cannot be . . .
• interpreted from silence alone
• given by a person in a state incapable of
  making rational, reasonable decisions1
  (alcohol/drugs, unconsciousness, blacked out, mental
disability, sleep, involuntary physical restraint)

Consent does not automatically extend . .
• from one form of sexual activity to another
• from one point in time to another

1Sexual activity with someone incapacitated
constitutes a violation of Mercer’s policy.

*For more information on Mercer University’s definitions for
sexual misconduct and relationship violence, contact the
Title IX Coordinator or Dean of Students, or see document
entitled Statements, Definitions & Compliance Support.

Contact canon_ab@mercer.edu for brochure updates/corrections

Awareness and Prevention Resource for
Graduate and Professional Programs
and Health Professionals, including Nursing
http://atlstuaffairs.mercer.edu/
mercersave.cfm
Engaged Bears say or do something
when they sense that something isn’t right
and can safely reduce risk of violence or stalking

STRATEGIES

Stand Up for prevention and risk reduction

Become conversant in Mercer’s Consent policy. Does it differ from your expectations?
What invalidates consent? What challenges do you foresee putting this into practice?

Examine your relationship communication. How can you enhance your communication skills to help ensure mutual understanding?

Assess how Tabachnick’s continuum of behaviors can help you identify abusive behavior, and avoid harm or guide intervention opportunities.

Recognize your own attitudes around gender inequality and gender identification and how bystanders’ responses vary by gender.

Promote risk reduction strategies for yourself, family, friends, community (socio-ecological).

Acknowledge your role as a professional to help eliminate, prevent and address intimate partner violence (IPV) and gender inequality.

Work to develop bystander intervention skills - assessing, enlisting, deciding, acting/confronting - to support indirect, direct, and distraction plans.

Share solutions and stories that enhance success and build capacity to effect change.

Healthy, age-appropriate, mutually respectful, safe
Mutually flirtatious, playful
Situation- or age-inappropriate or non-mutual
Harassment
Sexually abusive & violent

Source: Tabachnick’s Engaging Bystanders in Sexual Violence Prevention at NSVRC.ORG

INTERVENTIONS

Stand Tall during moments that matter most

Stay Tuned: Assess Risks in the Environment (STARE)
• You’ve had a lot to drink; can I get you a safe ride home?
• __ plans to ‘score’ tonight; let’s keep a close eye on __.

Lend Your Support / Be Attentive to Identified Needs
• I’m concerned about that bruise; are you alright?
• You said you’re drinking to forget… Let’s talk about it.

Encourage Safe, Positive Options / Available Resources
• You’re so stressed; did you call the counselor/resource ctr?

Utilize Others’ Help / Alert Them to Your Intentions
• __ is hitting on __; will you help me create a distraction?

Take Action / Indirect, Direct, Distraction, Combination
• Have you considered that comment might be offensive?
• ‘s showing you a lot of unwelcome attention; need help?
• Excuse me, I’m going to have to ask you to leave __ alone.

Help! Escalate to Authority, as Indicated
• Hey, bartender/bouncer, something needs to happen here!
• I don’t like where this is headed: 9-1-1 EMERGENCY.

Confidential Counseling and Support

Mercer Students in Savannah call MUSM Behavioral Services (Steve Livingston, Ph.D., LMFT) to help you handle the disruption and disorganization that can result from a traumatic event. If you or someone you know has experienced a personal violation such as a sexual assault and seek confidential support to cope with and manage what has happened, MUSM Behavioral Services offers Confidential Counseling for Mercer medical students that is protected privileged communication by law.

Support and counseling through MUSM Behavioral Services - Savannah. You don’t have to do this alone.

1107 E. 66th Street, Savannah, Georgia 31404
(912) 350-2024
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