

# REPORTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

We Care About Our Students - Responding to Student Complaints of Sexual Violence

2014/2015

## What is Title IX?

The federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in educational institutions is Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972 (amending the Higher Education Act of 1965). The law states that "no person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

## Keeping Our Students Safe

Sexual assault, sexual harassment and dating violence are hidden but are also major problems in our society. Consider these general statistics from RAINN, the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (<https://rainn.org/statistics>):

- 44% of victims are under the age of 18
- Every 2 minutes, another American is sexually assaulted
- 60% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police
- Approximately 2/3 of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim
- 38% of rapists are a friend or acquaintance

Anyone, regardless of gender, racial background, sexual orientation or education level can be a victim. Because of the shame and fear that many victims experience, it may be difficult to reach out and get help. These pages will help you learn more about the University's stance on sexual violence and how to report allegations of sexual violence. You will find information related to resources available both on and off campus, links to information for survivors of sexual violence, University policies, your rights under Title IX, and ways you can look out for the health and safety of friends and loved ones who attend Ferris State University.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

### UNDER TITLE IX.....If

the University knows or reasonably should know about possible sexual harassment or sexual violence, it must promptly investigate to determine what occurred and take appropriate steps to resolve the situation.

**Ask**

**Listen**

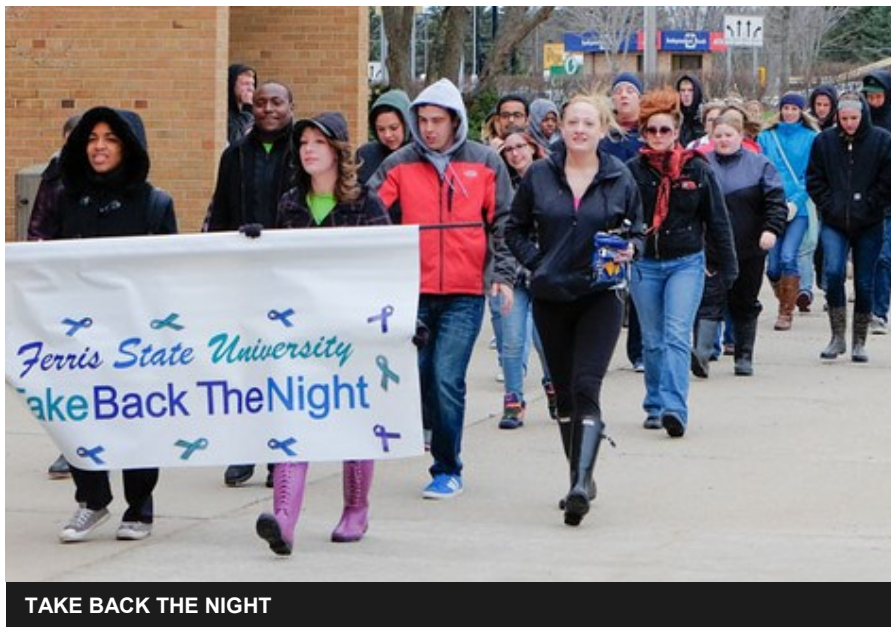
**Respect**



Bulldogs Taking Action—Looking Out for Our Friends and Fellow Students

## I'M A BULLDOG

- I will do what I can to encourage a safe and respectful campus community.
- I will look out for my fellow bulldogs.
- I will help combat sexual violence on and off campus.



TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

## Types of Investigations

### *Criminal Investigation*

FSU Department of Public Safety will actively investigate reports of criminal sexual violence and make available to the complainant and the alleged perpetrator a variety of support services located both at Ferris State University and in the local community.

### *University Investigation*

Ferris State University is required to investigate allegations of sexual violence to ensure that an appropriate course of action is being taken to provide a safe environment for all students involved.

The University will respond to all reports of sexual violence in a timely and equitable manner. One of our many goals of investigating an allegation is to gather all the facts that will help guide us to an appropriate response and outcome.

The Title IX Coordinator(s) will designate a University Official to investigate the allegations as appropriate while also following Title IX requirements. The investigator will make available to the complainant and the alleged perpetrator, a variety of support services located both at Ferris State University and in the local community.

## Title IX Compliance

Ferris State University does not tolerate sexual violence in any form, including what is often labeled "acquaintance rape" or "date rape." Student and Employee Dignity Policies demand all University community members to act with dignity and treat each other with respect. Sexual violence is a violation of the dignity and respect policies, as well as other policies and criminal law. The University will strongly pursue disciplinary action and sanctions against all employee and student perpetrators, up to and including termination of employment or dismissal from the University.

Ferris State University complies with Title IX and has developed the following procedures for responding to claims of sexual violence/misconduct:

- Any student who believes that she or he has been impacted by sexual violence, may file a complaint with the Ferris State University Department of Public Safety.
- For confidential reporting and additional support, students have the option of connecting with the Ferris State University Personal Counseling Center.
- Reporting Officials are designated to receive reports of sexual violence and are required to relay all such reports to the Department of Public Safety. Reporting Officials will inform the student (complainant) of the importance of reporting the incident to the police and will assist the complainant who elect to report with contacting the proper authorities.
- Ferris State University has identified the following positions as a "Reporting Official" in addition to the FSU Department of Public Safety and the Title IX Coordinator(s) for reporting sexual violence at the University: Office of Student Conduct, Director of Housing and Residential Life; Vice President for Student Affairs; Director of the Center for Leadership, Activities & Career Services; Athletic Director; Academic Affairs leadership which includes the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, all Associate Provosts, the Vice President for Extended & International Operations, and Academic Deans; and the Vice President for Administration and Finance. All coaches, advisors of registered student organizations, University Center or extra-curricular activities' advisors or directors, all residence hall staff, and all employee supervisors are also Reporting Officials.
- In the case of student-to-student complaints of sexual violence (including sex discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual assault), the complainant will normally follow procedures established by the Office of Student Conduct in the "Code of Student Community Standards."



SPEAK OUT

# UNIVERSITY ONLINE RESOURCES

**Ferris State University  
Code of Student  
Community Standards**

[http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/  
administration/studentaffairs/  
studenthandbook/  
administrative/  
SexualAssault.htm](http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/administrative/SexualAssault.htm)

**Ferris State University  
Board Policy**

[http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/  
administration/Trustees/  
boardpolicy/Part8/8-6/  
homepage.htm](http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/Trustees/boardpolicy/Part8/8-6/homepage.htm)

**Ferris State University  
Virtual Women's Center**

[http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/  
studentlife/Minority/vwc/  
assault/faq/assault.htm](http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/Minority/vwc/assault/faq/assault.htm)



## Who's the Title IX Coordinator?

### Title IX Coordinator

The Title IX Coordinator is the Ferris State University official with responsibility for monitoring and oversight of overall implementation of Title IX compliance at Ferris State University, including coordination of training, education and communication, and assisting complainants in consulting with the appropriate deputy coordinator(s) and utilization of the appropriate process to investigate and resolve complaints.

The Ferris State University Co-Interim Title IX Coordinator(s) are:

Name: Matthew Olovson and Ken Plas  
Office Location: Governmental Relations & General Counsel – McKessy House  
Address: 120 Cedar Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Email: matthewolovson@ferris.edu or plask@ferris.edu  
Phone: (231) 591-3894

### Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students

To file a complaint against a Ferris State University student for sexual violence (sexual harassment, sex discrimination, or sexual assault), contact:

Name: Leroy Wright  
Title: Dean of Student Life  
Office Location: Office of the Dean of Student Life, Helen Ferris Hall – Terrace Floor  
Address: 809 Campus Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Email: wrightl@ferris.edu  
Phone: (231) 591-2088

The university official listed above has been designated as a deputy Title IX coordinator and is responsible for compliance in matters involving students including coordination of training, education, and communication and for administration of complaints/grievances adjudicated under the Code of Student Community Standards.

### Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Gender Equity in Athletics

To file a complaint regarding athlete discrimination and inequities in athletics as it relates to gender, contact:

Name: Sara Higley  
Title: Compliance Coordinator/Senior Women's Administrator  
Office Location: Athletics  
Address: 210 Sports Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Email: higleys@ferris.edu  
Phone: (231) 591-2860

The university official listed above has been designated as a deputy Title IX coordinator and is responsible for compliance in matters involving inequities in athletics including coordination of training, education, and communication and for administration of complaints/grievances as required under Title IX.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## Ferris State University Department of Public Safety

Office Location: West Commons – FSU Department of Public Safety  
Address: 1319 Cramer Circle, Big Rapids, MI 49307  
**Emergencies: Dial 911**  
Non – Emergency Phone: (231) 591-5000  
Campus Crime Hotline: (231) 591-5900

## Ferris State University Office of Housing and Residence Life

Office Location: Office of Housing and Residence Life  
Address: Helen Ferris Hall, 809 Campus Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Phone: (231) 591-3745

## Ferris State University Office of the Dean of Student Life

Office Location: Office of the Dean of Student Life  
Address: Helen Ferris Hall, 809 Campus Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Phone: (231) 591-2088

## Ferris State University Birkam Health and Personal Counseling Center

If you need counseling and/or additional support, please contact the Personal Counseling Center at (231) 591-5968 to make an appointment.

If you are in need of medical support while on campus, please contact the Birkam Health Center at (231) 591-2614 Monday – Friday 8 am -5 pm.

## Women’s Information Service, Inc. (WISE)

If you need additional support, please contact the Women Information Services Inc. at (231) 796-6600 (Main Office). WISE provides advocacy, safety options and support services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. **The WISE 24-Hour Crisis Line is 1-800-374-WISE (9473).**

## Other Local Law Enforcement Agencies

Mecosta County Sheriff’s Department (231) 592-0150  
Big Rapids Public Safety (231) 796-4811

## Community Medical Support Services

Spectrum Health Big Rapids (231) 796-8691  
Planned Parenthood (231) 796-8612  
Community Mental Health Services (231) 592-3161



## Title IX: The Basics at Your Finger Tips

1. Title IX is a landmark federal civil right that prohibits sex discrimination in education.
2. Title IX does not apply to female students only.
3. Schools must be proactive in ensuring that your campus is free of sex discrimination.
4. Schools must have an established procedure for handling complaints of sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual violence.
5. Schools must take immediate action to ensure a complainant/victim can continue his or her education free of ongoing sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual violence.
6. Schools may not retaliate against someone filing a complaint and must keep a complainant/victim safe from other retaliatory harassment or behavior.
7. Schools can issue a no contact directive under Title IX to prevent the accused/perpetrator/student from approaching or interacting with you.
8. In cases of sexual violence, schools are prohibited from encouraging or allowing mediation (rather than a formal hearing) of the complaint.
9. Schools cannot discourage you from continuing your education.

Source: <http://knowyourix.org/title-ix/title-ix-the-basics/>

## Other Online Educational Resources

- Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)  
<https://rainn.org/>
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)  
<http://www.nsvrc.org/>
- The US Department of Justice—NSOPW (Education)  
<http://www.nsofw.gov/en/Education>