

CAMPUS CLIMATE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This page summarizes the most pertinent results from the Campus Climate Assessment conducted at Albany Law School in the spring of 2017. The purpose of the assessment was to understand students' perceptions and opinions about different social behaviors, their experiences with sexual assault and sexual misconduct and their understanding of Albany Law School's policies and resources.

All enrolled Albany Law School students were invited to participate in the assessment, yielding a total response rate of 30%, with the following response rates by class year and gender identity.

Who Participated?

Class Year	# Responding	Percent of Responses
1L	44	37%
2L	35	29%
3L	39	32%
Other	2	2%

Gender Identity	# Responding	Percent of Responses
Woman	71	59%
Man	47	39%
Trans	1	1%
Non-conforming	0	0%
Prefer not to answer	1	1%

Student Knowledge of Policies and Resources

Albany Law School takes its responsibility to educate students seriously. All first year students receive comprehensive online training as part of the orientation process. Student leaders and club sport participants are also provided with annual online training. In addition, various in-person programs are offered during the course of the year. Covered topics have included: bystander intervention, how to report a complaint, the Title IX Coordinator's role and student activism.

90% of responding students indicated they were somewhat or very familiar with Albany Law School's Student Policy on Harassment, Sexual Assault and Interpersonal Violence indicating that the training is effective.

A significant majority of responding students demonstrated understanding of the definition of affirmative consent. 93% said that consent to any sexual act or prior consensual sexual activity does not necessarily constitute consent to any other sexual act. 84% of respondents understood that affirmative consent is required even if both parties are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

There is some confusion about which on and off campus resources provide confidential assistance and which should be contacted to file a report or initiate an investigation. These results suggest that we need to do more education in this area.

Student Attitudes and Views

92% of responding students agree that most Albany Law School students would respect someone who took action to prevent sexual assault and 83% believe that their fellow students would watch out for them if it seemed like something bad would happen to them at a party or social event. Responses about the actions students have taken confirm that this is the case. 84% have walked a friend home who has had too much to drink and 77% have talked to the friends of a drunk person to make sure they are not left behind at a party, bar, or other social event. 54% have intervened with someone who was trying to take advantage of a drunk person.

However, 32% believe that rape and sexual assault can happen unintentionally, especially if alcohol is involved. This indicates that further education is needed.

Prevalence of Sexual Misconduct

Five participants indicated that they had experienced unwanted sexual behavior toward them while enrolled at Albany Law School. In all instances the incident took place off campus. Four of the five said the person who did this was an acquaintance, friend of a friend, or someone they had just met. One reported that the person who did it was a current or ex friend or roommate. Only one of the five made the decision to tell someone about what happened. That person told a friend, classmate or peer. There were no reports made to campus administrators, faculty or staff.

Potential Response Bias and Comparing Results

It is difficult to know whether students who have experienced sexual misconduct were more or less likely to respond to the survey. So it is impossible to know if students self-selected in or out of the survey in a way that would bias our results. This doesn't mean the findings are not important or accurate. It just means that the responses to this survey cannot be extrapolated to the Albany Law School student population as a whole.

Additional Information

Albany Law School's student policy on preventing and addressing sexual misconduct is available on our [website](#).

If you have feedback about the campus climate assessment, ideas about how Albany Law School can reduce sexual misconduct among our student population or ways to improve the support and resources our campus offers to students, please e-mail TitleIXCoordinator@albanylaw.edu.