

2021 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 2021. 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 14%. A majority of respondents identified as female (71%) and heterosexual (75%).

Student Knowledge of Training/Policies/Procedures/Resources

Albany Law School is diligent about adhering to the training requirements as outlined by federal and New York State guidelines under Title IX and New York's "Enough is Enough" Law. The Law School takes its responsibility to educate students seriously. To that end, all first-year students receive comprehensive training regarding the Law School's sexual misconduct policies as part of the orientation process. Throughout the school year, Albany Law delivers trainings about what constitutes sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, the students' bill of rights, how to report an incident, confidential resources, and procedures for investigating reports of sexual misconduct to all student leaders.

A majority (62%) of responding students reported that they are familiar with the Law School's policies and procedures that address sexual misconduct and 86% of responding students understood that reports of sexual misconduct could be made to Albany Law School's Title IX Coordinator.

In addition to educating students about policy requirements, a primary goal when educating the Albany Law community on issues related to sexual misconduct was to encourage the law school community to be aware, help, and support each other. Survey results suggest that training has been successful. To be sure, when asked if they thought that students would support a fellow student in obtaining help and resources in the aftermath of support, 82% of respondents said it was likely.

Student Experiences

This section is an essential piece of the survey given our lack of knowledge surrounding victimization rates and given the fact that reporting rates at Albany Law School have been historically low. We are hoping that with increased education and training, more students will feel comfortable coming forward and reporting.

Survey responses revealed that eight participants experienced sexual contact without consent in the past year. Twenty-four participants reported experiencing unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs, or demeaning jokes in the past year. Seven participants reported experienced conduct that constitutes dating or domestic violence in the last year and six reported experiencing conduct that constitutes stalking. Only two of these forty-five participants reported that the conduct was committed by a person affiliated with the Albany Law School community. These incidents were

not reported 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.

Moving Forward...

Albany Law School is committed to educating our community about sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment and to maintaining a safe, respectful, and non-discriminatory community. In the last few years at Albany Law, particularly in the last three years, we have continued to focus on the issue of sexual misconduct in numerous ways, from providing support to our students to developing strong policies and implementing comprehensive education programs. These include:

- Increasing training of students about Title IX, NYS's "Enough is Enough" Law, Albany Law's reporting procedures, dating violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, stalking, consent, bystander intervention among other related topics;
- Increasing training of law school employees (including student employees) regarding reporting obligations;
- Increasing training of faculty and staff members regarding additional equity protections related to Discrimination and Harassment.

Albany Law will continue its proactive efforts in educating our community about sexual violence and reducing its occurrence, creating the safest environment possible for its students to learn and grow.

Additional Information

Albany Law School's student policies on preventing and addressing sexual misconduct are 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.