



SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey

Southwestern University administered the Sexual Assault and Campus Climate Survey (SACCS) to students in spring 2018¹ and spring 2015². The SACCS is provided through the Higher Education Data Sharing (HEDS) consortium and includes questions about student’s perceptions of campus climate, how the school responds to sexual assault, and views on sexual assault/reporting/education.

Southwestern University Initiatives

Insights gained from the previous administration of the SACCS were used to develop new initiatives focusing on alcohol education and increasing student awareness of resources available to them. These new initiatives were added to previously developed programming with the overall goal to reduce incidences of sexual misconduct.

- As part of First-Year Orientation, all new students are required to attend information sessions on preventing sexual misconduct and alcohol abuse.
- All student-athletes and athletic personnel are required to complete a training module provided by the NCAA.
- The student group Coalition Against Sexual Violence was formed during the 2016-17 academic year to assist in developing programming.
- SUPD promotes or leads monthly safety and awareness training, including stalking prevention, personal safety and defense, alcohol and drug awareness, sexual assault prevention, as well as other safety topics.
- SUPD also conducts self-defense classes twice each semester.
- Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPs) workshops are conducted throughout the year. The program explains how to create responsible spaces for campus parties, bystander intervention, and alcohol safety.
- The University-developed Bystander Intervention training program, Steer the Ship, is offered twice a year.
- The poster, “Sexual Misconduct: Resources and Reporting” was posted in all classrooms and residence halls during the 2018-19 academic year.

Student Knowledge

An important part of combating sexual misconduct is increasing awareness on: how to recognize inappropriate behavior, methods to prevent or intervene in situations, and resources available after an incident.

Table 1. Comparison of percent of Southwestern students responding “Yes” when asked if they received information on different topics on the 2015 and 2018 SACCS.

Did you receive information on :	2015	2018	
What sexual assault is and how to recognize it	80%	88%	↑
How to report an incident of sexual assault	58%	77%	↑
Southwestern’s confidential resources for sexual assault and how to locate them on campus	59%	79%	↑
The procedures for investigating a sexual assault	32%	49%	↑
The actions you can take to help prevent sexual assault, such as bystander intervention, clear communication with a potential partner, or some other action	72%	83%	↑

¹ Southwestern had a response rate of 20% on SACCS 2018, compared to 21% at all small institutions.

² Students who attended Southwestern during both administrations of the SACCS were able to respond to the survey both times.

Student awareness of information and resources available to them has increased since 2015. In addition, the percent of students responding “helpful” or “very helpful” when asked how helpful they thought Southwestern’s education on sexual assault increased from 57% to 63%. With this positive feedback, current programming will remain and future initiatives will continue to be developed.

Student Perception

The University investigates every report of sexual misconduct as described in the University’s Sexual Misconduct Policy and in accordance with Title IX and other state regulations. However, student perception of school actions and policies can affect the overall campus climate.

Table 2. Comparison of percent of Southwestern students responding “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” when asked their views on what might happen if someone were to report a sexual assault to an official at Southwestern on the 2015 and 2018 SACCS.

Campus officials would :	2015	2018	
Take the report seriously	79%	75%	↓
Support and protect the person making the report	65%	65%	-
Conduct a careful investigation in order to determine what happened	63%	56%	↓
Take action against the offender(s)	51%	49%	↓

Student perception of how campus officials handle reports of sexual assault has become less positive since 2015. This decrease is similar to that seen across all small universities responding to the SACCS (average of -3% across the four questions). Also, the percent of students responding “Agree” or “Strongly agree” when asked if they felt safe on campus decreased from 2015 to 2018 (81% to 76%). Student safety is a top priority of Southwestern University and the University is committed to ensuring every student not only *is* safe but feels safe.

Additional Insights

Participating in a national survey such as SACCS allows comparison between Southwestern and other responding small institutions; this can give greater context to results and highlight areas in need of extra attention. Compared to similar institutions, Southwestern has lower rates of sexual misconduct involving multiple assailants, threat of force, and use of force. However, Southwestern has higher rates of sexual misconduct involving multiple assaults, the use of alcohol, and inability to give consent due to incapacitation.

Moving Forward

The Counseling & Health Center, the Title IX compliance committee (TIXCC), and the Sexual Assault Risk Reduction (SARR) committee will continue to work with students and faculty to develop programming to further Southwestern’s goal of reducing incidences of sexual misconduct. New emphasis will be placed on addressing alcohol use and raising awareness of University actions and policies on sexual misconduct.

- Additional training is being developed to assist faculty members’ ability to identify and respond to issues as mandatory reporters.
- Continue to collect student insight by administering the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) in fall 2019, which covers a wide range of health issues including questions on sexual health, alcohol/drug use, violence, and personal safety.
- Develop a plan to communicate survey results, University policies, and University actions.

Help for Sexual Misconduct & Sexual Assault

<https://www.southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/title-ix/help-for-sexual-misconduct-sexual-assault/>

The SU Yellow Book, a comprehensive manual, can be found at the above page.

University's Sexual Misconduct Policy

<https://www.southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/title-ix/university-sexual-misconduct-policy/>

Sexual Assault Risk Reduction Committee

<https://www.southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/title-ix/sexual-assault-risk-reduction-committee/>

Title IX Compliance Committee Annual Reports

<https://www.southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/title-ix/title-ix-compliance-committee/>

Annual SUPD Security and Fire Safety Report

<https://www.southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/safety-security/annual-security-reports/>