

Columbia University Health Services

Health Library

Sexual Harassment

General Information

Sexual Harassment is any unwanted sexual attention. It:

- Can be intentional or unintentional.
- Creates an intimidating or hostile environment.
- Interferes with the student's well-being.
- Is often directed toward a peer or subordinate.
- Is intertwined with many forms of violence and oppression against women.
- Is one of the most underreported crimes due to fear of retaliation and feelings of shame or guilt. Yet surveys show that 20-70% of all women college students experience some form of sexual harassment during their four years in college.
- Are behaviors unwanted by the recipient.

Types of Sexual Harassment

- Quid Pro Quo (Latin term meaning "This for That," i.e., "If you go out with me, I'll help you with . . .")
 - Benefits that depend on sexual favors.
 - Punishments for refusing to conform to requests.
- Hostile Environment
 - Repeated unwanted behavior
 - Offensive conduct or comments

Sexual Harassment can be physical and non-physical:

- Stalking
- Leering
- Comments about a person's body
- Sexist jokes or cartoons
- Pressure for dates
- Sexually explicit gestures
- Hooting, whistling, lip-smacking, and animal sounds
- Sexual innuendoes
- Leaning over, invading a person's space
- Unwelcome touching or hugging
- Love letters, obscene emails

Impact of Sexual Harassment

- Recipient feels victimized (may feel anxious, angry, embarrassed, guilty)
- Creates an uncomfortable learning environment
- Recipient's school work suffers (may have difficulty concentrating, attending class, feeling safe in study spaces, office hours, or resident halls)
- Recipient may suffer from physical stress related symptoms (headaches, ulcers)
- Harasser may lose academic opportunities or be suspended (any other impacts for Harasser?)
- Recipient may be scared to report the harassment because of threats of retaliation (lowering grades, withholding recommendation, committing violence)

Go Ask Alice!

Go Ask Alice! is the health question and answer Internet service produced by the Alice! Health Promotion Program. If it's on your mind, it's probably on Go Ask Alice!

[Questions \(http://www.goaskalice.columbia.edu/Cat8-full.html#114\)](http://www.goaskalice.columbia.edu/Cat8-full.html#114)

On-Campus Resources

Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Program (SVPRP) provides comprehensive and integrated education, support and advocacy about sexual and relationship violence. The program supports survivors and fosters individual and collective action to end sexual and relationship violence. For more information go to the [Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Program \(http://www.health.columbia.edu/docs/about_us/svprp.html\)](http://www.health.columbia.edu/docs/about_us/svprp.html).

The Barnard Columbia Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center provides peer counseling and advocacy services for survivors and co-survivors of sexual and relationship violence. For more information go to the [Barnard-Columbia Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center \(http://www.barnard.edu/docs/services/svprp/rcavsc.html\)](http://www.barnard.edu/docs/services/svprp/rcavsc.html).

[Disciplinary Procedure for Sexual Misconduct 212 854 1717 \(http://www.columbia.edu/cu/sexualmisconduct/\)](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/sexualmisconduct/)

[Barnard Health Services 212 854 2092 \(http://www.barnard.edu/health/services.htm\)](http://www.barnard.edu/health/services.htm)

Barnard clinician on-call 212 666 5838

[Barnard Furman Counseling Services 212 854 2092 \(http://www.barnard.edu/counsel/\)](http://www.barnard.edu/counsel/)

[Barnard Public Safety 212 854 3362 \(http://www.barnard.edu/services/ss.html\)](http://www.barnard.edu/services/ss.html)

[Counseling & Psychological Services 212 854 2468 \(http://www.health.columbia.edu/docs/about_us/cps.html\)](http://www.health.columbia.edu/docs/about_us/cps.html)

[Primary Care Medical Services 212 854 7426 \(http://www.health.columbia.edu/docs/about_us/pcms.html\)](http://www.health.columbia.edu/docs/about_us/pcms.html)

Columbia University clinician-on-call for after-hours health concerns 212 854 9797

[Columbia University Public Safety 212 854 2796 \(http://www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety/\)](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety/)

[Nightline \(10pm-3am\) 212 854 7777 \(http://www.columbia.edu/cu/nightline/index.html\)](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/nightline/index.html)

[Morningside Campus University Ombuds Office 212 854 1234 \(http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ombuds/\)](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ombuds/)

[Columbia University Medical Center Campus 212 305 3400 \(http://www.columbiahealth.info/index.php\)](http://www.columbiahealth.info/index.php)

[Columbia University Medical Center for Student Wellness 212 304 5564 \(http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/students/wellness/\)](http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/students/wellness/)

[Columbia University Medical Center Mental Health Services 212 795 4181 \(http://www.columbiahealth.info/about.php?w=MentalHealthServices\)](http://www.columbiahealth.info/about.php?w=MentalHealthServices)

Columbia University Medical Center clinician-on-call 212 305 5549

[Medical Center Campus Public Safety x99 or 305-8100 \(http://www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety/\)](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety/)

[Columbia University Medical Center Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action 212 854 5511 \(http://www.columbia.edu/cu/vpaa/eoaa/\)](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/vpaa/eoaa/)

Off-Campus Resources

***24 Hour Number**

- [Domestic Violence Hotline 800 621 HOPE* \(http://www.safehorizon.org/\)](http://www.safehorizon.org/)
- [NYC Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project 212 714 1141* \(http://www.avp.org/\)](http://www.avp.org/)
- [Police-Sex Crimes Unit 212 267 RAPE* \(http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/\)](http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/)
- [St. Luke's/Roosevelt Crime Victim Treatment Center 212 523 4728 \(http://www.wirednewyork.com/hospitals/slr.htm\)](http://www.wirednewyork.com/hospitals/slr.htm)
- [Safe Horizon \(Victim's Services\) 212 577 7777 \(http://www.safehorizon.org/\)](http://www.safehorizon.org/)
- [Sexual Harassment Resources - US Dept. of Education \(http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/sexharassresources.html\)](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/sexharassresources.html)