

TO: Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administration
FROM: Trish A. Corle, Title IX Coordinator
SUBJECT: College Resource Material

Pennsylvania Highlands Community College Sexual Assault Awareness and Preventive Measures Resource Tool

Pennsylvania Highlands Community College is committed to providing a learning and working environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes all forms of sexual misconduct. Sex discrimination violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Pennsylvania Highlands Community College considers sex discrimination in all its forms to be a serious offense.

TITLE IX

Title IX is a federal law that states, "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 educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." This federal law protects students, faculty, staff, administration, and visitors from sexual harassment and sexual assault, which are forms of discrimination covered by the College's Nondiscrimination Policy. [Click here to review the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy.](#)

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Pennsylvania Highlands Community College is committed to providing equal opportunity in admissions and treatment of students in educational programs for students, in employment opportunities and in governance of the College, without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, handicap or disability, age, or sex. The College shall take affirmative action to ensure (1) that it does not discriminate against an employee or applicant for employment or another person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or other characteristic protected by law; (2) that it does not subject students to unlawful discrimination in the admission process, take any action, direct or indirect, to segregate students in a classroom or course, or subject students to different or separate treatment in, nor restrict the enjoyment by a student of, a service, facility, activity or program at the College on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or other characteristic protected by law; (3) that it does not discriminate in the employment of administrators on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or other characteristic protected by law.

And that its governance structure includes diverse membership broadly representative of the public interest as may be required by law or regulation. There shall be no retaliation against any applicant, employee, or student for filing a harassment or discrimination complaint, or assisting, testifying, or participating in the investigation of such a complaint. Any applicant, employee, or student reporting sexual or other harassment or discrimination will also be protected from reprisals or retaliation by the College, any supervisors, and/or co-workers as a result of such complaint(s).

Employment and educational opportunities at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College are available to all as required by Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act (24 P.S. § § 5001-5009), the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (43 P. S. §§ 951-962.2), and all other applicable laws and regulations.

For information regarding equal education and employment opportunity including services, activities and facilities that are usable and accessible to disabled persons, contact the Director of Human Resources, Pennsylvania Highlands Community College by telephone at (814)262-3848, or in writing at Human Resources Office, 101 Community College Way, Johnstown, PA 15904. If an applicant, employee, or student is physically or mentally disabled, he/she may request accommodations, academic adjustments, or auxiliary aids or services. Information on the College's services for disabled students may be obtained from the Counselor/ADA Specialist at (814)262-6468. Employees or applicants should contact the Director of Human Resources at (814)262-3848 for more information.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE TERMS AND EDUCATION

Rape: Defined by 18 Pa 3121

(a) **Offense defined** – A person commits a felony of the first degree when the person engages in sexual intercourse with a complainant:

1. By forcible compulsion.
2. By threat of forcible compulsion that would prevent resistance by a person of reasonable resolution.
3. Who is unconscious or where the person knows that the complainant is unaware that the sexual intercourse is occurring.
4. Where the person has substantially impaired the complainant's power to appraise or control his or her conduct by administering or employing, without the knowledge of the complainant, drugs, intoxicants or other means for the purpose of preventing resistance.
5. Who suffers from a mental disability, which renders the complainant incapable of consent.

Acquaintance Rape: Defined by Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network

Pennsylvania has no legal definition/crime.

Acquaintance assault involves coercive sexual activities that occur against a person's will by means of force, violence, duress, or fear of bodily injury. These sexual activities are imposed upon them by someone they know (a friend, date, acquaintance, etc.).

Domestic Violence: Defined by 23 PA 6102

General rule – The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Abuse – The occurrence of one or more of the following actions between family or household members, sexual or intimate partners or persons who share biological parenthood:

- Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing bodily injury, serious bodily injury, rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, sexual assault, statutory sexual assault, aggravated indecent assault, indecent assault or incest with or without a deadly weapon.
- Placing another in reasonable fear of imminent serious bodily injury.
- The infliction of false imprisonment pursuant to 18 Pa.C.S. 2901 (relating to false imprisonment).
- Physically or sexually abusing minor children, including terms as defined in Chapter 63 (relating to child protective services).
- Knowingly engaging in a course of conduct or repeatedly committing acts toward another person, including following the person without proper authority, under circumstances, which place the person in reasonable fear of bodily injury. The definition of this paragraph applies only to proceedings commenced under this title and is inapplicable to any criminal prosecutions commenced under Title 18 (relating to criminal offenses).

Family or Household Members – Spouses or persons who have been spouses, persons living as spouses or who lived as spouses, parents and children, other persons related by consanguinity or affinity, current or former sexual or intimate partners or persons who share biological parenthood.

Dating Violence: Defined by National Center for Victims of Crime

Pennsylvania does not have a definition/crime.

Dating violence is controlling, abusive, and aggressive behavior in a romantic relationship. It can happen in straight or gay relationships. It can include verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, or a combination.

Controlling behavior may include:

- Not letting you hang out with your friends
- Calling or paging you frequently to find out where you are, whom you're with, and what you're doing

- Telling you what to wear
- Having to be with you all the time

Verbal and emotional abuse may include:

- Calling you names
- Jealousy
- Belittling you (cutting you down)
- Threatening to hurt you, someone in your family, or himself or herself if you don't do what he or she wants

Physical abuse may include:

- Shoving
- Punching
- Slapping
- Pinching
- Hitting
- Kicking
- Hair pulling
- Strangling

Sexual Assault: Defined by 18 PA 3124.1

Except as provided in section 3121 (relating to rape) or 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse), a person commits a felony of the second degree when that person engages in sexual intercourse or deviant sexual intercourse with a complainant without the complainant's consent.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is a violation of the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972. These laws include prohibition of discrimination in employment and educational program and services on the basis of sex.

Sexual harassment includes the offenses of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and is defined as conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. Conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
2. Unwelcome conduct, determined by a reasonable person, to be so severe, and pervasive, and, objectively offensive, that it effectively denies a person equal access to Pennsylvania Highlands Community College's education program or activity.
3. All forms of sexual assault

Any student who believes he or she has been sexually harassed should contact the Title IX Coordinator. Students may also report any allegations of sexual harassment to a College employee who is required to report that allegation to the Title IX Coordinator.

To review the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College Title IX Policy regarding Non-discrimination, Harassment, Retaliation on the Basis of Sex and the College Resolution Process for Alleged Violations of this policy, please follow this link:

Stalking: Defined by 18 PA 2709.1

A person commits the crime of stalking when the person either:

- 1) Engages in a course of conduct or repeatedly commits acts toward another person, including following the person without proper authority, under circumstances which demonstrate either an intent to place such other person in reasonable fear of bodily injury or to cause substantial emotional distress to such other person; or
- 2) Engages in a course of conduct or repeatedly communicates to another person under circumstances which demonstrate or communicate either an intent to place such other person in reasonable fear of bodily injury or to cause substantial emotional distress to such other person.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL – FACILITATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Some attackers use drugs to incapacitate and/or have control over an individual to commit sexually-based acts known as "drug-facilitated sexual assaults." These colorless, odorless, and sometimes tasteless drugs can easily be slipped into a person's drink without that person's knowledge or consent. You can find further information regarding this issue at the link below.

CONSENT

In Pennsylvania, consent is defined as a "voluntary, informed, and unambiguous agreement to engage in a specific sexual activity during a specific time frame." This means that for a sexual act to be consensual, all parties involved must freely and willingly agree to participate, fully understanding the nature of the act and any potential risks involved. It is important to note that consent can be withdrawn at any time, and if a person communicates their desire to stop the sexual activity, continuing without consent may result in a policy violation.

A person cannot consent if he or she is unable to understand what is happening or is disoriented, helpless, asleep or unconscious for any reason, including due to alcohol or other drugs. An individual who engages in sexual activity when the individual knows, or should know, that the other person is physically or mentally incapacitated has violated this policy.

It is not an excuse that the individual responding party of sexual misconduct was intoxicated and, therefore, did not realize the incapacity of the other.

Incapacitation is defined as a state where someone cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because they lack the capacity to give knowing consent (e.g., to understand the "who, what, when, where, why, or how" of their sexual interaction). This policy also covers a person whose incapacity results from mental disability, involuntary physical restraint and/or from the taking of incapacitating drugs.

Consent to some sexual contact (such as kissing or fondling) cannot be presumed to be consent for other sexual activity (such as intercourse). A current or previous dating relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent. The existence of consent is based on the totality of the circumstances, including the context in which the alleged incident occurred and any similar previous patterns that may be evidenced. Silence or the absence of resistance alone is not consent. A person can withdraw consent at any time during sexual activity by expressing in words or actions that he or she no longer wants the act to continue, and, if that happens, the other person must stop immediately.

Signs that you may be in an abusive relationship:

Do you:

- Feel afraid of your partner much of the time?
- Avoid certain topics out of fear of angering your partner?
- Feel that you can't do anything right for your partner?
- Believe that you deserve to be hurt or mistreated?
- Wonder if you're the one who is crazy?
- Feel emotionally numb or helpless?

Your Partner's Violent Behavior or Threats

Does your partner:

- Have a bad and unpredictable temper?
- Hurt you, or threaten to hurt or kill you?
- Threaten to take your children away or harm them?
- Threaten to commit suicide if you leave?
- Force you to have sex?
- Destroy your belongings?

Does your partner:

- Humiliate or yell at you?
- Criticize you and put you down?
- Treat you so badly that you're embarrassed for your friends or family to see?
- Ignore or put down your opinions or accomplishments?
- Blame you for their own abusive behavior?
- See you as property or a sex object, rather than as a person?

Your Partner's Controlling Behavior

Does your partner:

- Act excessively jealous and possessive?
- Control where you go or what you do?
- Keep you from seeing your friends or family?
- Limit your access to money, the phone, or the car?
- Constantly check up on you?

http://www.helpguide.org/mental/domestic_violence_abuse_types_signs_causes_effects.htm

RISK EDUCATION AND PERSONAL PROTECTION

The best defense against assault of any kind is to avoid situations where you are vulnerable. Here are a few suggestions:

- Choose settings for social activities very carefully. The proximity of other people heightens your safety, but does not guarantee it.
- **Do not walk alone at night.** Travel with friends. Keep to familiar, well-traveled and well- lighted areas.
- Do not hitchhike. By doing so you forfeit the ability to change direction and control of your movement.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Have your key in hand and ready to unlock your door. This also applies to your vehicle as well.
- Always keep your home and vehicle door locked.
- Examine your own desires and feeling about sex, and set sexual limits.
- Be assertive and communicate your limits clearly.
- Alcohol and drugs can compromise your ability to make responsible decisions and are often related to date rape situations. This applies to both potential victims and potential assailants.

BELOW ARE TIPS THAT CAN ASSIST YOU WHEN YOU ARE BEING PRESSURED

- Do not feel you must do something that you do not want to do.
- Have a signal that you can communicate with a family member or friend if you feel you are in an uncomfortable situation.
- Create distance from the situation and immediately report the situation to College administration.
- Make up an excuse to remove yourself from an uncomfortable situation.
- Remember that being coerced and made to feel uncomfortable is not your fault.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Find a safe environment away from the attacker, have a friend stay with you, and understand you are a victim with rights and have done nothing wrong.
- Individuals are encouraged to report the assault to police by calling 911 and/or notify campus administration.
- Save any evidence of the assault – do not change your clothes, use the restroom, comb your hair, bathe, brush your teeth, eat, smoke, clean up the crime scene, or move anything the attacker may have touched. Also, it is beneficial to retain any text messages, emails, or voicemails pertaining to the assault.

- Seek immediate medical attention and ask the hospital to conduct a sexual assault kit exam to preserve forensic evidence. Identify any risks of sexually transmitted infections or diseases (STIs or STDs) and pregnancy. Request a urine sample be taken, if you suspect you were drugged. Examples of STDs include, but are not limited to, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis, Herpes, HIV/AIDS, HPV, PID, and Syphilis.
- Write down what you recall about the assault and the attacker.
- Remember, what happened is not your fault.
- Allow yourself time to recover from sexual violence.
- Seek professional counseling for assistance.

Tips for Intervening in Risky Situations

Step in and intervene asking friends from both sides to assist either as individuals or a group. Use a distraction to redirect the focus (“Hey, I need to talk to you”).

Remember to always:

- Approach everyone as a friend.
- Do not be antagonistic.
- Avoid using violence.
- Be honest and direct whenever possible.
- Recruit help if necessary.
- Keep yourself safe.

If things get out of hand or become too serious, contact the police.

COUNSELING RESOURCES

Bridget Hall, Counselor

Penn Highlands Student Success Center 101
Community College Way Johnstown, PA 15904
814.262.6467

Cambria County

Victim Services
638 Ferndale Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905
814.288.4961

Women's Help Center 809

Napoleon Street
Johnstown, PA 15901
814.536.5361

Somerset County

Victim Services
427 Westridge Road
Somerset, PA 15501
814.443.1555

Women's Help Center
Somerset County
814.443.2824

Centre County

Centre Safe
140 W. Nittany Avenue
State College, PA 16801
1-877-234-5050

National Sexual Assault Hotline

1220 L. Street NW, Suite 505
Washington, DC 20005
1.800.656.HOPE

Huntingdon County

Huntingdon House
401 7th Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652
1.855.366.8448

Blair County

Domestic Abuse Project
1.800.500.3585

Family Services Incorporated 2022

Broad Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
814.944.3583

Blair County Victim/Witness Program 423
Allegheny St, #421
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-2011
814.693.3018

COLLEGE RESOURCES

Contact one or more of the following:

Title IX Coordinator

Trish A. Corle, Vice President of Student Services

814.262.3841

TCorle@pennhighlands.edu

Title IX Deputy Coordinators

Michaela Long, Director Somerset Center

814.443.2522

ABowser@pennhighlands.edu

Marissa Davis, Director Huntingdon Center

814.506.8318

MDavis@pennhighlands.edu

Natalie Toma, Center Director

814-631-9633

Cfarrell@pennhighlands.edu

Robert Sekerak, Director Ebensburg Center

814.471.0013

RSekerak@pennhighlands.edu

Office of Security and Safety

Cregg Dibert, Director

814.262.3837

CDibert@pennhighlands.edu

Main Phone Number Office of Security and Safety

814.262.6427

Police – 911

COLLEGE RESPONSE

Pennsylvania Highlands Community College will act on any formal or informal notice/complaint of violation of the policy on Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination (“the Policy”) that is received by the Title IX Coordinator or any other Official with Authority.

Upon receipt of a complaint or notice to the Title IX Coordinator of an alleged violation of the Policy, Pennsylvania Highlands Community College will begin a prompt, initial assessment to determine the next steps needing to be taken by Pennsylvania Highlands Community College.

Supportive Measures

Pennsylvania Highlands Community College will offer and implement appropriate and reasonable supportive measures to all parties upon notice of alleged harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation.

Supportive measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the parties to restore or preserve access to the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College's education program or activity, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or Pennsylvania Highlands Community College's educational environment, and/or deter harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation.

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Pennsylvania Highlands Community College is committed to providing a safe, secure, and healthy teaching, learning, and working environment free from sexual assault by providing sexual assault awareness and prevention programs.

If you are a victim of sexual assault, find a safe environment away from the attacker. To seek assistance and report a sexual assault call 911, contact Campus Security and Safety, and/or notify College administration. It is imperative to preserve all evidence to be used in proving that a sexual assault occurred. Seek medical attention and notify those involved that you are a victim of a sexual assault, identify any risks of sexually transmitted infections/diseases and/or pregnancy, and seek counseling, if necessary. In addition, write down as much as you can remember immediately following the attack. Understand you are a victim and this was not your fault. College administration are here to assist you by providing both internal and/or external resources regardless if you choose to criminally prosecute the offender or not.

Pennsylvania Highlands Community College will act promptly to protect the rights of all individuals involved in a sexual assault matter. We support the victim's right to choose which avenues of assistance are most appropriate for him/her to pursue and the victim's right not to pursue, if he/she so chooses. Individuals who have been sexually assaulted have the right to:

To be treated with respect by College officials.

To file a formal complaint

To be provided access to support resources.

To experience a safe educational and work environment.

To have an advisor present during any aspect of reporting and/or filing a complaint.

To refuse to have an allegation resolved through informal procedures.

To be free from retaliation.

To interim remedies related to the victims academic or work schedule.

To have complaints heard in substantial accordance with these procedures

To reasonable and necessary participation in the process.

[Link Resolution Process for Alleged Violations of the policy on Non-discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on the Basis of Sex.](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY

The College will treat all sexual assault matters with dignity and discretion. Every attempt will be made to protect the privacy of all individuals involved to the extent possible by law and to the extent that such confidentiality does not pose a direct threat to the individual or others or interfere with the investigation.

For further information, please contact Trish A. Corle, Vice President of Student Services, Title IX Coordinator at 814.262.3841.