

Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is committed against a person's will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females.

Dating Violence

Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. Includes sexual or physical abuse or threats of such abuse.

Domestic Violence

Abuse or violence committed by a current or former spouse or by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common or by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse.

Stalking

A course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of someone else or suffer substantial emotional distress.

Sexual Misconduct

Any sexual acts attempted or committed without consent and/or by force, threat, coercion, or pressure, or through the use of the victim's mental or physical helplessness, of which the assailant was aware or should have been aware, including non-consensual sexual intercourse, non-consensual sexual contact, and sexual exploitation.

Consent

Mutually voluntary permission to engage in sexual activity demonstrated by clear actions and/or words.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

On-Campus Resources:

- Student Counseling Center (Confidential) - 662.254.3830
- MVSU Police Department - 662.254.3478
- Student Health Center (Confidential) - 662.254.3331
- Director of Residential Life / Dean of Students Office - 662.254.3592

Off-Campus Resources And Hotlines:

- Our House, Inc. (Confidential) - 662.332.LOVE(5683)
- MS Coalition Against Domestic Violence
 - 24-hour Statewide Hotline 1.800.898.3234
 - 24-Hour Confidential Hotline 1.800.799.SAFE (7233)
- MS Coalition Against Sexual Assault – 24 hour Rape crisis hotline 1.800.656.HOPE (4673)

HELP IS AVAILABLE!

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**MVSU Campus Violence
Prevention & Intervention Program**
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662-254-8406
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CAMPUS VIOLENCE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION PROGRAM



Introduction

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment that is free from interpersonal violence. Unfortunately, gender-based, sexual violence, and stalking are a reality for some students, faculty, and staff. Mississippi Valley State University takes these issues very seriously. Gender-based violence, sexual violence, and stalking are prohibited at MVSU, under the Gender-Based/Sexual Misconduct Policy. The Campus Violence Prevention & Intervention Program is devoted to providing advocacy, support, and education to reduce the occurrence of such crimes.

Our Mission

To build a holistic intervention and prevention program that focuses on building a strong campus and community partnerships to strengthen services and awareness regarding gender-based violence.

If You Experience Dating Violence, Domestic Violence Or Stalking:

- If you are being abused or stalked, know that help is available, even when the abuse does not include physical violence.
- To report the abuse to police, call University Police at 662.254. 3478.
- Call an Our House, Inc. advocate, available 24/7 at 662.332.LOVE(5683). An advocate is confidential and can offer options and/or accompaniment through medical, law enforcement, court systems, campus conduct, housing and residence life systems and other on- and off-campus services and can be a source of emotional support.
- Domestic Violence Protective Orders/Restraining Orders and No Contact Orders, can be obtained in the municipal, justice, county or chancery court. An Our House, Inc. advocate can accompany an assist with this process.
- Preserve all physical evidence including everything in the location where the violence occurred. If there have been threats, save emails, text messages or voicemail messages when possible.

If You Are Sexually Assaulted:

- If possible, get to a safe place with people you trust. If you wish, call a friend or family member to be with you.
- Call an Our House, Inc. advocate, available 24/7 at 662.332.LOVE(5683). An advocate is confidential and can offer options and/or accompaniment through medical, law enforcement, court systems, campus conduct, housing and residence life systems and other on- and off-campus services and can be a source of emotional support.
- To report the assault to University Police, call 662.254.3478.
- Seek medical attention at the Greenwood Leflore Hospital emergency room, which has trained sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) who can perform sexual assault forensic exams to preserve evidence.
- Make every effort to save anything that might contain the perpetrator's DNA, therefore do NOT:
 - Bathe or shower
 - Use the restroom
 - Brush your teeth
 - Clean up the crime scene
 - Change clothes (if you have already changed, preserve your clothing in a paper bag)
- The Student Health Center can also provide confidential medical attention for victims of sexual assault. Treatment includes care for physical and emotional injuries, medication to prevent pregnancy and measures to test for and prevent sexually transmitted infections.

Reporting Gender-Based/Sexual Misconduct:

- Mississippi Valley State University takes issues of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence and stalking very seriously. If a student, faculty, or staff member wishes to make a report to the Title IX Coordinator, call 662.254.3121.
- All students, faculty, and staff members are entitled to a prompt, fair and impartial investigation and resolution of complaints.
- The Title IX Office can issue a no contact order if requested by a victim. This is issued only through the university and both parties must be students at the university.
- Possible sanctions for violating the policy include a range from written reprimand up to and including suspension/expulsion and termination. MVSU considers these violations to be serious, thus typically the most severe sanctions are imposed.
- All non-confidential university employees (staff, faculty and RAs) who receive a report of alleged sexual misconduct, Gender-based violence, and stalking on or off campus, must notify the Title IX Coordinator. If you prefer to speak with a confidential resource, please contact Our House, Inc., the Counseling Center or the Student Health Center.

Be An Active Bystander:

At MVSU, we believe that the safety of our community is EVERYONE's business.

Sometimes the person being targeted isn't able to stop the escalation and that's when it's important for friends or bystanders to step in.

SOAR:

1. See a Problem
2. Overcome Obstacles
3. Assume Responsibility
4. Respond
 - Direct – say something to those involved
 - Delegate – get others to help with the situation
 - Distract – create a distraction and get that person out of there