

MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Sexual assault prevention education and resources

Miami University takes safety of our students seriously. Miami strives to create an environment and culture that is safe for all community members and is respectful of all individuals. Our programming starts with orientation in early summer for incoming students and their parents and extends into the first semester and beyond.

Orientation

For at least eight years, incoming students and families at orientation saw a skit that focuses on alcohol and sexual assault and participated in follow-up discussions. Currently entering student and their families participate in conversations about alcohol and sexual assault and personal responsibility regarding those topics, to help all students avoid unsafe situations. The students also attend debriefings with staff and SOULS (Student Orientation Undergraduate Leaders) on related topics.

This year, conversations in evening programs with parents and students together covered sexual violence and alcohol. They hear from the [Office of Ethics and Student Conflict Resolution](#) about Title IX requirements, protocol for addressing and reporting offenses, consequences for violations, and statistics about campus-related crimes. [Miami police](#) discuss sexual assault prevention and other safety information with families. They make it clear they take assault seriously and [promise to treat those who report such crimes with respect and dignity](#).

Start of the School Year

Personal safety and responsibility are among reminders mentioned in the [dean of students'](#) letter that goes out to all students before classes start each semester.

Within the first month of school, students complete alcohol.edu/sexualassault.edu, an interactive online program that shows students consequences of choices they make. A hold is put on their second semester registration if they don't complete the program.

Programming is available to student groups, classes, residence corridors, and organizations throughout the year.

For off-campus students, volunteer employees and town residents perform walkabouts before classes start, personally delivering information that includes topics of safety and alcohol.

Residence Hall Resources

Residence hall safety begins with the existence of resident advisors (RAs) on duty, electronic door locks, an escort policy, outside doors being alarmed and programmed to sound if they are propped open.

- 1) All [residence life](#) staff, including RAs and professional staff, receives information and training on sexual assault awareness, response, and resources, [Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity](#) (OEEO), and Clery Act reporting obligations. The Behind Closed Doors activity involves a number of scenarios related to these issues, and staff from MUPD, [student counseling services](#), and the [Sexual Assault Response Coordinator](#) assist in this training.
- 2) All staff and 7,200 living on campus students received flipbooks that include information about sexual assault prevention as well as how to file a complaint and what to expect from the university.
- 3) RAs speak with students in their corridors at the start of the year about issues of campus safety (e.g., not walking alone) and resource availability.
- 4) 2,962 first year students went through the fire safety fairs held this year, at which MUPD has one of the stations where students stop to hear more information about all types of safety, and 2,293 first year students completed the online fire safety training.
- 5) At least one, and often more, bulletin boards in each of the 36 residence halls provide information on safety regarding alcohol and/or sexual assault awareness and prevention.
- 6) The Residence Hall Association has done its annual lighting/walking check this fall, A small group of students/staff accompanied the residence life director and representatives from physical facilities.
- 7) When RAs are on duty and safety issues are brought to their attention, they are to respond, including submitting maintenance requests.

Special programming

Intercollegiate athletics provides sexual assault awareness/prevention classes within our KNH112 class for freshmen student-athletes, led by Dr. John Ward (adviser for [MARS - Men Against Rape and Sexual Assault](#)) and Rebecca Getson (adviser for [WAVES - Women Against Violence and Sexual Assault](#)).

Every team meets with MARS and WAVES annually for more specific programming geared toward that team's specific needs, be it alcohol education, identifying risk-taking behaviors, counseling, etc.

Every team meets with our NCAA compliance staff at the beginning of the year for NCAA rules education, but we also provide education on resources – where to go, who they can talk to.

The athletic academic support staff office (Gross Center) displays materials for sexual assault awareness and resources in the lobby area for student-athletes and staff.

Greek sororities and fraternities must adhere to adapted risk management strategies including that “No fraternity, sorority, or council will tolerate nor condone any form of sexist or sexually abusive behavior on the part of its members, whether physical, mental, or emotional. This is to include any actions that are demeaning to women or men, such as verbal harassment. The chapters and councils will not tolerate sexual assault in any form.” All chapters must educate and instruct their members on the risk management policy and face fines or other sanctions if they violate the policy.

The Miami [women’s center](#), in addition to providing a welcoming, safe space for all genders and a space for learning about women’s and gender issues, offers many resources and programming. Annually, the Women’s Center raises awareness and education through The Clothesline Project.

Miami’s counseling center provides support for victims of assault.

The university’s hearing board officers and members receive training on sexual assault.

Miami police will speak to student corridors or groups about personal safety and offer fee-based self-defense classes.

The [students affairs division](#) has begun offering bystander training to student groups including Greek organizations to make students aware of the importance of speaking up or intervening when they see dangerous or unacceptable behavior.

Online resources

Miami maintains advice, resources and reports related to sexual assault and other personal crimes on the [Campus Safety and Security page](#), which has several links to emergency information, sexual assault definitions and statistics, an acquaintance rape resource guide, and more.

WAVES is promoting the [Circle of 6](#) phone app as a resource for students to use when they are in a potentially unsafe situation.

Miami police promise to treat sexual assault victims with courtesy and dignity and spell out what happens when they report a crime on the [police website](#).

Title IX efforts

- ▶ Title IX Coordinator: Kenya Ash, Director of Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity
- ▶ Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Student Sexual Assault: Rebecca Getson, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator
- ▶ Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Athletics: Jennifer Gilbert, Associate Athletic Director
- ▶ Miami created a [Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Assault](#) that was charged with soliciting input and crafting steps to be taken to address climate-

related issues connected with sexual assault & violence. This Task Force issued several recommendations that are now being utilized to enhance sexual assault awareness, prevention and response efforts; including the creation of a standing Committee on Prevention and Response to Sexual Assault that will start meeting this fall.

Peer educators

Miami's HAWKS – Health Advocates for Wellness, Knowledge and Skills provide programming on healthy relationships and safe sex among other topics throughout the year.

[Men Against Rape and Sexual Assault \(MARS\)](#) and [Women Against Violence and Sexual Assault \(WAVES\)](#) lead programs to promote student awareness, responsibility, and safety for residence halls, student groups, and athletic teams. In collaboration with MARS, WAVES annually sponsors the awareness and educational event Walk A Mile in Her Shoes.

A student group, the F-word (“Feminists Working on Real Democracy,” formerly the Association for Women Students), promotes sexual assault awareness through its “Take Back the Night” event and other efforts.

Staff and faculty assistance

University officials who have significant responsibility for student and campus activities are designated as campus security authorities. They are responsible for reporting of a crime that they become aware of, including sexual assault/sexual violence, to the Miami University Police Department (MUPD) immediately.

Miami's Institutional Response Team (IRT) meets to plan and test safe practices for students and employees. The IRT alerts the community to personal crimes including sexual assaults.

A variety of faculty teach gender studies courses

Safety-Related Transportation

We remind students throughout the year to take action to get them home safely from uptown Oxford.

Miami's BCRTA SafeRide provides a safe escort for persons travelling alone during evening hours, operating until 3 a.m. Monday–Saturday nights and until 1 a.m. Sunday night. Students can call BCRTA at (513) 785-5237 or toll-free (855) 42-BCRTA for this service.