

2023-2024 Title IX Annual Report

Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at Virginia Tech



**CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE
AND PREVENTION EDUCATION**
VIRGINIA TECH

From the Title IX Coordinator

Dear Virginia Tech Community,

At Virginia Tech, transparency is essential in fostering a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. As we reflect on the Title IX Annual Report for the 2023-24 academic year, we recognize the importance of sharing the data and insights that help us understand experiences of sexual harassment and misconduct on our campus. This report details the number of reports received by the Office for Equity and Accessibility (OEA), which is now the Office for Civil Rights Compliance and Prevention Education (CRCPE), covering incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, and intimate partner violence.

The data captured in this report not only sheds light on the experiences of Virginia Tech students, but it also plays a crucial role in informing our ongoing efforts to create a campus that is free from sexual harassment and misconduct. By analyzing these reports, the Title IX team is better equipped to design targeted prevention strategies and support services aimed at preventing future harm.

Each member of our community has a vital role to play in making a difference at Virginia Tech. Whether through supporting those impacted, raising awareness, reporting, or engaging in prevention initiatives, we all contribute to the collective effort to address these issues.

It is a privilege to serve as Virginia Tech's Title IX Coordinator. I am deeply honored to build upon the excellent work already being done by our team and campus partners. Together, we will continue to expand our efforts to combat sexual harassment and misconduct, fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment where all individuals can thrive.

All the best,

Angela Catena



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Reporting Sexual Harassment and Violence

When students report their experiences of sexual harassment and violence to the university, their needs are as varied as their reasons for reporting. Our obligation under Title IX is to limit the impact of those experiences and ensure that students continue to have the opportunity to fully participate in campus life. For some, that might mean accessing resources and supportive measures. Others might choose to participate in an investigation process aimed at ensuring accountability and addressing the behavior that harmed them. In all cases, this means meeting students where they are, respecting their choices, and working with them to find the help they need.

2023-24 Reports

During the 2023-24 academic year, the Title IX team in the CRCPE received 368 reports of incidents of sexual harassment or misconduct - a 1 percent increase from the previous year.

Sexual harassment was the highest reported incident for the 2023-24 academic year with 218 reports, followed by sexual assault with 89 reports. The Title IX team also received 40 reports of intimate partner violence, and 21 reports of stalking.

University Response

The Title IX team reached out to every individual identified in reports of harm, whether submitted directly or through a third party. While engagement with the office is voluntary, all individuals were offered supportive measures and access to resources without any obligation to participate in the Title IX process.

Supportive Measures

A total of 132 students who were reported to have experienced sexual harassment or misconduct were provided with supportive measures tailored to their needs. These measures included academic adjustments, no-contact orders, housing adjustments, and referrals to campus and community resources. Support often spanned extended periods, with some students receiving assistance through a semester or academic year.

The efficacy of these measures is evident: 91% of students who received supportive measures continued their academic journey at Virginia Tech, either by enrolling in subsequent semesters or graduating.

2023-24

368 new reports of harassment or violence

1% increase in reports year over year

For resources on sexual harassment and assault prevention, visit safe.vt.edu.

Investigations and Their Outcomes

During the 2023-24 academic year, 21 formal investigations were initiated in response to Title IX reports. Filing a formal complaint is a highly personal decision, and many students utilized supportive measures and met with the Title IX team before deciding to proceed. On average, students took over one month to file a complaint after their initial report.

The investigations addressed a range of behaviors under Title IX and the Student Code of Conduct. In two cases, interim suspensions were issued to protect individual and community safety while investigations were underway.

Title IX investigations are resolved in collaboration with the Office for Student Conduct, which holds live hearings and determines case outcomes. Of the 21 investigations:

- ▶ **1** case was dismissed.
- ▶ **8** students were found responsible for policy violations. Sanctions included university dismissal, suspension, or deferred suspension. All suspensions and deferred suspensions included educational sanctions, such as assignments or activities designed to provide opportunities for reflection, learning, and growth.
- ▶ **9** students were found not responsible.
- ▶ **3** cases are in process.

The remaining reports were closed before reaching a hearing. Closures occurred for reasons such as the reporting party requesting case withdrawal, respondents leaving the university, or allegations that did not meet the criteria for a Title IX violation. Cases outside the scope of sexual harassment or misconduct were referred to other appropriate offices, such as Student Conduct, for further review.

132 students received support measures

21 formal complaints were filed

91%

of students who received support measures **continued their studies** at Virginia Tech

Trends

Each year, it is important to review reports made to CRCPE for arising trends and themes. This review helps us better understand our students' experiences, assess whether our current practices meet their needs, and identify areas to improve prevention, awareness, and education efforts.

CRCPE received a total of 368 reports for the 2023-24 academic year, with 192 reports received during the fall semester and 176 reports received during the spring and summer semesters. This trend is consistent with previous years as the incidences of sexual misconduct are highest during the "Red Zone", the period spanning the beginning of the fall semester until Thanksgiving break, when sexual assault is more likely to occur. With respect to reports of sexual assault, CRCPE received 89 reports during the 2023-24 academic year, with 43 of those incidents taking place during the fall semester.

During the year, information about these specific themes was shared with university partners engaged in prevention work to ensure that prevention efforts and messaging included these important issues.

Culture and Climate

Virginia Tech conducted the ARC3 Survey in spring 2024. The ARC3 is a campus climate survey designed to assess the knowledge, experiences, and attitudes of students regarding campus safety and sexual misconduct. While the response rate represents only a small sample of the student body, the survey results provide a foundational understanding of student perceptions and behaviors, helping to inform future campus initiatives.

Key Findings:

1. **Campus Safety**

Most students feel safe on campus, with 50.3% agreeing and 31.36% strongly agreeing. However, a small percentage (5.91%) disagreed or strongly disagreed, indicating a need for continued attention to student safety.

2. **Knowledge of Resources for Sexual Misconduct**

When asked if they knew where to seek help if they or a friend experienced sexual misconduct, 66.22% of students responded affirmatively (agreeing or strongly agreeing). However, 21.86% either disagreed or were neutral, suggesting some gaps in awareness that could be addressed through outreach and education.

3. Awareness of Reporting Mechanisms

Only 57.89% of students were confident in knowing where to report sexual misconduct. This highlights an area for improvement, as 27.63% of students were unsure or unaware of how to report such incidents.

4. Prior Education on Sexual Misconduct

A significant 78.1% of students reported having received information or education about sexual misconduct prior to attending Virginia Tech, emphasizing the importance of ongoing education and prevention efforts.

5. Peer Support in Response to Disclosures

When students disclosed experiences of sexual misconduct to friends, the majority reported receiving reassuring and supportive responses, with 43.81% stating that their peers always reassure them they are a good person. Additionally, 29.13% of students reported that their peers always comforted them by saying it would be all right or offering physical support, such as a hug. While many students felt supported, there were still notable percentages who reported less consistent support, indicating an opportunity for further strengthening in peer advocacy.

6. Bystander Intervention

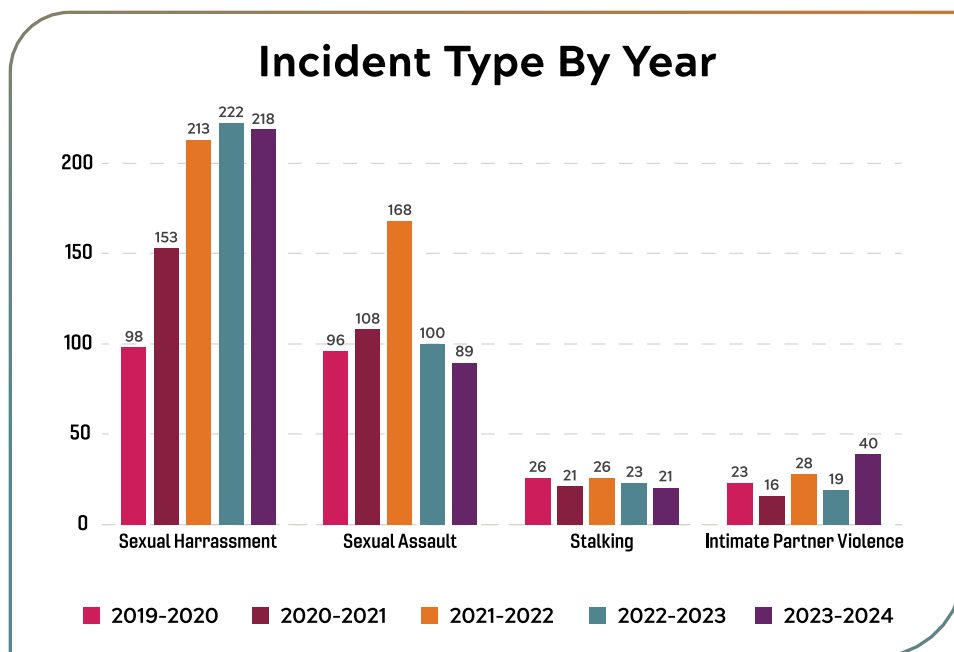
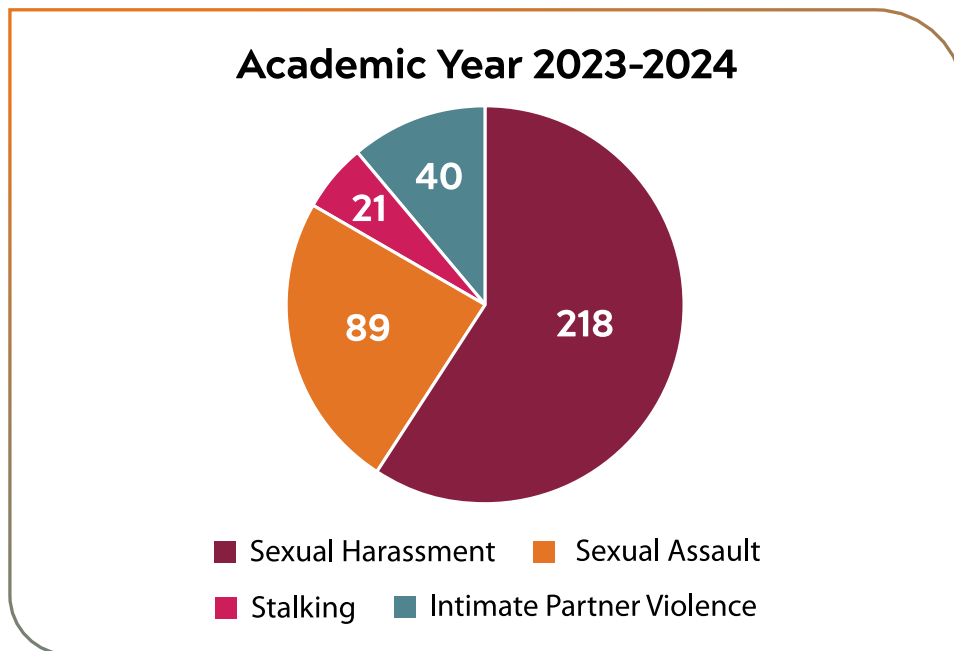
Students demonstrated a strong inclination to engage in bystander behaviors to ensure the safety of others. A majority reported engaging in bystander behavior such as frequently or always walking a friend home who has consumed too much alcohol (38.68%) and talking to friends of an intoxicated person to ensure their safety (40.56%).

Conclusion:

The survey results reflect a generally positive culture of safety and support at Virginia Tech, though there are areas for improvement in raising awareness of resources and reporting mechanisms. The data highlights the importance of continuous education, peer support, and bystander intervention in cultivating a campus environment that prioritizes safety and respect for all students. These insights will guide further efforts to enhance the campus climate and address the needs of the Virginia Tech community.

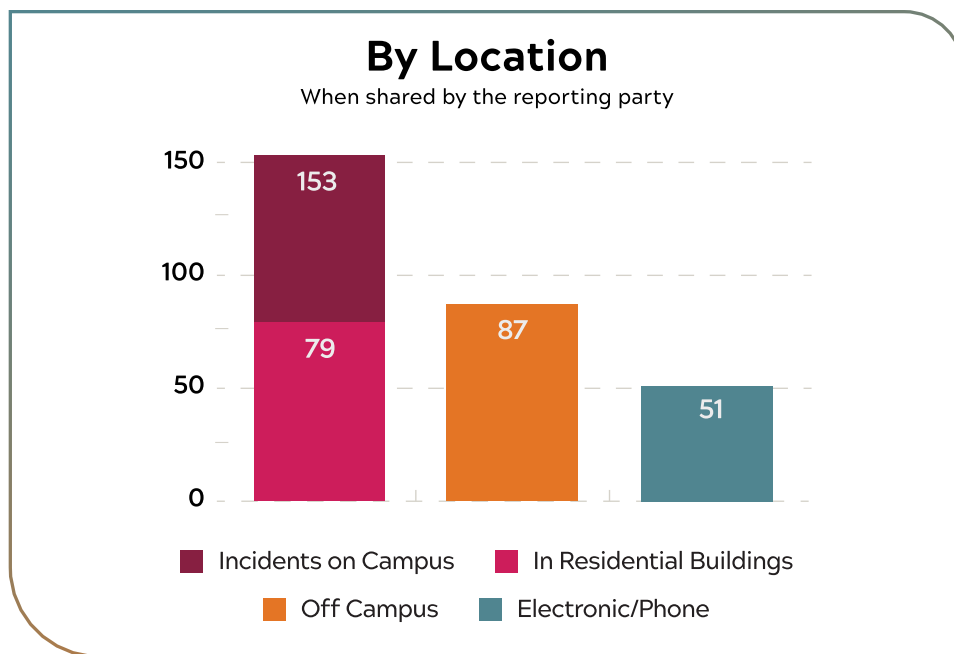
Sexual Harassment and Violence Fact Sheet

The CRCPE received 368 reports of sexual harassment and violence involving students. Of those reports, 218 were of sexual harassment (including 7 reports of sextortion), 89 of sexual assault, 21 of stalking, and 40 of intimate partner violence.



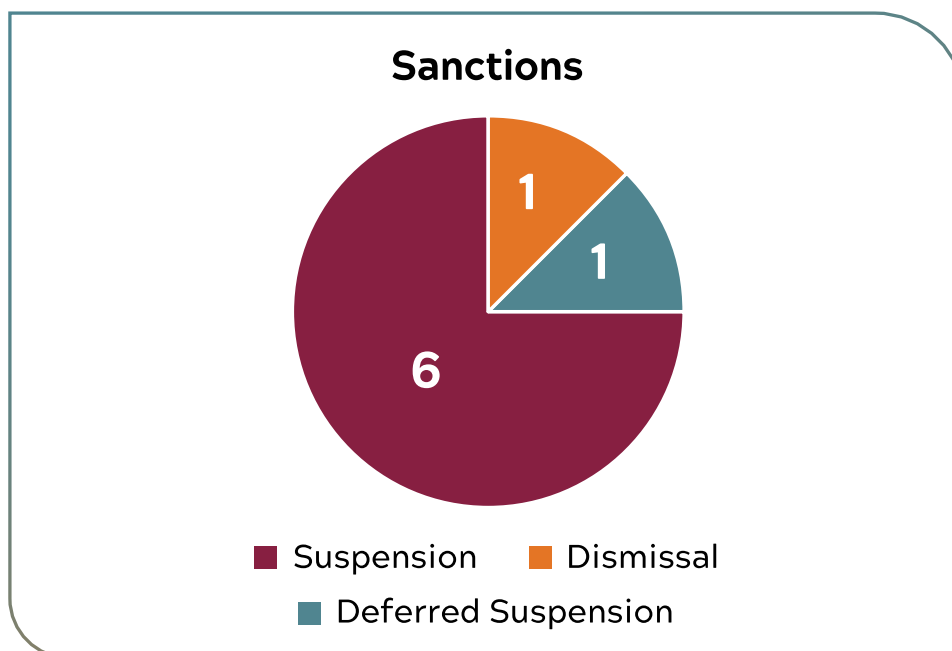
The following is a breakdown by location of incidents (when provided by the reporting party)

- ▶ On-campus: **74**
- ▶ On-campus Residential Building: **79**
- ▶ Off-campus: **87**
- ▶ Electronic/Phone: **51**



Outcomes

Of the 21 reports that resulted in formal complaints and investigations, 1 case was dismissed and 3 cases are currently going through the adjudication process. Eight investigations resulted in a finding of responsibility for sexual harassment or violence. In 9 cases, the respondent was found not responsible. For cases in which a student was found to have violated university policy, sanctions included 1 dismissal from the university, 6 suspensions, and 1 deferred suspension.





Angela Catena, Title IX Coordinator

Office for Civil Rights Compliance
and Prevention Education

540-231-1821 ▪ angelamc@vt.edu ▪ safe.vt.edu

**Every member of our community has the right to live in an atmosphere
free from sexual harassment and violence.**

Virginia Tech is committed to providing a safe environment, consistent with our [Principles of Community](#), free from harassment and violence of any kind. If you have experienced sexual harassment or violence, we encourage you to reach out for support. Advocacy and assistance, including measures through Title IX, are available to you – whether you choose to report or not and no matter where you are located.

Report to the University

Scan this code to
report sex-based
harassment and
violence.



**Office for Civil Rights Compliance
and Prevention Education**
220 Gilbert Street, Suite 5200
540-231-2010
civilrights@vt.edu

Virginia Tech Police Department
911 ▪ 540-382-4343
police.vt.edu

Calling 911 from a Virginia Tech landline in Blacksburg will reach the Virginia Tech Police Department. Calling 911 from a cell phone will connect with the local off-campus police department.

Confidential Resources

Confidential resources cannot share identifying information about you without your consent. They can support and advise you as you make decisions.

Cook Counseling Center
ucc.vt.edu

CARES Program for Survivors
womenscenter.vt.edu/advocacy

Schiffert Health Center
healthcenter.vt.edu

**Office of the Ombudsman -
Graduate School**
graduate.ombudsman.vt.edu

**TimelyCare Virtual Mental
Health Counseling**
timelycare.com/virginiatech

Private Resources

Private resources are required to report some information about incidences to the Title IX Coordinator. Other university departments may also be involved to help survivors or protect the campus community.

Office of Student Conduct
studentconduct.vt.edu

Dean of Students Office
dos.vt.edu

Cranwell International Center
international.vt.edu

Get Involved

Each member of the community can help the university in the ongoing work
to transform our culture and protect against sexual violence.

Visit safe.vt.edu

to access resources and learn how you can be part of Virginia Tech's culture of change.

More Resources

Accessibility Portal

vt.edu/accessibility

Accessible Technologies

assist.vt.edu

Cook Counseling Center

ucc.vt.edu

CRCPE Glossary

civilrights.vt.edu/about/glossary

Report a Barrier

vt.edu/accessibility/barrier

SAFE at VT

safe.vt.edu

Services for Students with Disabilities

ssd.vt.edu



Scan the QR code or click the link below for the Sexual Harassment and Violence Reporting form.

bit.ly/TitleIX_Reporting_Form



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