

TITLE IX ANNUAL REPORT

Academic Year 2016–2017



THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA



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INTRODUCTION

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination in the programs and activities of an educational institution that receives federal funds. The Catholic University of America prohibits sexual offenses such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and domestic violence. This report provides transparency on sexual offenses and summarizes key findings of the University’s latest campus climate survey. It provides details of reports of sexual offenses against students received during the past academic year. In addition, the report highlights the University’s numerous prevention measures. The University is committed to preventing sexual offenses, responding with compassion and support for victims, and conducting fair investigations and hearings.

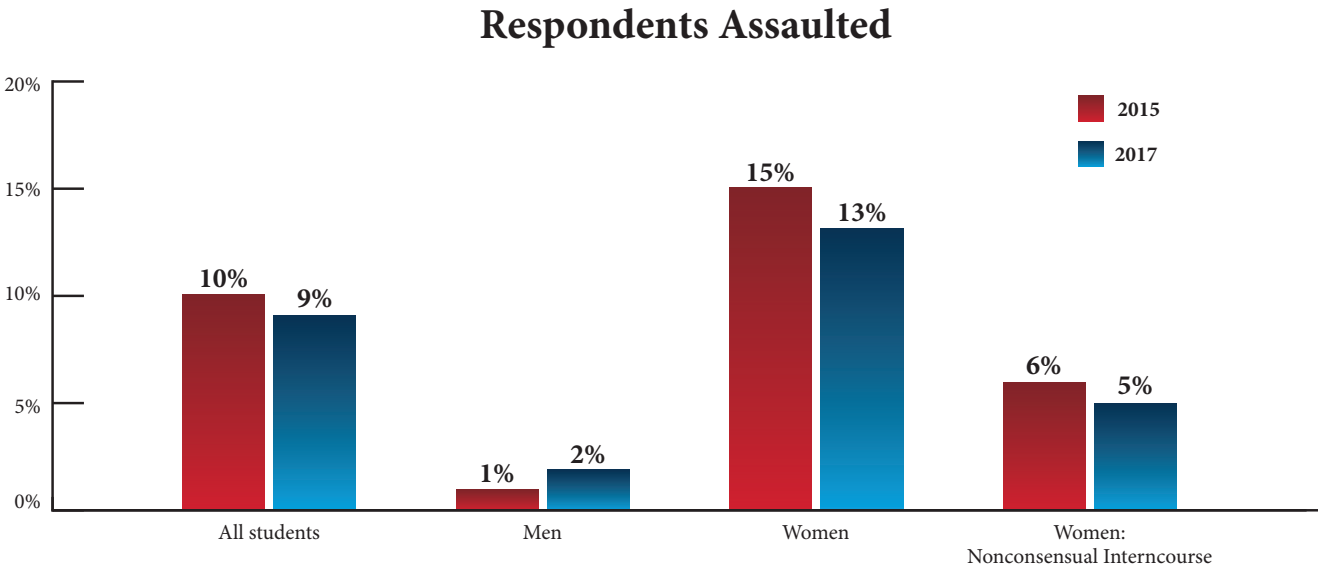
CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY

Background

In the fall of 2015, Catholic University administered its first sexual violence campus climate survey to all undergraduates age 18 or older. The University used a survey developed by the Higher Education Data Sharing (HEDS) consortium, a nonprofit organization of more than 100 private colleges. The University originally planned to repeat the survey two years later in the fall of 2017. However, the University repeated the survey in the spring of 2017 because HEDS decided it would no longer administer the survey in the fall. In the spring of 2017, almost 22% of undergraduates responded. The 2017 survey should not be expected to show significantly different results because only one new class of students entered the University during the time between surveys.

Overall Conclusions: Catholic University remains similar to other colleges in its rates of sexual assault, types of sexual assault, underreporting of assaults by victims, and the role of alcohol in assaults. The 2017 survey showed improvement in the campus climate in some areas, while other areas remained the same.

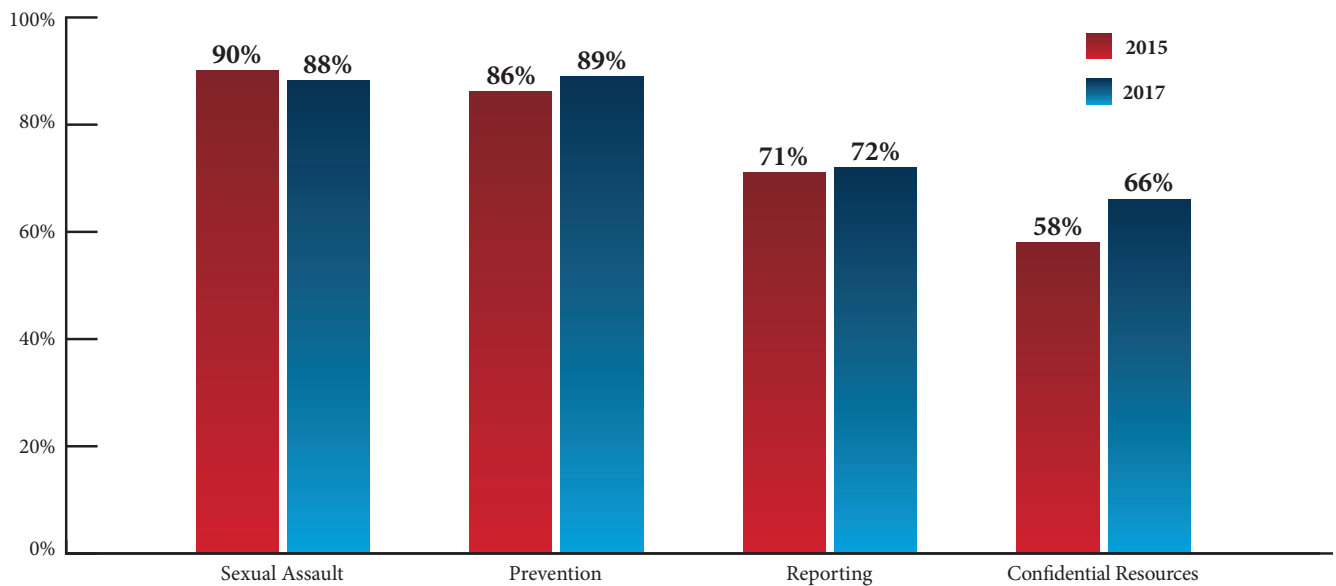
1. Percentage of Students Assaulted Declines



Commentary: The term “sexual assault” covers a wide range of behavior from unwanted touching to non-consensual sexual intercourse. The overall percentage of students assaulted declined slightly from ten percent to nine percent. The percentage of women assaulted declined by two percentage points, and the percentage of women reporting non-consensual intercourse declined from six percent to five percent. There was an increase in the percentage of male students reporting assault, but that was only a difference of one additional student from the previous survey.

2. Small improvement in percentage of freshmen saying they had received information on key topics

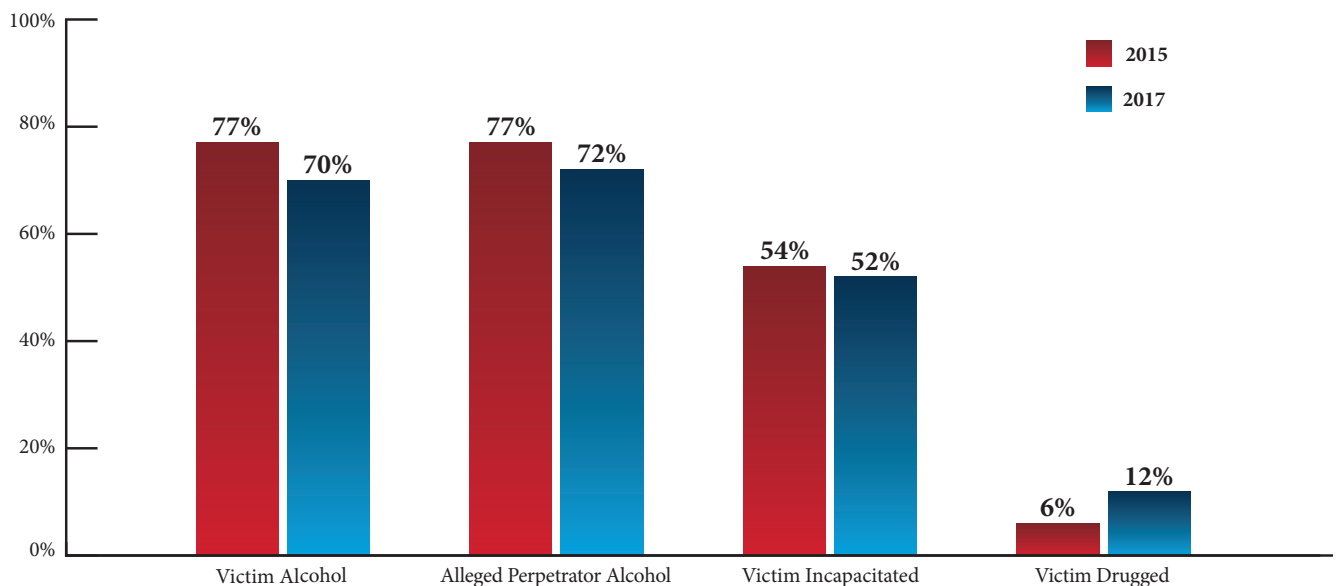
I Have Received Information About ...



Commentary: All incoming freshmen are required to take a detailed online course about sexual assault and attend sessions at Orientation on the topic. The 2015 survey showed that although the overwhelming majority of freshmen remembered receiving information on sexual assault and prevention, a significant number did not remember receiving information on reporting and confidential resources. For the fall of 2016, the University revamped the Orientation session to emphasize information on these topics. The percentage of freshmen who remembered receiving information on confidential resources increased, but the percentage who remembered receiving information on reporting was essentially unchanged.

3. Modest decline in alcohol consumption prior to assaults

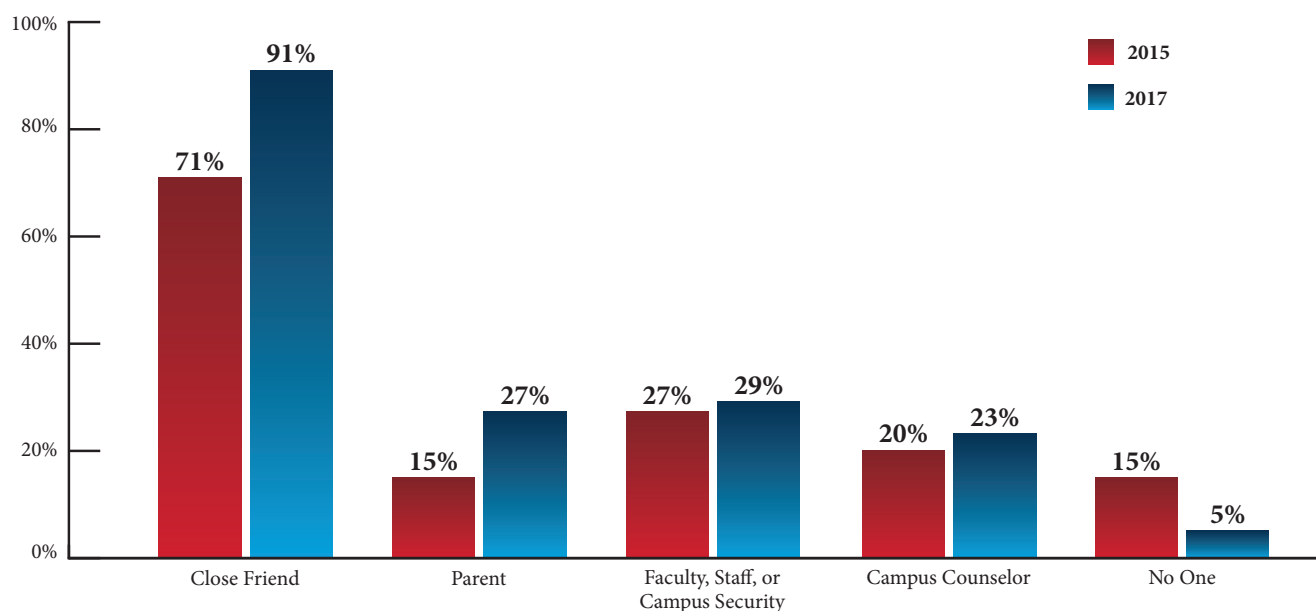
Alcohol and Drug Involved in Assault?



Commentary: The 2017 survey showed a modest decline in alcohol consumption by both the victims and the alleged perpetrators prior to a sexual assault. However, the majority of assaults still occurred when victims were incapacitated. The 2017 survey shows an increase in the percentage of victims who believe they were drugged, which requires careful monitoring to determine if it is a trend.

4. Victims substantially more likely to tell someone

Whom Did Victims Tell?

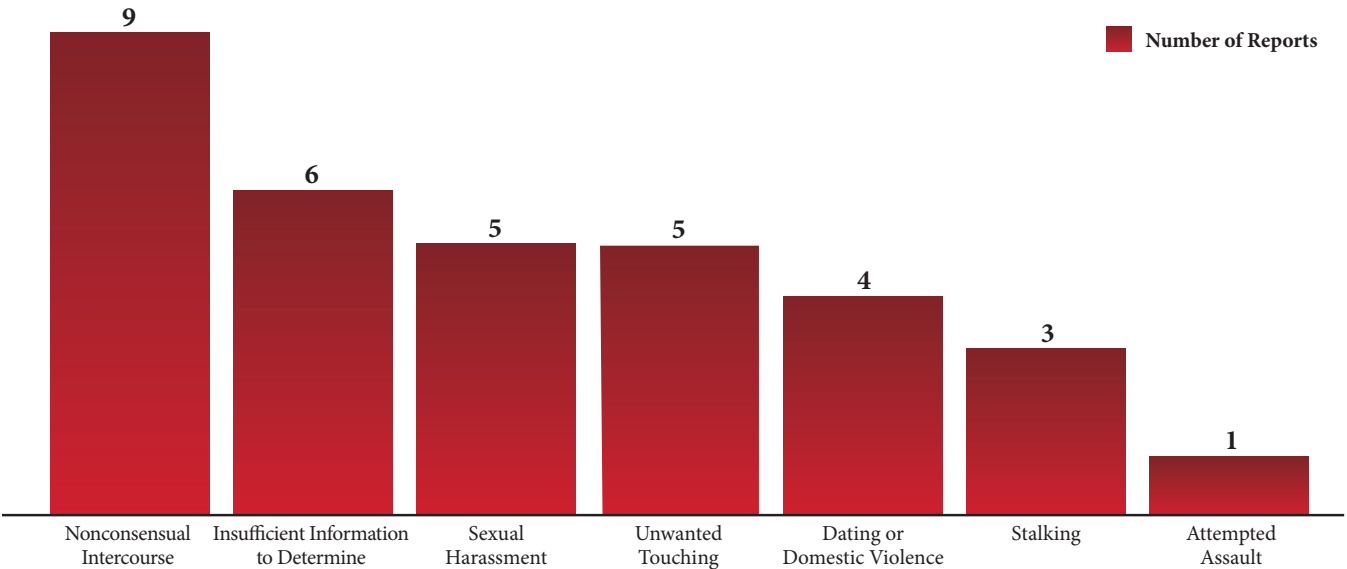


Commentary: In the 2015 survey, 15% of victims said they did not tell anyone they were harassed or assaulted. The 2017 survey showed a substantial decline to five percent. Victims were significantly more likely to tell a close friend or parent, and slightly more likely to tell a University employee or campus counselor. This change is important because victims need support after a traumatic event.

REPORTS OF SEXUAL OFFENSES AGAINST STUDENTS

From August 15, 2016, to August 15, 2017, the University received 33 reports of sexual harassment or sexual violence against students, compared with 40 reports the previous academic year. The following chart shows the reports by type:

Types of Reported Sexual Offenses Against University Students in 2016–17



Commentary: The number of sexual offense reports in the Title IX Report is greater than the number of sexual offenses in the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report published by the Department of Public Safety. The Title IX report includes sexual offenses regardless of where they occurred. In contrast, the Annual Security Report lists crimes that occurred on campus, adjacent to campus, or off campus when associated with the institution. Hence, a report that a student was fondled by a stranger in downtown D.C. would be included in the Title IX report but not in the Annual Security Report. The numbers also differ because the Annual Security Report covers a calendar year, and the Title IX Report covers an academic year.

Title IX requires that when the University receives a report of sexual harassment or violence, it must allow the victim to choose whether to file a complaint and trigger an investigation. The only exception is when the University has credible evidence that the alleged perpetrator is a threat to the community. The following is a detailed summary of the reports by type of offense:

Nonconsensual Intercourse *(nine reports)*

In two cases, the alleged perpetrators were affiliated with Catholic University, but the victims decided not to file complaints because so much time had passed. In one of those cases, the alleged misconduct occurred three years ago, and in the other case, the alleged misconduct occurred more than 30 years ago. Seven of the alleged perpetrators were not affiliated with Catholic University and therefore were not subject to the University’s disciplinary process.

Sexual Harassment *(five reports)*

Four of the cases involved alleged perpetrators who were employees of the University. In one case, the perpetrator was prevented from returning to the University as an employee. In a second case, the perpetrator admitted inappropriate conduct, apologized to the victim, and was disciplined. The third and fourth cases were resolved informally. In the case involving a non-employee, the alleged perpetrator was never identified, but his inappropriate actions ceased.

Unwanted Touching *(five reports)*

The alleged perpetrator was affiliated with Catholic University in three cases. One case went to a University hearing, in which the alleged perpetrator was found responsible and was suspended for multiple semesters. In two of those cases, the victims decided not to file complaints with the University. The other two cases involved strangers in nightclubs, and the alleged perpetrators were never identified.

Dating or Domestic Violence *(four reports)*

The three dating violence cases involved alleged perpetrators affiliated with the University. One case went to a hearing in which the alleged perpetrator was found not responsible. In the second case, the victim decided not to file a University complaint but requested a no-contact order, which was issued. The third case was reported by a third party, but the alleged victim stated there was no violence in the relationship. In the domestic violence case, the alleged perpetrator was not affiliated with the University, but the Department of Public Safety collaborated with the Metropolitan Police Department to help the victim obtain a protective order.

Stalking *(three reports)*

All of the stalking cases involved alleged perpetrators not affiliated with the University. In two cases, the University assisted the victims in obtaining a Temporary Protection Order from the Metropolitan Police Department and a Civil Protection Order from D.C. Superior Court. In the other case, the victim declined University assistance.

Attempted Assault *(one report)*

The potential victim escaped before an assault occurred, and she decided not to file a complaint.

Insufficient Information to Determine *(six reports)*

In six cases, the University did not receive sufficient information to determine the type of sexual offense. In many of these situations, the victim received support from the Dean of Students office or the Counseling Center. In four of the cases, the alleged perpetrator was not affiliated with the University, and the conduct did not occur on University premises. In three of those cases, the victim declined to provide detailed information, and in the fourth, there was conflicting information about what occurred. Two of the cases involved alleged perpetrators affiliated with the University. One was reported by a third party, but the alleged victim said that no sexual offense occurred. In the other case, the victim declined to provide detailed information and decided not to file a University complaint.

PREVENTION INITIATIVES

Catholic University is committed to raising awareness and prevention of sexual violence. It does so through extensive training programs and campus events.

Training

1. Online Course for Incoming Students

All incoming first-year and transfer students are required to take a detailed online course called Not Anymore that addresses sexual assault, consent, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, and healthy relationships. The University upgraded the course for 2017 by adding two video modules specific to Catholic University. The University prevents students who have not completed the course from registering for the spring semester. A total of 934 new students completed the course in the 2016–17 academic year.

2. First-Year Student Orientation

Almost 700 first-year students and their families attended a program at Orientation consisting of skits that depict situations students and their families may experience in college. The University modified the program to include an expanded sexual assault scene that outlined the support and resources available to both students involved. During the last Orientation advisor meeting, first-year students completed a survey to assess the program's learning outcomes, de-briefed, and participated in interactive activities on alcohol, drugs, and sexual violence led by their Orientation advisors.

3. Online Course for Employees on Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Violence

Catholic University developed a custom course on unlawful harassment, discrimination, and sexual violence. All full-time Catholic University employees who do not receive in-person training are required to take the course when they begin employment and a refresher every two years.

4. In-Person Training on Sexual Violence

The University provides in-person training on sexual violence for all individuals likely to receive a report of sexual assault. The training is interactive and customized for the particular audience. The following are groups that have attended, with most of them achieving 100% attendance rates:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Full-time faculty | • Student Orientation advisors | • Dean of Students office |
| • Study abroad trip leaders | • Admission staff | • Public Safety assistants |
| • Student ministers and staff | • Hall safety assistants | • Student Affairs personnel |
| • Public Safety officers | • Community directors | • Resident assistants |
| • Work-study student supervisors | • Varsity and club coaches | • Student government |

In 2017–18, the University will require refresher training for individuals likely to receive reports of sexual assault who have not been trained in the past two years.

5. We Are Called: Bystander Intervention and Sexual Violence Training

Almost 350 student leaders attended bystander intervention training on how to identify potentially dangerous situations, successfully intervene, and resources available to support students who may be affected by sexual violence.

6. Hearing Board Training

All faculty and staff who sit on hearing boards in sexual offenses cases attended eight hours of training at the beginning of the year, and many attended supplemental sessions during the course of the year.

7. Reporting and Support Video

For the fall of 2016, the University created its first video on the resources and support available for students who report an incident of sexual assault or file a complaint. A link to this video was emailed to all students and was posted on the Title IX website, the Sexual Assault and Violence Education website, and the website for Peer Educators Empowering Respectful Students (PEERS).

Events

What is SANE?

The Network for Victim Recovery of DC presented to students the resources and support available through their organization and the DC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program.

Fresh Check Day

Two hundred seventy students participated in an event that educated students about mental health resources and coping strategies. PEERS participated in the “Rise Up” booth that raised awareness for sexual violence and demonstrated support for survivors in our community.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Seventy-five students led a candlelit walk through campus stopping along the way to read elements of the Brock Turner Survivor Letter and Vice President Joe Biden’s response. The walk concluded with a prayer service and a reception where students decorated cookies baked in the shape of bicycles as a reminder of the empowered bystanders who were riding by and intervened.

The Clothesline Project

The Clothesline Project is a visual display that bears witness to violence against women. All who have been affected by sexual violence were invited to submit a shirt designed with a message or illustration. Shirts were available for pickup and anonymous drop-off outside of the Dean of Students Office, the Counseling Center, and Campus Ministry.

The Whole IX Yards

Students learned about sexual assault response and the resources and supports offered through this open Q&A with Catholic University’s Title IX Coordinator Frank Vinik and Dean Stephanie Davey from the Dean of Students office.

Escalation Workshops

The varsity men’s and women’s lacrosse teams collaborated with PEERS to offer the One Love Foundation’s Escalation workshop. This powerful, emotionally engaging 90-minute experience educated students about relationship violence and empowered students to serve as empowered bystanders.

Suit Up

To recognize Healthy Masculinity Awareness Month in November, PEERS hosted a formal dinner event that explored the topics of authentic masculinity and healthy relationships. This positive and proactive event on healthy masculinity included a keynote speaker, open dialogue, dinner and dessert.

Bystander Intervention Pop-Up Tent

This program involved a pop-up tent in a busy area of campus, with activities surrounding bystander intervention and safe Christmas break tips.

Healthy Relationships Awareness Month

Programming in February 2017 focused on exploring what it means to be in a healthy relationship, both in dating relationships and in friendships. Various departments and organizations collaborated with PEERS to offer 13 active events and educational campaigns throughout the month.

Bring Dating Back Campaign

As part of Healthy Relationships Awareness Month, PEERS offered students tips on how to date and enjoy a healthy relationship. Five educational campaigns were shared through PEERS’ social media.

#ThatsNotLove Campaign

PEERS tabled in the Pryzbyla Center to encourage students to recognize signs of unhealthy relationships and identify traits of positive dating relationships. This campaign was a part of the national movement developed by the One Love Foundation.

The Dating Game

Approximately 100 students participated in a Campus Ministry event focused on restoring the dating culture on campus. Students had the opportunity to meet new people from all the first-year residence halls with the hope of finding a new friend, future roommate, or perhaps even a date. Then the students participated in a Catholic University take on the traditional game show, *The Dating Game*.

The Dating Doctor

Approximately 150 students joined nationally acclaimed speaker David Coleman for his interactive presentation on healthy relationships. The Dating Doctor covered many topics including self-love, the “friendzone,” how to break up with dignity, and how to know if someone is truly interested in you.

Dressed Up: A Healthy Relationships Dinner

During Women’s History Month PEERS hosted a formal dinner event that explored the topics of authentic womanhood and healthy relationships. This event, designed to mirror “Suit Up” offered to male students in the fall semester, included a panel discussion, open dialogue, dinner and dessert.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

In April 2017, Catholic University recognized Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The aim of this month was to raise awareness about sexual violence and to educate the University community on our prevention efforts, with the goal of eliminating sexual violence.

Teal Tuesdays

This weekly campaign encouraged all members of the University community to wear teal to stand in solidarity with survivors of sexual violence nationwide. During each Tuesday in the month of April, faculty and staff alike wore teal to show their support. Dining Services partnered with PEERS to offer teal cookies in the Student Restaurant and distribute ribbons to students, faculty, and staff.

Shatter the Silence

The University Counseling Center and Peer Educators Empowering Respectful Students (PEERS) at Catholic University collaborated to create a safe and open dialogue about ending sexual violence.

Sit Down to Stand Up

Approximately 150 students participated in an event in which students were invited to sit in one of 40 chairs on the Pryzbyla Center Lawn, which represented the 40 sexual offenses that were reported on Catholic University’s campus during the 2015–2016 school year. Students who participated were provided reflection questions and the opportunity to visit tables on the Pryzbyla Patio with University and community resources.

Take Back the Night

The fourth annual Take Back the Night event was an opportunity for students to rally to bring an end to sexual, relationship, and domestic violence in all forms. Intentionally striking a balance between remembrance and empowerment, Take Back the Night featured stories of brave members of our own community.

University Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy

The Catholic University of America admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, or disability.

THE CATHOLIC
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OF AMERICA



Office of Equal Opportunity
620 Michigan Ave., N.E.
Washington, DC 20064

202-319-6594 • 202-319-4492 (Fax)
www.catholic.edu