**Title IX**

**Addressing Sexual Harassment / Sexual Violence**

**Educating Students on Sexual Harassment & Sexual Violence**

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**Consent**

Consent is clearly communicating “Yes” about sexual activity on your own terms. It can be limited to certain acts and revoked at any time.

Previously given consent for a certain act doesn’t mean you can automatically proceed with other acts. Additionally, your partner always has the right to change his/her mind.

Consent can’t be given if someone is unconscious, asleep, incapacitated (due to alcohol/other drugs), a minor or physically/mentally impaired. A past or current relationship with someone doesn’t mean that you can proceed with sexual activity. You **always** must obtain consent.

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**Sexual Misconduct/Assault Defined**

Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment and is prohibited by Title IX, which includes conduct that is criminal in nature.

Examples of sexual violence that include physical contact are:

- Rape
- Sexual assault
- Sexual battery
- Sexual coercion
- Unwanted touching
- Dating violence
- Stalking

The person responsible for the violence is typically someone known to the victim such as a friend, neighbor, co-worker, family member, acquaintance or significant other.

Sexual violence refers to sexual acts perpetrated against a person’s will where consent is not obtained or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to his/her use of alcohol or other drugs or sexualized behavior accompanied by promise of reward or threat of harm.

Dating violence can take place in person or through the use of technology, such as repeated texting or posting sexual photos of a partner online without consent.

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**Office of the Dean of Students**

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The Impact of Sexual Violence

Every person is unique and survivors of sexual violence will react and respond to their experience of sexual violence in different ways. It is common for survivors to have a range of emotions, psychological and/or physical reactions as a result of sexual violence, sexual harassment or rape. Some individuals may report their incident immediately while others may wait days, weeks or even months before talking to anyone about it. Regardless of whether a survivor reports her/his incident, whether it occurred on or off campus, or if it was recent or in the past, the effects of sexual violence can negatively impact how survivors function on a day-to-day basis (i.e., personal well-being, success at school or work). Survivors of sexual violence may experience emotional, psychological and physical effects including but not limited to:

- Guilt, shame, self-blame
- Shock, disbelief
- Fear, anxiety or stress
- Feelings of lack of control
- Anger, hostility or aggression
- Depression
- Difficulty concentrating
- Interpersonal problems
- Flashbacks, panic attacks
- Low self-esteem, social withdrawal
- Physical injury
- Concerns about physical safety
- Concerns about pregnancy /contracting a STI/HIV

Lane College is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of all forms of exploitation, intimidation, harassment and sexual violence. Such behaviors are prohibited both by law and Lane College policy and will not be tolerated.

Sexual violence has no boundaries and everyone is at risk. Anyone can be a victim of sexual violence regardless of age, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, education or socioeconomic status.

What is Title IX?

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination in educational programs and activities. 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 education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Tennessee Law also prohibits gender discrimination and sexual harassment.

What Behaviors Are Prohibited by Title IX?

Sexual harassment (which includes sexual violence and assault) is a form of sex discrimination and therefore a violation of Title IX. Specific behaviors that are prohibited by Title IX include rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual exploitation, and other forms of non-consensual sexual activity such as stalking and relationship violence. Many behaviors that violate Title IX also constitute crimes.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

On March 7, 2013, President Obama signed a bill that strengthened and reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act. Included in the bill was the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (Campus Save). Campus Save amended the Jeanne Clery Act and affords additional rights to campus victims of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. Some sexual violence statistics are below.

1. One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.
2. An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.
3. Eighty-five (85%) of domestic violence victims are women.
4. Historically, females have been most often victimized by someone they knew.
5. Females between 20 - 24 years of age are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.
6. Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police.
7. In a survey of students at 171 institutions of higher education, alcohol was involved in 74% of all sexual assaults.
8. Among college women, 1 in 5 are victims of completed or attempted sexual assault.

Resources for Lane College Students

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