

Dear WKU Community,

A top priority at WKU is the safety and well-being of everyone in our community. We want to remind our community the of services available through the WKU Counseling Center and the Title IX Office. Both areas offer prevention training as well as support services. At the end of this email is a list of helpful resources.

Counseling Center

The WKU Counseling Center is one of several departments or offices on campus that provide services, training and education for the campus community around sexual assault and interpersonal violence. The Counseling Center's specific role is to provide individual and group sexual assault crisis counseling to students involved in a sexual assault or interpersonal violence. To help change the culture around sexual assault and interpersonal violence, the WKU Counseling Center can speak to student organizations, departments, faculty, staff and students, so they can be more informed about issues related to sexual violence, the risk of sexual assault, and how to increase personal safety. Interested groups can contact the Counseling Center and request that a staff member conduct a presentation or training and discussion with group members.

Response to sexual assault

Acts of interpersonal violence are traumatic. They can affect a person's mental health, social interactions, academic performance or attendance. It's important to know there are resources available for faculty, staff and students – both on campus and in our community. After an assault, The Counseling Center provides support and guidance, from a Sexual Assault Services Coordinator, who can walk through options about the choices they have regarding self-reporting, assistance within the on-campus community (e.g., housing, classes, etc.), and support through their healing process. We offer confidential counseling for the student as well as a support group for survivors. We see currently enrolled WKU students, do not charge a fee, and do not bill for insurance.

Outreach, Prevention and Education

The Counseling Center is committed to providing proactive trainings and education for all our campus communities: faculty, staff and students. Understanding the societal culture surrounding interpersonal violence, we want our community to be educated and empowered to speak up and speak out if or when they see these acts of violence, no matter how subtle. It's all of our responsibility, as members of an institution of higher education, to challenge societal beliefs surrounding the myths and perceptions about sexual assault and interpersonal violence.

For more information, contact WKU Counseling Center: 270-745-3159.

WKU Title IX Office

WKU is committed to providing an educational and work environment free from sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and retaliation. The Department of Education issued amended federal regulations related to Title IX in May of 2020, which prompted WKU to start work on the development of [WKU's Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Policy and Procedure \(#0.2070\)](#). Informally referred to as the University's "Title IX" policy and procedure, the interim document became

effective on August 14, 2020, and was formally approved by WKU's President's Cabinet on January 11, 2021.

Our University's Title IX policy and procedure provides a prompt, effective, and equitable process for investigating and resolving incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation, while also maintaining a balance of each party's rights during what is often a difficult and traumatic time for all of those involved.

A report or complaint of sexual harassment, sexual assault (e.g., rape, sodomy), dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and/or retaliation should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator, via email, by telephone or in person. It may also be reported to other individuals identified in our policy and procedure, any WKU employee, and even anonymously by way of our [Title IX website](#).

Supportive measures will be offered to victims, complainants and respondents (i.e., accused parties). Under federal law, WKU is required to make a good faith effort to minimize the impact (e.g., academic, employment) of the complaint and investigation process through consideration of supportive measures and do so in a way that does not unreasonably burden either party. Examples of such services can include referral to counseling; medical and/or other healthcare services; assistance with Visa and immigration needs; consideration of altered campus housing; academic support, extensions of deadlines, or other course/program-related adjustments; modifications to class schedules and withdrawals; and implementation of contact limitations (e.g., no contact orders) between parties.

Every effort is made to preserve privacy and confidentiality of reports or complaints and the identity of those involved. WKU will not share the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint under this policy and procedure. Preservation of privacy is afforded to any victim/complainant, any person who has reported a violation of this policy and procedure, any accused party/respondent, and any witness, except as specifically permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Online Training

WKU and Catharsis Training have partnered to offer an online interactive Title IX training that specifically addresses perspectives of sexual assault, misconduct and harassment. This training also demonstrates how and when to intervene if/when you witness questionable behavior or you think someone might be at risk for sexual assault or misconduct. This training is offered and available to students and employees. In addition, the Offices of Student Conduct and Title IX offer training upon request, either face to face or via zoom. We can assist with identifying other offices and entities that offer similar training and educational opportunities.

To ask a question, report a concern, or file a complaint, contact:

Ms. Deborah Wilkins

Title IX Coordinator and Senior Advisor to the President
Office of the Provost and Office of the President
Downing Student Union – Suite 2096

Email: deborah.wilkins@wku.edu
Phone: (270) 745-5396

Mr. Michael Crowe

Director and Title IX Investigator (e.g., student-to-student)
Office of Student Conduct
Potter Hall – Room 425
Email: student.conduct@wku.edu
Phone: (270) 745-5429

Mr. Joshua Hayes

Director and Title IX Investigator (e.g., employee-to-employee, student-to-employee)
Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action/University ADA Services
Wetherby Administration Building – Room G33
Email: joshua.hayes@wku.edu
Phone: (270) 745-5121

Other Resources

Title IX Website: <https://www.wku.edu/titleix/>

Title IX Policy and Procedure: <https://www.wku.edu/policies/docs/index.php?policy=182>

Title IX Resources: <https://www.wku.edu/eo/titleix/2019titleixresources.pdf>

Hope Harbor, Inc. (Sexual Trauma Recovery Center): 1-800-656-4673 (HOPE); local/Bowling Green: 270-782-5014

BRASS, Inc. (Domestic Violence Resource): 1-800-928-1183

WKU Police: (270) 745-2548

WKU Health Services: (270) 745-2273