

## SEXUAL ASSAULT & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

### POLICY

#### I. SEXUAL ASSAULT & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE POLICY

##### **Campus Policy/Statement on Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence**

Valdosta State University supports the rights of all members of the faculty, staff, administration, and student body to live, work and study in an environment free from sexual assault and intimate partner violence. Sexual contact with another person without consent or with the use of threat or force violates the standards of civility, decency, and respect expected of all members of the campus community. Valdosta State University prohibits interpersonal violence of any kind, including sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking. Every member of the campus community should (a) be aware that such behavior is prohibited by Valdosta State University's Student Code of Conduct, Faculty Handbook, and Employee Handbook as well as by state and federal law, and (b) become familiar with the campus protocol for responding to reported violations.

Valdosta State University is dedicated to providing assistance and support to all members of the faculty, staff, administration, and student body. Students who have experienced intimate partner and/or sexual violence can receive support through VSU's Counseling Center, as well as additional on-campus and off-campus resources. In addition to cooperating with law enforcement officials in the prosecution of alleged perpetrators, Valdosta State University will take appropriate action to respond to this behavior through the Student Conduct office for any student found responsible for violating this policy. VSU will respond to any staff or faculty member found responsible for violating this policy through established Human Resources procedures. Support is available for all aspects of the reporting process.

**Reporting an assault does not in any way obligate a student or employee to pursue legal or institutional disciplinary action; however, Valdosta State University has the right to pursue disciplinary action at its discretion. If the victim chooses to report and pursue criminal charges against an alleged assailant, Valdosta State University will support and comply with the criminal justice process.**

##### **Amnesty Guidelines**

The Valdosta State University's (VSU) Medical Amnesty Guideline (MAG) is offered to students who become aware of a medical emergency involving suspected alcohol poisoning or drug overdose and seek emergency assistance on that student(s)' behalf. The student(s) making the notification of a suspected medical emergency and the victim(s) will be exempt from sanctioning through the Student Conduct Office for violations of the Student Code of Conduct's Substance Abuse Policy as referenced in the Student Handbook. Prosecution of individuals under local, state, or federal laws would be at the discretion of appropriate officials of the applicable jurisdiction.

*Crime Victim:* If a victim of a crime is suspected of having used alcohol and/or drugs, amnesty would be extended to the victim and the person seeking assistance and he/she will be exempt from sanctioning through the Student Conduct Office for violations of the Student Code of Conduct's Substance Abuse Policy as referenced in the Student Handbook. Prosecution of individuals under local, state, or federal laws would be at the discretion of appropriate officials of the applicable jurisdiction.

Any student that believes s/he has been a victim of sexual assault is encouraged to notify the VSU University Police (229-259-5555 or 911), VSU Counseling Center (229-333-5940), The Haven Rape Crisis Center (229-244-4477), the VSU Student Health Center (229-333-5886), South Georgia Medical Center (229-333-1000) or the VSU Office of Social Equity (229-333-4353).