

## **Cultivating Learning and Safe Environments: A study of prevalence and perceptions of sexual abuse and misconduct on UT campuses**

### **Terminology**

**Sexual Misconduct:** Sexual misconduct is a broad term encompassing any unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature that is committed without consent or by force, intimidation, coercion, or manipulation. Sexual misconduct can be committed by a person of any gender, and it can occur between people of the same or different gender.

**Sexual Harassment:** Sexual harassment is unwanted sexist or sexual behaviour that interferes with an individual's ability to work or learn. Harassment can include "sexual harassment" or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature. Harassment does not have to be of a sexual nature, however, and can include offensive remarks about a person's sex. For example, it is illegal to harass a woman by making offensive comments about women in general. Both victim and the harasser can be either a woman or a man, and the victim and harasser can be the same sex.

**Sexist Gender Harassment:** For the purposes of this survey, could include treating someone "differently" because of their sex; displaying, using or distributing sexist or suggestive materials; making offensive remarks; putting someone down or being condescending because of their gender.

**Crude Sexual Harassment:** Repeatedly telling sexual stories or jokes that are offensive; making unwelcome attempts to draw others into a discussion of sexual matters; making offensive remarks about someone's appearance, body or sexual activities; making gestures or using body language of a sexual nature which are embarrassing or offensive to others.

**Unwanted Sexual Attention Harassment:** Making unwanted attempts to establish a romantic sexual relationship. Continuing to ask someone for dates, drinks, dinner, etc. even though that person has said no. Touching someone in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable. Making unwanted attempts to stroke, fondle or kiss.

**Sexual Coercion Harassment:** Making someone feel as though they are being bribed with a reward to engage in sexual behavior. Making someone feel threatened with some sort of retaliation for not being sexually cooperative. Treating someone badly for refusing to have sex. Implying better treatment in exchange for sexual cooperation.

**Stalking:** A recurring pattern of unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear for their safety or the safety of others and suffer significant emotional distress.

**Cyber Abuse:** Includes posting embarrassing photos or other images of someone online. Sending threatening text messages to or posting nasty things about someone on social media. Sending so many texts, emails, chats, etc., to make the victim feel unsafe. Spreading rumors via social media, using social media to harass or put down.

**Psychological Abuse:** Checking up on someone, following them, invading privacy by reading private messages or listening in on phone calls, not done in a playful or joking manner. Threatening or intimidating by destroying something or threatening to do harm, not in a playful or joking manner.

**Physical Violence:** Includes physical abuse, such as shoving, shaking, pinching, scratching, hair-pulling, slapping, punching, choking and using or threatening to use a weapon against someone.

**Sexual Assault:** The Texas Penal Code defines sexual assault as intentionally or knowingly causes the penetration of the anus, sexual organ, or mouth by any means, without the person's consent, or causes the sexual organ of another person, without that person's consent, to contact or penetrate the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of another person. For the purpose of this particular research, we do not use this term, but use *unwanted sexual contact*.

**Unwanted Sexual Contact:** Unwanted sexual contact is sexual activity that occurs without consent. Includes unwanted sexual touching, rape and attempted rape. Can include the use of force, intimidation, threats, and taking advantage of someone who is incapacitated. Also includes scenarios when someone is critical or shows displeasure when denied sex (but does not use physical force), continues to verbally pressure even after being told no.

**Unwanted sexual touching:** Kissing, fondling private areas of body (lips, breasts/chest, crotch, or butt), and removing someone's clothing without their consent by use of verbal pressure, taking advantage of them when they're incapacitated, threatening to harm, or using force.

**Rape:** Having oral sex with someone, making someone perform oral sex, or penetrating someone's vagina or anus with penis, fingers, or other objects without their consent by use of verbal pressure, taking advantage of them when they're incapacitated, threatening to harm, or using force.

**Attempted rape:** Attempting but not succeeding to have oral sex with someone, make someone perform oral sex, or penetrate someone's vagina or anus with penis, fingers, or other objects without their consent by use of verbal pressure, taking advantage of them when they're incapacitated, threatening to harm, or using force.

**Sexual Misconduct:** Sexual misconduct is a broad term encompassing any unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature that is committed without consent or by force, intimidation, coercion, or manipulation.

**Dating/Domestic Abuse and Violence:** A pattern of abusive behaviour in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. This can include cyber abuse, psychological abuse, and physical violence.

**Clery Act:** A federal law passed in 1990 and amended by the VAWA 2013 reauthorization act that obligates post-secondary educational institutions receiving federal funding to: share information about crimes on campus, to develop a campus response to improve safety, and to report on both actions in an annual safety report.

**Title IX** of the Education Amendments of 1972: the gender equity law that prohibits sex and gender discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funding.