Title IX: Addressing Gender Equity and Sexual Assault

What is Title IX? Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681) is an all-encompassing federal law that prohibits discrimination based on the gender of students and employees in educational institutions which receive federal financial assistance.

Who is our University’s Title IX Coordinator?
Larisa Hamada, Director, Equity & Diversity
Email: larisa.hamada@csulb.edu
Phone: 562-985-8256
Office: University Student Union (USU301)

Where can I find more information?
Title IX: http://www.csulb.edu/depts/oed/policies/title-ix.html
Prevention and Education Tips:
http://www.csulb.edu/depts/oed/policies/title-ix-notice.html

What University Procedures are available to me?
Allegations of Criminal Acts: University Police:
http://daf.csulb.edu/offices/ppfm/police/sex_assault.html
Main Line: (562) 985-4101

Student Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Complaint Procedure: Executive Order 1097
http://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-1097.html

Employee vs. Employee: Please contact Equity & Diversity to be directed to the appropriate grievance procedure.

Risk Reduction Tips:

“What can I do to help stop sexual violence?”

- Sexual contact requires mutual consent. An incapacitated person (for example, a person who is intoxicated by drugs or alcohol) is incapable of giving consent.
- No one deserves to be sexually assaulted, stalked or victimized in any way.
- Don’t engage in any behavior that may be considered dating/domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or any other form of violence.
- Never use force, coercion, threats, or alcohol or other drugs to engage in sexual activity.
- Take responsibility for your actions.
- Remember “no” means “No!” and “stop” means “Stop!”
- Report incidents of violence (including coercion) to law enforcement and campus authorities.
- Discuss dating/domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking with friends—speak out against violence and clear up misconceptions.
Risk Reduction Tips (cont’d)

Risk reduction tips can often take a victim-blaming tone, even unintentionally. With no intention to victim-blame and with recognition that only those who commit sexual violence are responsible for those actions, these suggestions may nevertheless help you to reduce your risk of experiencing a non-consensual sexual act:

- Make your limits known as early as possible.
- Tell a sexual aggressor “NO” clearly and firmly.
- Try to remove yourself from the physical presence of a sexual aggressor.
- Find someone nearby and ask for help.
- Take affirmative responsibility for your alcohol intake/drug use and acknowledge that alcohol/drugs lower your sexual inhibitions and may make you vulnerable to someone who views an intoxicated person as a sexual opportunity.
- Take care of your friends and ask that they take care of you. A real friend will challenge you if you are about to make a mistake. Respect them when they do.

In an emergency, call 9-1-1

“What can I do in order to help reduce my risk of being an initiator of sexual violence?”

If you find yourself in the position of being the initiator of sexual behavior, you owe sexual respect to your potential partner. These suggestions may help you to reduce your risk of being accused of sexual misconduct:

- Clearly communicate your intentions to your sexual partner and give them a chance to clearly relate their intentions to you.
- DON’T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS about consent, about someone’s sexual availability, about whether they are attracted to you, about how far you can go or about whether they are physically and/or mentally able to consent. If there are any questions or ambiguity then you DO NOT have consent.
- Mixed messages from your partner are a clear indication that you should stop, defuse any sexual tension and communicate better. You may be misreading them. They may not have figured out how far they want to go with you yet. You must respect the timeline for sexual behaviors with which they are comfortable.
- Don’t take advantage of someone’s drunkenness or drugged state, even if they did it to themselves. Incapacitation means a person is unable to give valid consent.
- Realize that your potential partner could be intimidated by you or could be fearful of you. You may have a power advantage simply because of your gender or size. Don’t abuse that power.
- Understand that consent to some form of sexual behavior does not automatically imply consent to any other forms of sexual behavior.
- Silence and passivity cannot be interpreted as an indication of consent. Read your potential partner carefully, paying attention to verbal and non-verbal communication and body language.