



# Sexual Assault

Beyond a Brochure: Training International Students on Sexual Assault Awareness



# Cultural Background and Differences



**Cultural Views on Sexual Assault:  
International Student Stories**

Student Stories Video: <https://www.internationalstudentinsurance.com/explained/cultural-views-sexual-assault-video.php>

# Presenters



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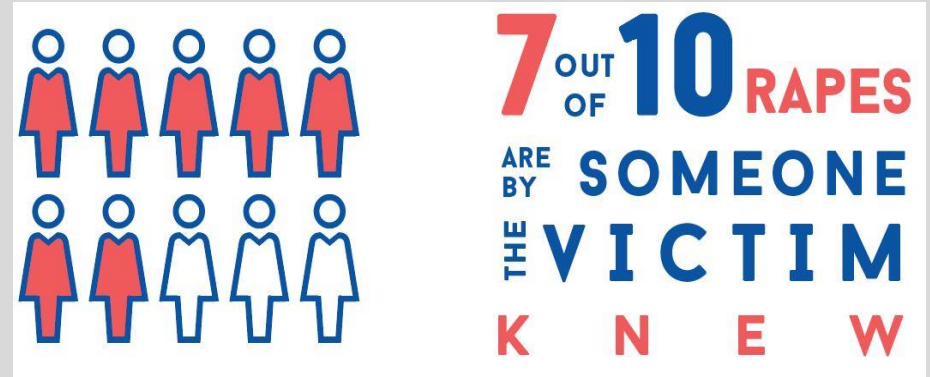
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
AMERICAN SEMESTER PROGRAM & EXCHANGES



# Agenda

- Sexual Assault
- Consent
- Staying Safe/Bystander Intervention
- After Sexual Assault
- Resources
- Q&A

# Why is it Important to Teach your International Students about Sexual Assault?



Source:

**RAINN**

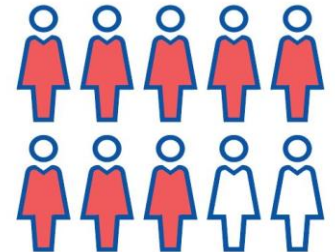
# Majority of Sexual Assaults are Not Reported

- Self-blame or guilt
- Shame, embarrassment or wanting to keep assault private
- Believed it was not important enough to report
- Did not want to get the perpetrator in trouble
- Fear of not being believed or retaliation
- Believe that the police would not or could not help

Source:

**RAINN**

ONLY 20% OF FEMALE  
STUDENT VICTIMS  
REPORT TO LAW  
ENFORCEMENT





Consent



# Sexual Assault and Consent

## What is Consent?

*Consent means that a sexual activity is agreed upon  
by **all parties every step of the way.***

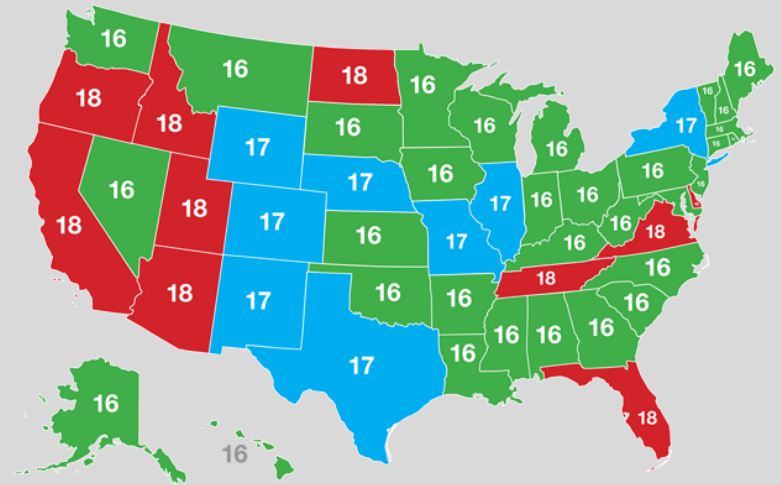
- Verbal: “Yes”, “I’m open to trying”, or other verbal agreement
- Physical queues



# Consent for International Students

In the US, consent is NOT:

- Marriage/being in a relationship
- A person's clothing
- Flirting/Kissing/Touching
- Being incapacitated
- Previous consent
- Being alone with another person
- Being under the legal age of consent



*What's the age of consent in your state?*



# Interactive Group Scenarios



Consent Activity

# Group Activity - Consent

Minah and Phillip are at a house party drinking quite heavily. Minah becomes drunk. She's slurring her words, unable to hold a conversation, and stumbling around the house. Minah's roommates want to stay at the party so Phillip offers to walk her home. On the walk, she's stumbling and bumping into things along the way. Once Minah is home, Phillip invites himself in and tells Minah he's going to help get her to bed safely. Minah starts undressing in the bedroom and doesn't tell Phillip to leave. Phillip starts kissing Minah and they have sex.

# Staying Safe/Bystander Intervention

# Bystander Intervention - C.A.R.E.

How can students prevent sexual assault and becoming active bystanders:

- **C***reate a distraction* - do what you can to interrupt a situation if you see something occurring
- **A***sk directly* - talk to the person in trouble and see if they need help
- **R***efers to an authority* - talk to a person in charge such as a bartender, security guard or police.
- **E***nlist the help of others* - ask others to help you intervene

Source: [RAINN.org](https://rainn.org)

# Michigan State University – American Semester Program

- Over 7,000 international students
- Over 50,000 students
- Semester, year-long, and summer programs
- About 300 students per year
- Non-degree seeking international students



**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY.**  
AMERICAN SEMESTER PROGRAM & EXCHANGES

# Michigan State University – SARV Prevention Program

- SARV = Sexual Assault & Relationship Violence Prevention Program
- Required in-person workshop for all first-year and transfer students
- Facilitated by undergraduate Peer Educators
- Goals of SARV Prevention Program:
  - Create awareness
  - Educate MSU students about the programs and resources available
  - Empower MSU students to become active in the prevention of SARV
  - Educate all students to understand they share a responsibility in the prevention of sexual violence and the creation of a safe community

**SARV**  
sexual assault & relationship violence  
**PREVENTIONPROGRAM**

# SARV Workshops

- Workshops are required, and take place in campus neighborhoods where students live
- LBGTQ Workshop
- International Student Workshop

“Learning about sexual assault and relationship violence is never easy, and it can be even harder when your native culture and language is very different from that of America. The International Student SARV Workshop has been designed to accommodate a wide range of cultural backgrounds, social norms and education regarding these issues. The workshop will give more definitions of terms, education regarding American university culture, and additional information about legal issues and resources for international students.”



# SARV International Student Workshop

- Geared toward a wide variety of international students
- Key topics covered:
  - MSU's SARV policy & definition
  - What reporting options students have: the crisis line and what confidentiality means
  - What mandatory reporting means
  - Busting myths surrounding reporting sexual assault
  - Educating on the resources available on campus

# Reaching International Students



- Degree-seeking international students participate in Spartan Preview before arriving to campus
- On-campus International Academic Orientation Program
- Required online training on Sexual Assault Prevention
- Required SARV Workshops
  - International students can attend the general workshop, or specific international workshop

# Reaching International Students

- Challenges:

- Reaching students through email reminders
- 2,000 incoming international students each year
- Language and cultural barriers
- Working across multiple departments on campus
- No data on participation in workshops and effectiveness of online training



# On-Campus Resources

- The SARV Prevention Program strongly recommends that all MSU students, and visitors to MSU, be directed to MSU resources FIRST

- Resources available through MSU are likely to be more inclusive and Title IX specific
- All victims can seek resources at MSU, regardless of where the assault took place

- Relationship Violence Resources:

- MSU Safe Place

- Sexual Assault Resources

- MSU Sexual Assault 24-Hour Hotline
- MSU Sexual Assault Program
- Office of Institutional Equity
- Olin Health Center

# Short-term International Students



- American Semester Program at MSU – semester, year, or 3-week programs
- Semester/year-long students enrolled at MSU
  - Triggers them to take the Online Training – required, places hold on account until complete
- 3-week summer programs are not enrolled
  - There is a gap here, which we hope to fill with the Online Training
- Even though these groups are on campus for a short time, they are still a vulnerable population for sexual assault

# After A Sexual Assault

# Talking with Survivors

Be aware of your tone (e.g., calm), language (e.g., gender-neutral), and physical presence (e.g., non-threatening)

Explain to them that your first priority is to keep them safe and supported

- Let them know that you are here to help them and will need to ask some questions for clarification

Use validating, reflecting, paraphrasing, empowering statements

- "It's normal to feel [repeat back the word(s) the survivor used]."
- "I can see how that would seem very [scary, frightening]"
- "It sounds like you're saying..."
- "I believe you."

Acknowledge the discomfort - this is a terrible situation

# Seeking Help

## Safety

- Encourage victims to go to a safe place - safety is the #1 priority
- Consider long term options, including housing accommodations

## Disclosure

- Encourage victims to reach out to someone - friend, advisor, family member
- Reminder that RAINN hotline offers free, confidential, anonymous, 24/7 help

## Medical and Mental Health

- Encourage victims to reach out to campus resources
- Visit [centers.rainn.org](https://centers.rainn.org) to find local resources



# Resources - RAINN

The [National Sexual Assault Hotline](#) at 800.656.HOPE (4673)

- A trained member of a local sexual assault service provider will direct the victim to appropriate health facilities to help them.
- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- [Sexual Assault Service Provider Search Tool](#)

The logo for RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network) is displayed in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are closely spaced and have a thick, solid appearance.



# Resources



# SEXUAL assault

AWARENESS & SAFETY

for

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



## Powerpoint Presentation

Comprehensive, professionally designed presentation to walk your students through the program.



## Video Content

Two videos on sexual assault awareness and student perceptions from around the world.



## Student Handout

A downloadable student guide take-away, or we can supply hard copies, to distribute to students.



## Interactive Activities

Activities that allow students to form into groups and learn about sexual assault & consent.



## Proctor Guide

Complete guide to walk you through the program and how to present the session to students.



Presentation

# Proctor Guide



# Proctor Guide

## Slide 2:

### Session Overview

- What is Sexual Assault and Consent in the US?
- Staying Safe
- Cultural Backgrounds and Differences
- Seeking Help
- How Your School Can Help



#### Main Talking Points:

- Roadmap of what we are going to discuss: sexual assault, consent, staying safe, norms around the world, and what do if something happens.

In today's discussion, we are going to cover what sexual assault is. You'll notice that when discussing the definition of sexual assault, the most important word you'll hear is consent. Not only will you know what consent is by the end of the presentation, but hopefully it's a concept that you'll include in every relationship you have. Then, we'll discuss staying safe including what you can do to keep yourself, and your friends, safe by taking a few extra precautions. Like in any place, you always want to be smart and cautious. We'll then look at the topic from other student's perspectives, including laws and cultural norms around the world. Finally, if something were to happen, we'll explain your options, and what we can do as your school to help.

## Slide 3:

### Introduction to Sexual Assault

#### Sexual Assault Statistics



#### Main Talking Points:

- 11.2% of all undergraduate and graduate students experience rape or sexual assault: through physical force, violence, or incapacitation
- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men on college campuses
- 2 people who are sexually assaulted for every 1 robbery

This is why we are here today. 11.2% of all undergraduate and graduate students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. To give you an idea of how many people that is, that is 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men on college campuses. To put that into perspective, that is 2 people who are sexually assaulted for every 1 robbery. Because of this, today's conversation is very important and relevant.



## Slide 4:

### What is Sexual Assault?



Can someone explain to me what sexual assault is?

<wait for someone to volunteer>

## Slide 5:

### Introduction to Sexual Assault

#### Sexual Assault Definition:

In the United States, sexual assault is when a sexual activity happens without the agreement of your partner. It's important that you have consent every step of the way.



#### Main Talking Points:

- Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior without consent
- Touching someone in a sexual way or trying to have sex

Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that is done without the consent of the other person.<sup>1</sup> It can be anything from touching someone in a sexual way or trying to have sex without the agreement of the other person.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/sexual-assault>



# Student Activities

## Activity #4: What Does It Look Like?

Topic:

Consent

### Instructions:

In your group, please have one person read the following questions. After each question, discuss your responses as a group. Take notes as you'll be asked to share your responses at the end of the activity.

### Questions:

1. What does it look like or sound like when someone is interested in you?
2. What does it look like or sound like when someone is **NOT** interested in you?
3. What are some non-verbal cues/body language that say "no"?
4. What does it look like or sound like when someone wants you to buy them a drink?
5. What are some non-verbal cues/body language to indicate that someone wants you to kiss them?

names

76

SEXUAL  
assault  
AWARENESS + SAFETY  
explained for  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Sexual Assault Awareness Video



# Brochure

## SEXUAL assault AWARENESS & SAFETY explained for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**RAINN**  
National Sexual Assault  
Hotline

International  
Student Insurance

### After an Assault

If you have been assaulted, remember that you are not alone, what happened is not your fault, and there is help available.



1. **Safety First** - Make sure you are in a safe place and contact someone you trust for support.

**IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER  
OR SERIOUSLY INJURED, CALL 911.**



2. **It's Not Your Fault** - Something happened to you that you did not want, and it is not your fault.

3. **Seek Help or Support** - Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline toll-free at 800-656-4673 or online [rainn.org](http://rainn.org).

This confidential resource will connect you to a trained staff member who is there to help and can walk you through your medical and reporting options. The actions you take from there will be up to you!

### Visa Requirements

Following a sexual assault, you may choose to access academic accommodations, such as withdrawing from classes or reducing your workload. If your visa requires that you maintain a full-time course load, work with your PDSO (Principal Designated School Official) for approval or talk to your International Student Advisor for advice. This approval can be given for either academic reasons (once per program) or medical reasons (12 months).

### Title IX School Obligations

Your school is federally obligated to make immediate and effective efforts to end sexual harassment and sexual violence. Under Title IX, your school is required to:



Protect you



Cannot discourage you from continuing your education



Have an established process to ensure your safety



Take immediate action to ensure you can continue your education



May not retaliate against someone filing a complaint



Provide the option of a no contact directive to your attacker



Provide you with the opportunity to formally present your case against the perpetrator

Provide reasonable accommodations, like room changes, for no additional cost

Contact your Title IX Coordinator if you would like to make a formal report to your school.

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE UNDER NO  
OBLIGATION TO REVEAL YOUR  
ASSAULT TO YOUR PDSO**

# Additional Video Resources

[Consent Video Resource: Tea Consent](#)



[TED Talk - A Call To Men \(Athletes\)](#)





Questions?

