Factors contributing to sexual violence

- Consumption of alcohol and drug use
- Miscommunication
- Aggressive attitudes of the perpetrator
- Expectation of sex

Safety Tips

- When you first date someone, check them out with friends.
- Plan to meet someplace where there are other people and always let someone else know who you are with and where you are going.
- Remember drugs and alcohol decreases your ability to take care of yourself and make sensible decisions.
- Be prepared to find your own transportation home. Always have your cell phone.
- Clearly and firmly let your date know your limits before you get into a situation you can’t control.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel uneasy, get to where there are other people or tell your date to leave. Be assertive.
- The bottom line is no means no. Say it, mean it, respect it and understand it.
Sexual Discrimination

Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual harassment, sexual assault and sexual violence by employees, students or third parties. Students, college employees, and third parties are prohibited from harassing other students and/or employees whether or not the incidents of harassment occur on the college campus and whether or not the incidents occur during work.

The SUNY Cobleskill community has a zero tolerance policy for sexual harassment. Members of the community who commit these acts may be subject to severe sanctions through the campus judicial system such as suspension or dismissal from college. Additionally, the accused could face criminal charges in a court of law.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's use of drugs or alcohol. A number of different acts fall into the category of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion. All such acts of sexual violence are forms of sexual harassment covered under Title IX.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that unreasonably interferes with, denies, or limits someone's ability to participate in or benefit from a program or activity.

Examples include:
- Verbal or written: comments about clothing, personal behavior, or a person's body; sexual or sex-based jokes; requesting sexual favors or repeatedly asking a person out; sexual innuendoes; telling rumors about a person's personal or sexual life; threatening a person.
- Physical/Assault: impeding or blocking movement; inappropriate touching of a person or a person's clothing; unwelcomed kissing, hugging, patting, stroking or touching.
- Nonverbal: Looking up and down a person's body; derogatory gestures or facial expressions of a sexual nature; following a person.
- Visual: Posters, drawings, pictures, screensavers, on-line postings or e-mails of a sexual nature.
- Stalking: engaging in a course of conduct such as following, monitoring or surveillance of a specific person in a way that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others or causes that person to suffer substantial emotional distress.

Sexual Exploitation

Nonconsensual, abusive sexual behavior that does not otherwise constitute sexual assault, or sexual harassment.

Examples include but are not limited to:
- Intentional, nonconsensual tampering with or removal of condoms, or other methods of birth control and STI prevention prior to or during sexual contact in a manner that significantly increases the likelihood of STI contraction and/or pregnancy by the non-consenting party
- Nonconsensual video or audio taping of sexual activity
- Allowing others to watch consensual or nonconsensual sexual activity without consent.
- Observing others engaged in dressing/undressing or in sexual acts without their knowledge or consent
- Inducing incapacitation with the intent to sexually assault another person

Consent

Consent means that each person involved in sexual contact not only agrees to the sexual activity but also agrees freely and knowingly. A person who has been threatened or coerced, whose judgment is substantially impaired by drugs or alcohol or by physical or mental impairment even if temporary, or who is unconscious or asleep, cannot give consent to sexual contact. A person under the age of 17 years is deemed incapable to giving consent.

Title IX - Federal Non-discrimination Law

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

The College has a duty to promptly respond to complaints of sexual harassment and sexual violence in a way that limits its effects and prevents its reoccurrence.

The Title IX Coordinator's responsibilities include overseeing all complaints of sex discrimination and identifying and addressing any patterns. The Title IX Coordinator can help accommodate victims with actions such as modifying residential accommodations, class schedules, or other assistance. The Title IX Coordinator can also provide referrals for additional options and resources

Taking Action

Victims have the right to pursue criminal action, judicial action, or both.