

SUNY College of Optometry Students' Bill of Rights

The State University of New York and SUNY College of Optometry are committed to providing options, support and assistance to victims/survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking to ensure that they can continue to fully participate in College programs, activities, and employment.

All victims/survivors of these crimes and violations, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, or criminal conviction, have the following rights, regardless of whether the crime or violation occurs on campus, off campus, or while studying abroad:

All students have the right to:

- Make a report to University Police, local law enforcement, and/or New York State Police;
- Have disclosures of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault treated seriously;
- Make a decision about whether or not to disclose a crime or violation and participate in the judicial or conduct process and/or criminal justice process free from pressure from the institution;
- Participate in a process that is fair, impartial, and provides adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard;
- Be treated with dignity and to receive from the institution courteous, fair, and respectful health care referral and counseling services, where available;
- Be free from any suggestion that the reporting individual is at fault when these crimes and violations are committed, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid such crimes or violations;
- Describe the incident to as few institutional representatives as practicable and not to be required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident;
- Be free from retaliation by the institution, the accused, and/or the respondent, and/or their friends, family and acquaintances within the jurisdiction of the institution;
- Access to at least one level of an appeal of a determination;
- Be accompanied by an advisor of choice who may assist and advise a reporting individual, accused, or respondent throughout the judicial or conduct process, including during all meetings and hearings related to such process;
- Exercise civil rights and practice of religion without interference by the investigative, criminal justice, or judicial or conduct process of the College.

Options in Brief:

Victims/survivors have many options that can be pursued simultaneously, including one or more of the following:

- Receive resources, such as counseling and medical attention;
- Confidentially or anonymously disclose a crime or violation (for detailed information on confidentiality and privacy, visit [\[Options for Confidentially Disclosing Sexual Violence\]](#)).
- Make a report to:
 - An employee with the authority to address complaints, including the Title IX Coordinator in the Human Resources office or an official in the office of Student Affairs;
 - University Police;

- Family Court, or Criminal Court, or Civil Court; and/or
- Local law enforcement: NYPD Special Victims Division (646 610 7272) or NYS Police Hotline (1 844 845 7269).

(Copies of this Bill of Rights shall be distributed annually to students, made available on the college's website and to all employees, and shall include links or information to access the Sexual Violence Response Policy and the Options for Confidentially Disclosing Sexual Violence).