

## STUDENT HANDBOOK LANGUAGE ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Reading Area Community College is committed to your full participation in all of its educational programs and activities. RACC understands that Sexual Misconduct is a problem in our society, including on college campuses.

RACC takes seriously any allegation of Sexual Misconduct, which includes discrimination based on sex, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. RACC's stand against Sexual Misconduct also includes Sexual Misconduct that you may have experienced as a result of your sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

Federal laws against Sexual Misconduct or discrimination based on sex on college campuses are Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, the Reauthorized Violence Against Women Act, and the Campus SAVE (Sexual Assault Violence Elimination) Act. RACC has a Title IX Coordinator to oversee its efforts at preventing Sexual Misconduct, responding promptly and fairly to instances of alleged Sexual Misconduct, and fostering a climate of mutual respect.

If you are experiencing, or have recently experienced, any form of Sexual Misconduct, please contact the Office of the Title IX Coordinator at (610) 372-4721, ext. 5016, or any other faculty member or administrator whom you trust. In an emergency or off-hours situation, always call 9-1-1 or RACC Campus Security at (610) 607-6230.

### **Frequently Asked Questions About Sexual Misconduct**

1. What should I do if I have been sexually assaulted?
  - a. Get to a safe place, speak with someone you trust, call 9-1-1 or RACC Campus Security, and get medical attention.
  - b. Ask for help from RACC Campus Security at (610) 607-6291 or the Title IX Coordinator at (610) 372-4721, ext. 5016.
  - c. Either Public Safety or the Title IX Coordinator will assist you in understanding your

right to report the assault to RACC, the police, or both, and will assist you in finding medical attention and counseling.

d. Do not blame yourself: Take advantage of counseling resources, on and off campus.

2. What do I do if I need help, but want my situation to remain confidential?

a. RACC will assist you in finding medical providers and licensed professional counselors, or call the Title IX Coordinator at (610) 372-4721, ext. 5016.

b. While RACC is limited in assisting you without full and accurate information about the assault, RACC will still assist you with all of the necessary protections, including escorts and schedule adjustments.

c. RACC has a continuing obligation for the safety of its students, including you, and an obligation to protect the rest of the campus community from similar incidents of assault. This means that at all times, RACC has to carefully weigh your request for confidentiality against your safety and the community's interest in its safety.

d. Because of this ongoing duty to you and others on campus, RACC may be obligated to issue a timely warning to the campus community, while doing everything possible to protect your identity and your privacy.

3. What do I do if I want to file a report with the College, the Police, or both?

a. Contact the Title IX Coordinator, or the Director of Public Safety, who will guide you in the process of filing a formal complaint with either, or both.

b. When a complaint is lodged with the College, the College will conduct a fair and impartial investigation into the incident with trained investigators.

c. If the investigation leads to a hearing, you will be advised of your rights before, during, and after the hearing, and will be informed about its outcome. RACC is obligated, and committed, to conducting the investigation into your complaint and to resolving the complaint promptly and equitably, with due process rights for both yourself and the person who stands accused of harming you.

d. Whether or not you file a complaint with the police, RACC will still handle your complaint on its own and using its own process. It will investigate the complaint, review your complaint using a preponderance of the evidence standard, and provide you with the support you may need during the process and after it is completed.

4. How can I help a friend who has experienced sexual misconduct?

- a. Counsel your friend if you see that an awkward situation is developing – encourage them to seek professional help.
- b. Distract potential misconduct that you are witnessing by distracting the would-be perpetrator.
- c. Look out for your friends at parties and see that they get home safely if they have had too much to drink.
- d. Give friends you know who are experiencing dating or domestic violence your attention, and important community phone numbers such as SAFE Berks, located at 255 Chestnut Street, Reading, PA 19601. 844-789-SAFE, or text SAFE BERKS to 20121, <http://www.safeberks.org/> or the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799 SAFE (7233)).
- e. Talk to RACC's Title IX Coordinator if you or a friend is experiencing sexual misconduct, including dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

#### PROGRAMS ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PREVENTION

RACC has many regularly scheduled programs to learn about how to have healthy relationships, how to understand the full scope of sexual misconduct, how to identify the signs, how to prevent it from happening to you, and how to help a friend who is experiencing sexual misconduct. Announcements of upcoming programs will be printed on this web page in plenty of time for you to plan to attend.