Campus Climate Survey

The 2018 Campus Climate Survey marks the second in a series of biennial campus climate surveys of University of Mary Washington students. This survey was meant to capture perceptions, attitudes, and prevalence of interpersonal violence, in particular sexual and gender-based violence, among students. The University utilized a modified version of the Administrator-Researcher Campus Climate Collaborative (ARC3) survey, sent to all undergraduate, graduate, part-time and full-time students enrolled as of March 2018. The findings of this survey indicate that rates of interpersonal violence at the University of Mary Washington are on par with national averages. While the majority of survey respondents felt happy and safe during their time at Mary Washington and reported a low tolerance level for harassment and moderate rates of bystander intervention, some indicated opportunities and room for improvement on the University’s part in responding to and preventing interpersonal violence.

Overall, 82% of students who participated in this survey indicated feeling safe on campus. Perceptions of the severity of sexual violence is evenly split, with 31% indicating that sexual violence was not a problem on campus, 29% reporting that it is a problem, and 40% neutral on the subject. Fourteen percent of all students reported that they had experienced some form of sexual/gender-based harassment. Of students who reported experiencing violence while enrolled, 54% said that the University met their needs for support and accommodation, 75% said the University created an environment where they felt safe to discuss their experiences, and 60% said that they felt supported either through formal or informal resources.

A vast majority (92%) of survey respondents indicated safe and healthy perceptions of their friends’ attitudes regarding a variety of interpersonal behaviors. Between 33 – 56% of respondents indicated that they participated in bystander intervention “at least most of the time” when witnessing a variety of events, including asking someone who was upset at a party if they needed help (56%), walking a friend who had too much to drink home (51%), and intervening if they witnessed a friend verbally (50%) or physically (45%) abusing another person.

The findings of these ongoing studies will inform prevention, intervention, and response efforts on campus. The University of Mary Washington is committed to taking a stand against all forms of interpersonal violence as well as providing support, resources, education, and preventative awareness to our campus community. UMW understands that sexual and gender-based violence can greatly impede a student’s opportunities for academic and personal success; as such, we are committed to reducing risk and enhancing resources on campus for all of our students. The next Campus Climate Survey will be administered in the spring of 2020.

For further reference:

(Due to size limitations, the 2018 Campus Climate Survey is broken into two parts below)

- [2018 Campus Climate Survey (pt 1)]
- [2018 Campus Climate Survey (pt 2)]
- [Comparison of Results from the 2018 and 2016 Campus Climate Surveys]
- [2016 Campus Climate Survey Results]
- [2016 Campus Climate Survey Summary]

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