VAWA
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
AND HOW TO GET HELP

Dating violence
Domestic violence
Sexual Assault
Stalking

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE IN PREVENTION
Dear Student,

If you are reading this it is likely you have been personally affected by sexual misconduct or sexual violence. While our ultimate goal is to prevent sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating or domestic violence and stalking in our community, at this point we want to support you.

Deciding whether and how to report an incident can be overwhelming and can initiate an unintended response. This booklet provides information about options for reporting incidents. Here are some key things to know:

• To report, get support and learn about your widest range of options, the best place to start is to contact the Green River College Title IX Coordinator for Students at (253) 833-9111 Ext. 3328.

• When you contact the Title IX Coordinator, you may request protective measures or accommodations to continue your education without pursuing law enforcement or institutional investigations. You may also request confidentiality.

• If you choose to tell a faculty or staff member about an incident, be aware that almost all employees (including faculty) are required to report information from students about sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating or domestic violence and stalking to the appropriate Title IX Coordinator. If you don’t want to start with that type of reporting and formal follow-up, you may call Student Counseling at (253) 833-9111 Ext. 2460.

• You may also report incidents anonymously at greenriver.edu/redflag.

• Please consider preserving evidence of an incident of sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating or domestic violence or stalking. Preserving evidence keeps your options open for future decisions about pursuing an investigation.

• The King and Pierce County Sexual Assault Resource Centers, which are not affiliated with Green River, are available to connect you to off campus resources for counseling and advocacy. King County’s 24 hour hotline is (888) 998-6423, and Pierce's can be reached at (800) 756-7273.

We are deeply sorry if you have experienced sexual misconduct or sexual violence. We are here to help.

–The Green River Personal Safety against Violence Committee
What is VAWA?
The Violence Against Women Act is a federal law enacted to improve the criminal justice and community-based responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

VAWA, along with the Campus Save Act and the Jeanne Clery Act, have worked together to improve the safety of college campuses. Under these laws, colleges must educate students, faculty and staff on the prevention of rape, acquaintance rape, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

What is PSAV?
The Personal Safety Against Violence Committee, in compliance VAWA, Title IX, and legislation, is committed to fostering a safe learning and working environment for Green River College’s students faculty and staff by providing prevention education, training and resources.
What are the issues?

Dating Violence
Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse.

Domestic Violence
Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats that influence another person. Partners may be married or not married; heterosexual, gay or lesbian; living together, separated or dating.

Sexual Assault
Can include any form of actual or attempted sexual activity perpetrated upon a person without that person's consent, including sexual behavior coerced through physical or verbal threats, force or other forms of manipulation and sexual behavior when one person cannot give consent due to incapacitation.

Stalking
Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress. Trust your instincts and report anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.
What you need to know
Recognize and avoid abusive behavior such as:
• Frequent yelling directed at a partner
• Blaming partner for own faults
• Name calling
• Consistently accusing partner of infidelity
• Kicking, holding slapping, or scratching
• Forcible or coercive sex
• Sexual activity when one is not able to provide consent

Bystander Intervention:
Offer support if you suspect that the person is being abused or has been sexually assaulted or stalked.

SPEAK OUT against all forms of sexual violence

BE AN ADVOCATE for preventing sexual violence

MODEL behavior that values respect for others

CONSENT is a free and active agreement, given equally by both parties, to engage in a specific sexual activity.

Giving in is NOT the same as giving consent
Reporting a crime

What are my options for reporting a crime?
If you are in crisis or experiencing an emergency call 911 or Campus Safety at (253) 288-3350

Report the incident to local Law Enforcement
Faculty and staff at the college, especially Campus Safety, can assist in filing a report and speaking to law enforcement officials.

Report the incident directly to the college
File an anonymous Red Flag report at greenriver.edu/redflag

Greenriver.edu/redflag
If you or someone you know has been subjected to sexual violence, you may utilize the “Red Flag” system to make a report or file a complaint. If you wish to remain anonymous, please enter your name as ‘Anonymous’ on the Red Flag form.
Common Questions

Who can I speak to confidentially?
You are encouraged to speak to the staff at Counseling & Health Services.
(253) 833-9111 Ext. 2460 or greenriver.edu/student affairs/counseling and health services.

What information will be shared with the college?
If you share information with any faculty or staff member, they will be required to disclose that information to the Title IX coordinator. This information will be used to offer you resources and services and may be used as part of an official investigation by the college.

The college maintains accurate statistical data on crimes which occur on the college under the Jeanne Clery Act. This anonymous data is reported each year to the campus community and federal government.

Green River Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, religion, disability, genetic information or on any other unlawful basis. The college is committed to preventing and stopping discrimination, including harassment of any kind and any associated retaliatory behavior. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President of Human Resources, 12401 SE 320th Street, Auburn, WA 98092, (253) 288-3320 Disability Support Services at (253) 833-9111, ext. 2631; TTY (253) 288-3359.
Resources

Emergency................................................................. 911

Campus Safety....................................................... (253) 288-3350

Counseling & Health Services.............................. (253) 833-9111 Ext. 2460

Title IV Coordinator (Students) Office:
LC 206 .............................................................. (253) 833-9111 Ext. 3328

Title IV Coordinator (employees and public/visitors) Office:
HR (CE2) .............................................................. (253) 833-9111 Ext. 3320

Harborview Center for Sexual Assault.................. (206) 521-1800

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center.......... (888) 998-6423

Pierce County Sexual Assault Resource Center......... (800) 756-7273

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