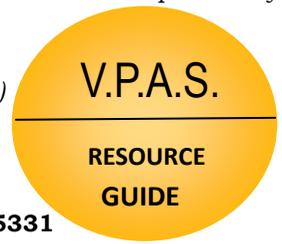


**ON CAMPUS • 24/7**

- University Police **203-392-5375** or **911**
- University Victim Advocates -Catherine Christy  
*For sexual misconduct cases, hazing, bullying and all crimes. 203-392-6946 office • 203-687-1252 cell*
- University Victim Advocates -Melissa Kissi  
*For sexual misconduct cases only. 203-392-6945 office • 203-507-3751 cell*

**ON CAMPUS • M-F, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM**

- Confidential Counseling Services **203-392-5475**
- Confidential Health Center **203-392-6300**
- Confidential Marriage and Family Clinic **203-392-6413**
- Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center (VPAS) **203-392-6946**
- Title IX Coordinator **203-392-5899**
- Office of Diversity and Equity **203-392-5899**
- Office of Student Conduct and Civic Responsibility **203-392-6188**
- Human Resources  
Diane Mazza *(for employees)* **203-392-5405**
- Multicultural Center **203-392-5879**
- Interfaith Office **203-392-5331**
- SouthernCT.edu/sart**



**OFF CAMPUS • 24/7**

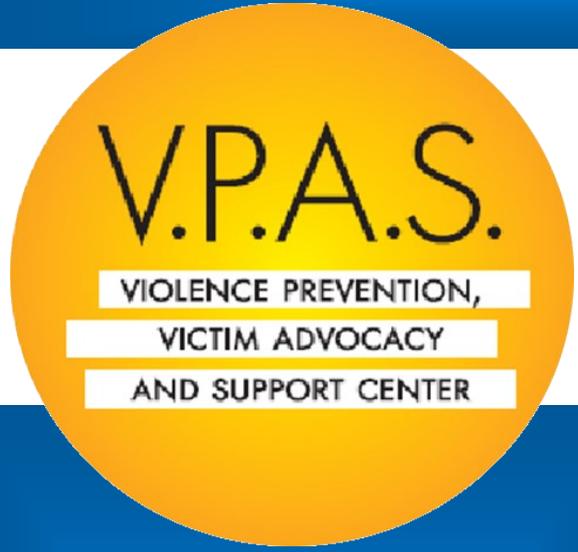
- Women & Families Center, 24-hour hotline **1-888.999.5545**  
Spanish **1-888-568-8332** *Confidential*
- The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services 24-hour hotline **203.789.8104**  
*Confidential*

**STATE RESOURCES**

- Office of Victim Advocacy **ct.gov/ova**
- Office of Victim Services **jud.ct.gov/crimevictim**



YOU ARE NOT ALONE—  
WE ARE HERE TO HELP!



**WHAT IS V.P.A.S.?**

The Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center (V.P.A.S.) is committed to helping to create a campus community of respect and safety by providing violence prevention education, victim advocacy and support services.

Prevention education topics include sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, sexual exploitation), bystander intervention, hazing, bullying and safety.

Advocacy services are available to support students who have experienced sexual misconduct, hazing, bullying or any other crime.

We know that being on a campus that encourages responsibility to self and others, is essential for students to achieve their academic and personal goals.

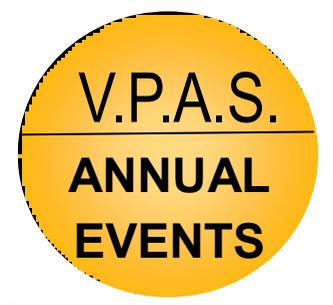
**WHAT IS S.A.R.T.?**

Southern Connecticut State University's Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART) is designed to provide a collaborative victim-centered team response to **sexual misconduct** (sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation).

S.A.R.T.'s mission is to provide support and services that ensure a transition from victim to survivor for every individual whose life is impacted by sexual violence.

Contact S.A.R.T. Coordinator Catherine Christy at ChristyC1@SouthernCT.edu, or (203) 392 – 6946 or visit SouthernCT.edu/sart





## WHAT IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT?

Sexual harassment is any unwelcome sexual advance or request for sexual favors, or any conduct of a sexual nature when submission to or rejection of such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a basis for academic decisions affecting the individual or such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

## WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assault is compelling by force, or threat of force: sexual penetration of the vagina, anus, or mouth including by an object, which are all considered **rape**; or contact with a person's genital area, groin, anus, inner thighs, buttocks, or breast for the purpose of exerting control or for the purpose of degrading or humiliating the victim. It is also intentionally subjecting another to such contact without consent.

## WHAT IS INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE?

Intimate partner violence is any physical or sexual harm against an individual by a current or former spouse or person in a dating relationship that may be classified as sexual assault, stalking, or domestic violence.

## WHAT IS STALKING?

Stalking is engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety, or suffer substantial emotional distress

## WHAT IS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

Sexual exploitation occurs when a person takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for anyone's advantage or benefit other than the person being exploited, and that behavior does not otherwise constitute one of the preceding sexual misconduct offenses.

## WHAT IS CONSENT?

Consent is when all parties involved willingly agree to a specific sexual act. It is not the absence of "no" or of resistance— it is someone actively saying "yes" through word or actions. Consent is ongoing and allows for withdrawal of consent at any time without fear of humiliation or retaliation. Just because you may have been sexually active with the person before does not mean that you have consent for future sexual contact. Consent cannot be given if forced, threatened, intimidated, or coerced. Obtaining consent is the responsibility of the person initiating the sexual contact. Consent cannot be given when under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or if the person is asleep or unconscious. **Having sexual intercourse with someone who cannot consent is rape. For further information on sexual misconduct, reporting options and advocacy services visit [SouthernCT.edu/sart](https://SouthernCT.edu/sart) or [SouthernCT.edu/sexual-misconduct](https://SouthernCT.edu/sexual-misconduct)**

## WHAT IS HAZING?

Hazing is an act which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or which destroys, damages, or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization. The express or implied consent of the victim will not be a defense to an allegation of hazing. Consenting to the activity by remaining silent or not objecting in the presence of hazing is not a neutral act and is also a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Visit [SouthernCT.edu/offices/judicialaffairs/codeofconduct](https://SouthernCT.edu/offices/judicialaffairs/codeofconduct)

## WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is offensive or disorderly conduct which causes interference, annoyance, or alarm or recklessly creates a risk thereof at CSCU or CSCU premises, CSCU web or social media sites, at a CSCU-sponsored activity, or in college or university courses, including cyber bullying. This offense does not apply to speech or other forms of

constitutionally protected expression. Bullying is deliberate hurtful behavior to someone as a single incident or over a period of time. It can be either physical, verbal, indirect, or a combination of any of these forms. Often it includes one or more of the following:

- Intimidation • Exclusion • Rumor-spreading
- Name-calling • Anonymous messages

## CRIME VICTIMS IN CONNECTICUT

**C.G.S. Sec. 1-1k:** Except as otherwise provided by the general statutes, "victim of crime" or "crime victim" means an individual who suffers direct or threatened physical, emotional or financial harm as a result of a crime. There are resources and support available for crime victims.

Advocates can help by providing personal support, assist in identifying and using campus, community and state resources, and can accompany a victim/survivor to court hearings, appointments, meetings, etc. or serve as a liaison.

## IT'S ON US

In order to address the issues of violence prevention, all members of the campus community and outside agencies must work together. Public safety is everyone's responsibility. By increasing our knowledge and acknowledging our ability to make a difference at CSCU, we can begin to reduce the risk. Consider the following ways you can help to stop violence:

- **DON'T BE AFRAID TO GET INVOLVED.**
- **TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS.**
- **TALK OPENLY WITH FRIENDS ABOUT THESE ISSUES.**
- **SPEAK UP. TAKE A STAND SAFELY IN SITUATIONS THAT COULD ESCALATE TO ABUSE AND VIOLENCE.**

## RED FLAG CAMPAIGN

During this semester—long event, V.P.A.S. helps to spread awareness of red flags in a situation or relationship, and how to identify and confront them. Signs and red flags with stories written by students are positioned around campus.

## TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

This annual rally against sexual violence has been held on campus since 1998. The empowering event includes guest speakers, a speak-out, and a campus march.

## "IT'S ON US" FEST

This festival has interactive games, prizes, and information on violence prevention. Learn about the "It's On Us" campaign, aimed at raising awareness and encouraging students to take a stand against sexual violence and create a campus environment of safety and respect.

## WAYS TO HELP

**Peer Education:** Our peer educators are role models for making the campus a safer, more respectful place for ALL students by facilitating discussions on bystander intervention. Contact V.P.A.S. if you are interested in learning more and being trained as a peer educator!

**Volunteers Wanted!** Our student volunteers are a critical part of the work V.P.A.S. does. If you are interested in assisting with anything, from creating flyers to staffing events, contact V.P.A.S. for more information.