

WHAT IS RELATIONSHIP ABUSE?

DEFINITIONS, FACTS, & RESOURCES

The Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention (SAVP) Office at Vassar College aims to prevent and respond to sexual assault, relationship abuse, stalking, and sexual harassment through prevention education, collaboration, outreach, and advocacy. SAVP is committed to taking a survivor-centered approach, which means that if a student is victimized, they are given their options and make the decisions about what services they would like to access and whether or not they would like to report the incident.

RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

Relationship abuse, sometimes also called intimate partner violence or dating/domestic violence, is a pattern of behavior in which one partner uses fear and intimidation to establish power and control over the other partner, often including the threat or use of violence. This abuse happens when one person believes they are entitled to control another.

Relationship abuse can occur in any type of relationship including intimate relationships that do not involve romantic feelings. In an abusive relationship, behaviors that are used to maintain fear, intimidation, and power over another person may include threats, intimidation, economic abuse, sexual abuse, taking advantage of privilege, or using someone's identity against them. These behaviors may take the form of physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse.

If you think you are experiencing relationship abuse:

- It is not your fault.
- You are not alone.
- Making a safety plan can help you feel safer.
- Consider keeping a log of abusive incidents for your records or for reports to the Title IX Office or law enforcement.
- Know that you do not have to make a decision to report relationship abuse before accessing counseling, medical, or advocacy services.

WARNING SIGNS OF RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

- Your partner puts you down in front of other people.
- Your partner blames you for their abusive behavior/temper.
- Your partner is controlling of your behaviors, actions, and/or time.
- Your partner is extremely jealous or possessive of you.
- Your partner pressures you to do things, sexually or otherwise.
- Your partner has an explosive temper.
- Your partner withholds access to medications, safe sex practices, hormones, and/or medical care.
- You are constantly worried about making your partner angry.
- You may make excuses for your partner's behavior.
- You have signs of physical abuse, like marks or injuries.
- You've stopped spending time with friends and family.
- You feel depressed or anxious, or notice changes in your personality.

ARE YOU SAFE?

If you are concerned about your own or someone else's safety, call **911** or **Vassar Safety & Security at (845) 437-7333**.

If you are safe and are looking for information about on/off campus resources or reporting options, you can call a **Vassar Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Advocate at (845) 437-7333** or visit savp.vassar.edu/resources for a full list of resources and options.

CONFIDENTIALITY

At Vassar, some individuals and campus resources can offer confidentiality while others have specific obligations to respond when they receive a report of a crime or a campus policy violation. If you are unsure of someone's duties and ability to maintain your privacy, ask them before you talk to them.

Confidential support resources do not have to let anyone know that you came forward for support or help, unless there is imminent danger to someone's life.

- Vassar Counseling Services: (845) 437-5700
- Vassar Counseling Services 24-hour Counselor: (845) 437-7333 (24/7)
- Vassar Health Services: (845) 437-5800
- Center for Victim Safety & Support in Poughkeepsie
 - Rape Crisis/Crime Victims: (845) 452-7272 (24/7)
 - Domestic Violence: (845) 485-5550 (24/7)
- SAFE Exam at Vassar Brothers Medical Center: (845) 454-8500 (24/7)
- SAFE Exam at Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital: (845) 483-5000 (24/7)
- On- or off-campus clergy

Private resources do not have to let anyone know that you came forward for support or help, unless there is imminent danger or community safety concerns. They also fill out an anonymous report (without any identifying information) that is kept confidentially with the SAVP Office.

- SAVP Director & Victim/Survivor Advocate: (845) 437-7863
- SAVP Violence Prevention Educator: (845) 437-7975
- SART Advocates: (845) 437-7333 (24/7)
- Director of Health Education: (845) 437-7769
- Student Fellows and House Student Advisors

Responsible Employees are required to notify the Title IX Office of disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship abuse, and/or stalking. A survivor may decide whether and when to respond to subsequent outreach from the Title IX Office.

- All other non-student employees (e.g. President, Administrators, Faculty, Coaches, Staff, etc.) are considered responsible employees.
- Title IX Coordinator: (845) 437-7924
- Dean of Students: (845) 437-5315
- Residential Life Administrators & Staff: (845) 437-5860 (24/7)
- Safety & Security: (845) 437-7333

All services are available for individuals of any race, ethnicity, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, class, ability, citizenship and immigration status, and age.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Full descriptions of Vassar policies, on/off campus resources, and reporting options, can be found on the SAVP Office website at savp.vassar.edu and/or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action website at eoaa.vassar.edu.