

# HERE'S HOW WE CAN HELP

A Resource Guide for Support and Reporting  
Sexual Misconduct, Dating and Domestic Violence,  
and Gender-Based Stalking

[www.eoaa.vassar.edu](http://www.eoaa.vassar.edu)



Vassar College  
Office of Equal Opportunity &  
Affirmative Action  
Title IX

# What is Title IX?

**Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity.**

# Vassar College's Title IX Office is here for you

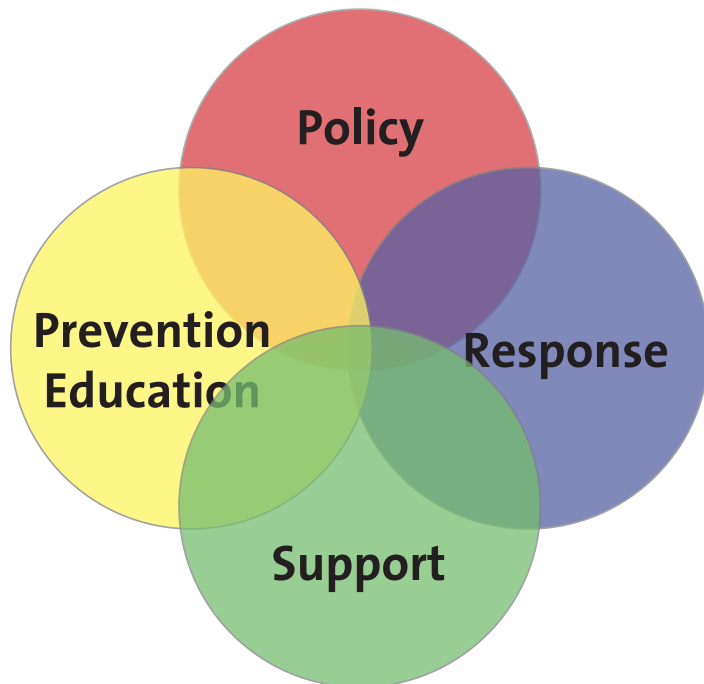
**Vassar College's Title IX Office** is here to receive, respond to, and address all reports of sexual misconduct and concerns about gender equity that affect members of the Vassar College community.

Our role is to take action to **stop, remedy,** and **prevent the recurrence of** all known instances of prohibited gender-based misconduct including sexual assault, stalking, sexual harassment, and/or intimate partner violence.

We do this by **responding** to individual incidents, **supporting** those who have been harmed, and **educating** community members on how to create a safe and supportive campus that encourages healthy and respectful relationships.

# There Are FOUR Main Areas of Our Work

- **Policy:** i.e. advising on the policies on Discrimination and Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Dating/Domestic Violence, Gender-Based Stalking, and Consensual Relationships Between Faculty and Students (<http://eoaa.vassar.edu/policies/>) every year to ensure that they are up to date and reflect our campus goals and values.
- **Prevention Education:** i.e., developing programming, trainings, dialogues, and events that support members of the Vassar College community to have healthy relationships, prevent sexual violence, support survivors, and foster a respectful campus community.
- **Response/Adjudication:** i.e., working with those impacted by sexual and intimate partner violence to determine their preference for support only, remedies-based resolution (i.e., education, counseling), and/or campus adjudication options (i.e., investigation and possibly hearing).
- **Support:** i.e., connecting survivors, friends, bystanders and all who are impacted by sexual and intimate partner violence with support resources.



# Who we are

Title IX initiatives are led by **Rachel Pereira**

As Title IX Coordinator, Rachel services as a resource for anyone **looking for information** about College policies, support resources, or response options. She also **receives all reports of sexual misconduct** on campus, and will work closely with anyone making a report to determine possible next steps.

## Prevention education and support efforts are led by the Title IX Coordinator alongside:

- Assistant Director of Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action / Title IX
- **Nicole Wong,** Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention (SAVP) Director and Victim/Survivor Advocate
- Director of Health Education
- Title IX Student Advisory Committee
- Campus Partners (including Student Organizations)
- Community Partners (including local and state police, Family Services, SART Campus Community)

## Policy and response efforts are led by the Title IX Coordinator alongside:

- Assistant Director of Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action / Title IX
- **Nicole Wong,** Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention (SAVP) Director and Victim/Survivor Advocate
- Title IX Student Advisory Committee
- President's Office
- Dean of the College
- Dean of Faculty
- Dean of Students

**Title IX Administrators** can also serve as resources for the campus and answer questions about policy support and procedures:

Assistant Director of Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action / Title IX

**Colleen Ballerino Cohen,**  
Faculty Director of Affirmative Action

# “I think I may have experienced sexual and/or intimate partner violence . . . what are my options?”

## Talk to a Confidential Resource

**Confidential Resources** provide a space to speak confidentially about issues, questions, and experiences related to sexual assault, intimate partner violence, healthy/unhealthy relationships, and more.

**Counseling Services** can offer short-term individual and group counseling, referrals, outreach programming, campus trainings and workshops, consultation, crisis intervention, and short-term psychiatric medication services. 845-437-5700

**Health Services** can provide confidential medical care, after-hours access to a registered nurse, and connections to local hospital for a forensic sexual assault exam (rape kit). 845-437-5800

**Clergy/Religious Advisors** can provide spiritual guidance and referrals to other campus resources. 845-437-5550

## Off-Campus Confidential Resources

Vassar Brothers Medical Center:  
845-454-8500 (SAFE Exams available)

Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital:  
845-437-5000 (SAFE Exams available)

Center for Victim Safety & support:  
845-452-7272

Poughkeepsie Grace Smith House:  
845-452-7155

New York State Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Hotline, 24/7, 1-800-942-6906

Independent Counselors/Medical Providers

Independent Clergy/Religious Advisors

## Talk to a Private Resource

A student may seek assistance from campus **“private resources”** without starting a formal process. These resources focus primarily on advocacy and support for students. Neither the college nor the law requires private resources to divulge personally identifiable information except if the student gives permission, or in the rare event that the incident reveals an imminent need to protect the student or other members of the community.

**Student Fellows** are trained to provide peer counseling for new students. They are familiar with campus resources and are trained to deal with the social and academic problems frequently encountered by new students.

**Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention (SAVP)** takes a survivor-centered approach in providing individual meetings, specialized information, referrals, crisis assistance, and emotional support. 845-437-7863

**Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Advocates** take a survivor-centered approach in providing information on available on and off campus resources and options (medical, legal, emotional, and academic). SART members can be reached 24/7 by calling the Campus Response Center, 845-437-7333 and asking to speak with a SART advocate.

**Director of Health Education** conducts outreach aimed at facilitating connections between student health needs and services provided by the College; and engages in prevention through leadership, consultations, and referrals. 845-437-7769

## Talk to the Title IX Coordinator or Responsible Employee

**The Title IX Coordinator** is a resource for anyone affected by sexual misconduct, dating/ intimate partner violence, and gender based stalking. She provides a compassionate space to make a report and learn about resources and support, including housing/academic assistance, emotional support and more. The Title IX Coordinator will learn about your wishes moving forward and work to find a resolution consistent with your needs. She assesses all reports of sexual misconduct and balances requests for next steps with the safety of campus. 845-437-7924

### If you meet with the Title IX Coordinator, you can do any or all of the following:

- Just get information about possible next steps
- Make a report and request support resources only (i.e., no contact orders, housing/academic assistance)
- Make a report and request non-adjudication options (i.e., education, counseling) to address behavior of concern
- Make a report and initiate a formal complaint process – can lead to investigation and hearing

**Responsible Employees** are resources for connecting you with the Title IX Coordinator. All non-student employees except those listed as Private Resources or Confidential Resources below are designated as “responsible employees.” Non-student members of the campus community in unpaid official capacities (e.g., partners of faculty House Fellows) or non-student volunteers (e.g., athletic team volunteer assistants) have the same reporting responsibilities as for responsible employees. “Responsible employees” must report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator, who will determine the most appropriate course of action to ensure a prompt and equitable response.

**When the Title IX office follows up with you, it is your decision whether and when to respond.**

## Talk to Safety & Security or the police

**Safety & Security** is a 24/7 resource that you can contact for immediate or emergency assistance. They can take a statement, refer you to on-and-off-campus resources, and/or assist you with contacting the police.

They can also connect you to Counseling Services, SART Advocates or a nurse after hours and assist you in accessing a forensic sexual assault exam (rape kit) at Vassar Brothers Medical Center or Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital.

If you believe that you have been a victim of a crime, Safety & Security can assist you or you can contact the Town of Poughkeepsie Police directly at 845-485-3666 or 911.

### You may also choose to talk to a trusted mentor or friend

Trusted mentors and friends are often where we first go for support and they can serve as helpful resources throughout our journey.

Please know that if you choose to talk to a faculty or non-student employee, they are “Responsible Employees,” required to share information with the Title IX Coordinator so that she can follow up with you and offer comprehensive resources and support.

**When the Title IX office follows up with you, it is your decision whether and when to respond.**

## “I NEED IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE”

### GET SAFE

If you are in immediate danger or afraid that you will be hurt again, call Safety & Security at 845-437-7333 or Town of Poughkeepsie Police directly at 845-485-3666 or 911.

You can also call a friend or a SART Advocate 845-437-7333 for support and assistance in decision-making.

Visit <https://eoaa.vassar.edu/title-ix/after-an-incident/campus-resources.html>

# Where we are: A map of Campus Resources



**1. Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action/Title IX**

**Main 182-S**  
**Rachel Pereira**  
 Title IX Coordinator  
 845-437-7924  
 rachel.pereira@vassar.edu

**Colleen Ballerino Cohen**  
 Faculty Director of Affirmative Action  
 Professor of Anthropology and  
 Women's Studies  
 845-437-5503  
 cocohen@vassar.edu

**2. Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention**

**Metcalf**  
**Nicole Wong**  
 SAVP Director and  
 Victim/Survivor Advocate  
 845-437-7863  
 nicwong@vassar.edu

**3. Safety and Security  
CRC and New Hackensack**

**Arlene Sabo**  
 Director of Security  
 845-437-7333/5221  
 arsabo@vassar.edu

**4. Counseling Services**

**Metcalf**  
**Wendy Anne Freedman**  
 Director of Counseling  
 (845) 437-5700  
 counseling@vassar.edu

**5. Health Promotion & Education**

**Metcalf, Solarium**  
**Andrea Pesavento** Director of  
 Health Promotion  
 healtheducation@vassar.edu  
 845-437-7769

**6. Health Services**

**Baldwin Hall**  
**Irena T. Balawajder**  
 Director of Health Services  
 845-437-5800  
 health@vassar.edu

**7. Religious & Spiritual Life  
Chapel**

**Samuel H. Speers**  
 Assistant Dean of the College for  
 Campus Life and Director of Religious  
 and Spiritual Life  
 845-437-5550  
 saspeers@vassar.edu

## Your rights under Article 129-B of the New York Education Law

### You have the right to:

- Make a report to local law enforcement and/or state police;
- Have disclosures of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault treated seriously;
- Make a decision about whether or not to disclose a crime or violation and participate in the judicial or conduct process and/or criminal justice process free from pressure by the institution;
- Participate in a process that is fair, impartial, and provides adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard;
- Be treated with dignity and to receive from the institution courteous, fair, and respectful health care and counseling services, where available;
- Be free from any suggestion that the reporting individual is at fault when these crimes and violations are committed, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid such crimes or violations;
- Describe the incident to as few institution representatives as practicable and not be required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident;
- Be protected from retaliation by the institution, any student, the accused and/or the respondent, and/or their friends, family and acquaintances within the jurisdiction of the institution;
- Access to at least one level of appeal of a determination;
- Be accompanied by an advisor of choice who may assist and advise a reporting individual, accused, or respondent throughout the student conduct process including during all meetings and hearings related to such process; and
- Exercise civil rights and practice of religion without interference by the investigative, criminal justice, or judicial or conduct process of the institution.

## Additional Rights

- **You have the right** to live and learn at Vassar College free from gender discrimination and to report to the Title IX Coordinator if your rights have been violated.
- **You have the right** to interim support and reasonable protective measures to help you continue to live and learn at Vassar College.
- **You have the right** to request a No Contact Order and to receive information about Orders of Protection from the court.
- **You have the right** not to be dissuaded from your use of resources, processes, or support.
- **You have the right** to access on-and-off-campus support and health services.
- **You have these rights** regardless of your race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental disability, religion, or any other protected class.

# Key Contacts

## Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action/Title IX

- **Rachel Pereira**, Director of Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action and Title IX Coordinator  
845-437-5334, rachel.pereira@vassar.edu
- \_\_\_\_\_, Assistant Director  
845-437-5335,
- **Colleen Ballerino Cohen**, Faculty Director of Affirmative Action  
845-437-5503, cocohen@vassar.edu
- **Olani Maher**, EOAA/Title IX Office Specialist  
845-437-7924, omaher@vassar.edu

## Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention

- **Nicole Wong**, SAVP Director and Victim/Survivor Advocate  
845-437-7863, nicwong@vassar.edu

## Sexual Assault Response Team

- 845-437-7333, ask for a SART advocate 24 hours/7 days a week

## Safety and Security

- **Arlene Sabo**, Director of Security  
845-437-7333/5221, arsabo@vassar.edu

## Counseling Services

- **Wendy Anne Freedman**, Director of Counseling  
845-437-5700, counseling@vassar.edu

## Health Education

- **Andrea Pesavento**, Director of Health Education  
845-437-7769, healtheducation@vassar.edu

## Health Services

- **Irena T. Balawajder**, Director of Health Services  
845-437-5800, health@vassar.edu

## Religious and Spiritual Life

- **Samuel H. Speers**, Assistant Dean of the College for Campus Life and Director of Religious and Spiritual Life,  
845-437-5550, saspeers@vassar.edu