

Sexual Assault Prevention Plan
Act 563
for
South Arkansas College

Submitted to the
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
by

Jenny Sanders
Vice President of Student Affairs

August 7, 2023

SOUTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE Sexual Assault Prevention

South Arkansas College (SouthArk) takes a proactive, educational approach to sexual harassment, sex-based discrimination, and sex-based crimes including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Through specific programming and educational efforts, and the utilization of on-campus and off-campus resources, the college provides awareness, education, prevention, advocacy, and assistance to all members of our campus community.

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

New Student Orientation

Beginning fall 2019, New Student Orientation is mandatory for new students. Previously, students were encouraged, but not required to attend. All students attending orientation receive information about the prevention of sex-based crimes. Students are shown how to navigate to the college's website for important information as well as how to report infractions. Further, students are encouraged to speak with the campus's Title IX Coordinator if facing a pregnancy while in school so that the coordinator can work as a liaison for assisting them in formulating plans to complete their courses.

Mandatory Online Training

All new incoming students are required to complete online training developed in-house via Blackboard. The training covers an introduction to Title IX, institutional responsibilities, sexual harassment, types of abuse, common warning signs of an abuser, domestic violence, stalking, and bystander intervention options. Employees are required to complete the same type of training via SafeColleges at time of hire and annually.

Bystander Intervention Training

Bystander intervention techniques are taught as part of the mandatory online class via Blackboard. Tips are also provided to the campus community as part of the Title IX Weekly Facts and Poster Campaign.

Safety Awareness

SouthArk's Title IX Coordinator emails Title IX Weekly Facts during the fall and spring semesters to each member of the campus community. These emails include short tidbits of information regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, bystander intervention, reporting options, consent, sexual harassment, and resources both on and off-campus as well as digital resources. Posters are designed in-house by the Title IX office and placed on bulletin boards and in restrooms. SouthArk's Title IX webpage, <https://www.southark.edu/student-services/personal/title-ix>, includes options for engaging men as well as a wealth of other information. This information includes printable brochures and handouts, contact information for the investigative team, video, location of security phones, a user-friendly

booklet outlining SouthArk's investigative process, information explaining consent, a list of resources including confidential resources, reporting buttons which link the user to the online report for misconduct, and links to download a mobile application, Reach Out, to link users with resources.

INTEGRATE PREVENTION INTO COURSE WORK WHERE APPROPRIATE

SouthArk Success Classes (freshman seminar)

The Title IX Coordinator presents information to any class or group by request.

RAISE AWARENESS AND PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR PREVENTION ACROSS ALL POPULATIONS

Fall Fest

Fall Fest is a celebration held for our students and staff each year in October. This past year, we invited representatives from two domestic violence shelters to attend, hand out literature, and answer questions. We also displayed the Clothesline Project for our campus community during the festival. Our Title IX office handed out pencils, pens, and bracelets with messages related to domestic violence to SouthArk students. Our Student Government Association incorporated purple ribbons on shirts commemorating the event in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

South Arkansas College hosted numerous events throughout the month of April to bring awareness to sexual assault prevention. The campus community was encouraged to wear teal every Tuesday during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This was an effort to start conversations about topics like consent, respect, and supporting survivors. The campus participated in national efforts including RAINN Day. On campus events included presentations for employees and students related to human trafficking and bystander intervention. Additional information was sent by email to students and employees.

IDENTIFY PRIVATE OR FEDERAL GRANTS TO ADDRESS PREVENTION AND STUDENT SUCCESS

OVW Campus Program Grant

South Arkansas College previously received federal funds through a Campus Program Grant from the Office on Violence Against Women, a component of the United States Department of Justice. It was a three-year grant, which was awarded in 2018.

Congress created the "Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program" in recognition of the unique issues and challenges that colleges face in preventing and responding to sexual assault and interpersonal violence.

Through this grant, our campus hired a program coordinator to ensure grant deliverables for the consortium, provided training for sexual assault victims' advocates through the

Women's Crisis Center of South Arkansas and the Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and formed a coordinated community response team to comprehensively address sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. This team included Union/Calhoun County Victims Assistance, El Dorado Police Department, and the Women's Crisis Center of South Arkansas. The team included several on-campus partnerships. The team engaged in training surrounding prevention and appropriate response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as well as bystander intervention. SouthArk was the lead in a consortium that includes Southern Arkansas University Tech and Southern Arkansas University. Some other purpose areas of the grant include:

- Provide mandatory online education and prevention material for all incoming students (first year and transfer)
- Train all campus law enforcement to respond effectively to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking
- Provide training to members of campus disciplinary boards so they may respond effectively to situations involving sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking
- Implement an ongoing universal prevention and bystander intervention program on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking
- Develop, strengthen, and implement campus policies and protocols
- Implement and operate education and prevention programs
- Develop victim services programs and population specific services

SouthArk was one of 57 institutions of higher education to receive an award from Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking on Campus Program from OVW in 2018.

COLLABORATE WITH DEPT OF HEALTH AND HEALTH CENTERS TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO CARE

SouthArk has hosted AFMC on campus twice. We also promote Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Union/Calhoun County Victims Assistance Center. We make referrals when appropriate to Turning Point, the Women's Crisis Center of South Arkansas, and Compassion's Foundation, all local domestic violence centers.

IDENTIFY OTHER TOPICS RELATING TO PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF SEX ASSAULT

SouthArk has brochures for new employees that are included in their new-hire packets. The Title IX Coordinator also speaks with all new hires during New Employee Orientation. Presentations are given yearly during convocation. SouthArk includes a widget from <https://www.domesticshelters.org> that includes articles about domestic violence, statistics, and other resources.

SouthArk encourages students to take the pledge to commit to creating a culture of consent, bystander intervention, and survivor support at www.itsonus.org. SouthArk has written an in-house bystander intervention program that will be utilized once approved by OVC and we will also utilize Alteristic to bring bystander intervention training to campus from outside experts.

VAWA Adjudicator Training

Our Title IX investigators train once per month for two hours in the fall and spring semesters. Representatives from both our Title IX team and student conduct team will attend VAWA training in the next year to ensure a victim-centered, trauma informed response to cases involving sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Representatives from our local and campus police departments will receive training in these areas from the Criminal Justice Institute in the coming year. Other training providers are being identified so that we can assure effective, respectful responses to victims of sex-based violence.

Trauma Informed Response

Our Title IX investigators have received training on the neurobiology of trauma from Dr. Janine D'Anniballe and the Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault. The team has also received training through the End Violence Against Women International's presentation by Russell Strand, Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview.