

# DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE CAMPUS SAFETY

## BE AN ACTIVE BYSTANDER!

### Help Prevent Sexual Assault and Misconduct



While Daytona State College is a safe place to pursue your education goals, sexual assault and sexual misconduct, such as domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, is a nationwide problem on college campuses.

In January 2014, President Barack Obama established the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault and in April 2014, the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policies and Campus Crime Statistics Act (the Clery Act) was amended in an effort to make college students safer from sexual assault and misconduct.

#### For more information visit:

[www.notalone.gov](http://www.notalone.gov)

<http://campussaveact.org/>

<http://clerycenter.org/campus-sexual-violence-elimination-save-act>

One important strategy for reducing sexual assault and misconduct on college campuses is to engage all students. We all know that violent crime involves victims and perpetrators. But, there is a group that outnumbers victims and perpetrators together.

That group is bystanders.

#### What is a Bystander?

There are different circumstances in which one can be considered a bystander. He or she might have knowledge that an incident of sexual violence will occur or is occurring, or may witness sexual assault or misconduct firsthand.

A bystander could have knowledge about an assault that has already occurred. Regardless of the circumstances, we all have a choice whether we will be passive bystanders, standing by and taking insufficient or no action, or whether we will be active bystanders who are engaged and taking the necessary action to prevent sexual violence. An active bystander has the power to help prevent sexual violence from occurring and get survivors of assault the help they need.

#### Being an Active Bystander

The most important thing to remember as an active bystander is to not do anything that puts your safety at risk! Call on others, such as Campus Safety or the police, for help. Always remember that if you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 911 (remember to dial 9 and then 911 from a college phone.)

#### How can we make a difference as active bystanders?

The first step in becoming an active bystander is making the choice to be involved.

#### Why is this choice so important?

Let's take the example of the role men can play in preventing sexual violence toward women, a critical problem on college campuses. (According to the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault, one in five women are sexually assaulted in college.) We know from studies that men have a higher likelihood of intervening to stop or prevent a sexually violent situation when they perceive that other men are likely to intervene as well.

A man who chooses to intervene may not only protect a woman in a dangerous situation, but also may influence the men around him, helping to foster a social culture that encourages active bystanders and deters sexual violence.

#### How do you become an active bystander?

An active bystander recognizes when there is a problem, decides to take action and knows how to safely do so.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Is there a problem? Does someone need help?
- Is it safe to intervene? What are my options?
- What should I do? Should I call on others to help?

Always remember that your own safety is your most important consideration, and calling on others such as law enforcement and Campus Safety is often the best choice.



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## How do you recognize a problem and decide on a safe action as an active bystander?

### Let's look at some example scenarios and how you might respond as an active bystander.

- You are at a party and your friend is very intoxicated. You see that someone is trying to get your friend to go home with them. As an active bystander, you can try to prevent your friend from being alone with this person if you feel it is safe to intervene. If possible, you can get other friends to assist you. If you are unable to stop your friend from leaving with this person, and you believe your friend is in danger, you should contact the police.
- You are at a social function and someone you know is continuing to flirt with a person who has clearly shown he or she is not interested. As an active bystander, you can start a conversation with your acquaintance to distract them from flirting with the uninterested person. Distraction is often a useful technique for an active bystander.
- A group of students starts making sexual gestures and comments to another student on campus. The student tries to ignore the comments, but becomes upset. As an active bystander, you can ask the student if he or she wants to leave with you, and then tell Campus Safety or a College administrator. Remember not to be antagonistic toward anyone, regardless of your personal feelings about their behavior.
- You hear a supervisor make a comment to his or her employee that it would nice if the supervisor's spouse had a physique like the employee. As an employee, you could contact the Human Resources department and report the comment.
- You see comments online in regard to a story about a young woman who was raped. Several of the comments imply that the woman deserved to be raped because she had too much to drink and was flirting. As an engaged bystander, you can post a comment that sexual assault is never the survivor's fault, and that the responsibility lies with the person who chose to commit the violence.

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## What else can bystanders do to make a difference?

- **Believe the person** who discloses a sexual assault, abusive relationship or experience with stalking or cyberstalking.
- **Be respectful of yourself and others.** Make sure any sexual act is OK with your partner. Remember that consent can be withdrawn at any time. It is a person's choice whether or not they wish to maintain intimate activity regardless of who initiated the activity.
- **Watch out for your friends and fellow students.** If you see someone who looks like they are in trouble, ask if they are okay. If you see a friend doing something inappropriate, say something.
- **Speak up.** If someone says something offensive, derogatory or abusive, let them know that behavior is wrong and you don't want to be around it. Don't laugh at racist, sexist or homophobic jokes. Challenge your peers to be respectful. If you hear someone planning to take sexual advantage of another person, report it to Campus Safety immediately.
- **Refer some who needs help.** If you know someone who needs help, refer them to Campus Safety, the Counseling Department or a community resource. Find out more about where to find help at [http://www.DaytonaState.edu/campus\\_safety/resources\\_for\\_survivors.html](http://www.DaytonaState.edu/campus_safety/resources_for_survivors.html).
- **Get involved!** Contact Campus Safety, our Title IX Coordinator or the Student Government Association to find out more about what you can do to help prevent sexual assault and misconduct at Daytona State College.

## Helpful strategies for when you can safely intervene

We can't reiterate enough how you should always consider your safety first, and if you have any doubts call Campus Safety or local law enforcement for help. But for those situations when you judge that it is safe for you to intervene more directly, here are some strategies that can help you.

- **"I" statements** - Using "I" statements can improve the chance that the person to whom you are speaking won't perceive your communication as confrontational or judgmental. There are three parts to an "I" statement.
  1. State your feelings
  2. Name the behavior
  3. State how you'd like the person to respond**Example:** "I feel uncomfortable (1) when you talk about women like that (2). I'd appreciate it if you wouldn't say those things (3)."
- **Non-verbal communication** - A lot of the most important communication we have with each other is non-verbal, e.g. body language. A disapproving look can be more powerful than words.
- **Humor** - Humor can reduce conflict in an intervention and help you relate to a person. However, be cautious not to undermine the seriousness of the issue.
- **Strength in numbers** - Support from a group makes intervention safer and more effective. This is especially effective when a person shows a pattern of inappropriate behavior.
- **Bring it home** - Help someone relate his actions to his own personal experience.  
**Example:** "I hope no one ever talks about you like that." or "What if someone said something like that about your girlfriend or mother?"
- **We're friends, right?** - Puts the intervention in a more caring, noncritical context.  
**Example:** "Hey Tom, as your friend I have to say that the sexist remarks you make are making a lot of people lose respect for you. You'd do better not to say those things."
- **Distract** - Something as simple as asking a man for directions or the time when you see him on the street harassing a woman can be enough to stop the harassment long enough for the target to get clear.

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Remember, when intervening as an active bystander, never be antagonistic or use violence. Always try to enlist the help of others if available. And, above all, keep yourself safe. If you feel things are getting out of hand and you can't safely intervene, call Campus Safety or the police.

Our goal is to promote a culture of accountability that helps prevent sexual assault and misconduct without causing additional threat or harm to others. Again sometimes enlisting the help of Campus Safety or police is the appropriate action for an active bystander.

No one is responsible for doing it all themselves, but all of us should do something when we are bystanders to sexual assault or misconduct.

**For more information and strategies on being an active bystander, contact Campus Safety at (386) 506-4444.**