



No caring person can feel anything but sympathy for mothers in this situation.

Sexual assault is a national problem, including at Davidson. Through education, advocacy and accountability, we are working to radically reduce and ultimately eliminate sexual assault on our campus. This requires the engagement of all students, faculty and staff. And it requires a national shift in campus culture. Although progress is not always as rapid as we would like, we are committed to this crucial work.

We at Davidson strive to support our campus survivors. To that end, we encourage them to report what has happened in whatever way they choose. Our student handbook explicitly lists the town police as an option and outlines how to reach them – guidance also provided by our staff during the first conversation with a survivor. We are grateful that these courageous young women reported these events and we trust that the town of Davidson police will investigate fully.

For those who seek help through the college, we provide a range of assistance, from academic relief and counseling to a no contact order or removing the accused from campus. The steps we have taken in reports over the past three years are outlined on our [website](#).

The college's education, prevention, and bystander intervention programs have increased student awareness of the resources available to them and of their ability to help others. Our goal is not only to prevent incidents but to create an environment in which students feel empowered to seek help.

Experts and researchers in preventing sexual assault emphasize that, as an institution creates a culture that encourages reporting, the number of reports will go up. While we see evidence that our education and prevention efforts are having a positive effect, we will continue to seek ways to strengthen and expand those initiatives. Davidson holds its students to high standards. Violations of those standards are met with serious consequences within the student conduct system.

The college's efforts toward education and prevention have included:

- Bystander training was adopted in the 2014-15 academic year, and more than a quarter of the student body participated in the volunteer course, including a majority of Greek organization members and the entire football team.
- All first-year students complete an online education program during the summer, the "Community of Respect" program during orientation and, during the academic year, they complete Davidson 101, an orientation course that includes education on potential sexual misconduct situations they might encounter and how to handle them.
- All resident advisers, hall counselors and building managers complete more than five hour of sexual assault prevention training.
- A task force of students, faculty and staff in recent years studied the college's sexual misconduct policy, gathered input from across campus and moved forward with changes to strengthen the policies, procedures and penalties for violations.
- Last academic year alone, at least ten campus events focused on prevention, including "Take Back the Night," documentary screenings and the Courage Project.