FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TUFTS ATTITUDES ABOUT SEXUAL CONDUCT SURVEY (TASCS)

What is sexual misconduct at Tufts?

Sexual Misconduct as defined by Tufts policy can include: (1) Sex and/or Gender based Discrimination; (2) Sexual and Gender and/or Gender based Harassment (including a hostile environment based on sex and/or gender); (3) Sexual Assault; (4) Sexual Exploitation; (5) Stalking; and (6) Relationship Violence (including dating and domestic Violence). Sexual Misconduct under Tufts policy can occur in any sex or gender configuration (i.e., between the same-sex or different sex or gender) and regardless of actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sexual orientation. Tufts also prohibits retaliation.

For more information about Tufts’ definition of sexual misconduct, please visit http://oeo.tufts.edu/sexualmisconduct/.

NEW! Tufts has revised its Sexual Misconduct policy. The revised policy is available at: http://oeo.tufts.edu/policies-and-procedures/sexual-misconduct-policy/. Tufts’ Sexual Misconduct Adjudication Process (SMAP) is currently being reviewed and revised by the President’s Task Force on Sexual Misconduct Prevention and will be posted soon.

What is the Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey (TASCS)?

The TASCS is a voluntary electronic survey designed to collect information about Tufts students’ attitudes about sexual conduct and experiences with sexual misconduct.

Why is Tufts doing this?

Our goal is to provide a campus environment free of sexual misconduct and sexual assault. This survey is part of an ongoing dialogue about how we can improve the campus climate.

Is this related to the OCR Title IX investigation?

In part it is. Through the Voluntary Resolution Agreement signed by Tufts with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, Tufts agreed to continue its regular climate checks relating to sexual misconduct on campus. Following a review of its various past climate checks (including prior surveys that touched upon sexual misconduct on campus) Tufts decided that a university wide student survey was an appropriate next step towards its assessing its efforts in this area. OCR reviewed and approved Tufts’ survey prior to implementation.
Who designed the survey?

The survey was developed by members of the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct Prevention including students, staff, and faculty, as well as survey experts from Tufts’ Office of Institutional Research and Evaluation. This collaborative effort developed questions unique to the Tufts community and adopted questions from several existing studies.

When and how will the survey be administered?

The survey will be launched the week of April 13. All students across the university will receive a link to the survey via their Tufts email address.

How long will the survey take to complete?

Most students will be able to complete the survey within 10-15 minutes. However, students may take breaks from the survey as needed and return to it later.

Why is the survey limited to students?

Students make up the largest segment of the university community. Surveying students first allows us to learn the most about campus attitudes and experiences, so we can make the broadest impact in improving policies, procedures and programs related to sexual misconduct.

The needs of faculty, staff, and other members of the university community are also important. We plan to survey this portion of our community at a later date.

Will my participation in the survey be anonymous and confidential?

The survey is intended to provide students with an opportunity to provide information anonymously. All undergraduate, graduate and professional students will receive a link to the survey via their Tufts email address. This link is not associated with any information that could identify the recipient, and a student’s identity cannot be traced through the survey link. However, some survey participants may wish to identify themselves or their experiences through the survey questions.

What, if anything, will Tufts do to address information obtained through the survey responses?

The survey results will be reviewed and assessed to determine the appropriateness of Tufts policies and procedures, educational programs and resources for community members affected by Sexual Misconduct.

Given the anonymity afforded to the survey responses, students should understand that while the University will do its best to address the various anonymous reports
consistent with its policies, it may be limited in its ability to investigate and otherwise respond to or address these complaints and reports. However, the University will respond consistent with its Sexual Misconduct policy if students identify themselves and specifically request intervention through the survey.

**Can I skip questions? Do I have to complete the survey in one sitting?**

Students can opt out of any question they do not wish to answer. Additionally, students do not have to complete the survey in one sitting. Participants can leave the survey and come back again later by clicking on the link provided in the email.

**My survey is not working/I have questions about the survey instrument/I've accidentally deleted my survey link. Who do I contact for help?**

Please email Lauren Conoscenti (Lauren.Conoscenti@tufts.edu) for assistance.

**Will this survey be triggering or difficult to complete?**

Students are advised that they may be triggered or otherwise impacted by the survey because certain questions use explicit language, including names of body parts and specific behaviors, to ask about sexual situations. This survey also asks students about sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence that might be upsetting and remind them of experiences that they, or others have gone through. While such questions may be difficult, they can play an important role in helping us understand critical campus issues and many have been used in other climate surveys nationwide.

**What will Tufts do with the results of the survey?**

The results of this survey will be used to inform and improve education programs, prevention efforts, treatment options, and policies related to sexual misconduct.

**Who will have access to the raw data results?**

The Office of Institutional Research and Evaluation will be conducting analyses on behalf of the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct Prevention. The Title IX Coordinator will also have access to the raw data. The Title IX Coordinator will be responsible for responding to any reports and requests for intervention from individual students shared in the survey responses.

**Will Tufts make available the results of the survey? If so, when?**

Tufts will share survey results in the aggregate. We hope to have this information available during the Fall 2015 semester.
Will this survey be able to gather information from our diverse student body in our undergraduate, graduate and professional programs?

The survey has been designed to collect information from students regardless of their school affiliation, program, or other demographic characteristics.

Has this survey been reviewed by the Institutional Review Board (IRB)?

Yes.

Will Tufts issue this survey again in the future?

In addition to other regular climate checks, we also plan to periodically survey students and other community members about sexual misconduct in the future so that we can measure the success of our prevention and education efforts, gauge the incidence rates of sexual misconduct, and address issues not covered in this year's survey.

Whom can I talk to if I have questions or concerns related to sexual misconduct?

If you would like to talk to someone at any time about questions or concerns relating to sex discrimination, sexual harassment, stalking, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic/relationship violence, or any other sexual misconduct, you may contact one of the following 24-hour resources:

Confidential - Boston Area Rape Crisis Center 24-hour hotline: 1-800-841-8371
Confidential - Tufts University Counseling & Mental Health Service: 617-627-3360
Confidential - Tufts University Health Service: 617-627-3350
Confidential - Counselor – on-call reachable through TUPD 24/7: 617-627-3030

To report sexual misconduct at Tufts:

Tufts-oeo.ethicspoint.com - provides options for anonymous reporting.

Office of Equal Opportunity
Jill Zellmer, Director and Title IX/504 Coordinator
196 Boston Ave., Medford, MA 02155
Jill.Zellmer@tufts.edu, 617-627-3298
Title IX Liaisons are also available at your particular school
Find your Liaison: http://oeo.tufts.edu/tufts-university-title-ix-liasons/

Tufts University Police Department
Medford/Somerville: 617.627.6911 (emergency);
617.627.3030 (non-emergency)
Boston: 617.636.6911 (emergency); 617.636.6610 (non-emergency)
Grafton: 508.839.5303 (emergency); 508.887.4900 (non-emergency)
**Additional Resources:**

Nandi Bynoe, Sexual Misconduct Resource Specialist, phone/e-mail: Nandi.Bynoe@tufts.edu, 617-627-3158

Sexual Misconduct Resources Website: [http://oeo.tufts.edu/sexualmisconduct](http://oeo.tufts.edu/sexualmisconduct)