

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 Sex and/or Gender based Harassment (including a hostile environment based on sex and/or gender)
3. Sexual Assault
4. Sexual Exploitation
5. Stalking
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.

Information about Tufts' sexual misconduct policies can be found here: <http://oeo.tufts.edu/policies-procedures/>

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 the same survey that was conducted in 2015?

The original TASCS, conducted in the spring of 2015, was designed by members of the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct Prevention including students, staff, faculty, and survey experts from Tufts' Office of Institutional Research and Evaluation. In the fall of 2016, the survey was evaluated by student focus groups and revised. Thus, the 2017 TASCS is somewhat different from the 2015 survey, but the overall goal of the survey remains the same, and we hope to draw comparisons between 2015 and 2017 data where possible.

What did Tufts do with the results of the 2015 survey? How does it plan to use the results of this year's survey?

Following the 2015 survey, Tufts took several steps to improve its education and prevention efforts. These include, but are not limited to, the actions listed below:

1. Training conducted by OEO to orient students to university policy was revised to address issues that were raised in the first survey, such as adding additional emphasis on the boundaries of consent and adding content to the discussion about sexual harassment.
2. The OEO training curriculum was modified for graduate and professional school students to address specific issues faced by those populations, such as sex discrimination and harassment.
3. In conjunction with student input, the Center for Awareness, Resources, and Education developed a training focused on communication and healthy relationships.

4. Residential Life staff members now receive specialized training using a wide range of examples modeled from actual situations.

We hope the 2017 will provide us additional information about how we can better educate and prevent misconduct at Tufts. We also expect to compare the 2015 and 2017 results to see if and how things have changed in the past two years.

When and how will the survey be administered?

The survey will be launched on January 25. On that day, students will receive an email from President Monaco containing the survey link. The survey will remain open through the end of February.

Students may also receive the survey link from their school, their department, from student groups with which they are affiliated, or other students. The link will also be available on the OEO website.

Will my participation in the survey be anonymous and confidential? If so, why am I being asked for my ID?

The survey link is anonymous – this means that there is no way to associate the survey response with the identity of the person who submitted that response, and no way to know who did or did not do the survey. The information you provide is also confidential. Survey results will be reported in the aggregate – that is, survey results are combined together and presented as a group. Additionally, responses written as text will never be presented verbatim to anyone outside the survey team.

We have an authentication page set up to ensure that only Tufts students can participate in the survey. Once you enter your Tufts ID number, Qualtrics checks to make sure you're a current student. However, your ID number is never recorded, and thus can never be connected to your survey response nor can the survey administrators know who has and has not taken the survey.

How long will the survey take to complete?

Most students will be able to complete the survey within 10-15 minutes.

Can I report an incident of sexual misconduct on this survey?

The survey is not a formal reporting mechanism. Respondents are encouraged to visit the [CARE website](#) for information about the various reporting options, and to use [EthicsPoint](#) if they wish to make an anonymous report to the university.

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 TASCs and come back again later provided they use the same device to start and finish the survey.

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 and the Office of University Counsel will also have access to the raw data.

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

Tufts will share survey results in the aggregate on the OEO website. We hope to have this information available during the Fall 2017 semester.

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

Yes.

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.

I don't want to view emails about this survey right now. What can I do?

Your best bet is to create filters or inbox rules for your email program designed to send messages about the TASCs to a separate folder for later viewing. Here are instructions for using filters or inbox rules for four popular email clients, [Gmail](#), [Yahoo Mail](#), [Outlook](#), and [Thunderbird](#).

Will Tufts issue this survey again in the future?

We 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.

To whom can I talk if I have questions about the survey?

If you are encountering a problem with the survey, please contact [Lauren Conoscenti](#).

To whom can I talk 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 any of the following resources:

Confidential – The Center for Awareness, Resources, and Prevention - <http://oeo.tufts.edu/care/>

Nandi Bynoe – Sexual Misconduct Resource Specialist

Alexandra Donovan, Sexual Misconduct Prevention Specialist

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 whom can I report an incident of sexual misconduct at Tufts?

Options for making a complaint or report of sexual misconduct can be found here:

<http://oeo.tufts.edu/care/make-a-complaint/>

You can also make a report through the Office of Equal Opportunity, TUPD, or to the Intake Officer at your campus.

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

<http://oeo.tufts.edu/sexualmisconduct>

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)

Campus Intake officers:

<http://oeo.tufts.edu/reporting-resources/tufts-university-title-ix-liaisons/>