

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

What is sexual misconduct at Tufts?

Sexual Misconduct, as defined by the [Sexual Misconduct 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)
7. Retaliation (for filing a complaint about any of the above).

Sexual Misconduct can occur in any sex or gender configuration (i.e., between people of the same sex or between people of different sexes or genders) 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: <https://oeo.tufts.edu/policies-procedures/sexual-misconduct/>

What conduct does Title IX prohibit?

As stated in the [Tufts Title IX Policy](#), prohibited conduct is sexual harassment which includes:

1. Sexual assault
2. Stalking
3. Dating/Domestic violence
4. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's education program or activity, including conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

Tufts also prohibits retaliation.

Information about all Tufts' Sexual Misconduct policies can be found here: <https://oeo.tufts.edu/policies-procedures/title-ix-policy/>

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.

Further, in 2021, the Commonwealth of MA passed the MA Sexual Assault Law which requires all colleges and universities to survey their students about sexual misconduct every few years. Since Tufts has been polling our students on these matters every few years already, we will continue our progress toward eliminating sexual misconduct at Tufts while maintaining compliance with this new state mandate.

Is this the same survey that was conducted in 2015 and in 2017?

The original TASCs, conducted in the spring of 2015, was designed by members of the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Task Force including students, staff, faculty, and survey experts from Tufts' Office of Institutional Research. The survey evolved in 2017, and again in 2022, following input and feedback from student focus groups, knowledgeable staff, and from President Monaco's Sexual Misconduct Prevention Steering Committee.

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

Following the 2015 and 2017 surveys, 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 and bystander interventions.
4. Residential Life staff members now receive specialized training using a wide range of examples modeled from actual situations.

We hope the 2022 will provide us additional information about how we can better educate and prevent sexual misconduct at Tufts. We also expect to compare 2022 data with the 2015 and 2017 results to see if and how things have changed.

When and how will the survey be administered?

The survey will be launched on April 4, 2022 and will be available at <https://go.tufts.edu/tasc>. You will receive an email about the survey, and you may also see the link posted on social media, in school or department newsletters, or elsewhere throughout the campus.

The survey will remain open through the end of April.

Will my participation in the survey be anonymous and confidential?

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.

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. Students 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.

Does this survey work on all devices?

Although you can take this survey on any device, it is designed to work best on a computer (either laptop or desktop) or on a tablet.

Can I skip questions?

Yes. Students can opt out of any question they do not wish to answer.

Do I have to complete the survey in one sitting?

If you begin the survey on a personal device, you can leave the TASCs and come back again later – provided you use the same device to continue the survey and you do not delete your browser's cookies.

If you begin the survey on a device that is shared with others, we encourage you to complete the survey in one sitting.

Who will have access to the raw data results?

The Office of Institutional Research will be conducting analyses on behalf of the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Steering Committee and the Office of Equal Opportunity. 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 2022 semester. The [2015 and 2017 TASCs survey data](#) will continue to be available in full on the OEO website along with the [TASCs full list of questions](#).

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

Yes.

Will this survey be difficult to complete?

Students are advised that they may be 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?

As required by law, we will survey students and other community members periodically about sexual misconduct in the future. This will allow us to continue to 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 TASCs 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/>

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 - 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:

<https://oeo.tufts.edu/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

<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)