

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT

# 2024 Tufts Student Perspectives on Sexual Misconduct Survey

The *Tufts Student Perspectives on Sexual Misconduct Survey* is a confidential survey designed to gather student attitudes and experiences about the campus climate and awareness of sexual misconduct at Tufts including students' knowledge about related policies, reporting and relevant support at Tufts.

### **What is the Tufts Student Perspectives on Sexual Misconduct Survey?**

The *Tufts Student Perspectives on Sexual Misconduct Survey* is designed to gather information from Tufts students about their attitudes regarding campus climate, their knowledge and awareness about sexual misconduct policies, related reporting and relevant resources and supports at Tufts and their experiences, if any, with sexual misconduct while at Tufts. Tufts has partnered with Grand River Solutions, an independent third-party research firm, to conduct the survey from February 12 - March 18, 2024.

### **Why is Tufts conducting this survey?**

Our goal is to provide a campus environment free of sexual misconduct and sexual assault. This survey is part of an ongoing process to improve the campus climate for all students.

In 2021, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed the [Campus Sexual Assault Law \(CSAL\)](#), which requires all private and public higher education institutions in Massachusetts to conduct a campus sexual misconduct climate survey no less than every 4 years. Since Tufts has already been surveying students about sexual misconduct and campus climate since 2015, we will continue our progress towards eliminating sexual misconduct at Tufts while also maintaining compliance with this new state mandate. *Past survey questions and response data can be found on the [OEO website](#).*

### **Who can take the survey?**

All full-time, degree seeking undergraduate, graduate and professional students will be invited to participate in the survey. Tufts has contracted with Grand River Solutions, an independent third-party research and training firm, to conduct the survey and analyze the results. On **February 12, 2024**, students will receive a unique survey link in an email from [grandriversolutions@qualtrics-survey.com](mailto:grandriversolutions@qualtrics-survey.com) and will be invited to participate in the survey.

### **I've never experienced sexual misconduct, so why should I take the survey?**

This survey doesn't just ask about student experiences of sexual misconduct. It also asks about student connectedness to Tufts, knowledge of campus policies, awareness of campus support, and perception of campus climate. We need to hear from as many students as possible to keep improving Tufts' prevention and response efforts.

### **How long will the survey take?**

This survey takes most people approximately 15 minutes to complete.

### **Can I skip a question if I don't want to answer it?**

All questions in the survey are optional. You can opt out of any question you do not wish to answer.

### **When and how will the survey be administered?**

On February 12, 2024, all full-time undergraduate, graduate and professional students will receive an email from [grandriversolutions@qualtrics-survey.com](mailto:grandriversolutions@qualtrics-survey.com) with a unique survey link inviting them to complete the survey. The survey runs from **February 12 - March 18, 2024**.

### **What is Grand River Solutions, and why are they sending me emails?**

Grand River Solutions is an independent third-party research and training firm. Tufts has contracted with them to administer the survey and analyze the results. Grand River Solutions is sending you emails from [grandriversolutions@qualtrics-survey.com](mailto:grandriversolutions@qualtrics-survey.com) on behalf of Tufts to learn more about how sexual misconduct impacts the student community and how we can improve our prevention and response efforts.

### **Will my answers be confidential?**

When you complete the survey, the link between your survey responses and your email and IP addresses will be broken so that no one will be able to connect this information with your survey responses. In addition, survey results will be presented in summary form so no individual can be identified by their responses.

### **Do I have to complete the survey in one sitting?**

The survey is designed to allow you to stop the survey and come back at any point. However, we cannot guarantee that the survey will save all your responses if you stop and restart it since this feature varies depending on your browser settings and cookies.

### **Has Tufts conducted a student survey on sexual misconduct before?**

Tufts has conducted three prior student surveys on sexual misconduct—in 2015, 2017 and 2022. The survey, called the *Tufts Attitudes about Sexual Conduct Survey (TASCS)*, collected information about student perceptions, attitudes and opinions about behaviors related to sexual misconduct and sexual assault. Past survey questions and response data can be found on the [OEO website](#). In 2022, the TASCS survey received less than a 5% response rate and Tufts was unable to use the data. *That's why it's crucial that as many students as possible participate in the 2024 survey.*

The 2024 *Tufts Student Perspectives on Sexual Misconduct Survey* is an important opportunity to gather current data on the prevalence of sexual misconduct at Tufts, student perceptions about sexual misconduct and campus climate, and student awareness of sexual misconduct policies, resources, reporting and support. This year, OEO is offering 100 incentives in the form of gift cards of \$25, \$50 and \$100 and two iPads to randomly selected students who complete the survey.

### **How will Tufts share the results of this survey, and when?**

Tufts will share a summary of survey results on the [OEO website](#). We will have this information available at the start of the Fall 2024 semester.

### **What is sexual misconduct at Tufts?**

Sexual misconduct, as defined by the Tufts' [Sexual Misconduct Policy](#), can include:

1. Sex and/or Gender based Discrimination
2. Sexual Harassment (including a hostile environment based on sex and/or gender)

3. Sexual Assault (including Non-Consensual Contact; Forced Sexual Contact; Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse; Forced Sexual Intercourse)
4. Sexual Exploitation
5. Stalking
6. Relationship Violence (including dating and/or domestic violence)
7. Retaliation (for reporting on or being involved in 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.

### **I still have questions.**

If you have additional questions about the survey that haven't been answered in this FAQ, you can contact us by email at [OEO@tufts.edu](mailto:OEO@tufts.edu)

### **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://oio.tufts.edu/care/>, Alexandra Donovan, Director - 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* - 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  
<https://oio.tufts.edu/reporting/>

You can also make a report through the Office of Equal Opportunity, TUPD, or an OEO liaison at your campus, <https://oio.tufts.edu/reporting/sexual-misconduct/liaisons/>.

#### **Office of Equal Opportunity:**

Jill Zellmer, Executive Director and Title IX Coordinator

196 Boston Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Medford, MA 02155

[Jill.Zellmer@tufts.edu](mailto:Jill.Zellmer@tufts.edu),

[OEO@tufts.edu](mailto:OEO@tufts.edu) 617-627-3298

#### **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:* 617.627.6911 (emergency); 617.627.3030 (non-emergency)

*SMFA -* 617.627.6911 (emergency); 617.627.3030 (non-emergency)