

TITLE IX

MYTH V. TRUTH

MYTH: The College does not provide sufficient education or training about Title IX

TRUTH: There are many efforts that take place annually as well as across the year to educate the campus community and build awareness to prevent sexual assault, sexual violence, and sexual discrimination. We are always looking to expand and improve those efforts and we invite partnership to provide trauma informed programs that are delivered responsibly.

- All incoming students (first-years, transfers, and international students) receive education during orientation
- All student leaders including RAs, Orientation Leaders, Student Ambassadors, EOP Peer Mentors, Student Union Managers, and more are trained annually
- All athletes and members of Greek Life organizations are trained annually
- Departments and campus organizations provide programming and initiatives
- All new hires and many current faculty and staff are required to be trained yearly
- The College has a Title IX working group which includes students and staff who work on programming, education, and process improvement.
- NYS requires a climate survey required to be administered to all students and employees every 2 years

MYTH: The climate survey shows that more than half of the campus does not know about the Title IX Office or the College's efforts to address sexual assault and sexual violence.

TRUTH:

- The 2019 survey had 1,075 students and 429 employee responses (14.4% and 34%, respectively).
 - 82% of students who responded indicated they were aware that our campus has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault.
 - 47% of students who responded are aware of the Title IX Coordinator.
 - 75% of staff who responded knew how to find the Title IX Coordinator.
 - 25% of students who responded knew how to find the Title IX Coordinator.
 - 83% percent of students who responded indicated familiarity with the campus's definition of affirmative consent
- The data is informative, but the low response rate means the rich aspects of our Title IX program are not fully captured. The data shows that 82% of students are aware of our sexual assault prevention efforts and policies, but the location of the Title IX Office may not be memorized. Every year offers an opportunity to improve and expand education and prevention initiatives.

MYTH: There is no way to know about Title IX cases on campus or who has been held responsible

TRUTH: There are a number of ways information about Title IX cases are reported.

- Clery Compliance Report: <https://www.newpaltz.edu/police/clery-compliance/>
- New York State 129-B Report: <https://www.newpaltz.edu/titleix/title-ix-resources/enough-is-enough-aggregate-data/>
- The data reported differs due to different criteria required in each report.
- The data does not identify any reporting individual or respondent by name.

MYTH: I can only go to the Title IX Office to report rape.

TRUTH: Students and employees can speak to a Title IX Coordinator to:

- Report behaviors or experiences for any sexual assault, sexual violence and sexual discrimination, as well as discrimination based on gender identity, whether or not the experience occurred on the campus or while enrolled at the College.
- Get help with accessing support services and resources such as residential relocation, academic accommodations, *(continued)*

psychological counseling, health check, as well as connection to a crime victim advocate and police support if requested.

- Request training and education for students and staff about Title IX reporting processes and accessing resources and support.

MYTH: Reporting individuals and survivors don't have a say in how their report is managed

TRUTH: The Title IX Office practices a survivor-centered approach, providing a full range of options to the individual and supporting their decisions as to timing and processes. The office will help students access the student conduct or criminal process if that is sought. A student can withdraw from a formal process at any time. An important distinction: Federal regulations prohibit sexual assault and sexual violence cases from being mediated or resolved by informal processes even if requested by the reporting individual or survivor.

MYTH: All Title IX reports go to a hearing

TRUTH: Title IX covers a range of issues, some of which are not covered by the student code of conduct and/or do not need a hearing to be resolved.

- The majority of individuals who report an experience under Title IX choose resources and support measures and do not choose to proceed with formal judicial action.
- Many reports involve experiences that occurred before attending or working at the College, but this may be the first time an individual feels safe or becomes aware of resources.

MYTH: You can only report Title IX concerns to the Title IX Office

TRUTH: There are many places where a student can report and connect to support and assistance. These individuals will not act on a report but should be prepared to help connect you with the Title IX Office.

- The majority of faculty and professional staff are required to attend trainings to assist students with Title IX reports
- Athletics staff, Residential Life, EOP, DRC and UPD are required to attend trainings to assist students with Title IX reports.

These offices can take confidential reports. Disclosure of a report from these offices, to Title IX, must be requested by the reporting individual or survivor.

- Health Services
 - Psychological Counseling Center
 - Crime Victim Advocate
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Don't know where to go for Title IX information, support or to partner with Title IX to enhance awareness and education?

The College has 2 Title IX Coordinators who together have more than 15 years of practice using trauma informed and survivor centered best practices.

Emma Morcone
morconee@newpaltz.edu

Tanhena Pacheco Dunn
pachecot@newpaltz.edu