

The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts Campus Climate Assessment

New York State's Enough is Enough legislation requires that all colleges and universities in New York complete campus climate surveys. The survey is meant to generate school-specific data on the nature and extent of sexual assault as it exists on a campus, as well as data on the attitudes and perceptions about sexual assault among students. The goal is to improve institutional responses, including targeting prevention, intervention, support for victims, and accountability for offenders.

Information about the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts (NYCDA) Campus Climate Assessment was initially communicated to students between April 3rd – 5th, 2018 with the Title IX Coordinator meeting with groups of students to explain the purpose of the survey, and that it is optional and anonymous. Students were informed that the survey was meant to help NYCDA better address and prevent sexual misconduct in the future. Students were given the option to complete paper or electronic surveys. The survey took approximately 10-20 minutes to complete.

Several follow-up emails were sent to students encouraging them to take the survey and explaining its importance. The Campus Climate Assessment was closed on April 27th, 2018, the last day of the term.

NYCDA issued the survey to its entire student body (242 students), and received 124 responses. The response rate of the assessment was approximately 51%. Of these participants, 80% are Platform Year Students, and 20% Film & Television or Theater Year Students.

The anonymous survey asked questions about:

- i. The Title IX Coordinator's role;
- ii. Campus policies and procedures addressing sexual assault;
- iii. How and where to report sexual violence as a victim/survivor or witness;
- iv. The availability of resources on and off campus, such as counseling, health and academic assistance;
- v. The prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on and off campus during the two years of their attendance at the school;
- vi. Bystander attitudes and behavior;
- vii. Whether victims/survivors reported to NYCDA and/or police, and reasons why they did or did not report;
- viii. The general awareness of the difference between the NYCDA's policies and the penal law; and
- ix. The general awareness of the definition of affirmative consent.

Findings:

- i. 100% of students had knowledge of Title IX as an educational amendment referring to discrimination based on sex. 96% of students were aware of who served as the Title IX Coordinator at NYCDA.
- ii. Among participants, 71% of students were familiar with NYCDA's Sexual Violence Prevention and Response policy. Approximately 81% of students knew that they could access the policy on NYCDA's website, Portal or in a brochure that can be found at the Student Services Office.
- iii. A majority of students (89%) knew to report incidents of sexual misconduct directly to the Title IX Coordinator. 11% said they would report it to a teacher or administrator, a resident advisor or the student services office.
- iv. 88% of students noted that they could get resources about counseling, health services, or academic assistance in various locations including: the Student Services Office, Residence Life, Title IX coordinator, on the NYCDA website, Portal, by searching the web, or at a local hospital. The other 12% of students said they did not know where to access resources.
- v. While attending NYCDA, 4% of students have been a victim or bystander of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking on or off campus. 3.2% of students selected "I do not wish to answer."
- vi. A high percentage of students expressed a willingness to intervene in situations where sexual violence may occur. 94% of students said they would intervene. A majority of students said they would confront a situation directly, or by distracting the individuals.
- vii. Less than 1% of students reported to NYCDA or local police. Of the 3.2% of students who selected "I do not wish to answer" whether they had been a victim or bystander of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking on or off campus, 25% noted that they did not report to NYCDA or the local police. Students were asked why they did not report (students were able to list many reasons):
 - a. The perpetrator was intoxicated (40%)
 - b. They did not want to get the other person in trouble (20%)
 - c. They were not sure it was sexual assault (40%)
 - d. They did not think anyone would believe them (20%)
 - e. They decided to forgive the other person (20%)

- viii. A majority of students (60%) understand that incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are managed differently by NYCDA and by penal law. 95% of students are aware that they can find information about the differences by looking in the Code of Conduct, on the NYCDA website or at the Student Services office.
- ix. Students at NYCDA showed a strong understanding of the definition of affirmative consent, with 89.5% noting that affirmative consent is the “knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity.”
 - a. Students showed lower comprehension of affirmative consent when given a hypothetical scenario illustrating a situation where consent could not be given because one individual was incapacitated. Only 57% of students showed an understanding of consent in this scenario.

In general, the majority of students feel safe on campus and in the surrounding areas. Campus includes academic buildings, rehearsal spaces and residence halls. Off campus refers to the surrounding neighborhoods of the academic buildings and residence halls.

On campus, 53% of students marked “strongly agree” when asked if they felt safe and secure on campus and at the residence halls. Another 31% of students said the “agree” to feeling safe and secure. In the surrounding areas, 44% of students selected that they “strongly agree” when asked if they felt safe and secure, and 35% noted that they “agree.”

The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts is dedicated to creating a learning environment where students feel safe and secure. The institution is committed to enforcing school policies that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. Moving forward, NYCDA will focus on further educating students in the following areas:

- Knowledge of formal reporting procedures
- Further educating students on the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Policy
- Informing students about off-campus resources
- Additional training about affirmative consent in real-life scenarios and situations