

## CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES

The Personal Counseling Center (Big Rapids)  
Monday-Friday 8 AM-5 PM  
(231)591-5968

WISE (Mecosta, Osceola, and Newaygo Counties)  
24/7 Crisis Line 1-800-374-WISE

The Personal Counseling Office  
(KCAD Grand Rapids)  
(616)259-1136

National Sexual Assault Hotline  
Telephone Hotline: (800)656-4673  
Online Chat: Online.Rainn.org

## LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

**Big Rapids Campus**  
Ferris State University DPS - (231)591-5000  
Big Rapids DPS - (231)527-0005  
Mecosta County Sheriff - (231) 592-0150

**Kendall College of Art and Design**  
Grand Rapids PD - (616)456-3400  
Kent County Sheriff - (616) 632-6100

**Statewide Locations**  
<https://ferris.edu/title-ix/offcampus/index.htm>

## WHO IS GOING TO KNOW?

Most University employees are required to inform the Title IX Coordinator when they receive a disclosure. Individual privacy is respected to the fullest extent possible and the student involved will be kept informed by the University.

Individuals seeking confidentiality are encouraged to contact a confidential resource such as the Personal Counseling Center. Your counselor will not notify the Title IX coordinator without your consent.

## CONTACT US

### Big Rapids Campus and Kendall College of Art and Design

For allegations against employees contact Kylie Piette, Director of Equal Opportunity, (231)591-2152; for allegations against students contact the University Title IX Coordinator, Kaitlin Zies (231)591-2088.

### Statewide Locations

For allegations against employees contact Jocelyn Goheen, Director of Student Services, 616-643-5741 or Kylie Piette, Director of Equal Opportunity, 231-591-2152; for allegations against students contact Jocelyn Goheen.

Ferris State University is an equal opportunity institution. For information on the University's Policy on Non-Discrimination, visit [ferris.edu/non-discrimination](https://ferris.edu/non-discrimination).

# WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

## TITLE IX

Resources and Information about Sexual Misconduct, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking at Ferris State University

**Kaitlin Zies**  
**Title IX Coordinator**  
Phone: (231)591-2088

## WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

**TITLE IX** - Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex. Sexual misconduct is harassment based on sex and a violation of federal law under Title IX.

**SEXUAL MISCONDUCT** - an umbrella term including, but not limited to, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT** - sexual contact that occurs without consent.

**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE**- violence by a person who has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the victim. This includes, but is not limited to verbal and physical abuse.

**STALKING**-a course of conduct (two or more acts) directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for her, his, or others' safety, or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

**CONSENT**- an action that must be freely and mutually given for each act of sexual contact between adults. Consent is (1) informed, (2) freely and actively given, (3) mutually understandable words or actions, (4) indicating a clear agreement to engage in sexual contact of any kind. Consent can be withdrawn at any time and can never be achieved through force, threat, intimidation or coercion. Consent is not implied through silence. Consent cannot be given by an incapacitated person or someone under the age of 16.

## WHAT ARE EMPLOYEES REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE?

University employees are required to inform the Title IX Coordinator when they know, or reasonably should have known about sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, or other forms of sexual misconduct. They are obligated to share all information they know including names of involved parties, details of what happened, and where the concerning behavior occurred.

## WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO REPORT?

If you are not interested in reporting what happened, there are confidential resources listed on the inside panel of this document.

If you have already shared information about what happened with a University employee they will have to share that information with the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will strive to honor requests for confidentiality.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I REPORT?

The Title IX Coordinator will reach out to you to schedule a meeting. During this meeting you can discuss your options and possible accommodations. You are also able to bring a support person with you to this meeting if you wish. University personnel can assist in notifying law enforcement upon request.

## WHAT ARE POSSIBLE ACCOMMODATIONS?

The Title IX Coordinator, in conjunction with campus partners, can make a variety of accommodations to help you feel more comfortable. Examples include no contact orders and adjustments to housing arrangements, class schedules, and work environments. Additionally, the Title IX Coordinator can connect you to resources such as counselors and tutors.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FEEL I AM A VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT?

### GET HELP

Get to a safe place as soon as you can.

If you believe you or anyone else is in danger, call 911 as soon as possible.

Once you are safe, contact someone you trust to be there as a support person.

### GET MEDICAL ATTENTION

Seek medical attention as soon as you can.

Medical attention may be necessary to mitigate the risk of sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy.

Even if you think you are physically okay, you may have injuries that need treatment.

Forensic evidence can be collected if criminal action is desired or may be desired in the future.

### PRESERVE EVIDENCE

Evidence may be used to provide proof of criminal activity in obtaining a protection order. Evidence is best collected as soon as possible or within 120 hours of the assault.

Consider preserving digital evidence using screenshots of social media posts, emails, text messages, or direct messages.

Medical and/or law enforcement personnel can assist with evidence collection and preservation.

If you choose not to make a police report you should still consider preserving evidence in the event you change your mind at a later date.