



# University of Denver

## Campus Perceptions of Unwanted Sexual Experiences Survey

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Presented by:

Human Resources & Inclusive Community  
Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX

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## Introduction

The University of Denver is committed to improving its services and operations through evidence-based decision making. This report summarizes the results of the 2018 Campus Perceptions of Unwanted Sexual Experiences Survey, which the University will use to understand students' perceptions of sexual harassment, discrimination, and violence, and to understand how students react to situations where people are being harassed or harmed.

### History and Methodology

In fall 2014, a team at the University came together and developed a plan for measuring student perceptions of rape culture and unwanted sexual experiences at DU. Institutional Research & Analysis (IRA) collaborated with the Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX and the Center for Advocacy, Prevention, and Empowerment (CAPE) within the Health & Counseling Center for the original study. The University administered the pilot survey to all students in May of 2015.

A follow-up survey that focused on what students actually experience on campus and perceive to be true about their community and their peer groups was administered to students in April of 2016.

In consultation with leadership within Campus Life & Inclusive Excellence, the Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX made the decision to administer the 2017 survey during the fall quarter. In an effort to make the survey accessible to all students, the survey was available for participation through the entire month of October, 2017. Out of concern regarding the low rates of participation in 2015 and 2016, the Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX incentivized participation in the 2017 survey with drawings for free parking, admission to University sporting events, and fitness trackers for those who completed the survey. This method was used again for the Fall 2018 survey.

Access to the 2016 and 2017 surveys can be found at:

[https://www.du.edu/ir/surveys/institutional/campus\\_perceptions.html](https://www.du.edu/ir/surveys/institutional/campus_perceptions.html)

### Participation

Ultimately, 1,901 students participated in the survey with 1727 completing all questions for a 91% completion rate. This represents a 62% increase in the rate of participation from the 2017 survey, with an 20% increase in the total number of students who completed the survey. This also represents a higher rate of completion among all participants.<sup>1</sup> Because students stopped their participation at various points throughout the survey, the results below for each question will display only the data collected from those participants who responded to the question at issue. Those participants who failed to respond to the question at issue are omitted from the data collected for that particular question, but are included in statistics referring to all survey participants.

### Demographics

A large majority of participants identified as female (with 68% female identified, 29% male identified, less than 1% transgender, genderfluid, genderqueer, or non-binary).

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<sup>1</sup> The rate of completion on the 2016 survey was 77%, with a total of 969 students starting the survey and 748 students completing it. The rate of completion on the 2017 survey was 71% with a total of 1,174 students starting the survey and 833 students completing it.

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Participation among first-year undergraduate students fell from the previous year with 331 out of 1,796 first-year undergraduate students participating, representing 18% of this year's first-year class compared to 25% in 2017. Among all undergraduate students, 989 students participated in the survey, representing an increase to 17% this year from approximately 14% of the undergraduate student body last year. Graduate student participation in the survey was much higher than previous years, with 906 students participating compared to 352 from 2017. This represented 15.9% of the graduate student body compared to only approximately 6% in 2017. Only 5 non-degree-seeking students participated in the survey.<sup>2</sup>

Participation of other subgroups included:

- DU student-athletes made up 2% of all survey participants.
- Students who are members of social fraternities or sororities made up over 14% of the survey participants.
- International students made up only 1% of survey participants, however, it represented over 12% of all international students.
- Student with disabilities made up over 15% of the survey participants.
- Almost 25% of the survey participants identified as asexual, bisexual, gay, lesbian, pansexual, or questioning.

Full demographic results are available beginning on page 26.

## Communication of Results

The Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX will work with Marketing & Communications and the Health & Counseling Center's Health Promotion team to plan for meaningful communication of the results to the University of Denver community during the month of April 2018 for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX will also work with Institutional Research & Analysis to make the survey publicly available on the Institutional Research & Analysis website alongside the 2016, and 2017 survey report, and to identify future data collection needs.

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<sup>2</sup> As a result, data for each question is separated out for only those who identified as undergraduate and graduate students.

## Perceptions of University of Denver

A minority of the respondents in 2018 (39%) perceive that sexual harassment is a problem at DU (responding that they either “agree” or “strongly agree” with the statement). Similarly, only 31% of respondents perceive that sexual violence is a problem at DU. There was a 3% decrease among survey respondents compared to 2017, where 42% of students perceived sexual harassment and 34% of students perceived sexual violence was a problem.

This represents a drastic shift in the survey results from 2016, in which 64% percent of respondents indicated that they either “strongly agree” or “agree” that sexual harassment and sexual violence are a problem at DU.

Notwithstanding the shift from 64% (2016) to 39% (2018), the pervasiveness of this perception is noteworthy. The perception of 1 in 3 students on campus that sexual harassment and sexual violence is a problem indicates that there is work to be done in the areas of both prevention and response.

It is also interesting to note the differences in perception between undergraduate and graduate students. Half (50%) of the undergraduate responses indicated that sexual harassment was a problem at DU compared to 26% of graduate respondents. This suggests that more education and awareness is needed for the undergraduate population.

Table 1

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

		N	%
Sexual harassment is a problem at DU.	Strongly Disagree	135	7%
	Disagree	339	18%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	696	37%
	Agree	545	29%
	Strongly Agree	181	10%
Sexual violence is a problem at DU.	Strongly Disagree	157	8%
	Disagree	385	20%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	773	41%
	Agree	430	23%
	Strongly Agree	148	8%

Table 2

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

		Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
		N	%	N	%
Sexual harassment is a problem at DU.	Strongly Disagree	47	5%	85	9%
	Disagree	169	17%	170	19%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	278	28%	417	46%
	Agree	355	36%	188	21%
	Strongly Agree	136	14%	45	5%
Sexual violence is a problem at DU.	Strongly Disagree	59	6%	95	11%
	Disagree	218	22%	167	18%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	327	33%	445	49%
	Agree	274	28%	154	17%
	Strongly Agree	105	11%	43	5%

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## Experience of Unwanted Sexual Harassment Behaviors

While generally lower than rates reported in last year's results (1-2% decrease), many of our students still report experiencing some form of unwanted sexual harassment during their time at DU (responding that it happens either, "rarely," "occasionally," "often," or "very often").

- 48% report that someone has made unwanted remarks about their body.
- 38% report that they have been exposed to environments where there were offensive jokes about their gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
- 37% report being the target of rumors and/or gossip.
- 47% have experienced non-verbal harassment (staring, gesturing, being followed, etc.).
- 18% report being sexually harassed online (e-mail, social media, blog postings, etc.).

Consistent with last year's results, undergraduate students report experiencing more sexual harassment than our graduate students.

Those who experienced sexually harassing behaviors identified the following groups as being responsible for the behavior:

- Among undergraduate students, the overwhelming majority of respondents (92%)<sup>3</sup> reported that a DU undergraduate student was responsible for the behavior in at least one instance.
- Among graduate students, the responsible parties were often identified as other graduate students (51%)<sup>4</sup> or undergraduate students (32%).<sup>5</sup>
- While only 12%<sup>6</sup> of respondents reported that the party responsible for unwanted sexual harassment was a faculty or staff member, this perception was significantly higher among graduate students, with 23%<sup>7</sup> reporting that a faculty/staff member was responsible for the unwanted behavior that they experienced, but was an increase from 21% in 2017.
- 28% of students<sup>8</sup> reported that the unwanted sexual harassment was by someone who was not a member of our community, or by some other category of person.

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<sup>3</sup> Representing 64.4% of all undergraduate students participating in the survey.

<sup>4</sup> Representing 22.95% of all graduate students participating in the survey.

<sup>5</sup> Representing 14.3% of all graduate students participating in the survey.

<sup>6</sup> Representing 3.8% of all students participating in the survey.

<sup>7</sup> Representing 5.7% of all graduate students participating in the survey.

<sup>8</sup> Representing 16.14% of all students participating in the survey.

Table 3

During your time at DU, how often have you experienced the following unwanted behaviors while on campus, in areas adjacent to campus where members of the DU community tend to gather, or at events off-campus involving other members of the DU community?

		N	%
Someone has made unwanted remarks about my body.	Never	989	52%
	Rarely	400	21%
	Occasionally	351	19%
	Often	128	7%
	Very Often	27	1%
Someone has targeted me in or exposed me to environments where there was offensive joking about my gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.	Never	1,166	62%
	Rarely	337	18%
	Occasionally	261	14%
	Often	100	5%
	Very Often	31	2%
Someone has made me the target of rumors and/ or gossip.	Never	1,201	63%
	Rarely	368	19%
	Occasionally	207	11%
	Often	67	4%
	Very Often	49	3%
Someone has nonverbally harassed me (i.e., stared at me, gestured to/ at me, followed me, or shunned me.)	Never	1,014	53%
	Rarely	348	18%
	Occasionally	310	16%
	Often	154	8%
	Very Often	70	4%
Someone has sexually harassed me online (email, social media, blog postings).	Never	1,552	82%
	Rarely	222	12%
	Occasionally	78	4%
	Often	27	1%
	Very Often	17	<1%



Table 4

Respondents who answered that they experienced unwanted behaviors "Very Often," "Often," "Occasionally," or "Rarely" were asked: Who was responsible for the unwanted behaviors you experienced? (Check all that apply.)

	N	%
DU undergraduate student	768	70%
DU graduate student	245	22%
DU faculty member	73	7%
DU staff member	55	5%
DU alumnus/ a	19	2%
DU visitor or guest	153	14%
Other	135	12%

Table 5

Respondents who answered that they experienced unwanted behaviors "Very Often", "Often", "Occasionally", or "Rarely", were asked: Did you know the person/ people responsible for the unwanted behaviors you experienced?

	N	%
I knew the person/ people	453	41%
I didn't know the person/ people	470	43%
I knew the person/ people, I didn't know the person/ people	182	16%

Table 6

During your time at DU, how often have you experienced the following unwanted behaviors while on campus, in areas adjacent to campus where members of the DU community tend to gather, or at events off-campus involving other members of the DU community?

		Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
		N	%	N	%
Someone has made unwanted remarks about my body.	Never	397	40%	588	65%
	Rarely	240	24%	159	18%
	Occasionally	236	24%	114	13%
	Often	94	10%	34	4%
	Very Often	19	2%	8	<1%
Someone has targeted me in or exposed me to environments where there was offensive joking about my gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.	Never	532	54%	629	70%
	Rarely	202	20%	134	15%
	Occasionally	168	17%	93	10%
	Often	67	7%	33	4%
	Very Often	18	2%	13	1%
Someone has made me the target of rumors and/ or gossip.	Never	535	54%	661	73%
	Rarely	225	23%	142	16%
	Occasionally	147	15%	60	7%
	Often	45	5%	22	2%
	Very Often	32	3%	17	2%
Someone has nonverbally harassed me (i.e., stared at me, gestured to/ at me, followed me, or shunned me.)	Never	410	42%	600	66%
	Rarely	222	23%	125	14%
	Occasionally	194	20%	116	13%
	Often	114	12%	39	4%
	Very Often	46	5%	24	3%
Someone has sexually harassed me online (email, social media, blog postings).	Never	758	77%	789	87%
	Rarely	142	14%	79	9%
	Occasionally	55	6%	23	3%
	Often	19	2%	8	<1%
	Very Often	13	1%	4	<1%

Table 7

Respondents who answered that they experienced unwanted behaviors "Very Often", "Often", "Occasionally", or "Rarely", were asked: Who was responsible for the unwanted behaviors you experienced? (Check all that apply.)

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
DU undergraduate student	637	92%	130	32%
DU graduate student	36	5%	208	51%
DU faculty member	21	3%	52	13%
DU staff member	15	2%	40	10%
DU alumnus/ a	10	1%	9	2%
DU visitor or guest	86	12%	67	16%
Other	61	9%	74	18%

Table 8

Respondents who answered that they experienced unwanted behaviors "Very Often", "Often", "Occasionally", or "Rarely", were asked: Did you know the person/ people responsible for the unwanted behaviors you experienced?

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
I knew the person/ people	281	41%	172	42%
I didn't know the person/ people	280	40%	189	46%
I knew the person/ people, I didn't know the person/ people	132	19%	50	12%

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## Experience of Gender-Based Violence or Unwanted Sexual Behaviors

While respondents in this year's survey indicate that they have experienced gender-based violence and unwanted sexual behaviors less frequently than the previous two year's respondents, many of our students still report that they have experienced some form of gender-based violence or unwanted sexual behavior since coming to DU (responding that it happens either, "rarely," "occasionally," "often," or "very often"). While still present, retaliatory acts in response to seeking help or reporting an unwanted sexual experience are less prominent than reported by last year's respondents.

- 28% reporting that someone has made unwanted physical contact with them (i.e. groping, grabbing, having someone brush up against me, or unwanted touch).<sup>9</sup>
- 13% reporting that someone has sexually harassed them via phone calls and/or text messages.<sup>10</sup>
- 7% reporting that a staff member, faculty member, or someone in an authoritative position over me has hit on or propositioned them.<sup>11</sup>
- 7% reporting that someone has sexually penetrated them when "I did not want them to."<sup>12</sup>
- 10% reporting that someone has spread rumors or gossip about them following an unwanted sexual experience.<sup>13</sup>

A plurality of respondents (49%) indicated that the unwanted behaviors that they experienced occurred during the Fall Quarter of their first year on campus. This is a substantial decrease from 60% of respondents in the 2017 survey. While lower, almost half of respondents still responded that they experienced unwanted behaviors during their first months on-campus.

Student participants who indicate that they have experienced unwanted sexual behavior or gender-based violence report the following data about those responsible for the behavior:

- The large majority of undergraduate respondents (92%)<sup>14</sup> reported that those responsible for gender-based violence and unwanted sexual behaviors were other undergraduate students.
- For graduate respondents, the responsible parties were often identified as other graduate students (41%)<sup>15</sup> or undergraduate students (28%).<sup>16</sup>
- 27% of graduate student respondents reported that the responsible party was a faculty or staff member.<sup>17</sup>
- 6% of undergraduate students reported that the responsible party was a faculty or staff member.<sup>18</sup>
- 23% of respondents reported that the behavior was by someone who was not a member of our community.

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<sup>9</sup> Compared to 33% in the 2017 survey.

<sup>10</sup> Compared to 14% in the 2017 survey.

<sup>11</sup> An increase from 4.5% in the 2017 survey.

<sup>12</sup> An increase from 6.5% in the 2017 survey.

<sup>13</sup> Compared to 11% in the 2017 survey.

<sup>14</sup> Representing 41% of all undergraduate survey participants.

<sup>15</sup> Representing only 6.7% of all graduate survey participants.

<sup>16</sup> Representing only 4.6% of all graduate survey participants.

<sup>17</sup> Representing only 3.3% of all graduate survey participants.

<sup>18</sup> Representing only 2.3% of all undergraduate survey participants.

Table 9

During your time at DU, how often have you experienced the following unwanted behaviors while on campus, in areas adjacent to campus where members of the DU community tend to gather, or at events off-campus involving other members of the DU community?

		N	%
Someone has sexually harassed me via phone calls and/ or text messages.	Never	1,592	87%
	Rarely	149	8%
	Occasionally	58	3%
	Often	15	<1%
	Very Often	11	<1%
A staff member, faculty member, or someone in an authoritative position over me has hit on or propositioned me.	Never	1,700	93%
	Rarely	83	5%
	Occasionally	31	2%
	Often	5	<1%
	Very Often	3	<1%
Someone has made unwanted physical contact with me (i.e., groping, grabbing, having someone intentionally brush against me, or other unwanted touch.)	Never	1,300	72%
	Rarely	252	14%
	Occasionally	172	9%
	Often	70	4%
	Very Often	22	1%
Someone has sexually penetrated me when I did not want them to.	Never	1,685	93%
	Rarely	65	4%
	Occasionally	46	3%
	Often	9	<1%
	Very Often	12	<1%
Someone has spread rumors or gossip about me following an unwanted sexual experience.	Never	1,630	90%
	Rarely	102	6%
	Occasionally	56	3%
	Often	17	<1%
	Very Often	14	<1%

Table 10

Respondents who answered that they experienced unwanted behaviors "Very Often", "Often", "Occasionally", or "Rarely", were asked: Who was responsible for the unwanted behaviors you experienced? (Check all that apply.)

	N	%
DU undergraduate student	450	76%
DU graduate student	76	13%
DU faculty member	44	7%
DU staff member	19	3%
DU alumnus/ a	12	2%
DU visitor or guest	74	12%
Other	65	11%

Table 11

Respondents who answered that they experienced unwanted behaviors "Very Often", "Often", "Occasionally", or "Rarely", were asked: Did you know the person/ people responsible for the unwanted behaviors you experienced?

	N	%
I knew the person/ people	299	49%
I didn't know the person/ people	208	34%
I knew the person/ people, I didn't know the person/ people	98	16%

Table 12

During your time at DU, how often have you experienced the following unwanted behaviors while on campus, in areas adjacent to campus where members of the DU community tend to gather, or at events off-campus involving other members of the DU community?

		Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
		N	%	N	%
Someone has sexually harassed me via phone calls and/ or text messages.	Never	768	81%	819	94%
	Rarely	113	12%	36	4%
	Occasionally	46	5%	12	1%
	Often	14	1%	1	<1%
	Very Often	9	<1%	2	<1%
A staff member, faculty member, or someone in an authoritative position over me has hit on or propositioned me.	Never	875	92%	820	94%
	Rarely	51	5%	32	4%
	Occasionally	17	2%	14	2%
	Often	3	<1%	2	<1%
	Very Often	2	<1%	1	<1%
Someone has made unwanted physical contact with me (i.e., groping, grabbing, having someone intentionally brush against me, or other unwanted touch.)	Never	544	58%	751	87%
	Rarely	179	19%	73	8%
	Occasionally	141	15%	31	4%
	Often	62	7%	8	<1%
	Very Often	20	2%	2	<1%
Someone has sexually penetrated me when I did not want them to.	Never	838	89%	842	97%
	Rarely	46	5%	19	2%
	Occasionally	42	4%	4	<1%
	Often	8	<1%	1	<1%
	Very Often	11	1%	1	<1%
Someone has spread rumors or gossip about me following an unwanted sexual experience.	Never	792	84%	833	96%
	Rarely	81	9%	21	2%
	Occasionally	47	5%	9	1%
	Often	14	1%	3	<1%
	Very Often	12	1%	2	<1%

Table 13

Respondents who answered that they experienced unwanted behaviors "Very Often", "Often", "Occasionally", or "Rarely", were asked: Who was responsible for the unwanted behaviors you experienced? (Check all that apply.)

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
DU undergraduate student	408	92%	42	28%
DU graduate student	15	3%	61	41%
DU faculty member	16	4%	28	19%
DU staff member	7	2%	12	8%
DU alumnus/ a	10	2%	2	1%
DU visitor or guest	45	10%	29	19%
Other	43	10%	22	15%

Table 14

Respondents who answered that they experienced unwanted behaviors "Very Often", "Often", "Occasionally", or "Rarely", were asked: Did you know the person/ people responsible for the unwanted behaviors you experienced?

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
I knew the person/ people	222	49%	77	51%
I didn't know the person/ people	147	32%	61	40%
I knew the person/ people, I didn't know the person/ people	84	19%	14	9%

Table 15

Respondents who answered that they experienced unwanted behaviors "Very Often", "Often", "Occasionally", or "Rarely", were asked: Did any of the unwanted behaviors that you experienced occur during the Fall Quarter of your first year on campus?

	N	%
No	215	35%
Yes	299	49%
I can't remember	99	16%

Table 16

Respondents who answered that they experienced unwanted behaviors "Very Often", "Often", "Occasionally", or "Rarely", were asked: Did any of the unwanted behaviors that you experienced occur during the Fall Quarter of your first year on campus?

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
No	151	33%	64	42%
Yes	238	52%	61	40%
I can't remember	71	15%	28	18%



## Campus Programs Attended

Consistent with last year's data, a majority of our students are not participating in programming and events that focus on preventing gender-based violence.

Table 17

Please indicate which campus programs you have attended or participated in within the past year. (Check all that apply.)

	N	%
I have not attended/ participated in any of these programs	819	47%
"BOSS" Bystander Intervention Training	266	15%
Vagina Monologues	123	7%
Clothesline Project, Anderson Academic Commons	39	2%
Denim Day	330	19%
Theater Delta's "How 'Bout That Party" Orientation Interactive Theater	219	13%
Dive-In Movie	3	<1%
Consent Fair	108	6%
Title IX Training	192	11%
Online Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates Pre-Orientation Module	246	14%
#MeToo, You Too: Let's Take Back the Night	104	6%
Support a Survivor Training	45	3%
HerDU Conference	47	3%
Love, Sex, Health Week	156	9%
DU After Dark event	138	8%
"Intervene: DU" Active Bystander Training	337	20%
Healing the Wounded Heart Art Exhibit, Women's College	14	<1%
Survivor Yoga	7	<1%

## Reasons for not attending

Table 18

Respondents who indicated they did not attend or participate in any of these programs were asked: Can you share why you did not attend or participate in these programs? (Check all that apply.)

	N	%
Scheduling conflict(s)	225	28%
I didn't know about them	576	71%
I believed that these events might be emotionally triggering	36	4%
I had no interest in these topics	127	16%
I didn't feel that I would be welcome at these events	44	5%
Other reason(s) (please specify)	120	15%

Table 19

Please indicate which campus programs you have attended or participated in within the past year. (Check all that apply.)

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
I have not attended/ participated in any of these programs	215	24%	602	74%
"BOSS" Bystander Intervention Training	239	26%	27	3%
Vagina Monologues	93	10%	30	4%
Clothesline Project, Anderson Academic Commons	27	3%	12	1%
Denim Day	236	26%	93	11%
Theater Delta's "How 'Bout That Party" Orientation Interactive Theater	214	24%	5	<1%
Dive-In Movie	2	<1%	1	<1%
Consent Fair	90	10%	18	2%
Title IX Training	76	8%	113	14%
Online Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates Pre-Orientation Module	238	26%	8	<1%
#MeToo, You Too: Let's Take Back the Night	76	8%	28	3%
Support a Survivor Training	33	4%	12	1%
HerDU Conference	17	2%	29	4%
Love, Sex, Health Week	136	15%	20	2%
DU After Dark event	116	13%	22	3%
"Intervene: DU" Active Bystander Training	315	35%	22	3%
Healing the Wounded Heart Art Exhibit, Women's College	13	1%	1	<1%
Survivor Yoga	3	<1%	4	<1%

Table 20

Respondents who indicated they did not attend or participate in any of these programs were asked: Can you share why you did not attend or participate in these programs? (Check all that apply.)

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
Scheduling conflict(s)	76	36%	149	25%
I didn't know about them	132	62%	443	74%
I believed that these events might be emotionally triggering	17	8%	19	3%
I had no interest in these topics	51	24%	74	12%
I didn't feel that I would be welcome at these events	17	8%	27	5%
Other reason(s) (please specify)	26	12%	94	16%

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## Understanding of DU Policies, Procedures, and Resources

This year's responses represent a decline after the three years of consecutive increases of understanding of DU's policies, procedures, and resources, with a significant increase in students who either "agree" or "strongly agree" with nearly every statement. The only question that saw no significant change in response was regarding the belief that an offender would retaliate against the person making the report.

- 56% report they understand DU's formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault (responding that they either "strongly agree" or "agree").<sup>19</sup>
- 67% report if a friend or they were sexually assaulted, they know where to get help.<sup>20</sup>
- 54% report believing that DU takes reports of sexual assault seriously.<sup>21</sup>
- 58% report believing that DU would protect the safety and privacy of those reporting sexual assault.<sup>22</sup>
- Only 36% report believing that the alleged offender(s) or their associates will retaliate against the person making the report.<sup>23</sup>
- 57% report believing that DU would treat the person making the report fairly.<sup>24</sup>
- 47% report believing that DU would treat the alleged offender fairly.<sup>25</sup>
- 67% report believing that DU Alerts, and subsequent memos regarding DU Alerts, provide them with information they need to stay safe.<sup>26</sup>

Between undergraduate and graduate student bodies, there is markedly more positive response rates by undergraduate with regards to understanding of DU policies, procedures, and resources.

- 65% of undergraduates report they understand DU's formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault compared to 47% of graduates.
- 75% of undergraduates report if a friend or they were sexually assaulted, they know where to get help compared to 58% of graduates.
- 55% of undergraduates report believing that DU takes reports of sexual assault seriously compared to 53% of graduates.
- 61% of undergraduates report believing that DU would protect the safety and privacy of those reporting sexual assault compared to 55% of graduates.

Students were asked what DU could do to change perception related to whether DU takes reports seriously. The following is a summary of those comments:

- Awareness
- Safe spaces to talk about experiences
- Add security measures (cameras, blue phones, etc.)
- Make available information about the procedure and actions that can be taken
- More communication and marketing related to resources
- Mandatory trainings for student groups
- More prevention efforts

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<sup>19</sup> Increase from 49% in 2016 and 6% decrease from 2017.

<sup>20</sup> 10% decrease from 2017.

<sup>21</sup> Increase from 44% in 2016 and 11% decrease from 2017.

<sup>22</sup> 10% decrease from 2017.

<sup>23</sup> 1% decrease from 2017.

<sup>24</sup> Increase from 46% in 2016 and 8% decrease from 2017.

<sup>25</sup> Increase from 43% in 2016 and 4% decrease from 2017.

<sup>26</sup> Increase from 58% in 2016 and 10% decrease from 2017.

Table 21

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

		N	%
I understand DU's formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault.	Strongly Disagree	99	6%
	Disagree	358	20%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	313	18%
	Agree	672	38%
	Strongly Agree	309	18%
If a friend or I were sexually assaulted, I know where to get help.	Strongly Disagree	73	4%
	Disagree	304	17%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	207	12%
	Agree	772	44%
	Strongly Agree	394	23%
DU takes reports of sexual assault seriously.	Strongly Disagree	83	5%
	Disagree	140	8%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	577	33%
	Agree	564	32%
	Strongly Agree	382	22%
DU would protect the safety and privacy of those making reports of sexual assault.	Strongly Disagree	61	3%
	Disagree	119	7%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	542	31%
	Agree	653	37%
	Strongly Agree	373	21%
The alleged offender(s) or their friends will retaliate against the person making the report.	Strongly Disagree	70	4%
	Disagree	207	12%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	845	48%
	Agree	471	27%
	Strongly Agree	154	9%
DU would treat the person making the report fairly.	Strongly Disagree	32	2%
	Disagree	138	8%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	591	34%
	Agree	693	40%
	Strongly Agree	291	17%
DU would treat the alleged offender fairly.	Strongly Disagree	87	5%
	Disagree	149	9%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	697	40%
	Agree	590	34%
	Strongly Agree	224	13%
DU Alerts, and subsequent memos regarding DU Alerts, provide me with information I need to stay safe.	Strongly Disagree	77	4%
	Disagree	162	9%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	336	19%
	Agree	698	40%
	Strongly Agree	474	27%

Table 22

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

		Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
		N	%	N	%
I understand DU's formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault.	Strongly Disagree	28	3%	71	8%
	Disagree	158	17%	199	24%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	132	15%	179	21%
	Agree	399	44%	272	33%
	Strongly Agree	193	21%	115	14%
If a friend or I were sexually assaulted, I know where to get help.	Strongly Disagree	25	3%	47	6%
	Disagree	111	12%	193	23%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	96	11%	110	13%
	Agree	436	48%	334	40%
	Strongly Agree	241	27%	152	18%
DU takes reports of sexual assault seriously.	Strongly Disagree	62	7%	21	3%
	Disagree	95	10%	45	5%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	250	28%	326	39%
	Agree	292	32%	270	32%
	Strongly Agree	208	23%	172	21%
DU would protect the safety and privacy of those making reports of sexual assault.	Strongly Disagree	43	5%	18	2%
	Disagree	77	8%	42	5%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	227	25%	314	38%
	Agree	357	39%	294	35%
	Strongly Agree	204	22%	167	20%
The alleged offender(s) or their friends will retaliate against the person making the report.	Strongly Disagree	30	3%	38	5%
	Disagree	116	13%	91	11%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	397	44%	445	53%
	Agree	269	30%	202	24%
	Strongly Agree	96	11%	58	7%
DU would treat the person making the report fairly.	Strongly Disagree	19	2%	13	2%
	Disagree	94	10%	44	5%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	259	29%	330	40%
	Agree	378	42%	313	38%
	Strongly Agree	157	17%	133	16%
DU would treat the alleged offender fairly.	Strongly Disagree	51	6%	35	4%
	Disagree	108	12%	41	5%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	317	35%	378	45%
	Agree	311	34%	278	33%
	Strongly Agree	121	13%	102	12%
DU Alerts, and subsequent memos regarding DU Alerts, provide me with information I need to stay safe.	Strongly Disagree	46	5%	31	4%
	Disagree	81	9%	81	10%
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	169	19%	166	20%
	Agree	361	40%	335	40%
	Strongly Agree	252	28%	220	26%

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## Experience of Retaliation, Assault, or Violence

Retaliation--or fear of retaliation--for receiving help continues to be a substantial obstacle to the University's efforts to address issues of gender-based violence and discrimination. Notwithstanding a slight increase (2%) in the percentage of respondents who have (or know someone who has) experienced sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking, the rate at which they report experiencing/witnessing retaliation was higher. This remains an area that poses a significant challenge to universities across the country and is an area where DU has opportunity for continued improvement.

Survey responses related to experiences of retaliation, assault, or violence found:

- 34% reported that they or someone they knew experienced sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking since enrolling in DU.<sup>27</sup>
- 52% of all undergraduate student participants<sup>28</sup> and 16% of graduate/professional student participants<sup>29</sup> reported that they or someone they know have experienced sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking since enrolling at DU.
- 35% of undergraduate students<sup>30</sup> and 29% of graduate/professional students<sup>31</sup> who agreed that the alleged offender or their friends would retaliate reported that they knew someone who had been retaliated against after making a report, which equates to 12.7% of undergraduate survey participants and 7.6% of graduate participants.

Students who indicated that they or a friend had experienced retaliation for reporting sexual harassment or sexual assault were asked to describe the retaliation experience. The following is a summary of those comments:

- Various forms of social exclusion
- Verbal abuse, stalking, and harassment
- Spreading gossip and rumors
- Name calling and profanity in public settings
- Being called a "liar" on campus
- Physical violence
- Threats to ruin one's reputation on campus
- Harassing and defamatory remarks on social media
- Property damage/vandalism
- Confrontation by others
- Social isolation/ostracization

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<sup>27</sup> This equates to 31% of all survey participants and an increase from 32% from 2017.

<sup>28</sup> Increase from 38% in 2017.

<sup>29</sup> Decrease from 18% in 2017.

<sup>30</sup> Increase from 27% in 2017.

<sup>31</sup> Increase from 18% in 2017.

Table 23

Respondents who answered "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" to "The alleged offenders or their friends will retaliate against the person making the report" were asked: Do you know someone who has experienced verbal, physical, or social retaliation after making a report?

	N	%
No	423	68%
Yes	201	32%

Table 24

Respondents who answered "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" to "The alleged offenders or their friends will retaliate against the person making the report" were asked: Do you know someone who has experienced verbal, physical, or social retaliation after making a report?

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
No	238	65%	185	71%
Yes	126	35%	75	29%

Table 25

Have you or someone you know experienced sexual assault, domestic/ dating violence, or stalking since enrolling at DU?

	N	%
No	1,142	66%
Yes	601	34%

Table 26

Have you or someone you know experienced sexual assault, domestic/ dating violence, or stalking since enrolling at DU?

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
No	438	48%	699	84%
Yes	467	52%	134	16%

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## Campus Resources Utilized

A majority of the students who experienced sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking since enrolling at DU reported that they had utilized campus resources. However, greater number of students reported not going to any campus resources this year than in the past. Of the students who experienced or knew a friend who experienced sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking since enrolling at DU, 43% of students stated they did not seek help for any of the listed resources compared to 19.6% in 2017.

DU's Center for Advocacy, Prevention, and Empowerment (CAPE) was the most frequently utilized resource on campus. 21% of undergraduate students<sup>32</sup> and 19% of graduate/professional students<sup>33</sup> who had experienced forms of gender-based violence reported utilizing CAPE.

Other top resources utilized by impacted students included DU's Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX, HCC Counseling Department, and Campus Safety.

Students who indicated that they did not use campus resources for assistance following harassment or assault were asked why they did not use campus resources. The following is a summary of those comments:

- Fear of retaliation by friends
- Not realizing that the behavior was abuse
- Allowing time to pass to determine whether the problem would persist
- Denial
- Not wanting to share personal details
- Believing that the situation wasn't serious enough to justify seeking help
- Wanting to move on or forget
- Perceptions that DU has a "history of doing nothing"
- Perceptions that the University will retaliate against the reporting party
- Distrust in the institution
- Relying on external resources (e.g. private therapist)
- Belief that resources weren't available or easily accessible
- Unaware of resources
- Perpetrator was not affiliated with DU
- Lack of confidence in the institution to take the concern seriously

Students were asked if there was anything else they would like to share on the topic of sexual harassment or sexual assault on campus. Themes from students' comments included:

- Desire for more programming regarding awareness, prevention and education, and requests to make the existing programming more relatable and attractive
- Information provided during orientations
- Requesting mandatory training for certain student leaders and student organizations
- Increasing attention on the experiences of male victims of gender-based violence
- Concerns about misconduct and culture within social fraternities and sororities
- More safety patrols on the boundaries of campus and non-affiliated persons coming onto campus
- Request to use trigger/content warnings when sending out DU alerts
- Ensuring that the process is fair and equitable
- Transparency from administration

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<sup>32</sup> Increase from 12% in 2017.

<sup>33</sup> Increase from 7% in 2017.



Table 27

Respondents who answered "Yes" to "Have you or someone you know experienced sexual assault, domestic/ dating violence, or stalking since enrolling at DU?" were asked: If you or a friend experienced sexual assault, domestic/ dating violence, or stalking since enrolling at DU, where did you go for help? (Check all that apply.)

	N	%
Neither my friends nor I have experienced any of these acts of violence since enrolling at DU.	24	4%
I (or a friend) have experienced one or more of these acts, but did NOT seek help at any of the resources listed.	249	43%
DU Campus Safety	101	17%
DU Center for Advocacy, Prevention, and Empowerment (CAPE)	119	20%
DU Health and Counseling Center Counselor-On-Call	34	6%
DU Health and Counseling Center counseling department	93	16%
DU Health and Counseling Center medical department	15	3%
University Chaplain	4	<1%
Faculty member	29	5%
Coach	4	<1%
Academic Advisor	11	2%
Fraternity/ Sorority Advisor	17	3%
RA (Resident Advisor)	52	9%
DU Ombuds	0	-
DU Title IX Office (Office of Equal Opportunity)	88	15%
DU Office of Student Conduct	24	4%
DU Center for Multicultural Excellence	7	1%
Student Outreach and Support (Pioneers CARE)	18	3%
The Blue Bench	16	3%
Survivors Organizing for Liberation	1	<1%
Denver Police Department	24	4%
Denver Health SANE Program	7	1%
Porter Hospital SANE Program	3	<1%
SafeHouse Denver	1	<1%
Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center	2	<1%
Fraternity and Sorority Life Sexual Assault Support Liaison	9	2%
Health and Counseling Center Same-Day-Access appointment	17	3%
Other, please describe:	35	6%

Table 28

Respondents who answered "Yes" to "have you or someone you know experienced sexual assault, domestic/ dating violence, or stalking since enrolling at DU?" were asked: If you or a friend experienced sexual assault, domestic/ dating violence, or stalking since enrolling at DU, where did you go for help? (Check all that apply.)

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
Neither my friends nor I have experienced any of these acts of violence since enrolling at DU.	17	4%	7	5%
I (or a friend) have experienced one or more of these acts, but did NOT seek help at any of the resources listed.	197	44%	52	40%
DU Campus Safety	81	18%	20	15%
DU Center for Advocacy, Prevention, and Empowerment (CAPE)	94	21%	25	19%
DU Health and Counseling Center Counselor-On-Call	28	6%	6	5%
DU Health and Counseling Center counseling department	68	15%	25	19%
DU Health and Counseling Center medical department	12	3%	3	2%
University Chaplain	3	<1%	1	<1%
Faculty member	17	4%	12	9%
Coach	2	<1%	2	2%
Academic Advisor	3	<1%	8	6%
Fraternity/ Sorority Advisor	14	3%	3	2%
RA (Resident Advisor)	45	10%	7	5%
DU Ombuds	0	–	0	–
DU Title IX Office (Office of Equal Opportunity)	62	14%	26	20%
DU Office of Student Conduct	20	4%	4	3%
DU Center for Multicultural Excellence	5	1%	2	2%
Student Outreach and Support (Pioneers CARE)	13	3%	5	4%
The Blue Bench	7	2%	9	7%
Survivors Organizing for Liberation	0	–	1	<1%
Denver Police Department	11	2%	13	10%
Denver Health SANE Program	6	1%	1	<1%
Porter Hospital SANE Program	2	<1%	1	<1%
SafeHouse Denver	0	–	1	<1%
Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center	1	<1%	1	<1%
Fraternity and Sorority Life Sexual Assault Support Liaison	9	2%	0	–
Health and Counseling Center Same-Day-Access appointment	15	3%	2	2%
Other, please describe:	25	6%	10	8%

## Demographics

Table 29

What is your student level?

	N	%
Undergraduate	989	52%
Graduate/ Professional	906	48%
Non-degree seeking	5	<1%
No response	1	<1%

Table 30

Respondents who selected "Undergraduate" were asked: What year are you in school?

	N	%
First year	331	33%
Second year	230	23%
Third year	198	20%
Fourth year	212	21%
Fifth year or more	18	2%

Table 31

What is your gender identity?

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
Man	287	29%	251	28%
Woman	673	68%	629	69%
Transgender Man	2	<1%	4	<1%
Transgender Woman	7	<1%	2	<1%
Genderfluid	2	<1%	3	<1%
Genderqueer	3	<1%	7	<1%
Non-binary	9	<1%	2	<1%
Identity not listed, please specify:	5	<1%	6	<1%
No response	1	<1%	2	<1%

Table 32

What is your sexual orientation?

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
Asexual	36	4%	32	4%
Bisexual	112	11%	81	9%
Heterosexual	737	75%	674	74%
Gay	16	2%	27	3%
Lesbian	18	2%	20	2%
Pansexual	29	3%	19	2%
Questioning	27	3%	16	2%
Identity not listed, please specify	11	1%	25	3%
No response	3	<1%	12	1%

Table 33

What is your race/ ethnicity? Please select all that apply.

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
Alaska Native	2	<1%	1	<1%
American Indian	23	2%	17	2%
Asian	108	11%	84	9%
Black or African American	36	4%	53	6%
Hispanic	78	8%	81	9%
Latinx	43	4%	48	5%
Middle Eastern	15	2%	16	2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	13	1%	3	<1%
White	789	80%	681	75%
Identity not listed, please specify:	24	2%	22	2%

Table 34

Do you have a disability and/ or learning difference?

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
Yes	162	16%	125	14%
No	827	84%	781	86%
No response	0	-	0	-

Table 35

Are you a veteran?

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
Yes	8	<1%	37	4%
No	981	99%	869	96%
No response	0	-	0	-

Table 36

Are you an international student?

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
Yes	32	3%	80	9%
No	956	97%	825	91%
No response	1	<1%	1	<1%

Table 37

Are you a transfer student?

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
Yes	86	9%	19	2%
No	903	91%	884	98%
No response	0	-	3	<1%

Table 38

Are you a member of a social fraternity or sorority?

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
Yes	186	19%	31	3%
No	800	81%	875	97%
No response	3	<1%	0	-

Table 39

Are you a DU athlete (i.e. member of collegiate sports and/ or / recipient of athletic financial aid)

	Undergraduate		Graduate/ Professional	
	N	%	N	%
Yes	38	4%	3	<1%
No	949	96%	903	100%
No response	2	<1%	0	-

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## Proposed Action Items

This Campus Perceptions Survey is a great step for helping the University of Denver gain a better understanding of what gender-based violence, harassment, and discrimination looks like on our campus and will help inform what steps we need to take in order to continue to make progress in the prevention and response to gender-based violence and harassment. Given a review of this data, we recommend the following for continuing to make important improvements in our campus climate and community environment:

- A majority of respondents indicated that they did not attend campus programs or events designed to educate on gender-based violence and healthy relationships. Among the reasons for not attending, many students indicated that they did not know about them (71%). The demand for more programming is present based off the commentary in the survey responses. The University of Denver campus partners will collaborate with the Division of Marketing and Communications to seek out a comprehensive marketing campaign to make students aware of these events.
- In the commentary provided by students at the end of the survey, many students expressed that they feel that the University lacks an accessible forum for feedback, suggestions, and policy changes. The Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX will strive to increase transparency and opportunities for feedback and opinion from members of the University community, including the creation of an advisory body within student government, and the creation of an online comment form.
- The data regarding perceptions of sexually harassing behaviors by faculty and staff directed towards students is of concern to the Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX. These perceptions increased from 11%-23% amongst the graduate student body from 2016 to 2018. The Office will seek to increase sexual harassment awareness and education among faculty, staff, and graduate students. The Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX also proposes the formulation of a committee to explore revisions to the University's consensual relationship policy governing romantic relationships between students and employees.
- Both the quantitative data throughout the survey and the commentary shared by students suggests that many of those responsible for unwanted behaviors were guests, visitors, or otherwise unaffiliated. The Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX will work with campus partners to establish a policy related to No Trespass Orders so that our students enjoy a safer environment.
- Both the quantitative and qualitative data on the use of campus resources following an incident suggests that the University needs to invest in elevating the visibility and accessibility of these resources. Furthermore, it appears that students are utilizing CAPE at an increasing rate (increased by 5% from 2017). The Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX recommends that the University invest in growing the capacity, capabilities, and visibility of these resources.