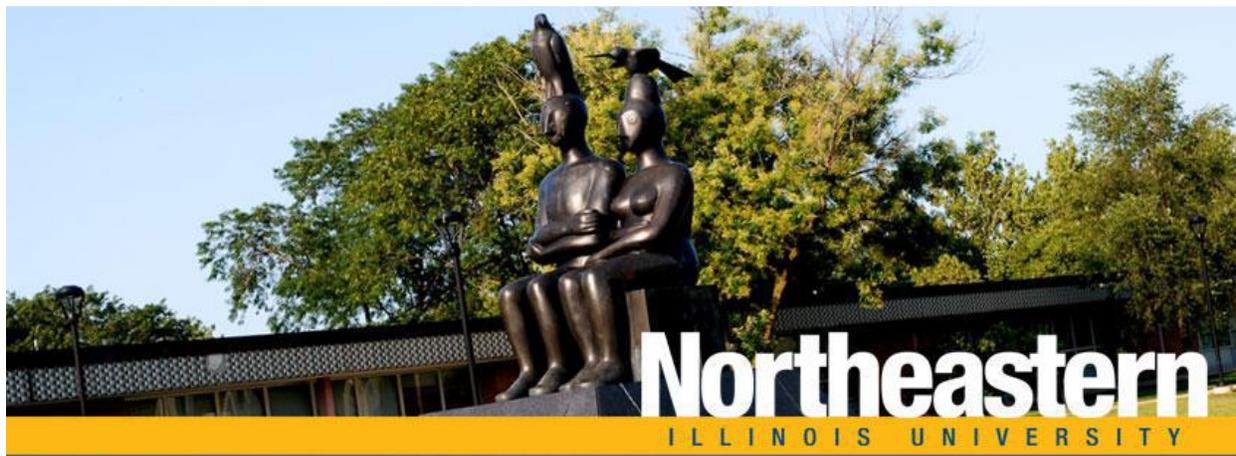


Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act Annual Report



Submitted by Natalie Brouwer Potts, Title IX Coordinator

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Submitted for Main Campus, El Centro, Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies and
University Center of Lake County

Introduction

Providing an environment free from sexual violence is of the highest priority for Northeastern Illinois University (Northeastern). Preventing and remedying sexual violence is a campus wide responsibility, led by the University's Title IX Office. The Title IX Office oversees the implementation and enforcement of the appropriate policy requirements in the University's Sexual Harassment policy, which addresses all forms of sexual violence. This policy provides extensive guidance on Title IX reporting, investigation/hearing procedures, and institutional requirements. In addition, Northeastern is deeply committed to eliminating sexual violence through training and educational programs, described more fully below.

Notably, a federal grant is assisting the University in making substantial efforts to eliminate sexual violence. The University has recently completed the third year of a three-year grant from the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) in the U.S. Department of Justice. The OVW grant supports the institutional development and strengthening of trauma-informed victim services and strategies to prevent, investigate, and respond to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. The OVW grant team regularly develops campus-wide coordinated responses involving campus victim service providers, law enforcement, health providers, housing officials, administrators, student leaders, and representatives from student organizations. In addition, the OVW grant supports improving campus responses to link to local off-campus criminal justice agencies and service providers, including local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, courts, and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocacy and victim services organizations. As a result of the OVW grant, Northeastern has advanced its culturally relevant policies and protocols, developed additional victim services and advocacy programs, and implemented effective prevention approaches. Notably, the OVW grant was renewed in September 2021 for three additional full years.

This Report has been prepared according to the requirements in the Illinois Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act. Because this Report was prepared for a specific purpose, in accordance with the specifications and definitions of the Act, it is possible that information in this Report may not appear to be precisely aligned with similarly reported information. For example, the definition of "Sexual Violence" in ILCS 155/5 is different from the definition of "Sexual Offense" for purposes of the Institution's compliance with the [Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act](#) ("Clery Act"). Like the Clery Act Report, the University has included data from all four locations of its campus: Main Campus; El Centro; Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies; and Lake County.

Main Campus

The Main Campus is located on 67 acres in a quiet, residential community area of North Park, just 10 miles northwest of downtown Chicago. The Main Campus includes the Physical Education Complex, Ronald Williams Library, Bernard Brommel Hall, Lech Walesa Hall and the campus bookstore. The Offices of Enrollment Services, which includes Admissions, Financial Aid, Scholarships and Registration, are housed on the Main Campus.

El Centro

Since 1968, El Centro has been a focal point of access to higher education opportunities for the Latino community. It has a permanent new home in a 55,000-square feet, LEED certified and state-of-the-art building in Chicago's Avondale neighborhood. El Centro offers general education courses leading to bachelor's degrees, and comprehensive academic support for students. It also serves the community through our Community Education Program in partnership with community organizations in the neighborhoods of Albany Park, Hermosa, Logan Square and Avondale. English as a Second Language and computer literacy workshops are offered, as well as seminars on education, immigration, health, and housing.

Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City

The Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) is located in Chicago's historic Bronzeville neighborhood. Established in 1966, CCICS is recognized worldwide as an African-centered institution of higher learning that maintains a scholar-activist tradition and a warm, caring educational climate. The Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Inner City Studies Education prepare students to work as professional in a multiplicity of inner city agencies, institutions, and organizations, both public and private.

University Center at Lake County

Northeastern provides the opportunity for transfer students in the Lake County region to complete their bachelor's or master's degree at the University Center. Current and upcoming degree completion programs include B.S. in Accounting, M.A. in Educational Leadership (principal certification), B.A. in Human Resource Development, B.A. in Political Science, and B.A. in Psychology. On-Site Advising--Northeastern transfer staff are available to meet with prospective students at the University Center. Northeastern offers various scholarships geared specifically for transfer students.

It is important to note that reports of sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, and domestic violence at Northeastern usually involve student Complainants. Most Respondents have no connection to the University. In cases where the Respondent is not a student or employee and the incident does not involve a University function or occur on campus, the University does not have jurisdiction to move forward with a Title IX case. In such cases, the Title IX Office provides Complainant with resources, an offer of interim accommodations and help navigating the various on and off campus support options.

PART A

Northeastern Illinois University has attached the University's Sexual Harassment Policy in place during 2020 in accordance with 110 ILCS 155/10 (**Attachment #1**) and the University's Notice of Rights and Options for support resources in compliance with 110 ILCS 155/15 (**Attachment #2**).

PART B

All data reported in Part B pertains to the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. It is important to note that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Northeastern Illinois University switched to remote learning in March 2020 and remained remote through the remainder of 2020. Most employees worked remotely while only necessary staff remained on campus. Nearly no students were on campus during this period. Accordingly, the University transitioned to online programming for safety reasons for most of 2020.

I. Campus Training, Education and Awareness

A. Student Primary Prevention Programming

In accordance with 110 ILCS 155/30(b), Northeastern Illinois University implemented the following programming and trainings with the intent to prevent sexual violence before it occurs by means of changing social norms and other approaches. These trainings all included content on identifying and preventing sexual misconduct and the University Complaint Resolution Process. Details are provided in the description of each program or training.

- **Online Prevention Programming through EverFi/Haven.** Ongoing. EverFi uses a tested population-level approach to educate all students on the issues associated with sexual assault and relationship violence, taking into account their personalized experiences. The Haven course provides key definitions and statistics, reflective and personalized pathing, bystander skill and confidence-building strategies around real-life scenarios, signs of abuse, and situations that can be challenging or confusing regarding consent in their own relationships. In 2020, Northeastern sent Haven's online prevention course to all new students as a mandatory requirement.
- **New Student Orientation.** The traditional new student orientation was repurposed as an online summer orientation. The University's Student Health Services Offices provided a summary of Title IX/sexual violence resources for the incoming students at this orientation.
- **International Student Orientation.** The traditional international student orientation shifted to an online summer orientation. The University's Dean of Students Office provided a summary of Title IX/sexual violence resources for the incoming international students at this orientation.

B. Employee Training

The following identifies the sexual misconduct prevention training and awareness programming provided to University employees, including training to employees who receive complaints of sexual violence, refer or provide services to survivors, and participate in Complaint Resolution Process.

- **Sexual Misconduct Prevention & Responsible Employee Training.** January 8, 2020, February 5, 2020, and March 4, 2019. The University provides in person training to all new employees. Trainings include the responsible employee video from the Clery Center with discussion on reporting requirements and University Complaint Resolution Process. 30 attendees.
- **Bystander Intervention.** February 5, 2020. “Bystander Intervention” interactive presentation provided by the Office of Student Health Services and non-profit organization LifeSpan. 17 attendees.

II. REPORTS

A. Reporting Sexual Violence

All staff and faculty at Northeastern, with limited exceptions described below, are responsible employees (i.e. mandatory reporters) for purposes of reporting sexual violence to the Title IX Office. Responsible employees are required to promptly provide information about sexual violence pertaining to students or employees to the Title IX Office. Exceptions (i.e., safe spaces on campus exempt from mandatory reporting) include only the Confidential Advisor, Student Health Services, Student Counseling Services, and the University Ombuds.

The Title IX Office follows up on sexual violence reports by promptly contacting the person who may have experienced misconduct. The initial outreach is generally made via an email with resources (on and off campus options), an offer to meet with the Title IX Coordinator and a copy of the Sexual Harassment Policy and Notice of Rights and Options (Attachments #1 and #2). Should the Complainant wish to meet, the Title IX Coordinator will discuss options with him, her, or them. Depending on the resolution sought by the Complainant and the policy assessment of the Title IX Coordinator, the matter might proceed to an Informal Resolution (except for sexual assault cases) or a Formal Investigation. The University follows its Complaint Resolution Process in such matters, which includes an investigation and hearing (Attachment #1).

Regardless of whether the Complainant wishes to proceed with the Complaint Resolution Process, the University offers interim protective measures (i.e., accommodations) on a case-by-case basis. These measures are informed by the circumstances and afford due process to both the Complainant and the Respondent (if the Respondent is a University student or employee over whom the University has jurisdiction). In appropriate cases, the Respondent will be entitled to interim accommodations as well. Examples of interim protective measures include, but are not limited, to the following: No Contact Orders; class or work schedule changes; housing changes; academic support or adjustments; transportation arrangements; and safety planning.

Finally, it is important to note that sexual violence reports sometimes do not advance due to the Complainant’s wishes. Individuals who may have experienced sexual violence often ask the Title IX Office to not proceed with an informal or formal process or do not respond to the Title IX Coordinator’s outreach efforts. Best practices regarding sexual violence in higher education support not compelling a Complainant to proceed under such circumstances. The decision to not engage the Title IX Office should generally be respected. However, the Title IX Office must

consider whether there is an increased risk that the alleged perpetrator will commit additional acts of sexual violence and jeopardize members of the campus community. An assessment will be conducted by the Title IX Office regarding whether to proceed with a Formal Investigation in cases where a danger to the University may exist. The Complainant can choose to participate, but will not be forced to do so if an investigation proceeds under these circumstances, which tends to be rare.

B. Reports to Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees

Main Campus¹

- **Sexual Violence:** The University received **0 reports of sexual violence** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at the Main Campus.
- **Stalking:** The University received **0 reports of stalking** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at Main Campus.
- **Domestic Violence:** The University received **0 reports of domestic violence** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at Main Campus.
- **Dating Violence:** The University received **0 reports of dating violence** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at Main Campus.

El Centro

- **Sexual Violence:** The University received **0 reports of sexual violence** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at El Centro.
- **Stalking:** The University received **0 reports of stalking** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at El Centro.
- **Domestic Violence:** The University received **0 reports of domestic violence** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at El Centro.
- **Dating Violence:** The University received **0 reports of dating violence** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at El Centro.

CCICS

- **Sexual Violence:** The University received **0 reports of sexual violence** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at CCICS.
- **Stalking:** The University received **0 reports of stalking** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at CCICS.
- **Domestic Violence:** The University received **0 reports of domestic violence** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at CCICS.
- **Dating Violence:** The University received **0 reports of dating violence** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at CCICS.

¹ The reports below were assessed within Clery Act geography. See [Northeastern's Annual Security Report](#), issued in compliance with the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policies and Campus Crime Statistics Act, 20 U.S.C. (a) and (f).

University Center at Lake County

- **Sexual Violence:** The University received **0 reports of sexual violence** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at University Center of Lake County.
- **Stalking:** The University received **0 reports of stalking** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at University Center of Lake County.
- **Domestic Violence:** The University received **0 reports of domestic violence** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at University Center of Lake County.
- **Dating Violence:** The University received **0 reports of dating violence** to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees at University Center of Lake County.

Unknown Location

The University had **0 reports of sexual violence, stalking, domestic violence, or dating violence** made to a Title IX Coordinator and/or Responsible Employees with an unknown location.

Anonymous Online Reports

The University had **0 anonymous reports of sexual violence, stalking, domestic violence, or dating violence** made via the University's online complaint system. This online system allows for electronically filed anonymous and confidential reports by members of the campus community or third parties or bystanders. See <https://www.neiu.edu/about/university-leadership/executive-team/legal-affairs-and-general-counsel/equal-opportunity-and-ethics/title-ix/title-ix-sexual-misconduct-complaint-form>.

C. Reports to Confidential and Anonymous Resources

The University's confidential and anonymous resources collectively stated that they received **0 reports of sexual violence, 1 report of domestic violence, 2 reports of dating violence, and 2 reports of stalking**. The University's Student Counseling Services, Student Health Services and Confidential Advisor are all confidential and anonymous resources serving students at the Main Campus, El Centro, CCICS and Lake County.

The University's Student Counseling Services reported that students disclosed **0 reports of sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, or dating violence**.

The University's Student Health Services reported that students disclosed **0 reports of sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, or dating violence**.

The University's Confidential Advisor reported that students disclosed **0 reports of sexual violence, 1 report of domestic violence, 2 reports of stalking, and 2 reports of dating violence**.

D. Responses to Reports to the Title IX Coordinator or Responsible Employees

Please note that the Title IX Coordinator informs all persons of their rights and options to report to University Police and that the University Police are often the reporting Responsible Employee, so the opportunity to “report” back to the police is usually moot. The University respects the rights of students and employees to not engage with the Title IX Office or University Police. To be clear, Northeastern does not automatically contact law enforcement when it receives a report of sexual misconduct. The Title IX Office never shares information regarding sexual violence with University Police or other law enforcement without the Complainant’s explicit permission. Instead, the Title IX Office informs Complainants of their right to contact law enforcement and assists in coordinating with police when requested to do so by a Complainant.

Main Campus

The University did not have any reports of **sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, or dating violence.**

El Centro

The University did not have any reports of **sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, or dating violence.**

CCICS

The University did not have any reports of **sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, or dating violence.**

University Center of Lake County

The University did not have any reports of **sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, or dating violence.**

Unknown Location

The University did not have any reports of **sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, or dating violence.**

E. Complaint Resolution Procedure Outcomes

No reports were resolved through the University’s Complaint Resolution Process, described more fully above.

Main Campus

No Complaints were resolved through the Complaint Resolution Process.

El Centro

No Complaints were resolved through the Complaint Resolution Process.

CCICS

No Complaints were resolved through the Complaint Resolution Process.

University Center at Lake County

No Complaints were resolved through the Complaint Resolution Process.

Conclusion

Northeastern Illinois University does not tolerate sexual violence, including but not limited to, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence, or domestic violence. The University regularly offers educational programs and resources designed to promote the awareness and prevention of sexual violence. Ensuring that the University's locations are safe and secure is a campus-wide obligation, led by the Title IX Office and supported fully by the University leadership.

For more information, please visit <http://neiu.edu/titleix> or contact the Title IX Coordinator, Natalie Brouwer Potts, (773) 442-5412, n-potts@neiu.edu.