SUPPORT SERVICES

The following support services are available to students who have been victims of sexual misconduct.

MEDICAL TREATMENT
- Accompaniment to the hospital by an on-duty Student Affairs Professional.

CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING
- Access to on-campus and off-campus confidential counseling

OFF CAMPUS
The Victim’s Resource Center
71 North Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
(570) 823-0765

Wilkes University is committed to providing a welcoming environment for all members of our community and to ensuring that all educational and employment decisions are based on individuals’ abilities and qualifications.

Wilkes University prohibits discrimination in its educational programs, employment, admissions or any activities on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, pregnancy, gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, marital or family status, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state or local laws. Discriminatory conduct including sexual harassment and other sexual misconduct or violence such as rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation and coercion will not be tolerated.

Consistent with this principle, Wilkes University will comply with state and federal laws such as the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act or other applicable state law, Title IX, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Ethnic Intimidation Act of 1982 (P.L. 537-154) and other laws that prohibit discrimination.

Any member of the Wilkes University community has the right to raise concerns or make a complaint regarding discrimination under this policy without fear of retaliation. Inquiries about this policy statement may be addressed to the University’s Title IX coordinator.
ON-CAMPUS

Wilkes University Counseling Services
1st Floor Passan Hall
Phone: 570-408-4730

Accommodations to avoid contact with the alleged assailant
- A “Stay Away Letter” can be issued upon request, which would require the alleged assailant to avoid any contact with the alleged victim.
- A change in academic, transportation or living situations as appropriate.

Protection from retaliation
- Retaliation against a person who files a complaint or participates in an investigation is prohibited by University policy, and by state and federal law. Any retaliation should be immediately reported to the Office of Student Affairs:
  
  Gretchen Yeninas
  2nd Floor Passan Hall
  Phone: (570) 408-4107
gretchen.yeninas@wilkes.edu

  Mark Allen
  2nd Floor Passan Hall
  Phone: (570) 408-4103
mark.allen@wilkes.edu

  Philip J. Ruthkosky
  2nd Floor Passan Hall
  Phone: (570) 408-4108
Philip.ruthkosky@wilkes.edu

Access to a Title IX officer
The Title IX officers serve as impartial observers to assist students with any questions or concerns that they may have beginning from the time immediately following the alleged misconduct, through the investigation and to the outcome of hearings and appeals. The contact information of the Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator are as follows:

**TITLE IX COORDINATOR**
Samantha Phillips
Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (570) 408-3842
samantha.phillips@wilkes.edu

**DEPUTY TITLE IX COORDINATOR**
Philip J. Ruthkosky, Ph.D.
Associate Dean Student Affairs
2nd Floor Passan Hall
Phone: (570) 408-4108
Philip.ruthkosky@wilkes.edu

Academic Support Services
Sexual harassment and sexual violence may affect a students’ academic progress. The University can provide ongoing support to students whose academic progress was disrupted.

**University College**
Conygham Hall
Phone: (570) 408-4150

Reporting Options

**Local Police**
- At any time, victims of sexual assault may file a formal complaint with local law enforcement. The University will provide students with assistance in reporting the incident.

**Wilkes University Adjudication Process**
- Students who are victims of sexual assault may file a formal complaint with the Office of Student Affairs. Following an investigation, a hearing will take place before the Administrative Committee on Sexual Misconduct, a representative group trained in the areas of sexual misconduct and adjudication. The hearing will take place within sixty calendar days of the initial report unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the Vice President of Student Affairs.
- The Administrative Committee on Sexual Misconduct has the authority to levy a sanction or sanctions against a student who has violated the sexual misconduct policy. Sanctions levied against a student will vary according to the severity of the action and can include, among other forms of sanction, disciplinary dismissal from the University.

A complete overview of the University’s investigation and hearing process is provided in the online student handbook.

What if a victim decides not to file a formal complaint?
- Information shared with campus and off campus counselors is confidential; however, alleged sexual assault cases brought to the attention of the University through non-confidential sources must be investigated according to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Therefore, the University may be required to take steps to investigate an incident even if a student requests confidentiality. In these situations efforts will be made to honor confidentiality, but cannot be guaranteed.

- When a victim requests confidentiality and/or decides not to move forward with a formal complaint, the University’s ability to respond may be limited.