

Sexual Misconduct Investigation

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a “Complainant” and “Respondent?”

A: “Complainant” is the person who brings forth the accusation.

A: “Respondent” is the person who the accusation is against.

Q: Why are the terms “Complainant” and “Respondent” used instead of “victim” and “accused?”

A: In order to be in line with the UWS Chapter 17 (the laws which UWW uses to investigate) we use the same terms that are written into the code. “Complainant” and “Respondent” are the terms used.

Q: What happens if I want a formal investigation?

A: First, an Investigating Officer is assigned. This is someone who remains as neutral as possible and collects all the information needed. Second, information is gathered by the investigating officer. Third, a determination is made of responsible or not responsible is made.

Q: What kind of information will the Investigating Officer collect and who will they collect it from?

A: Each case is different, but generally they will interview the Complainant and Respondent, collect police reports, pertinent social media, witness information, medical records, and any other documentation related to the incident.

Q: Can I bring an advocate with me while being interviewed?

A: Both the Complainant and Respondent are allowed to bring support or an advocate with them. However, it is a good idea not to bring someone who is a witness as they will need to be interviewed separately.

Q: Who will know a formal investigation was started? Can I stay anonymous?

A: Unfortunately, you will not be able to remain anonymous. The Respondent has a right to know who is bringing accusations against them. However, the only people on campus who will know about the investigation are those either directly involved or need to know for reporting purposes (such as the Title IX Coordinator on campus.)

Q: How long do formal investigations take?

A: We try to make the process as expedient as possible, however there are many factors to consider. Depending on how quickly information can be gathered- including witness availability, the gathering of evidence, etc. will factor in how quickly we can move. We want to make sure that we do a thorough investigation that covers everything in order to make sure everyone’s due process is followed.