

William James College Report

Sexual Misconduct Survey 2025

In compliance with the Commonwealth's *Campus Sexual Assault Law* ([Chapter 337 of the Acts of 2020](#)), which states that both public and private higher education institutions in Massachusetts must conduct a climate survey of students regarding sexual violence every four years, William James College has adopted the survey developed by the Massachusetts' Department of Higher Education (DHE) which has been designed and vetted by researchers and administrators with expertise in gender-based violence according to rigorous research and ethical guidelines.

William James College administered the Sexual Misconduct Survey in February - March 2025. This anonymous survey asked students about (1) the prevalence of sexual misconduct on campus or off campus, (2) students' knowledge of and familiarity with campus practices for reporting and addressing sexual misconduct, and (3) services available to victims of sexual misconduct.

Sexual misconduct

Used to refer to physical contact or non-physical conduct of a sexual nature in the absence of clear, knowing, and voluntary consent, as well as gender-based and/or sexual orientation-based violence, even if not sexual in nature. Examples include: sexual or gender-based harassment, stalking, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, gender-based violence, sexual-orientation-based violence, and violence based on gender identity or expression.

Sexual violence

Used to refer to sexual assault and/or rape collectively.

Results

In Spring 2025, 952 students were asked to participate in the Sexual Misconduct Survey. This group included 948 degree/certificate-seeking students and 4 non-degree seeking students. A total of 462 students responded to the survey, or 49% response rate. Of these, 4% identified as undergraduate students, 68% identified as graduate students, and 28% did not report a degree objective. Approximately 55% of participants identified as women; 13% identified as men; 4% identified as either a transwomen, transman, genderqueer/gender non-conforming or other gender; and 28% did not report their gender.

Prevalence of sexual misconduct on campus

- The majority of students, 90%, reported that they had **not** experienced
 - Coerced sexual activity (e.g., through lies, threats, criticism, threats of physical harm or force)
 - Non-consensual contact (non-penetrative)
 - Non-consensual oral sex
 - Non-consensual penetrative sex
 - Attempted non-consensual contact (e.g., unwanted kissing or sexual touching) or sexual intercourse (i.e., anal or vaginal sex)
- Of those 10% of participants that reported they had experienced coerced sexual activity:
 - 0% reported the incident took place on campus
 - 100% reported the incident took place **off campus**
(Please note: William James College is a commuter campus.)

Students' knowledge of and familiarity with campus practices for reporting and addressing sexual misconduct and services available to victims of sexual misconduct

- Over 91% of participants strongly agreed or agreed that they knew how to do at least one of the following:
 - How to access on campus information, support, and help

- How to access off campus information, support, and help
 - What their reporting options were
 - Where to go to make a report of sexual misconduct
 - Their rights in the reporting process
 - Who to speak to regarding a report of sexual misconduct
- Over 92% of participants believed that if they made a report regarding sexual misconduct that William James College would do at least one of the following:
 - Take the report seriously
 - Protect the privacy of the reporting party
 - Honor the reporting party's request
 - Take steps to protect the safety of reporting party
 - Support the reporting party
 - Make accommodations for the reporting party
 - Take action to address factors that may have led to sexual misconduct
 - Handle the report fairly

Next Steps

William James College (WJC) is dedicated to fostering a caring community. Every student at WJC has a right to an education free from discrimination, and our college is committed to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to fully benefit from the school's programs and activities. Sexual violence, sexual harassment, stalking, and intimate partner violence can interfere with a student's academic performance as well as their emotional and physical well-being. Preventing and remedying sexual misconduct at WJC is essential to ensuring a safe environment in which our students can learn. The data collected from the Sexual Misconduct Survey will help inform our ongoing efforts to educate the community about issues related to sexual misconduct and sexual violence, how these matters are addressed at William James College, and how we can best support those impacted. WJC will continue to implement trainings and workshops for faculty, staff, and students to educate the campus about reporting options, resources, and ways to be prosocial bystanders.

If you have any questions about the survey, please send an email to sexualconductsurvey@williamjames.edu. This William James College specific email account will be regularly monitored, and someone will respond to your questions within one business day.