

Final Assignment Project Proposal

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Version 1.0



Ferris State University
Sexual Aggression Peer Advocates

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1.0 Proposal Abstract.....

Title

Ferris State University Sexual Aggression Peer Advocacy Program

Summary

Ferris State University does not have a peer advocacy programs for victims of sexual violence. This proposal is aimed at adapting the Central Michigan Sexual Aggression Peer Advocacy Program (SAPA) to the Ferris State University campus.

Timeframe

June 2017 - January 2018

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2.0 Introduction

2.1 Background

According to the 2016 Campus Climate Survey, 26.4% of female respondents and 10.4% of male respondents reported that they experienced unwanted sexual behavior during their time at Ferris State University. Despite approximately one in four women and one in ten men at Ferris being sexually assaulted, there were only 26 reports filed from June 2015 to May 2016, according to Kevin Carmody, the Title IX Coordinator. From June 2016 to present, the number of reports have decreased to 17, according to Carmody.

2.2 Proposed Solution

The Title IX Office would like Ferris to adapt the Sexual Aggression Peer Advocacy Program from Central Michigan University. The SAPA program started in 1997, has developed into a resource that provides:

- Trained peer advocates
- 24/7 Confidential Hotline
- 24/7 Online Chat
- Website that provides a “Leave this site immediately” option
- Events
- Medical information
- Legal information

Trained Peer Advocates

The trained peer advocates will be made up of student volunteers who undergo 60 hours of training in confidentiality, empathetic listening, advocacy skills, educational programming, crisis intervention, Title IX and Clery Act, safe zone training, laws and legal resources, campus and criminal processes, safety planning, campus and community resources, extensive training in sexual aggression, trauma, medical resources, bystander mentality, self-care and skill set application.

Peer advocates will work in teams of five to six people, a specific team will be on-call for an entire week and they will rotate within the team who is in charge of answering the hotline or online chat so that one person is always available to answer, with one person always being a back up.



24/7 Confidential Hotline

The confidential hotline will be available at all times during the fall and spring semesters. Peer advocates will work shifts to keep the hotline covered and will offer counsel, advice or assistance to anyone who calls the hotline to seek help or report. All calls will remain confidential and anyone who reports sexual assault does not have to report the incident through the Title IX office or the office of Student Conduct. The hotline will remain free for anyone who calls. During the summer semester, the hotline will be reduced to specific hours depending on advocacy availability.

The hotlines will be mediated through two cell phones that will rotate through teams so that whoever is on-call and whoever is the backup.

24/7 Online Chat

The online chat will be a confidential conversation via the website, discussed below. Victims, bystanders, or anyone seeking information can use the online chat at anytime during the fall and spring semesters. The online chat will be covered by peer advocates taking shifts to work it and they will be able to offer resources, advice and consultation. The online chat will be free and no information expressed to it will be reported to the Title IX office or the office of Student Conduct. All chats will be anonymous, unless the recipient would like to give their name. During the summer semester, the online chat will be reduced to specific hours, depending on advocacy availability.

The online chat will be mediated through two tablets with two hotspots, which will rotate through the teams so that whoever is on-call and whoever is the backup will be in possession of the tablets.

Website

The website created for this program will not only provide an online chat, it will also provide resources and a “Leave this page” button for safety reasons. The website will provide information about the program, other resources and methods to reach help, event information, legal information and medical information. The program can work with Ferris to set up a website, or the program could seek volunteer students who are trained in web design.



Events

Depending on the year, the program would do educational programming and outreach events that could revolve around appropriate seasons including domestic violence and intimate partner violence awareness month in October, stalking awareness month in January, and sexual assault awareness month in April.

Medical Information

The peer advocacy program would provide medical information through partnerships with Spectrum, WISE and Birkam Health Center. This information would entail links on the website, brochures, and advertisements at events.

Legal Information

The legal information that the peer advocacy program would provide includes information about how to report an incident through the Title IX Office, DPS or the police. This would entail links on the website and networking at events.

2.3 Objectives

The 2016 Campus Climate survey and the number of actual reports a year, illustrate that the overwhelming majority of sexual assault incidents go unreported. Therefore, the main objective is to increase the amount of reports on sexual assault to better reflect the number of assaults reported in the climate survey. In order to reach this objective, the following goals have been set:

- The program will provide free and available resources to anyone who seeks them.
- The program will provide a way for victims or bystanders to report anonymously.
- Advocates will help victims with the reporting process, but only if the victim wishes to do so.
- The program and advocates will keep all information confidential.
- The program will host events that create awareness of sexual assault to encourage recognition of the assault.
- The program will allow for bystanders to report sexual assault or receive resources on how to be an active bystander.
- The program will work actively with DPS in order to stop sexual assaults while they are happening.

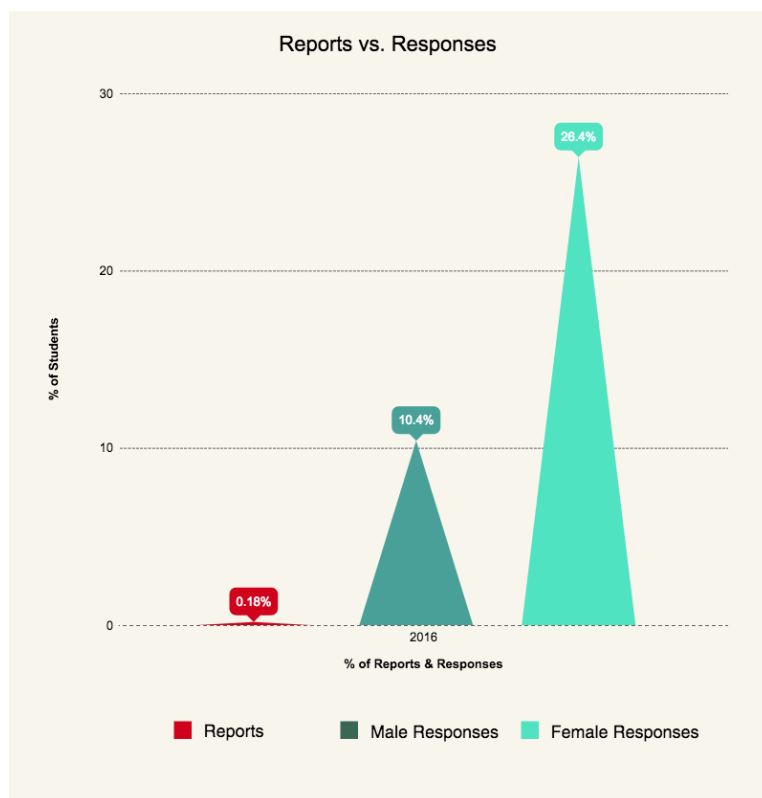


3.0 Methodology

3.1 Approach

The initial spark of this proposal came from a discussion with Kevin Carmody, the Title IX Coordinator at Ferris State University. Through this discussion, Mr. Carmody informed us of the vast difference in the number of reports of sexual assault and the number of survey responses of campus sexual assault. According to Carmody, only 26 reports were filed in the 2015-2016 school year despite the Campus Climate survey reporting that 26.4% of females and 10.4% of males experienced sexual assault on campus. This led us to read the Campus Climate survey from 2016 for exact numbers.

According to usnews.com¹, of the 14,187 students at Ferris, 52% of students are female, while 48% are male. Due to confidentiality, we are not able to record the number of the 26 reports (roughly .18% of the student body) that were made by females versus the number made by males. In order to show the drastic change between the reports and the projected number of assaults in 2016, we have provided a graph.



¹ Information provided by <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/ferris-state-university-2260>.



Mr. Carmody then directed us to Central Michigan University's Sexual Aggression Peer Advocacy Program (SAPA) because he helps conduct their training sessions and thought the program would be helpful here.

We started at the SAPA website for the base information about the program, where we received the contact information for the director, Brooke Oliver-Hempenstall. After an extensive interview with Ms. Oliver-Hempenstall, we were able to learn all the details of the programs functions, which helped us to adapt the program to Ferris.

The Michigan Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence (MCEDSV) was chosen as the provider for volunteer training. Training information was taken from their website at www.mcedsv.org. Further information can be found on their website or by phone at (517) 347-7000.

3.2 Open Questions

How will we get enough volunteers?

How will we keep volunteers?

How will we advertise for this new program?

Who will the advisor be?










How will we get volunteers to take on leadership positions?

What if the advocacy program is not utilized?

Where will we get funding from if the Student Life Office cannot fund us?



3.3 Timeline

	Summer 2017	September	October	November	December	January 2018
Advisor Development						
Recruit Volunteers						
Develop Website						
Install Hotline						
Volunteer Training						
Initial Launch						

Advisor 

 FSU Staff 

 Volunteers 

 All 

Task 1 - Advisor Development (Summer 2017)

Finding a qualified advisor is the first task the program will achieve. Throughout the summer, project funders will be accepting applications and interviewing applicants for the position. The advisor will not receive pay, and therefore, will be taking on the role as a volunteer advisor. By not paying the advisor, Ferris will not be held liable for any mishaps that happen in the program. Qualifications for applicants include being a current employee at Ferris, trained, or willing to be trained, in advocacy programs, with a preferred background in social work.

Task 2 - Recruit Volunteers (September 2017 - November 2017)

Once an advisor is found, the program will start recruiting volunteers who are interested in being peer advocates. Volunteers must be current students at Ferris, with a gpa of 3.0 or higher. Volunteers will also have to fill out an application and be willing to participate in all advocacy training.

Task 3 - Develop Website (November 2017 - December 2017)

The creation of the website will take place starting in November to make sure that it is fully reliable by the initial launch of the program. The website must have a working online chat and a "Leave this page" button, so victims can easily leave the web page if needed.



Task 4 - Install Hotline (December 2017)

The hotline will be installed within the last month before the initial launch to ensure that it works properly and to make sure that no one uses the hotline before volunteers are trained to answer calls.

Task 5 - Volunteer Training (December 2017)

Volunteers will spend 52 hours over two different weekends in December completing their advocacy training. They will also complete the final 8 hours in the spring semester. Weekend dates will be voted on by the group of volunteers in early November, in order to respect busy exam and holiday schedules.

Task 6 - Initial Launch (January 2018)

The initial launch will be the last task to be completed. The launch will start on January 5th, three days before the first day of the spring semester. Starting on January 5th will allow advocates to be available the weekend students move back to school.



4.0 Risk Management

4.1 Risk Management Plan

Risk 1- Not Obtaining Volunteers

The first risk that this program faces is the potential to not obtain a sufficient amount of volunteers. Without the ability to obtain or maintain the amount of volunteers necessary for the program, the volunteers may be strained and unable to carry out their responsibilities correctly. If the program has limited advocates and resources, victims may not feel like the program is trustworthy or reliable.

Risk 2- Confidentiality

A second risk that we run is the breaching of confidentiality. Despite training, it's possible that an advocate can break this confidentiality agreement by sharing a victim's name or the name of someone accused. This is one of the worst risks this program could run because it also makes or breaks the trust victims have of the program.

Risk 3- Lack of Funding

Maintaining funding is another risk that this program runs because, without funding, the program cannot continue and, without sufficient funding, the program will not be able to advertise or host events. Advertisements and events will help to promote use of the program.



5.0 Costs

5.1 Budget

Monthly

Technology Costs	\$330
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Advisor	\$0
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Advocates	\$0
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Website	\$25
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Annually

Advocate Training	\$3000
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5.2 Budget Narrative

Monthly Technology Costs

These items will be purchased through the FSU Purchasing Department. Two phones, two tablets, and two internet hotspots cost \$330/month according to CMU's SAPA director, Brooke Oliver-Hempenstall.

Advisor

An advisor is to be requested from FSU's Social Work program. This will be an unpaid position to ensure that Ferris will not be liable for any accidental mistakes.

Volunteer Advocates

Volunteers are to be requested from FSU's Social Work program, as well as other students at Ferris. These will be unpaid positions.

Training

Costs projected from the cost of training for advocates at CMU.

Website

Wix.com was chosen as the platform to build the advocacy program's website. Their VIP subscription is the highest priced plan offered, however it offer the greatest dependability with the highest level of professional support. This plan is ad free and would provide our program with everything it needs in a website.

Further consultation with FSU IT Services should be sought on this matter.

5.3 Additional Financial Statements

Additional funding may be needed in the future for any advertising, technology updates and promotional events. This can be requested at the appropriate future date.



6.0 Conclusion

If this project is put into place, we expect to find more victims reporting sexual assaults to either the advocates, the Title IX Office, or the police and/or seeking resources. The hope is that victims get the resources necessary, which includes justice. The goal of the organization is to move beyond awareness of the issue and to create a community of advocates, ready to help at any moment. The desire of this program is to address the University's core value of an Ethical Community, "Ferris recognizes the inherent dignity of each member of the University community and treats everyone with respect..."¹

1 Information from <https://www.ferris.edu/htmls/ferrisfaq/mission.htm>

