



2021-2022

**The University of Tulsa Campus Climate Survey**

Executive Summary:  
Graduate/Law Student Campus  
Climate Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY PREPARED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA  
INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA, ADVERSITY, AND INJUSTICE [TITAN] AND  
THE ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

## **Project Structure and Process**

The survey instrument used in the present report was developed based in part on The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault (Not Alone, 2014), and was a collaborative effort between the Advocacy Alliance and TITAN. All current graduate and law (G/L) students at The University of Tulsa (TU) were invited to participate via campus email over a four-week period at the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester and the beginning of the Spring 2022 semester. The emails contained a brief description of the study, the approximate time required to complete the survey, and information about the opportunity to receive a gift card incentive.

## **Description of the Sample**

TU G/L students submitted 224 survey responses between the fall and the spring surveys. The final sample included 154 student responses (13.9% of the total G/L student population). We did not include fall responses for students who also responded in the spring, and we excluded responses that were missing responses to a super-majority of the questions. Table 1 provides a summary of selected demographic characteristics of the survey participants as well as demographic information for the TU student body in spring 2022. The numbers and percentages of demographics for the total G/L student body are presented to ascertain groups that may be underrepresented in the survey.

## **Data Collection During a Pandemic and Possible Ripple Effects**

Data for the 2021-2022 collection cycle could look different than previous years due to a number of reasons: differences in participants willingness to respond, burnout related to COVID-19, fatigue, lack of motivation, and other factors. It may also be possible that more people answered than who would have otherwise because they were observing pandemic safety guidelines and had more time in a private setting to answer the questions.

**Table 1. TU Sample Graduate and Law (G/L) Student Demographics<sup>a</sup>**

Characteristics	Subgroup	Current Sample N (%)	Total G/L Student Body N (%)	Response Rate
Student G/L_Body	Total Student Count	154 (100.0%)	1,104 (100.0%)	13.9%
Age	Total	$M = 25.62$ $(SD = 7.6)$		
First Language	English	133 (86.4%)		
College	Arts and Sciences	34 (22.1%)	114 (10.0%)	29.8%
	Business	24 (15.6%)	235 (21.0%)	10.2%
	Engineering and Natural Sciences	39 (25.3%)	268 (24.0%)	14.6%
	Health Sciences	20 (13.0%)	123 (11.0%)	16.3%
	Law School	37 (24.0%)	364 (33.0%)	10.2%

**Commented [BUL1]:** What's the best way to describe this information (participants reported many different ages)? Just a range? Or is it even necessary to include here?

**Commented [HK2R1]:** I don't know that we include this other than a statement below this table that says that ages vary, give the range, and perhaps the window in which most students fall? Like I'm guessing 24-30?

**Commented [WSK3R1]:** I just ran some demographics and got the mean for the sample which I think is good enough

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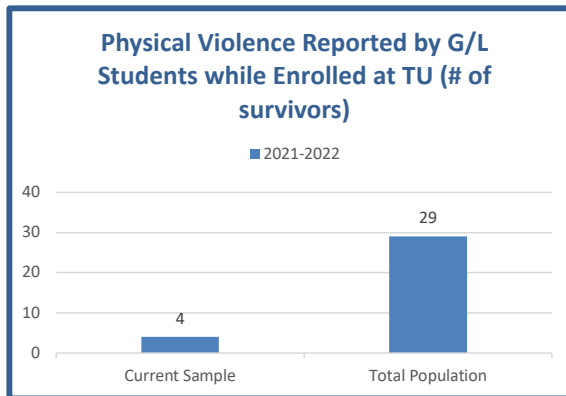
## Key Findings

### Interpersonal Violence

G/L students were asked to respond to several types of interpersonal violence that occurred during their time at TU. It is important to note that the following estimates are based on the 13.9% survey response rate, and often survivors are reluctant to endorse victimization even on anonymous surveys. **Therefore, these estimates are likely an underestimation of the actual rates at the University of Tulsa. Due to the low sample, we will also include a graph depicting what rates likely are if every graduate/law student completed the survey. Thus, the percentages from the results will be applied to the total graduate/law students as an estimate.**

#### Rates of Physical Assault at TU

Physical assault was assessed via 16 items asking about incidents (e.g., biting, hitting with a fist, shoving) occurring within a relationship while a student at TU.



**2.6% of participants reported experiencing a least one incident of physical assault by a partner while enrolled at TU.**

#### Rates of Sexual Violence at TU

Three types of sexual assault were assessed.

- **Forced Sexual Assault:** Sexual contact or behavior that involves force or threat of force.
- **Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault:** Drug facilitated sexual assault occurs when alcohol or drugs are used to compromise an individual's ability to consent to sexual activity.

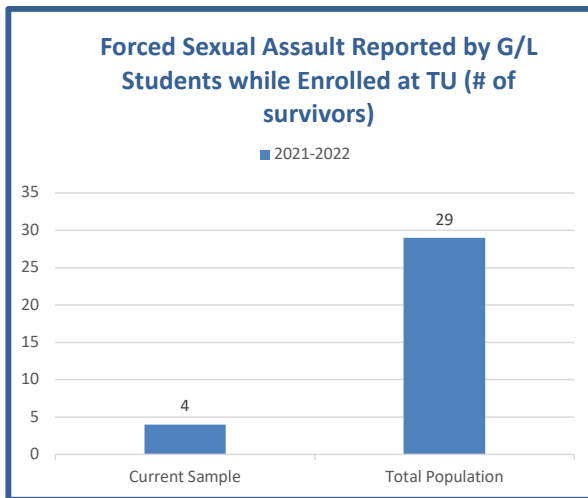
- **Attempted Sexual Assault:** An attempt at sexual contact or behavior that involves force or the threat of force.

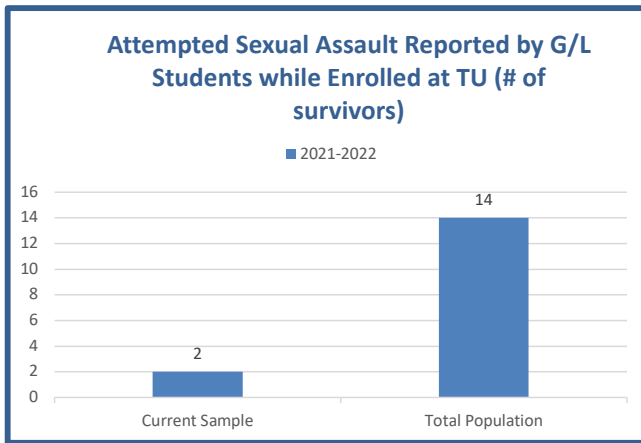
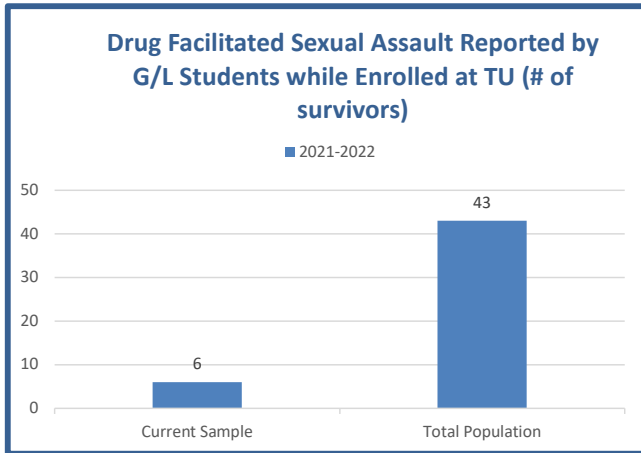
Suspected Sexual Assault was also assessed. Information on suspected sexual assault is included in Table 2, but it is not included in any other analyses of sexual violence.

- **Suspected Sexual Assault:** An event that an individual thinks, but is uncertain, happened

**Table 2.1 2021-2022 Sexual Violence While at TU**

	Any Sexual Assault Experience (FSA, DFSA, ASA)			Forced Sexual Assault (FSA)		Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA)		Attempted Sexual Assault (ASA)		Suspected Sexual Assault	
	N	#*	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total	154	9	5.8	4	2.6	6	3.9	2	1.3	3	1.9





\*Using the current sample, we provide a projection of what the total population statistics would look like with the same percentage applied. It should be noted that sexual violence is often under-reported and, that these projections are much lower than national averages for undergraduate students. Current numbers for these specific populations (graduate and law students) are not tracked as closely as undergraduate statistics but, per a recent study at Rutgers, graduate students still experience these instances at alarming rates.

**Table 2.3 2021-2022 Sexual Violence in the Past 12 Months**

	<i>N</i>	Forced Sexual Assault (FSA)		Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA)		Attempted Sexual Assault (ASA)		Suspected Sexual Assault	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Survivors	9	1	11.1%	2	22.2%	1	11.1%	2	22.2%

**Overall, 5.8% of G/L students reported the experience of forced, drug facilitated, or attempted sexual assault while a student at TU.**

**Context of Sexual Assault– Filtered by having experienced FSA, DFSA, or ASA**

In order to prevent violence from occurring, it is important to understand the characteristics and context of the assault. The following section provides this information as it relates to students who experienced a forced, drug facilitated, or attempted sexual assault during their time at the University of Tulsa. For individuals who reported more than one type of assault, they responded for the most distressing incident.

**Table 4. 2021-2022 Perpetrator Characteristics**

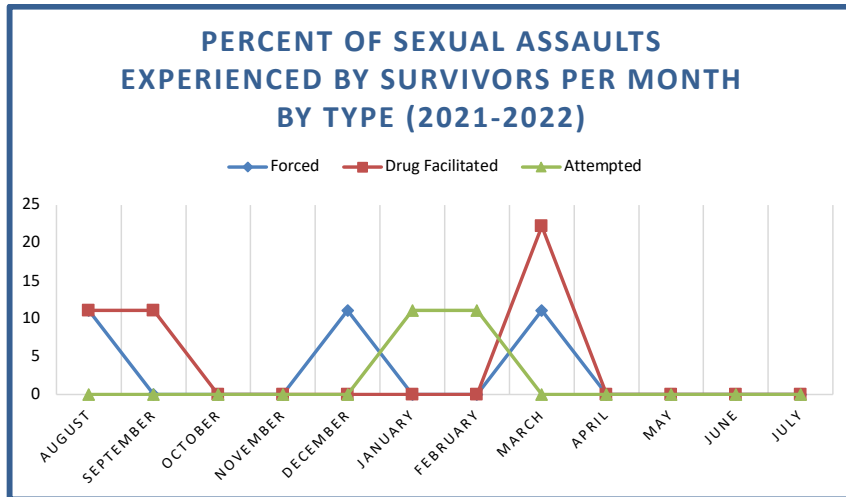
	<i>n</i>	%
<b>Who did the unwanted behavior involve (N = 9)</b>		
Acquaintance	1	11.1
Non-Romantic Friend	1	11.1
Stranger	1	22.2
Romantic Partner	1	11.1
Causal or First Date	2	22.2
Did Not Disclose	2	22.2
<b>Was this person a student at TU (N = 9)</b>		
Yes	4	44.4
No	2	22.2
Unknown	1	11.1
Did Not Disclose	2	22.2
<b>Was this person (N = 9)</b>		
Cohort Member	2	22.2
Did Not Disclose	7	77.8
<b>What was the gender of this individual (N = 9)</b>		
Man	7	77.8
Did Not Disclose	2	22.2

**Table 5. 2021-2022 Timing of Sexual Assault, Percent Experienced by Survivors**

	% FSA	% DFSA	% ASA
Undergraduate at TU	22.2	33.3	11.1
First Year of Grad/Law School	11.1	22.2	0.0
Second Year of Grad/Law School	11.1	0.0	0.0
Third Year of Grad/Law School	0.0	0.0	11.1
Fourth Year of Grad/Law School	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fifth Year of Grad/Law School	0.0	0.0	0.0

**Hook Up – Filtered by having experienced FSA, DFSA, or ASA**

- 22.2% occurred during a hook up





## Stalking

G/L students were asked to respond to stalking experiences that occurred during their time at TU. Stalking was assessed via 9 items asking about various incidents occurring while a student at TU. It is important to note that the following estimates are based on the 13.9% survey response rate, and often survivors are reluctant to endorse victimization even on anonymous surveys. **Therefore, these estimates are likely an underestimation of the actual rates at the University of Tulsa.**

Table 6. 2021-2022 Experiences of Stalking \*Behavior While at TU

	<i>n</i>	%
Watched or followed you from a distance, or spied on you with a listening device, camera, or GPS	16	10.3
Approached you or showed up in places such as your home, workplace, or school when you didn't want them to be there	13	8.3
Left strange or potentially threatening items for you to find	3	1.9
Sneaked into your home or car and did things to scare you by letting you know they had been there	3	1.9
Sent you unwanted electronic messages such as texts, voice messages, emails, or through social media apps	9	5.8
Left you cards, letters, flowers, or presents when they know you didn't want them to	3	1.9
Made rude or mean comments to you online	8	5.2
Spread rumors about you online, whether they were true or not	6	3.9
Any Experience of Stalking	26	16.9
Did you feel frightened or fear bodily harm as a result of these behaviors? (N=26)		
Yes	14	53.9

**16.9% of participants reported experiencing at least one instance of stalking while a student at TU.**

## Sexual Misconduct

G/L students were asked to respond to sexual misconduct experiences that occurred during their time at TU. Sexual misconduct was assessed via 4 items asking about various incidents occurring while a student at TU. It is important to note that the following estimates are based on the 13.9% survey response rate, and often survivors are reluctant to endorse victimization even on anonymous surveys. **Therefore, these estimates are likely an underestimation of the actual rates at the University of Tulsa.**

**Table 6. 2021-2022 Experiences of Sexual Misconduct While at TU**

	<i>n</i>	%
Since you have been a graduate or law student at the University of Tulsa, has someone associated with the University of Tulsa made inappropriate or offensive comments about your body, appears, or sexual activities?	14	9.1
Said crude or gross sexual things to you or tried to get you to talk about sexual matters when you didn't want to?	5	3.2
Emailed, texted, tweeted, phoned, or instant messaged offensive sexual remarks, jokes, stories, pictures, or videos to you that you didn't want?	5	3.2
Continued to ask you to go out, get dinner, have drinks, or have sex even though you said, "No"?	2	1.3
<b>Total*</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12.3</b>

\*Individuals who endorsed multiple types of sexual misconduct experiences were only counted once.

**Table 6. 2021-2022 Perpetrator Characteristics**

	<i>n</i>	%
Graduate Student	4	21.1
Law Student	4	21.1
Undergraduate Student	3	15.8
Faculty Advisor	2	10.5
Unsure	4	21.1

**12.3% of participants reported experiencing at least one instance of sexual misconduct while a student at TU.**

## Safety on Campus

G/L students were asked to indicate perceptions of personal safety at TU, including aspects of campus life that led to feeling unsafe. In total, 11.7% of participants reported experiencing a concern with their personal safety during their time at TU.

**Table 8. 2021-2022 Locations in Which G/L Student Felt Unsafe at TU**

	<i>n</i>	%
<b>In the classroom</b>	1	0.6
<b>On main TU campus</b>	14	9.1
<b>At a university sponsored event</b>	1	0.6
<b>No specific location reported</b>	2	1.3
<b>Total</b>	18	11.7

G/L students were also asked questions about their perceptions of personal safety at TU in an open-ended format; responses were examined for patterns. To ensure confidentiality, no direct quotes are included. The following are themes noted across responses.

### Environment

- Desire for better lighting (walking areas, outskirts of campus, Fraternity/Sorority Row, Parking Lot, Campus Apartment - Norman Village & Brown Apartments, between buildings in general, Fisher South)
- Concerns that blue safety phones are being phased out. Concerns that relying on the Safe Zone app is unreliable (e.g., students not having their phone, phone died, slow processing). *\*It should be noted that the blue phones are not being phased out, and that these phones are infrequently used per reports from IT and Campus Security.*
- Concerns that campus police/security is understaffed, and there is a lack of campus police/security presence early in the morning/late at night. Desire for campus security to walk around campus rather than drive in patrol cars.
- Students in night classes who cannot afford parking passes may feel unsafe walking to/from their car parked off campus. Desire for students to be able to park on-campus in the evenings without a parking pass.
- Concerns that there are not cameras in parking lots or around campus apartments/dorms
  - Students have provided comments about cars getting broken into and bikes being stolen
- Concerns that the areas around campus are unsafe, specifically concerns about crimes in the surrounding area
- Public accessibility of campus; easy for anyone to walk on and off of campus
- Concerns about the neighborhoods surrounding campus

## Culture

- Concerns about accountability for people who commit crimes on campus

## Programmatic and Prevention Efforts

- Desire to keep the blue phones and have the Safe Zone app as an additional resource
- More lighting and cameras to be installed around campus

### *Conclusions and Next Steps for Developing Actions and Initiatives Based on Survey Findings*

The University of Tulsa is poised to become a national leader in the effort to reduce interpersonal violence and improve the health and safety of its students, faculty, and staff. We continue to face challenges in these efforts, however. The following recommendations are made as part of our continued quest to achieve excellence in this most important endeavor.

### *Programming*

*Interpersonal violence remains a significant problem at The University of Tulsa, with 5.8% of survey participants indicating an experience of forced, drug facilitated, or attempted sexual violence.* However, it is important to note that the response rate was only 13.9%. Programming recommendations include enhancing current interpersonal violence programming in the following ways:

- ***Timing of sexual assault. Many of the survivors reported experiencing sexual assault within the first two years of graduate/law school.*** This information highlights the importance of providing graduate and law students with additional sexual violence prevention programming to aide in prevention efforts. Efforts have been made with the Graduate Student Associate for OVP to provide sexual violence prevention programming. This programming should be tailored to include common scenarios experienced by graduate and law students. This programming, like the undergrad programming, would be best implemented in early orientation phases. The respective programs would know where it would be best to input these programs.
- ***Historically gender-based violence incidents occur early in the semester.*** The results from this survey illustrate that sexual violence often occurs in the beginning of the semesters. However, with this sample, there was an increase in drug-facilitated sexual violence in the middle of the spring semester. This provides important information on the need to provide a refresher course drug-facilitated sexual violence related programming prior to this point in the semester.
- ***16.9% of graduate and law students report experiencing stalking.*** The most common stalking behavior experienced by students in the sample was being watched, followed, or spied on. This indicates that more programming is needed for graduate and law students on stalking behavior, what it is, how to recognize early signs, and who the resources are on campus for reporting.

- **12.3% of graduate and law students reporting experiencing at least one type of sexual misconduct.** Although OVP has increased staff and faculty programming, continued outreach remains a priority. Additionally, programming tailored to empowering graduate and law students to report such misconduct is necessary.
- **Additional programs are needed to keep the messaging novel, interesting, and helpful to students.** OVP has increased programming topics that are offered to students (i.e., stalking, healthy relationships, alcohol and consent, consent, dating violence, recognizing red flags, and Safe Zone). Outreach will continue to tailor programming in order to maintain relevance and usefulness for graduate and law students. OVP will also be updating examples within the bystander programming to increase diversity and nuances of gender-based violence that are more relevant to situations graduate and law students experience. It is also important to continue providing the TU community with a varied menu of trainings as the field of interpersonal violence research grows.

### **University Response**

- **Increase communication** from the administration to faculty, staff, and students about safety issues on campus. Further exploration into developing a relationship among departments and organizations like The Collegian, Strategic Marketing and Communication, and Campus Security could help with any perceived issues of transparency.
- **Policy revisions.** The Chief Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator have continued to work with the Program Director to assess our policies and procedures for compliance with Title IX, VAWA, and the Clery Act. The TIX Policy and Procedures and Campus Security Authority Policy have been revised and disseminated via our university wide training library to all employees, and a similar rollout occurred in the Fall of 2022 per new guidance from the federal government.
- **Future efforts** from the University should continue to work to build graduate student confidence in how administrators handle procedures for interpersonal violence cases so that students feel safe making reports and believe that their reports will be handled fairly through increased transparency and student involvement in current efforts. For example, the Title IX programming that we currently utilize answers questions that illuminates the process for students who report and about the process of adjudication. Unfortunately, many students do not attend this programming, the next step is to hold these discussions in places where the student audience is much larger.
- **Continue to improve TU communication with students, faculty, and staff regarding interpersonal violence policies and reporting procedures.** Attention should be focused on ensuring that all students, faculty, and staff are familiar with TU's conduct policies regarding interpersonal violence and where and how to report incidents of interpersonal violence.
  - This effort could be incorporated in orientation activities, in classes through discussions and a standard statement in all syllabi, announcement screens in common areas, by inviting OVP staff into the classroom for discussions and presentations, through mass communication avenues available to students, faculty, and staff, in residence halls and campus housing through active communication and various mediums (e.g., flyers), as part of security emails

related to events on campus, in all departmental offices, and as a part of our ongoing prevention and education efforts.

- ***Provide funding to enhance marketing and incentives for completion of the Graduate and Law Campus Climate Survey.*** The most recent CCS was completed by 13.9% of graduate and law students. A higher response rate would provide more representative and comprehensive data to inform our education and prevention efforts.

### Appendix A – Historical Timeline

- I. **2007** Rewarded the grant to start The University of Tulsa Institute of Trauma, Adversity, and Injustice [TITAN]
- II. **2009** President Obama is the first U.S. President to declare April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- III. **2013** National shift occurred in broader societal understanding of gender-based violence and its effects on survivors
- IV. **2014** Not Alone Campaign was established by Obama Administration, TU Administration purchased Bringing in the Bystander Training Program and disseminated to Advocacy Alliance
- V. **2015** TU and DVIS partnered to write OVW Grant
- VI. **2016** In October the first OVW Grant was awarded - CCRT created, mandatory prevention/education program established, campus law enforcement trained in VAWA crime response, train all campus disciplinary boards members, establish required bystander intervention program, provide confidential victim services
- VII. **2019** In October the second OVW Grant was awarded – Bystander intervention course for all incoming undergraduate students established, online programming for all students established
- VIII. **2020** In January the Violence Prevention Program Director position moved to the University operations budget
- IX. **2020** In July two GA positions funded through grant
- X. **2021** Bystander intervention modules moved into First Year Experience course
- XI. **2021** Implementation of the Graduate and Law Student Campus Climate Survey
- XII. **2022** Third OVW Grant application was submitted – future support of this programming and these resources are contingent on this award

\* The current grant provides funding for travel to required OVW training, the Survivor Advocate, two graduate assistants, and other training opportunities.