



2023-2024

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 Spring 2024 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 87 survey responses. The final sample included 60 student responses (5.6% of the total G/L student population). We excluded participants 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 2024. 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.

Table 1. TU Sample Graduate and Law (G/L) Student Demographics^a

Characteristics	Subgroup	Current Sample N (%)	Total G/L Student Body N (%)	Response Rate %
Student Body	Total Student Count	60 (100.0)	1074 (100.0)	5.6
	Graduate Student	34 (56.7)	751 (70)	4.5
	Law Student	26 (43.3)	323 (29.0)	8.0
	Non-Degree Seeking	N/A (-)	3 (1.0)	N/A
Age	Total	$M = 28.08$ ($SD = 7.1$)	$M = 29.17$	N/A
Gender Identity	Women	37 (61.7)	460(43.0)	8.0
	Men	19 (31.7)	614(43.0)	3.1
	Genderqueer/Nonbinary	3 (5.0)	N/A ^b (-)	N/A
	Transgender	0 (0.0)	N/A ^b (-)	N/A
	Self-Describe	0 (0.0)	N/A (-)	N/A
	Two-spirit	1 (1.7)		
	Decline to Answer	0 (0.0)	N/A (-)	N/A
Ethnicity	Hispanic or Latinx	10 (16.7)	78 (7.3)	13.5
Racial Identity	Caucasian or White	40 (66.7)	554 (52)	7.2
	Asian	9 (15.0)	29 (3)	31.0
	Native American or Alaska Native	3 (5.0)	37(3)	8.1
	African American or Black	3 (5.0)	44 (4)	6.8
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0 (0.0)	3 (0.3)	0.0
	American Arab or Middle Eastern or North African	2 (3.3)	N/A ^b (-)	N/A
	Two or More Races	N/A (-)	52 (5.0)	N/A
	International	N/A (-)	229 (21)	N/A
	Unspecified	N/A (-)	47 (4)	N/A
	Self-Describe	2 (3.3)	N/A (-)	N/A
	Decline to Answer	1 (1.7)	N/A (-)	N/A
First Language	English	54 (90.0)	N/A ^b (-)	N/A
Sexuality	Straight	45 (75.0)	N/A ^b (-)	N/A
	Bisexual	8 (13.3)	N/A ^b (-)	N/A
	Lesbian	1 (1.7)	N/A ^b (-)	N/A
	Gay	0 (0.0)	N/A ^b (-)	N/A
	Questioning	1 (1.7)	N/A ^b (-)	N/A
	Asexual	0 (0.0)	N/A ^b (-)	N/A
	Self-Describe	0 (0.0)	N/A ^b (-)	N/A
	Decline to Answer	1 (1.7)	N/A ^b (-)	N/A

^a Percentages do not equal 100 because participants were asked to check all that apply^b The University does not collect this information.

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 5.6% 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.** Furthermore, LGBTQIA+ interpersonal violence rates are represented in separate graphs due to sample size discrepancy.

Rates of Physical Assault and Sexual Violence 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.

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 1 2023-2024 Sexual Violence While at TU

	<i>N</i>	Physical Assault		Forced Sexual Assault (FSA)		Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA)		Attempted Sexual Assault (ASA)		Suspected Sexual Assault	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Gender											
Women	36	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.7	0	0.0	1	2.7
Men	19	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Transgender	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Gender Queer/ Nonbinary	3	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0
Two Spirit	1	1	100.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	0	0.0
Self-Describe	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Decline to Answer	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	60	1	1.6	1	1.6	2	3.33	2	3.33	1	1.6

Table 2 2023-2024 Sexual Violence Categories Combined

Any Sexual Assault Experience (FSA, DFSA, ASA)			
Gender	<i>N</i>	#	%
Women	36	2	5.6
Men	19	0	0.0
Gender Queer/ Nonbinary	3	2	66.7
Two Spirit	1	1	100.0
Transgender	0	0	0.0
Self-Describe	1	0	0.0
Decline to Answer	0	0	0.0
Total	60	5	8.3

Overall, 8.3% 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 3. 2023-2024 Perpetrator Characteristics

	<i>n</i>	%
Who did the unwanted behavior involve (N = 3)		
Stranger	0	0.0
Family member	0	0.0
Acquaintance	0	0.0
Co-worker	0	0.0
Employer/Supervisor Outside of TU	0	0.0
Employer/Supervisor at TU	1	33.3
TU Staff Member	1	33.3
TU Professor	1	33.3
Non-romantic friend	0	0.0
Current Romantic Partner	1	33.3
Ex-Romantic Partner	0	0.0
Was this person a student at TU (N = 3)		
Yes	1	33.3

	No	1	33.3
Table 4. Timing of Sexual Assault, Percent Experienced by Survivors			
	% FSA	% DFSA	% ASA
Past 12 months	33.3	0.0	0
Undergraduate at TU	0.0	33.3	33.3
First Year of Grad/Law School	33.3	0.0	0.0
Second Year of Grad/Law School	0.0	0.0	0.0
Third Year of Grad/Law School	0.0	0.0	33.3
Fourth Year of Grad/Law School	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fifth+ Year of Grad/Law School	0.0	0.0	0.0

Disclosure

The survey prompted Grad/Law students to indicate if and to whom they told about their sexual assault [participants could check all that applied]:

- 33.3% Did not contact anyone
- 0.0% Roommate
- 33.3% Close friend other than roommate
- 0.0% Parent or guardian
- 0.0% Other family member
- 33.3% Romantic partner
- 0.0% TU Faculty member
- 0.0% TU Residence hall staff
- 0.0% TU Office of violence education and prevention
- 0.0% TU survivor advocate
- 0.0% TU Title IX Coordinator
- 0.0% Counselor or mental health professional at TU
- 0.0% TU Campus Security
- 0.0% Tulsa Police Department
- 0.0% Tulsa Hospital
- 0.0% DVIS
- 33.3% Other

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 5.6% 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 5. 2023-2024 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	4	6.7
Approached you or showed up in places such as your home, workplace, or school when you didn't want them to be there	6	10.0
Left strange or potentially threatening items for you to find	2	3.3
Sneaked into your home or car and did things to scare you by letting you know they had been there	0	0.0
Sent you unwanted electronic messages such as texts, voice messages, emails, or through social media apps	8	13.4
Left you cards, letters, flowers, or presents when they know you didn't want them to	3	5.0
Made rude or mean comments to you online	4	6.7
Spread rumors about you online, whether they were true or not	4	6.7
Any Experience of Stalking*	31	51.7
Did you feel frightened or fear bodily harm as a result of these behaviors?		
Yes	4	6.7

*Individuals who endorsed multiple types of stalking experiences were only counted once.

51.7% 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 5.6% 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. 2023-2024 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, appearances, or sexual activities?	3	5.1
Said crude or gross sexual things to you or tried to get you to talk about sexual matters when you didn't want to?	7	11.7
Emailed, texted, tweeted, phoned, or instant messaged offensive sexual remarks, jokes, stories, pictures, or videos to you that you didn't want?	1	1.7
Continued to ask you to go out, get dinner, have drinks, or have sex even though you said, "No"?	2	3.3
Total*	13	21.8

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

Table 7. 2023-2024 Perpetrator Characteristics

	<i>n</i>	%
Graduate Student	4	6.7
Law Student	3	5.0
Undergraduate Student	3	5.0
Faculty Advisor	0	0.0

21.8% 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, 14.3% of participants reported experiencing a concern with their personal safety during their time at TU.

G/L

Table 8. 2023-2024 Locations in Which G/L Student Felt Unsafe at TU

	<i>n</i>	%
In the classroom	0	0.0
On main TU campus	5	8.3
At assistantship	0	0.0
In student organizations	0	0.0
Not on main campus but TU affiliated	1	1.7
At a clinic, office, or practicum location	0	0.0
At a University sponsored event	0	0
Total	6	10

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

- Concerns that there are not cameras in parking lots or around campus apartments. 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)
- 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.
- Public accessibility of campus; easy for anyone to walk on and off of campus.
- Concerns about people who are not enrolled in the university but who are able to purchase a gym membership.
- Concerns about the TBNBHC clinic not having working lights in the parking lot.
- Concerns about outsiders protesting on campus and making students feel unsafe, and TU securities inability to escort these individuals out of campus.

Programmatic and Prevention Efforts

- Mechanisms to appropriately deal with individuals who are not enrolled at TU.
- 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 8.2% 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 7.7%. Programming recommendations include enhancing current interpersonal violence programming in the following ways:

- ***Timing of sexual assault. The majority of survivors reported experiencing sexual assault during their undergraduate experience.*** This information highlights the necessity of providing education and engaging in prevention efforts at the undergraduate level. The majority of students who were assaulted during their time in graduate/law school experienced the assault within the first year or in their undergrad. This information emphasizes 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 and previous surveys 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.
- ***51.7% of graduate and law students report experiencing stalking.*** The most common stalking behaviors experienced by students in the sample were being approached in unwanted places (e.g., home, workplace, school) and being sent unwanted electronic messages (e.g., texts, voice messages, emails). This indicates that more programming is needed for graduate and law students on stalking behavior, including what it is, how to recognize early signs, and what the campus resources are for reporting.
- ***8.3% of graduate and law students report 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.
- ***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 7.7% of graduate and law students. A higher response rate would provide more representative and comprehensive data to inform our education and prevention efforts.
- ***It is important to note that starting July 2023, The Office of Violence Prevention, along with designated graduate assistants, no longer receive grant funding. In order for prevention and intervention efforts to continue, the University must allocate resources to do so. This would ensure violence prevention programming and efforts do not decrease on campus.***

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** The TU Office of Violence Prevention submitted its third OVW Grant application and was denied funding. After the grant was concluded, TU began funding the Survivor Advocate position.

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