

2021-2022 Academic Year

Sexual & Relationship Misconduct



ΑΕΠ

DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP
for the JEWISH COMMUNITY

aepi.org

SEXUAL AND RELATIONSHIP MISCONDUCT

The term “sexual misconduct” refers to rape, sexual assault, harassment, and sexual abuse. Sexual misconduct is a major issue on college campuses and each student needs to be aware of the issue prior to stepping foot on campus.

This issue can seem complex to navigate but it is each person’s responsibility to ensure that their actions do not make others uncomfortable or prove detrimental to the health of others. References to casual sex and drunken hook-ups are commonplace in pop culture and other mainstream media, but messages about consent during sexual encounters need to come to the forefront of our collective conversation.

The federal government passed legislation to address misconduct issues on campuses in the form of updates to Title IX and the Campus Safety and Security (Clery) Act. The legislation requires colleges and universities to provide education on sexual and relationship misconduct prevention to all incoming students. We recommend that all students take this training course seriously and that they familiarize themselves with the code of conduct for students and Title IX processes on their campus. Ensuring awareness of the rights and responsibilities afforded to the reporting party, accused party, and witnesses is a great proactive step to engage your son in this conversation.

Alpha Epsilon Pi’s risk management policy also outlines strict adherence to federal, state, and local laws surrounding sexual misconduct. Fraternities do not exist to promote or perpetuate “hook-up culture” or any other type of unhealthy relationships.

Sexual conduct is a highly personal and sensitive issue. When approaching a conversation with your son about this topic, it’s important to make him feel comfortable and create a safe space where he can be open and honest.

Below are some tips for starting this conversation:

1. Talk with your son about boundaries as they relate to sex and relationships and help them understand what they are
2. Discuss the definition of consent and the importance of always obtaining clear consent. Many campuses have adopted “affirmative consent,” which are

policies rendering verbal confirmation as the only viable option, while others still allow for non-verbal consent

3. Spend time talking through how to have a conversation about consent, boundaries, and/or use of photos or video with a potential partner
4. Walk through difficult scenarios and have a candid discussion with your son about what they should do if they find themselves in a difficult or threatening situation
5. Talk about the use of social media and mobile dating apps like Tinder, Grinder, etc. Sexual misconduct can take place digitally, making the topic even more difficult for some young people to navigate
6. Educate about the dangers of drug and alcohol use prior to or while engaged in sexual activities and strongly emphasize that those who are under the influence cannot provide consent
7. Make sure your college student understands the resources available both on campus and in the community