OSCA Sexual Offense Policy

What is it?

What can it do for me?
OSCA POLICY

The OSCA Sexual Offense Policy exists in conjunction with Oberlin College’s policy and with State and Federal laws. OSCA’s policy differs from these in several key ways. It outlines the way in which OSCA as an organization will respond to sexualized violence within the OSCA community (which may differ from the way that other institutions respond). It provides for three Sexual Offense Policy Advocates (SOPAs) to ensure adherence to the policy. Finally, OSCA’s Sexual Offense Policy exists to aid in the prevention of sexualized violence and to provide support for persons involved in sexualized violence.

Part 1 - Definitions
OSCA defines a sexual offense as “a behavior which calls attention to sex/gender, sexuality, or sexual identity of persons in a manner that prevents or impairs their full enjoyment of dining and/or living benefits, climate, and activities in OSCA.” The policy also provides more specific definitions of various sexual offenses such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual battery; however anything that falls under this umbrella definition could be a sexual offense.

Part 2 - Policy
- The OSCA Sexual Offense Policy is options based. No member of OSCA is forced to participate, and the survivor is in control of the process through every step.
- SOPAs are forbidden to investigate claims that sexualized violence has taken place, and are forbidden to take punitive measures against accused perpetrators of sexual offense.
- All SOPAs are bound by a duty to report to the College and police any knowledge they receive about an instance of sexualized misconduct, including sexual harassment. Should someone wish to speak to a SOPA, they have the right to leave out any information they do not wish to be reported.
- All records kept by OSCA concerning its sexual offense policy are kept confidential and are not revealed under any circumstances except when mandated by law.

Part 3 - Resources
Three SOPAs are appointed in order to educate and empower the OSCA community about issues of sexualized violence. SOPAs receive training in Ohio state law and College policy that pertains to sexualized violence, as well as in local resources within the College and around the county.

What Can OSCA Do for Me?
- SOPAs can facilitate co-op switches. A co-op switch entails jumping to the top of the housing wait list. Dining co-op switches can happen following the standard schedule (bi-monthly).
- SOPAs can work with the Office of Residential Education and the College system to facilitate other housing options, which may include emergency singles.
- SOPAs may help coordinate free transportation to a mental or physical health facility such as the Lorain County Rape Crisis Center or Allen Medical Center, or anywhere else necessary. As with co-op changes, this service may be provided with no prior notice and with no questions asked.
- SOPAs may hold workshops and trainings to educate the co-op community and encourage dialogue about issues surrounding sexualized violence.

SOPAs adhere to several principles:
• They have a duty to report misdemeanor and felony crimes to the College and police.
• They are not empowered to conduct investigations or to question claims.
• They must keep all information regarding an incident confidential unless this conflicts with their duty to report.
• They exist to empower the co-ops who access them by listening, believing, and providing options.
Duty To Report
All members of the College community (with the exception of the Counseling Center and the Office of Religious & Spiritual Life*) who have knowledge of sexual misconduct must report that incident to the College. Felony crimes such as sexual assault, sexual battery and rape must be reported to the College and the police. This duty includes RAs, HLECs, SOPAs, professors, and even your friends. When the College receives information about a sexual offense, it must begin an investigation, and the survivor may decide to press criminal charges or use the College judicial system against the offender(s).

This does not mean that your decision-making powers will automatically be taken away from you if you do want to talk to a support person. If you keep details such as names and places to yourself, and speak in hypothetical language, you can make sure that the decision making power stays with you. If you have any questions about the duty to report, feel free to contact a SOPA.

* The Counseling Center and Office of Religious & Spiritual Life do not report names or places but do report numerical information used for statistics.

College Policy
Oberlin College also has its own sexual offense policy. Since we are OC students as well as OSCA members, this policy applies to us as well. The College policy includes a judicial system, which can be used to investigate charges of sexual offense and administer punitive measures. This is the primary way in which it differs from our own. To learn more about the College policy, contact your SOPA, the OC Equity Concerns Office, at 440-775-8555, or the OC Dean of

Students, Eric Estes.

Resources & Contact Info

Your SOPAs

On call 24/7 if you encounter any kind of sexual offense or uncomfortable situation, if you have questions, or if you just want to talk.

Katie Leader (Katie.leader@oberlin.edu)
Phone: 650.861.9742
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30 pm
Wilder 202

Sam Paltrow-Krulwich
(spaltrow@oberlin.edu)
Phone: 917.273.9766
Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 pm
Wilder 204

Bella Irvine (airvine@oberlin.edu)
Phone: 919.559.1338
Office Hours: Wednesdays 5-6 pm
Wilder 202

Collective office hours w/Accessibility Coordinators:
Mondays 7-8 pm Wilder 202

Other Resources

The Lorain County Rape Crisis Center
24/7 emergency: 800-888-6161
Non-crisis: 440-204-4398 or 4359
Address: 6140 South Broadway
Lorain, OH 44053
Rape Crisis offers many services including counseling, support groups, legal advocacy and more.

Oberlin College Counseling Center Walk-in hours at 247 West Lorain Street: Mon/Tue 11a-12p; Wed/Thu/Fri 1:30-2:30p Phone: 440-775-8470

Safety and Security
24/7 emergency: 440-775-8911
Non-emergency: 440-775-8444