Supporting Student Survivors of Relationship and Sexual Violence:

UNE Department of Athletics

Responsible Employees

UNE coaches, athletic trainers, volunteer coaches, and UNE Athletics administrative staff are considered Responsible Employees at the University of New England. As such, they are responsible for notifying the Title IX Coordinator when a student discloses to them that they or another UNE student was involved in a Title IX related incident or that such an incident occurred at a UNE event or on UNE controlled property. A Title IX-related incident includes rape, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, stalking, dating/domestic violence, exploitation, sexual harassment, and/or any other gender-based discrimination as defined in the University of New England TITLE IX SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, NON-DISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY (information regarding this policy and related resources may be found at http://www.une.edu/title-ix.)

How might a disclosure sound?

It is rare for a student to come right out and say, “I was sexually assaulted,” or “I’m being abused.” More commonly, students may talk around the issue by describing challenges related to what they have experienced. These may include difficulty making it to class, trouble concentrating or getting work done, stress, or general strain in a relationship. Disclosures are likely to come in the context of a student seeking some kind of help in class, such an extension on an assignment, or during advising sessions or other opportunities to check in with a faculty or staff member one-on-one. For coaches and athletics staff, it might mean changes in a student’s regular behavior, academic struggles, social struggles within the team, or not making it to practice.

Because disclosures often do not sound like what you might expect, and because many of the signs that a student is dealing with trauma can mimic other issues such as depression or anxiety, it is important to have an attitude of openness and curiosity when students describe these kinds of feelings. By creating space for students to talk about what’s going on with them, listening, and asking gentle, non-judgmental questions, you can facilitate a conversation that gets closer to the root of what they’re dealing with and enables you to help them get the support they need.

Responding with empathy

Whenever possible, ensure that students are aware of your status as a responsible employee before they make a disclosure.

“It sounds like what you are about to tell me is really important and I can promise to keep the information as private as possible but depending on what you tell me, I may need to share the information with my supervisor or someone else at UNE.”
If the student is concerned about your obligation to report, refer them to a confidential resource such as UNE Counseling Service 207-602-2549 or an off-campus advocate.

- Respond to the student by listening to their story without judgment, believing them, and reassuring them that what happened was not their fault.
- Refer them to support resources.
- Report what the student has shared with you to the Title IX Coordinator, Angela Shambarger, if necessary. Offer the student the option of reporting the incident together.
- Provide ongoing encouragement and support to the student as you are able. When appropriate, implement academic accommodations to help them be successful.

Information and support resources

FMI on UNE Title IX policies, campus resources or to make a report, contact:
Angela Shambarger, Title IX Coordinator
207-221-4554 or
ashambarger@une.edu

OR

Heather Davis,
Associate Director of Athletics/SWA
NCAA Compliance & Business Operations
Deputy Title IX Coordinator
207-602-2629 or
hdavis@une.edu

or

www.une.edu/title-ix

To refer a student to UNE Counseling Services for confidential support, contact:
207-602-2549, Biddeford
207-221-4550, Portland
866-743-2230

To refer a UNE faculty, staff, or students to an off-campus confidential advocate:

Sexual Assault Response Services: 800-871-7741 or www.sarsonline.org

Or

Caring Unlimited (York County): 800-239-7298 or http://www.caring-unlimited.org/

Or

Family Crisis Services (Cumberland County): 800-537-6066 or www.familycrisis.org