

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

Title IX Office

Arkansas Tech University is committed to fostering a safe and caring environment free from sexual and gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. Whether you are a student or employee, if you have experienced sexual or relationship violence, ATU's first priority is to help you take steps to address your safety, medical needs, and emotional well-being. We encourage you to consider taking the following actions, as applicable, regardless of whether you have made a decision about whether to pursue an ATU or criminal complaint.

CALL 911

Ensure your physical safety by contacting law enforcement.

Local Police Department: 911

ATU Russellville Public Safety: 911 or 479-968-0222

ATU Ozark Public Safety: 911 or 479-508-3359

MEDICAL CARE

Seek medical assistance and treatment.

ATU Health and Wellness Center:

479-968-0329 (students)

Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center: 479-968-6211

Mercy Hospital-Ozark: 479-667-4138

GET SUPPORT

Obtain emotional support from a trained, experienced counselor, such as counseling staff in the Health and Wellness Center. You might find additional support from friends, family, advocates, pastors, mentors, or anyone else you trust.

REPORT TO TITLE IX

Report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator who can help you access resources and provide you with support and information, including options and information on the University's procedures for investigating and addressing sexual misconduct.

PRESERVE EVIDENCE

If you choose to have forensic evidence collected at a hospital, it is important to do so within **96 hours** of an assault, but the sooner you can be examined, the better. Even if you do not want to file charges or report to ATU or police at the time, by having evidence collected, **you keep your options open**. Having evidence collected does not mean you have to want to press charges or even make up your mind about what you want to do. It means that if you decide a few days, weeks, or months later that you want to report the assault to ATU and/or law enforcement, the physical evidence has been preserved. Exams performed in the 96-hour timeframe are **paid for by the state of Arkansas**. *Some general guidelines for evidence collection:*

Seek forensic medical assistance at a local hospital, (sooner is better). In Russellville, Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center is located at 1808 West Main Street. In Ozark, Mercy Hospital is located at 801 West River. **Evidence collection (rape kits) are paid for by the state of Arkansas if obtained within 96 hours of an assault.**

You may want to shower, bathe, brush your teeth, smoke, change your clothes, or clean the area where the assault occurred. Try to avoid these things before having evidence collected if possible, but an evidence collection kit can still be completed if you have already done any or all of these things.

If you have already changed clothes, take what you were wearing at the time of the assault to the hospital in a paper (not plastic) bag.

If you are unsure about the identity of your assailant, write down everything you are able to remember about that person, including a physical description.

Save any forms of communication or documents that might be helpful in an investigation. This may include text messages, emails, messages on social media like Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat, pictures, etc.

REMEMBER

- You have the right to choose which resources you utilize and what information you share.
- Information you choose to provide will be kept private and only shared with those in a position to assist you. The decision to move forward with a complaint is yours, but please understand that we also have a commitment to make sure others in the community are safe.
- Arkansas Tech University prohibits all forms of harassment (sexual misconduct). The full Policy and Procedures as well as reporting information can be found at www.atu.edu/titleix.
- Supportive measures, such as no contact directives, housing/academic accommodations, etc., are available through the Title IX Office **whether a formal complaint has been filed or not.**

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

RESOURCES

Title IX Office

ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES

Amy Pennington AVP/Dean of Students & Title IX Coordinator
[Focus-Gender discrimination, including sexual misconduct]
(479) 968-0407 | apennington@atu.edu

Stacy Galbo Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Investigator
[Focus-Gender discrimination, including sexual misconduct]
(479) 968-0239 | sgalbo2@atu.edu

Mitzi Reano Deputy Title IX Coordinator
[Focus-All types of protected class discrimination]
Ozark Campus
(479) 667-2117 | mreano@atu.edu

Ashlee Leavell Deputy Title IX Coordinator
[Focus-Discrimination based upon pregnancy]
(479) 968-0302 | sleavell8@atu.edu

Melissa Riffle AA/EEO Officer & Deputy Title IX Coordinator
[Focus-All types of protected class discrimination]
(479) 968-0396 | mriffle@atu.edu

William Titsworth Lead Investigator
(479) 498-6083 | wtitsworth@atu.edu

Health and Wellness Center (Confidential):

(479) 968-0329 | <https://www.atu.edu/hwc/>
Students have access to both counseling and medical services. Licensed counselors and medical professionals in the Health and Wellness Center are considered confidential resources at ATU. While these services are for students, ATU can provide medical and mental health referrals off-campus for employees and students who prefer to see someone off-campus.

Financial Aid Office:

(479) 968-0399 | <https://www.atu.edu/finaid/>
Students who need financial assistance or help navigating their current assistance can get help through the Financial Aid Office.

Fight On Fund:

Financial assistance for students who have experienced an emergency or crisis.
<https://www.atu.edu/fightonfund/>

Department of International Student Services:

(479) 964-0832 | <https://www.atu.edu/imssso/>
ISS offers visa and immigration assistance for ATU students.

Confidential Disclosure:

ATU encourages victims of harassment (sexual misconduct) to talk to someone about what happened so that they can get the support they need. Disclosures made to the counseling staff at the Health and Wellness Center will be held in strict confidence and will not serve as notice to the Title IX Coordinator requiring an initiation of a review of the disclosed conduct. Please note that many ATU employees, except for the counseling staff and medical professionals, serve as Responsible Employees who are required to immediately share all reports of sexual misconduct they receive with the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinators. Publicly-available recordkeeping has no personally identifying information for either the Complainant or Respondent.

OFF-CAMPUS RESOURCES

Emergency Response: 911

Victim Assistance Outreach Program, 5th Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney's Office:

Court accompaniment, assistance filing orders of protection (restraining orders)
(479) 968-8600

Ozark Rape Crisis Center:

Confidential 24-hour crisis intervention, hospital accompaniment, and case management. Offices in Russellville and Clarksville.
(800) 818-1189

River Valley Shelter:

Confidential 24-hour crisis intervention, case management, and emergency shelter located in Russellville.
(479) 968-3110

St. Mary's Regional Medical Center:

(479) 968-6211

Mercy Hospital in Ozark, AR:

(479) 667-4138

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

24 hour hotline: (800) 799-7233
24 hour live chat: www.thehotline.org

National Sexual Assault Hotline:

24 hour hotline: (800) 656-4673
24 hour online chat: www.hotline.rainn.org/online

Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ACASA)

www.acasa.us
24 hour hotline: (800) 656-4673

Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence

www.domesticpeace.com
List of domestic violence shelters throughout the state

Legal Aid of Arkansas:

1-870-338-9834

Office for Civil Rights:

1-800-421-3481 | www.hhs.gov/ocr
To report any education discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability, request information on civil rights compliance programs, procedures for filing discrimination complaints, or access to civil rights regulatory and policy documents.

More information as well as ATU's full Equal Opportunity, Harassment (Sexual Misconduct), and Nondiscrimination Policy and Procedures, including disciplinary procedures for addressing alleged domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other forms of sex discrimination, can be found online at: www.atu.edu/titleix.