

2025 Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate Survey

Merrimack College seeks a campus community that is free from all forms of sexual misconduct, harassment and violent behavior. Our mission is inspired by our Catholic faith and Augustinian values. We believe that all members of our community deserve to be treated with dignity, respect and care.

In Spring 2025, Merrimack College conducted a Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate Survey to comply with the Massachusetts [2021 Campus Sexual Assault Law](#) (the “CSAL”). The survey was designed and administered by Grand River Solutions, a third-party research company, and approved for use by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. The anonymous and confidential survey was administered from April 28 to May 16, 2025. Email invitations and three reminders were sent to all students who were actively enrolled in Spring 2025.

Analysis of the data by Grand River Solutions was completed in late July 2025.

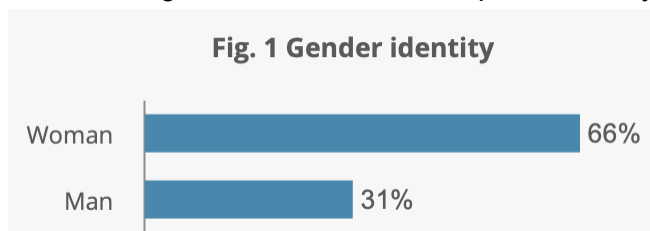
Response and Demographics

A total of 3,919 Merrimack College students were invited to participate, and 346 completed the survey for an overall response rate of nine percent (9%). As such, the response rate for Merrimack’s inaugural survey (9%) was “too low to be confident that the results significantly scale to the entire student population. An ideal response rate for a census survey would be 75-80%.”¹

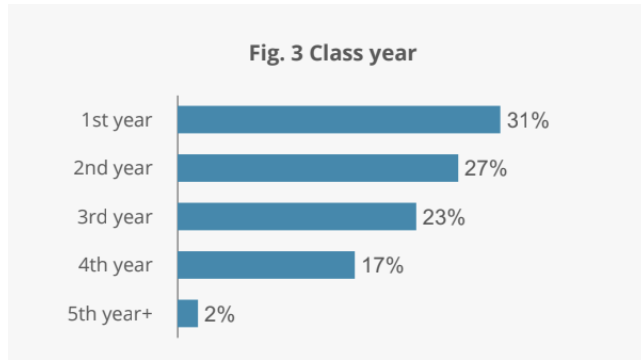
In accordance with the CSAL, the results are being made available even though they are not statistically representative of the Merrimack campus due to the low response rate. However, it is important to note that the results of this report reflect **only** those who participated and may not reflect the experiences of all Merrimack students. Findings in this report should not be used to make conclusions about the entire student population.

Merrimack does not minimize or disregard the experiences of individual survey respondents. The data still provides important information about our students’ experiences with sexual misconduct at Merrimack.

The following tables illustrate the response rate by gender identity and class year.



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KEY FINDINGS

Students' Knowledge of Campus Resources & Policies

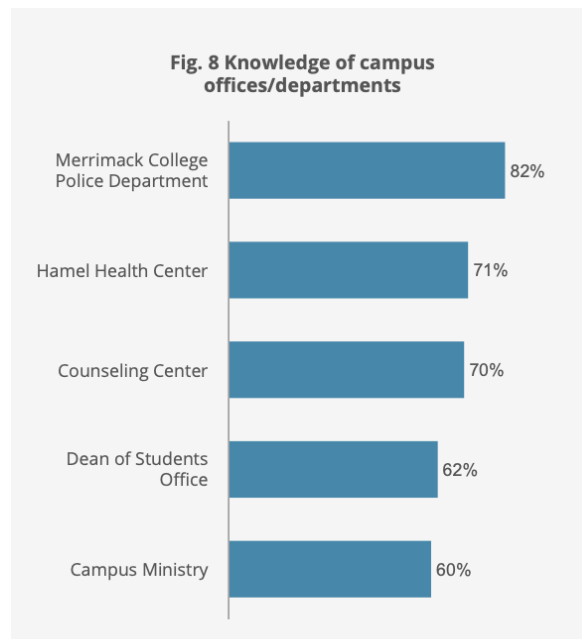
Students were asked about their knowledge of campus resources and policies relevant to sexual misconduct.

Eighty-five percent (85%) of students reported that they were aware that there are confidential resources available on campus and seventy-five percent (75%) knew where at Merrimack College they could get help if someone they know experiences sexual misconduct.

Sixty-seven percent (67%) indicated that they know their Title IX protections. Additionally, sixty-six percent (66%) responded that they have learned about sexual misconduct through classes, trainings, or other programs at Merrimack College.

Students' Knowledge of Campus Offices & Departments

A majority of students reported that they knew about the Merrimack College Police Department, the Hamel Health Center, the Counseling Center, the Dean of Students Office and Campus Ministry.



Students' Knowledge of Sexual Misconduct Prevention

Prevention

Fifty-three percent (53%) of students responded that they have received information on how to intervene as a bystander and on how to help prevent sexual misconduct.

Definitions and Policies

Eight percent (80%) of students responded that they were informed of the definition of consent and how to obtain it from a sexual partner.

Sixty-three (63%) responded that they received information on the definition of sexual misconduct and sixty-one (61%) were informed of the school's policy on sexual misconduct.

Students' Confidence in Reporting and Campus Resources

Participants who did not experience an incident of sexual misconduct while a student at Merrimack College were asked about their confidence in the College's reporting process and campus resources. Sixty-four percent (64%) of students indicated that they would seek counseling or health services, seventy-seven percent (77%) responded that they would go to the Merrimack College Police Department, and sixty-nine percent (69%) would go to another Merrimack employee if sexual misconduct occurred.

Ninety percent (90%) of students believed that their privacy would be respected if they reported an incident of sexual misconduct and eighty-six percent (86%) believed that the College would respect their decision regarding how to proceed.

A majority of students believed that the College would protect their safety (79%), and seventy-six percent (76%) felt that the College would address the factors that may have led to the incident.

Students' Personal Experiences of Sexual Misconduct

The survey asked students about their experiences of nonconsensual sexual contact, sexual harassment, stalking, and intimate partner violence since they have been a student at Merrimack College, but not necessarily taking place while at Merrimack College.

Of all respondents, thirty-eight percent (38%) experienced sexual harassment, twenty-six percent (26%) experienced stalking, fifteen percent (15%) experienced sexual assault, twenty-four percent (24%) experienced intimate partner violence, and four percent (4%) experienced rape.

Reporting of Sexual Misconduct

Students who experienced sexual misconduct but did not report it were asked about reasons they did not contact a campus official about the incident. The most common reason why students did not report the incident was that they did not think the incident was serious enough to report (61%).

Students' Personal Experiences of Sexual Harassment

The survey asked students about their experiences of sexual harassment since they have been a student at Merrimack College, but not necessarily occurring at Merrimack College. Overall, twenty-nine percent (29%) of participants experienced sexual harassment once and nine percent (9%) experienced sexual harassment more than once.

The highest percentage of students reported that someone made unwanted sexual advances, comments, gestures, or jokes toward them (31%) and that they were treated differently or condescendingly because of their gender/sex (22%).

Reporting of Sexual Harassment

Students who experienced sexual harassment were asked if they told someone about the incident. While most students told a friend, roommate, or family member (70%), a majority did not report the incident to the College.

Students' Personal Experiences of Sexual Violence

Among the students who responded, fifteen percent (15%) indicated that they have experienced sexual violence since they have been a student at Merrimack College, but not necessarily occurring at Merrimack College.

Reporting of Sexual Violence

Students who experienced sexual assault and/or rape were asked if they told someone about the incident. While most students told a friend, roommate, or family member (80%), a majority did not report the incident to the College.

Students' Personal Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence

The survey asked students about their experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) since they have been a student at Merrimack College, but not necessarily occurring at Merrimack College. Overall, eleven percent (11%) of participants experienced IPV once and thirteen percent (13%) experienced IPV more than once. The highest percentage of students reported that an intimate partner controlled or attempted to control them (15%) and that an intimate partner called them names, insulted, or humiliated them (13%).

Reporting of Intimate Partner Violence

Students who experienced intimate partner violence were asked if they told someone about the incident. While most students told a friend, roommate, or family member (72%), a majority did not report the incident to the College.

Students' Personal Experiences of Stalking

Students were asked about stalking situations when someone acted in a way that seemed obsessive or made them concerned for their safety since they have been a student at Merrimack College, but not necessarily occurring at Merrimack College. Overall, eleven percent (11%) of participants experienced stalking once and fifteen percent (15%) experienced stalking more than once. The highest percentage of students reported that someone repeatedly called

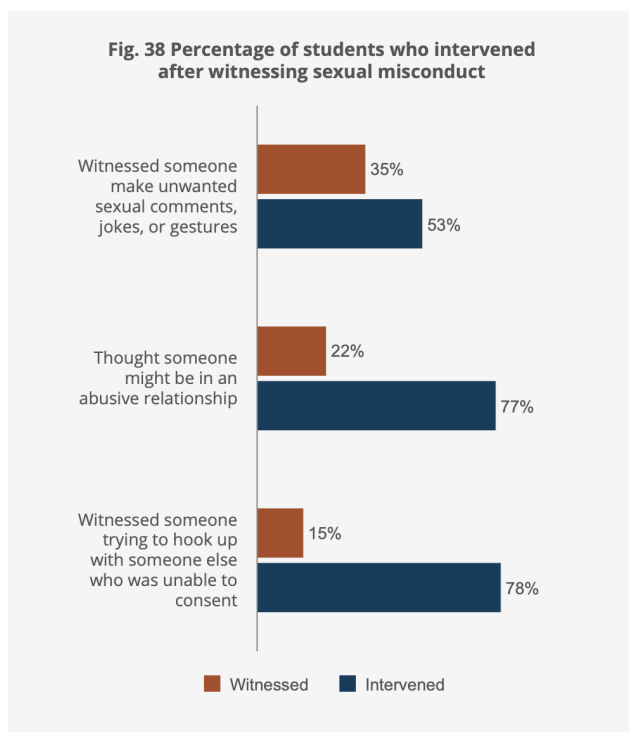
them or sent unwanted messages (15%) and that someone spread rumors or left mean/rude comments online (15%).

Reporting of Stalking

Students who experienced stalking were asked if they told someone about the incident. While most students told a friend, roommate, or family member (83%), a majority did not report the incident to the College.

Bystander Behavior and Intervention

Students were asked if they witnessed certain situations of sexual misconduct since they have been a student at Merrimack and, if so, how they responded to those situations.



Next Steps

Guided by the results of the 2025 survey, Merrimack will continue to administer training and workshops for faculty, staff, and students to combat misconduct, raise awareness of campus services and reporting options, and promote a safe campus culture. The next iteration of the survey will take place before August 2029.