

Sexual Misconduct Data

Vanderbilt University is committed to providing all members of its community with a safe and welcoming environment, which includes protecting members of the University community from sexual misconduct and intimate partner violence. Therefore, the University is publishing data to enhance transparency and inform the campus community of reports and investigations of sexual misconduct and intimate partner violence. The data reflect all reports of sexual misconduct and intimate partner violence made or referred to the Title IX Office¹ involving students as either complainants or respondents under the [Sexual Misconduct and Intimate Partner Violence Policy](#) (“Policy”). A single report may include allegations of multiple policy violations.

Vanderbilt offers [several resources](#) to students impacted by sexual misconduct and intimate partner violence, including the [Project Safe Center](#).

Table 1. Incidents reported by year

YEAR (JULY 1-JUNE 30)	INCIDENT REPORTS ²
2017-18	318
2018-19	377
2019-20	412

The data include reports of all forms of sexual misconduct and intimate partner violence, including:

- Sexual Assault – Intercourse
- Sexual Assault – Contact
- Sexual Harassment
- Sexual Exploitation
- Stalking
- Dating Violence
- Domestic Violence
- Attempts to commit sexual misconduct
- Facilitating, aiding, encouraging, concealing, and/or otherwise assisting a violation of the policy
- Retaliation

The data include reports in which the student complainant or student respondent (or both) were unidentified. These reports may have resulted from an incomplete or anonymous disclosure to a mandatory reporter or from an incomplete, anonymous, or confidential disclosure to the Project Safe Center, which is a limited confidential resource.

¹ In January 2018, the Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Disability Services Office (EAD) was re-organized into the Title IX and Student Discrimination Office and the Equal Employment and Opportunity Office (EEOO). In August 2020, the Title IX Office was established to address all matters involving sexual misconduct at the University.

² Investigations arising from a report in one year may be conducted, in whole or in part, in a subsequent year.

The data do not include reports made to confidential resources, such as the University Counseling Center (UCC), the Student Health Center, or clergy.

The data include reports of both on-campus and off-campus incidents, as well as incidents alleged to have occurred through telephonic or electronic means.

The data include reports of pre-matriculation incidents, such as incidents occurring in high school or occurring at another institution of higher education.

The data do not include reports where an employee who is also a student has reported sexual misconduct or intimate partner violence strictly in their capacity as an employee.

Table 2. Investigations opened and closed by year

YEAR (JULY 1-JUNE 30)	INVESTIGATIONS OPENED	INVESTIGATIONS CLOSED
2017-18	19	18
2018-19	16	11
2019-20	20	10

Investigations may span more than one academic year for several reasons, including the timing of a report in relation to the end of an academic year, the timing of a report in relation to a request for investigation, and the complexity of an investigation. In other words, an investigation listed as “closed” in the table above may have been opened in a previous year. Similarly, some investigations identified in Table 2 as having been “opened” are not included in the “closed” data in this report.

Reports of sexual misconduct and intimate partner violence do not always result in an investigation. Reports may provide insufficient information to pursue an investigation, such as lacking the name(s) of one or more of the persons involved. The Title IX Office may determine, following assessment, that the information provided in the report and through subsequent inquiry does not constitute an allegation of violation of the Sexual Misconduct and Intimate Partner Violence Policy. A complainant also may request that the Title IX Office not pursue an investigation. The Title IX Coordinator gives substantial weight to a complainant’s request not to pursue an investigation, except when there is a risk to the safety of the University community or the University’s commitment to provide a non-discriminatory environment.

Table 3. Aggregated investigation findings

THREE-YEAR AGGREGATED FINDINGS
(2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20)

Responsible for a violation	17
Not responsible for a violation	22

Vanderbilt uses the preponderance of the evidence standard of proof at every stage of the investigative process to determine responsibility for violations of the Sexual Misconduct and Intimate Partner Violence Policy. Proof meets the preponderance standard if the Title IX Office determines it is "more likely than not" that the policy was violated.

For more information, please refer to the [Title IX Office website](#) or contact the Title IX Office by [email](#).