Introduction
College campuses are academic institutions that foster individual growth and intellectual development in safe and supportive environments. Department of Justice statistics demonstrate that college students are safer than people of the same age in different environments. But, despite best efforts and practices, no campus is completely safe and college students do become crime victims.

The University of Tampa is committed to supporting our students and the information below is a basic introduction to campus victim services and responses. Additional information is available on our website, www.ut.edu.

UT Victim Advocacy
The University of Tampa is proud to offer victim advocacy services to any student who has been the victim of a violent crime. The program is staffed with trained advocates who are designated by the Office of the Attorney General to provide victim services and work on campus in student life. An advocate may be contacted during the fall and spring semesters through the victim advocate hotline (813) 257-3900 or by contacting Campus Safety. During summer terms or between academic terms, advocates may be contacted solely through Campus Safety. The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay is also available during the summer terms at 211.

Campus advocates can provide a number of services for students who have been the victim of a violent crime. These include:
• providing information on reporting procedures to both on- and off-campus agencies;
• processing reactions to the crime and listening to feelings and concerns;
• assisting in obtaining no-contact orders or orders of protection;
• addressing specific issues related to personal safety on and off campus;
• attending appointments and/or hearing meetings with the victim; and
• contacting others on behalf of the victim with their permission.

Safety
Personal safety is always a priority but is particularly important after being a victim of a crime. The University offers many options for students who have concerns for their safety, regardless of making any type of formal report.
1. A no-contact order between students may be issued by the Offices of Student Conduct or Residence Life.
2. On-campus housing assignments may be changed or an individual’s access to certain halls may be restricted.
3. A student’s course sections may be changed.
4. The student escort service, the LASER team, is available for escorts in the evening hours around campus.
5. The University provides strategically placed blue light emergency phones.

University staff may also work with victims to gain Injunctions for Protection through Hillsborough County Clerk of Court. Students are encouraged to contact Campus Safety and/or a campus victim advocate to discuss specific safety planning.

Reporting
After being victimized, one of the last things a victim may want to do is report the incident. Reporting can be difficult, tedious and feel like a further violation.

Yet, there are many good reasons to report. Reporting may help in overall recovery, feelings of personal safety, and the ability to regain control over life. No victim is ever required to make a report.

How to Report:
1. Reporting to local law enforcement.
   The Tampa Police Department (813) 231-6130 has jurisdiction for crimes occurring on campus. For crimes occurring outside the Tampa city limits, contact the Hillsborough County Sheriff, (813) 247-8200.
2. Filing a student conduct report if the perpetrator is also a student.
   See the Sexual Misconduct policy in the student conduct code for specific information at www.ut.edu/rightsandresponsibilities. To file a report, contact the Student Conduct Office at (813) 258-7228, via email at conduct@ut.edu, or using the Incident Report Form found at www.ut.edu/studentconduct/.
3. Filing a Title IX complaint.
   If the incident was gender-based, a victim may file a complaint with the director of human resources, Donna Popovich, who also serves as our Title IX Coordinator. The human resources office may be reached at (813) 253-6237 or via email at dpopovich@ut.edu.

All of these options may be used separately or simultaneously. Victim advocates can help a student navigate these processes, provide support and answer questions.
Preserving Evidence Following an Incident of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence or Stalking

It is important to preserve evidence of any offense – it may be necessary proof to obtain a protection order or to prosecute the offender.

1. Sexual Assault
   a. Forensic evidence collection is best done within 72 hours of the assault and best collected immediately following an assault. The state of Florida will collect evidence up to 126 hours following an assault; however, it is important to remember that the more time passes between the sexual assault and collecting the evidence, the less likely it will be to collect physical evidence that may be very important to the prosecution of a criminal case.
   b. To preserve evidence in the case of sexual assault, it is recommended that you do not shower or bathe, wash your hands, use the toilet, douche, eat, drink, smoke, brush your teeth, change clothing, or wash clothing or bedding before a medical exam. Even if you have already taken any of these actions, evidence may still be collected and you are encouraged to have prompt medical care.
   c. If you wish to make a report to the police, or if you wish to have evidence collected so you can make this decision later, you may seek services by calling the Tampa Police Department (813-231-6130) or Campus Safety (813-257-7777) and requesting transportation to the Crisis Center, or contacting the Crisis Center of Hillsborough directly (813-234-1234). The Crisis Center facilitates sexual assault forensic examinations to provide you with evidence that could be used by the City of Tampa.
   d. It is preferred that a police department facilitates the collection of forensic evidence on site. However, if you are not sure if you would like to report to the police or if it has been longer than 126 hours after the assault, you may wish to gather all clothing and bedding that may be used for evidence and place them into a clean paper bag or clean sheet. Items should be stored at room temperature that will not damage evidence. The Victim Advocate program at UT can provide replacement bedding by calling their hotline at (813) 257-3900.

2. Dating or Domestic Violence
   a. In the case of dating violence and domestic violence, the resource you choose to report the crime to (a doctor, the police, an advocate, etc.) may recommend ways to preserve evidence such as logging incidents, photographing injuries, seeking medical care, etc.

3. Stalking
   a. Stalking is demonstrated through a pattern of unwanted contact. Information on how to document stalking can be found here: www.victimsofcrime.org/docs/src/stalking-incident-log_pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=4. In addition to logging unwanted contact, an advocate or police officer may recommend you save and photograph unwanted text messages, emails, letters and gifts and store them in a secure location.

Adapted from: womenscenter.boisestate.edu/support-2/get-help-for-sexual-assault/reporting-sexual-assault/

More General Information

The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay
(813) 234-1234 or 211
www.crisiscenter.com

National Center for Victims of Crime
www.ncvc.org/ncvc/Main.aspx

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network)
www.rainn.org

Stalking Resource Center
www.ncvc.org/src/Main.aspx

National Sexual Violence Resource Center
www.nsvrc.org

Know Your IX
www. know yourix.org

UT Office of Financial Aid
(for student aid issues)
(813) 253-6219

UT International Programs Office
(for assistance with visa issues)
(813) 258-7433

Florida Council Against Sexual Violence
www.fcasv.org

Identity Theft Resource Center
(888) 400-5530
www.idtheftcenter.org

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs,
National Advocacy for Local LGBT Communities
(212) 714-1141
www.avp.org/ncavp.htm [links to local programs]

National Domestic Violence Hotline
(800) 799-7233 or (800) 787-3224 (TTY)
www.thehotline.org

1 is 2 Many
www.whitehouse.gov/1is2many