



HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey: Fall 2024

Introduction:

The Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium (HEDS) is an organization of colleges and universities committed to sharing data, knowledge, and expertise. HEDS offers several educational impact surveys to help institutions assess the quality and impact of their programs.

The HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey asks students about their perceptions of Utica University's climate on unwanted sexual contact and sexual assault, their views of how the University addresses and responds to sexual assault, and whether they have experienced sexual assault.

New York State law requires that institutions conduct a climate survey every other year to assess the extent to which a college or university is complying with legislation related to sexual assault, dating violence, stalking prevention, and institutional response policies and procedures.¹ The HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey includes questions required by this legislation.

The survey was administered in Fall 2024 to undergraduates aged 18 years and older on the main campus as well as the two additional locations in Syracuse and Latham. Given the nature and sensitive content of the survey, no advertising was done urging students to respond, and no incentives were offered to get students to complete the survey. Students received an invitation to complete the survey via their utica.edu email.

A total of 304 undergraduates completed the survey, representing a response rate of 13%.

Reported here are the valid percentages for each survey item. More complete results are available from the Senior Associate Provost.

¹ <https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/article-129-b-guidance.pdf>

Section One: Climate

1. General Climate

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree/ disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Faculty, staff, and administrators respect what students think.	29.0%	55.4%	9.2%	4.6%	1.7%
Faculty, staff, and administrators are genuinely concerned about students' welfare.	30.1%	50.7%	14.6%	3.0%	1.7%
Faculty, staff, and administrators on this campus treat students fairly.	24.1%	51.8%	14.5%	7.6%	2.0%
Students are genuinely concerned about the welfare of other students.	22.8%	43.0%	27.8%	4.3%	2.0%
I feel valued in the classroom/learning environment.	24.5%	52.6%	17.9%	3.3%	1.7%
I feel close to people on this campus.	23.2%	39.7%	20.9%	12.9%	3.3%
I feel like I am a part of the Utica University community.	22.1%	39.6%	23.1%	11.2%	4.0%
I feel safe on this campus.	29.8%	48.3%	15.2%	5.3%	1.3%

2. The Extent to Which Different Groups Contribute to General Climate

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree/ disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The faculty contributes to a positive and supportive campus climate at Utica University.	27.8%	52.0%	16.6%	2.6%	1.0%
The staff contributes to a positive and supportive campus climate at Utica University.	29.9%	52.8%	14.3%	2.3%	0.7%
The administration contributes to a positive and supportive campus climate at Utica University.	25.1%	48.2%	20.1%	4.3%	2.3%
The students contribute to a positive and supportive campus climate at Utica University.	21.4%	50.2%	22.4%	5.0%	1.0%

3. The Institution's Response to Difficult or Dangerous Situations

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree/ disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Campus officials do a good job protecting students from harm.	24.2%	48.7%	22.2%	3.3%	1.7%
If a crisis happened here, I am confident campus officials would handle it well.	21.2%	41.1%	26.5%	8.3%	3.0%
Campus officials respond quickly in difficult situations.	18.9%	37.9%	35.5%	4.7%	3.0%
Campus officials handle incidents in a fair and responsible manner.	16.7%	46.0%	32.0%	3.0%	2.3%
There is a good support system at Utica University for students going through difficult times.	22.0%	45.7%	24.0%	5.7%	2.7%

4. Views on Sexual Assault at Utica University

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree/ disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I believe that the number of sexual assaults that occur on campus, off campus at an event or program connected with Utica University, or at a social activity or party near campus is low.	16.2%	35.3%	31.4%	11.9%	5.3%
I do not believe that I or one of my friends is at risk for being sexually assaulted on campus, off campus at an event or program connected with Utica University, or at a social activity or party near campus.	19.8%	37.0%	25.1%	11.2%	6.9%
I believe that students at Utica University would intervene if they witnessed a sexual assault.	21.6%	36.9%	27.6%	10.6%	3.3%

5. Views on What Might Happen If Someone Reports a Sexual Assault

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree/ disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Campus officials would take the report seriously.	34.7%	49.5%	10.9%	3.0%	2.0%
Campus officials would support and protect the person making the report.	31.5%	49.0%	14.6%	4.0%	1.0%
Campus officials would conduct a careful investigation in order to determine what happened.	29.4%	46.9%	18.2%	4.6%	1.0%
Campus officials would take action against the offender(s).	29.2%	43.2%	21.6%	3.3%	2.7%
Students would support the person making the report.	25.5%	46.6%	22.8%	4.4%	0.7%

6. Have you received information or education from Utica University about the following:

	Yes	No	Unsure
What sexual assault is and how to recognize it.	81.6%	8.6%	9.9%
How to report an incident of sexual assault.	68.4%	14.8%	16.8%
Utica University's confidential resources for sexual assault and how to locate them on campus.	68.1%	13.0%	18.9%
The procedures for investigating a sexual assault.	58.1%	21.6%	20.3%
The actions you can take to help prevent sexual assault, such as bystander intervention, clear communication with a potential partner, or some other action.	77.1%	10.1%	12.8%

Section Two: Assessing Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, Unwanted Sexual Contact, and Sexual Assault

7. Since starting at Utica University, have you experienced any of the following on or off campus?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Has a partner ever twisted your arm, thrown something at you that could hurt you, or pushed, grabbed, or slapped you, against your will?	7.0%	89.0%	4.0%
Has a partner ever prevented you from seeing family or friends, held you captive, stalked you, or verbally threatened to hurt you or your family?	6.7%	90.6%	2.7%
Has a partner ever kicked you, slammed you against a wall, beaten you up, punched or kicked you, hit you with something that could hurt you, burned or scalded you, choked you, or used or threatened to use a knife or gun on you on purpose?	5.0%	91.6%	3.3%
Has someone followed you or kept track of your activities in a way that made you feel you were in serious danger?	9.5%	85.8%	4.7%

8. In your day-to-day life at Utica University, how often has the following happened to you?

	Never	Less than once/year	A few times/year	A few times/month	At least once/week	Almost every day
People have sent me unwanted messages asking me to sext.	74.9%	10.9%	8.3%	4.6%	1.0%	0.3%
People have continued to have sexual discussions with me online even after I told them to stop.	82.8%	6.9%	5.9%	4.0%	0.3%	0.0%
People have spread rumors about my sexual behavior online.	86.5%	8.3%	4.0%	1.3%	0.00%	0.0%
People have sent me unwanted messages asking for nude pictures of myself online.	77.4%	9.3%	7.0%	5.3%	1.0%	0.0%
People have shown me unwanted sexual images online.	80.0%	7.3%	7.7%	3.7%	1.3%	0.0%
I have received unwanted sexual SPAM, emails or messages.	80.9%	8.4%	6.4%	3.0%	0.7%	0.7%

9. Since you started at Utica University, how often have you experienced the following forms of sexual contact while on or off campus?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
Unwanted verbal behaviors – such as someone making sexual comments about your body; making unwelcome sexual advances, propositions, or suggestions to you; or telling you sexually offensive jokes or kidding about your sex or gender-specific traits.	71.9%	9.3%	11.3%	5.3%	2.3%
Unwanted nonverbal behaviors – such as someone showing you sexually offensive pictures or objects; leering at you or making lewd gestures towards you; or touching him/herself sexually in front of you.	82.1%	10.0%	6.3%	1.7%	0.0%
Unwanted brief physical contact – such as someone briefly groping you, rubbing sexually against you, pinching you, or engaging in any other brief inappropriate or unwelcome touching of your body.	79.5%	9.8%	8.1%	2.7%	0.0%

Section Three: New York State Required Questions

10. Since starting at Utica University, have you experienced any of the following on or off campus?

	Yes	No	I suspect, but I am not certain
Domestic violence (includes violence committed by: a current or former spouse or intimate partner; a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; or someone who should be protecting the victim according to domestic/family violence laws.)	5.4%	92.2%	2.4%
Dating violence (means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined by considering: the length of the relationship; the type of relationship; and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.)	6.1%	91.2%	2.7%
Stalking (means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to: fear for their safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.)	10.6%	87.0%	2.4%

	Yes	No
Are you aware that Utica University's Title IX Coordinator leads the institution's response to reports of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and other forms of gender-based misconduct?	84.9%	15.1%
Are you aware that Utica University's standards for student conduct require all parties to obtain "affirmative consent" prior to engaging in sexual activity?	90.8%	9.2%
Do you know how to access resources on and off campus if you've experienced domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault (e.g. counseling, health, and academic assistance)?	79.9%	20.1%
Do you know how to report domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault to Utica University and to law enforcement?	79.9%	20.1%
Are you aware that Utica University uses a "preponderance of evidence" standard to adjudicate gender-based misconduct cases, and that this evidentiary standard is different than that used in the criminal justice system?	68.0%	32.0%
Are you aware that a student who reports an incident of sexual misconduct or is accused of sexual misconduct has the right to be accompanied by an advisor of their choice who may assist and advise them throughout the judicial or conduct process, including all meetings and hearings?	76.8%	23.2%
Are you aware that you have the right to a prompt response to any complaint of sexual misconduct and to have the complaint investigated and adjudicated in an impartial, timely, and thorough manner by people who receive annual training on conducting investigations, effects of trauma, impartiality, and rights of the parties involved?	81.7%	18.3%