

Bullying, Harassment and Violence

Most campus violence comes from within the campus community. An estimated 70 percent of violent acts on campus are perpetrated by the victim's fellow students. On-campus violence can take many forms, including rape and sexual assault, fights, muggings, bullying, hazing, harassment, and hate crimes.

Violence can take many forms including:

- **Bullying**
- **Stalking**
- **Harassment**
- **Hazing**

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes things like internet trolling or flaming, name-calling, threats, spreading rumors or threatening to release private information/photos, attacking someone physically or verbally, and purposefully excluding someone from a group.

Stalking is repeated harassing or threatening behavior that continues after a person has been told to stop. Stalking behaviors can include following a person, damaging personal property, repeated phone calls or texts.

Harassment is unwelcome conduct based on a protected class (race, national origin, color, sex, age, disability, religion) that is severe, pervasive, or persistent and creates a hostile environment. Although bullying and harassment sometimes overlap, not all bullying is harassment and not all harassment is bullying. For more information about sexual harassment, see Sexual Misconduct (<https://www.umassd.edu/civil-rights/title-ix-/>).

Hazing is any intentionally created action or situation that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule and/or risks emotional and/or physical harm to members of a group or team for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in an organization. Hazing can happen to new or existing group members. It can involve willful destruction or tampering with public or private property; the forced compromise of moral or religious values; forced consumption of any liquid or solid; placing someone at risk (e.g. abandoning someone and making them find their way); or impairment of physical liberties (such as curfews); or other interference with academic endeavors. Hazing is a crime under Massachusetts law. A person cannot give their consent to be hazed.