Investigation of Sex Offenses in Higher Education

Investigative Process Snapshot

Pre-Investigation:

- Understand authority and limitations of agency;
- Assess model policy to ensure best practice;
- Recognize the key individuals who support your investigation;
- Understand that the institution has a duty under Title IX separate and apart from any law enforcement investigation;

*Understand sexual assault victims on campus have rights afforded to them under the Clery Act; the institution has responsibilities for Timely Warning or Immediate Notification no matter the determination of prosecution.

Investigative Process

- Initial officer response
- Preliminary Investigation
  - Receipt of information and initial response
  - Emergency care
  - Crime scene control
  - BOLO alerts
  - Immediate notification?
  - Crime scene determination
  - Evidence
- Identifying potential witnesses
- Handling of physical evidence obtained from scene

Investigation

- Develop investigative timeline
- Interviewing the victim
- Interviewing witnesses for victim
- Identifying potential witnesses who left the scene or identifying additional witnesses
- Investigating suspect(s)
- Interviewing witnesses of suspect
- Interviewing suspect(s)
- Gathering additional evidence from other locations
- Evaluate evidence collected and laboratory results of tests
- Obtain search and/or arrest warrants
- Complete report, including investigative narrative
- Confer with prosecutor
- Discharge Clery Act & Title IX Responsibilities (if not completed/required up to this point)