

VAWPP *Consent 201* Workshop Information

National and local context - Why this is so important *today*?

The VAWPP *Consent 201* session continues the tradition of providing education to first year students on issues of sexual assault, consent, and the impact of gender roles and socialization. In light of the #MeToo movement and almost daily revelations on social media and in the news of the sexual assault and sexual harassment that exists in various sectors and disciplines, we need to create space for authentic conversation from an informed place. The goal of *Consent 201* is to:

- Enhance participants' ability to think critically about stereotypical gender expectations and how they shape **power dynamics, communication patterns, and sexual/romantic scripts**; and
- Promote a culture of empathy and compassion in the pursuit of reduced rates of gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence.

Colleges and universities across the country are facing continuing and evolving engagement and updates around Title IX compliance. However, our goal remains the same. We believe in the power of peers to help educate students and to help build the skills needed to comprehend and practice the University's definition of consent, and in turn shape norms and environments that are more welcoming and inclusive for the UConn community.

Why first-year students need this presentation in particular

Consent 201 expands on concepts first-year students were introduced to at Orientation. The workshop reinforces the importance of understanding the University's definition of consent and how to operationalize it, all while addressing the role of gender and sexism in the perpetuation of gender-based violence.

A short "what to expect in the lesson" so that you know how to seamlessly weave this session into your course

Consent 201 invites students to think critically about common patterns of communication around requests, negotiation, pressure and coercion. Facilitators will use fun, interactive, non-sexual role-plays to help students explore dynamics within sexual and romantic situations.

There are two versions - one for sections with domestic students and one for sections with International students. Our goals for both of these sessions are to analyze how gender matters in this conversation, analyze how consent plays into our everyday life, review the available resources, and engage with cultural competency.

We will also provide additional prompts and resources to continue the discussion after the workshop.

Changes for this year

We are still determining if the workshops will be delivered synchronously virtually or in-person. Please see *Consent 201 Expectation Differences* for more information about the differences.

We will begin accepting workshop requests in 8/2 through the myVAWPP portal - <https://womenscenter.uconn.edu/programs-services/vawpp/fye-workshop-request/>

Role of the instructor and/or mentor

Review the resource materials in the VAWPP module on HuskyCT.

Sign up for your synchronous, virtual session after 8/2.

For both instructors and mentors we would appreciate feedback as close to the session as possible. If you have positive and/or constructive feedback, please contact Miranda Garcia, our VAWPP Graduate Intern, at mrg15102work@uconn.edu

As a reminder

As of August 14, 2020 the staff of the Women's Centers, the cultural centers, and the Ombuds are exempt from reporting mandates under the revised *Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Related Interpersonal Violence*. Exempt Employees will only report the information shared with them to the University if the student and/or Employee requests that the information be shared (unless someone is in imminent risk of serious harm or a minor).

Elise Delacruz, Assistant/VAWPP Director
University of Connecticut Women's Center
Email: Elise.Delacruz@uconn.edu

