



The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was implemented in 1994 in recognition of the severity of the crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. VAWA was reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and 2013 to strengthen the law.

The Violence Against Women Act provides protection to women against crimes of sexual violence. The act was amended on several occasions and placed new obligations on colleges and institutions to report and conduct educational programs under its Campus Sexual Violence Act (**Campus SaVE Act**), which amended the Clery Act.

The 2013 VAWA Reauthorization added a non-discrimination provision that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex by organizations that receive funding under the Act and allows an exception for "sex segregation or sex-specific programming" when it is deemed to be "necessary to the essential operations of a program".

Ringling College does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities, or in the context of employment. Sexual harassment, including sexual misconduct as defined in the Ringling College *Non-Harassment Policy* and the Ringling College *Sexual Misconduct Policy*, and sexual violence is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. (See Ringling College of Art and Design *Title IX Compliance*).

### Definitions:

**Domestic Violence** – Violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; by a current or former cohabitant with the victim; by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred; or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred.

**Dating Violence** – Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship based on a consideration of the following factors:

- Length of relationship
- Type of relationship
- Frequency of interactions between the persons involved in the relationship

**Stalking** – A course of conduct involving more than one instance of unwanted attention, harassment, physical or verbal contact, or any other course of conduct directed at an

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individual that could be reasonably regarded as likely to alarm or place that individual in fear of physical, emotional or psychological harm or injury. This includes cyber-stalking, a particular form of stalking in which electronic media such as the internet, social networks, blogs, cell phones, texts, GPS or other similar devices or forms of contact are used to pursue, harass or make unwelcome contact with another person. Stalking and cyber-stalking may involve individuals who are known to one another or have an intimate or sexual relationship, or may involve individuals not known to one another.

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