

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PEER ADVOCATES**

### **George Mason University**

What is the Sexual Assault Peer Advocate Program? The Sexual Assault Peer Advocate Program is on-campus outreach provided to students by graduate students and/or George Mason University staff. Sexual Assault Peer Advocates are thoroughly trained in a variety of sexual assault related topics and basic crisis intervention skills. Maintaining a nonjudgmental approach, they help respond to students in crisis.

Sexual Assault Peer Advocates at George Mason University: Sexual assault advocates at Mason are recruited, trained, and supervised by Sexual Assault Services. Connie Kirkland, Director of Sexual Assault Services, supervises this program. Sexual Assault Peer Advocates at Mason respond to students in crisis over the telephone, at the hospital and/or at the police station.

Sexual Assault Peer Advocate Mission:

- To assist Sexual Assault Services in the delivery of related information to the caller in a nonjudgmental and appropriately sensitive manner.
- To encourage survivors to maintain safe behavior and/or to modify current unsafe behavior.
- To periodically carry the 24-hour emergency cell phone and serve as a first responder.

How Do I Apply? The program is open to all GMU graduate students or staff, regardless of previous sexual assault education or counseling experience. Applicants must be able to meet the following:

- Attend 2-day training at the beginning of Fall semester each year.
- Attend periodic in-services and refresher seminars throughout the year
- Commit to at least two academic semesters.
- Assume responsibility for the emergency pager on an as-needed basis.
- Maintain on-going contact with Sexual Assault Services.

For an application, contact Connie Kirkland at (703)993-4364 or ckirklan@gmu.edu

Types of Topics Seen By Sexual Assault Advocates at Mason:

- Sexual Assault
- Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault
- Risk Reduction Strategies
- Domestic/Dating Violence
- Stalking

To apply, fill out the pdf form online (<http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/sexual/GetInvolved.htm>), print a copy of the application for your records, and hit the "Submit by Email" button.