Preventing crime is critical to having a safe environment for teaching, learning and living. The main goal of crime prevention is to reduce the risk of being a victim, which is best achieved by removing and avoiding opportunities for a criminal to take advantage of you or your property. You can take several steps to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of sexual assault, including familiarizing yourself with JCSU’s sexual assault policy* and taking the Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) classes through the JCSU Campus Police Department. Sexual assault is a crime that disproportionately affects young people², and college students are at a heightened risk. The more you know about sexual assault and heed the prevention tips, the safer you will be both on and off campus.

Prevention Tips

Sexual assault is a crime of motive and opportunity,¹ and the majority of assaults are committed by someone the victim knows. There is no guaranteed way to prevent an attack, but here are some things you can do to reduce your risk of being assaulted:

- **Walk with a purpose.** Even if you don’t know where you are going, act like you do.¹
- **Try not to load yourself down with packages or bags.** This can make you appear more vulnerable.¹
- **Take a charged cell phone with you at all times.** Make sure you are aware of your surroundings and not preoccupied with talking on or looking at your phone.¹
- **Make sure you have cash for cab or bus fare at all times.**⁴
- **Avoid putting music headphones in both ears so you can be more aware of your surroundings, especially if walking alone.**¹
- **Take the elevator, and avoid dark, isolated stairwells whenever possible.**⁴
- **Take extra care in parking garages, and try to park your car as close to the entrance as possible.**⁴
- **If your drink is out of your sight, even for a few seconds, get a new one. Don’t accept a drink from anyone unless you can watch the bartender pour it. Spiking a drink with a date rape drug can happen quickly.**¹

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault or rape is defined by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), as forced sexual intercourse. Sexual intercourse means vaginal, oral or anal penetration by offender(s).² Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault regardless of age, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation. It is estimated that almost 240,000 sexual assaults occur each year in the U.S., and 60 percent of these attacks are never reported to the police.¹ A staggering 97 percent of rapists will never spend a day in jail.¹ You should also be aware of the following:

- **1 in 4** American women will be sexually assaulted before they turn 18.³
- **80%** of sexual abuse victims are under the age of 25.²
- **60%** of victims are assaulted by someone they know. This rate is even higher for women who are sexually assaulted in college.²
- **75%** of reported sexual assaults involve alcohol.⁴

¹For the JCSU sexual assault policy, please refer to your student handbook. ²www.rainn.org, ³www.joyfulheartfoundation.org, ⁴www.WOAR.org, ⁴I MATTER; The JCSU Safety and Prevention Coalition

You may contact the JCSU Campus Police Department to report any suspicious activity or a sexual assault. The emergency number is **704.378.1003** or **1004**. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department’s emergency number is 911.

[www.jcsu.edu/alert](http://www.jcsu.edu/alert)