

# WHAT IS CONSENT?

Consent is an agreement between participants to engage in sexual activity. Consent should be clearly and freely communicated. A verbal and affirmative expression of consent can help both you and your partner to understand and respect each other's boundaries.

## Consent is **CLEAR COHERENT** **WILLING** ONGOING

### CLEAR

Consent is active.

It is expressed through words or actions that create mutually understandable permission. Consent is never implied, and the absence of a "no" is not "yes".  
"I'm not sure", "I don't know", "Maybe" and similar phrases are not consent.

### COHERENT

People incapacitated by drugs or alcohol cannot consent.

Someone who cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because they lack the capacity to understand the "who, what, when, where, why or how" of the situation cannot consent.  
People who are asleep or in another vulnerable position cannot consent.

### WILLING

Consent is never given under pressure.

Consent is not obtained through psychological or emotional manipulation. Consent cannot be obtained through physical violence or threat.  
Example: Someone saying they will hurt themselves or someone you care about if you don't do what they want.

### ONGOING

Consent must be granted every time.

Consent must be obtained at each step of physical intimacy.  
If someone consents to one sexual activity, they may or may not be willing to go further.

Sexual misconduct, which includes sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, sexual assault, relationship violence, and sex-based stalking, can be reported to WIU's Title IX Coordinator via the online form on our website.



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