

**Year 2 Public Description of Work for  
Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education**

University of Kansas and University of Kansas Medical Center

**University of Kansas' Sexual Assault Prevention & Education  
Center (SAPEC) Evaluation**

**This Action Applies to Rubric Item(s):** Evaluating Prevention Programs

**Description of Work**

In 2019, the Kansas Department of Health and Education (KDHE) granted the University of Kansas' Sexual Assault Prevention & Education Center (SAPEC) five years to study the longitudinal impact of the Center's prevention work, specifically a cohort study of the Gender Based Violence Seminars (GBV; LDST 301, 302, 303, 304) participants. Dr. Juliana Carlson -- Associate Professor, School of Social Welfare -- joined the KDHE project team as the evaluator. In 2021, University of Kansas Student Senate designated specific funding for AY21 to support the now titled: *Prevention is Possible: Sexual Violence Prevention Survey*.

Over AY20, Dr. Carlson implemented a planning strategy with SAPEC staff to ground the team in different aspects of intervention research, including understanding the framework of implementation science and outcome-based evaluation, and engaging in a rigorous examination of the SAPEC approach, with specific attention to the current state of the development and testing of the GBV seminars intervention. This planning led to a reorientation of the scope and purpose of the KDHE grant. Rather than focus only on testing the GBV seminar (and the GBV seminar participants, which lacks a readily identifiable "comparison" sample) the KDHE grant redesigned purpose will be a longitudinal study of the cohort of Fall 2021 first year students over four academic years (Fall 2021-Spring 2026) and the cohort of Fall 22 first year students over four academic years (Fall 2022-Spring 2027). This study design will therefore test the SAPEC approach (multi-strategy programming and university/community collaboration) overall and overtime. Launch of the first cohort survey is slated for August 16, 2021

**University Commitment of Support and Administrative Assistance**

To facilitate a longitudinal study with the Fall 2021 first year student cohort and Fall 2022 first year student cohort, partnership with the University is critical for success. Luckily, SAPEC has found this support through not only Student Affairs administration; but also, Student Senate leadership. Dr. Carlson has had experience conducting university wide survey administration during 2016-2019 as part of the Heartland Sexual Assault Policies & Prevention on Campuses Project, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Women's Health. For the SAPEC KDHE project, the University will assist in the creation a sample

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of all Fall 2021 first year students and Fall 2022 first year students who would then receive surveys (frequency of surveys each year is in flux, but would be at least two times per year) for four years.

This longitudinal, impact research project builds on and is keeping with the University's long-standing commitment to prevent sexual violence, which SAPEC is a vital facilitator. The unique research opportunity provided for through the KDHE grant cannot be understated. First, KU students will continue to benefit from SAPEC's programming. Second, based on the findings of this research project, future University of Kansas students will benefit from the increased understanding of SAPEC's prevention programming effectiveness. Third, future publications and conference presentations based on this research project will further advance and clarify the field of sexual violence prevention education. Finally, successful implementation of the survey will continue to support the current level of University support of SAPEC's programming, which will in turn support student health and safety.

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