

## **VII. SAFETY AND SECURITY**

### **SAFETY ON AND OFF CAMPUS**

Even though you are on campus and very familiar with the area, be careful. There are basic precautions that people who live in an urban area like Boston need to take.

#### **Maintain Your Personal Safety**

- Have your keys ready before you arrive at your residence hall or automobile.
- Do not walk alone at night or in isolated areas.
- Walk along well-traveled paths, even during daylight hours. At night, avoid poorly-lit short cuts.
- Do not accept rides from strangers. Be cautious of persons you meet in a social setting. Feel confident you know that person well enough before going to the parking lot or taking a ride in any car, yours or theirs.
- Carry a whistle on your key ring and don't hesitate to use it if you feel you are threatened.
- Look alert. Pay attention to the events around you. By looking confident you may be able to deter an attack.
- When walking to Colchester House, the President's House, the Brookline Campus (43 Hawes Street), or the Longwood "T," always walk on the sidewalks along The Riverway, Longwood Avenue, and Kent Street, rather than through the park across The Riverway

### **SAFETY IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS**

- Keep your residence hall room or apartment door locked at all times. Never leave your door unlocked or propped open.
- Never loan your keys or Wheelock College Student I.D. to anyone, for any reason.
- Any theft, no matter how small, should be reported to Public Safety immediately and reported to your Resident Director, who will ask you to complete a Report of Loss form. Notify the Facilities Management Office or Public Safety if items reported as lost or stolen are found or otherwise accounted for.
- Try to know everyone who lives in your residence hall. You must comply with the Visitors and Sign-In Policy described under Residence Life in the Handbook. Your safety and security, as well as that of everyone in the residence hall, will depend on your compliance with that Policy.
- Report any suspicious people or incidents immediately to Public Safety.

### **SAFETY ESCORT**

Students who intend to walk alone at night from one campus building to another may request an escort from Public Safety. Public Safety will provide a foot patrol escort as soon as one is available. If a Public Safety officer is on another security detail, the escort will be delayed until that detail is completed.

### **SEXUAL ASSAULT**

If you are the victim of sexual assault by a stranger or by someone you know, contact the Resident Director on call or the Harvard Vanguard health services at 617-421-1196 immediately; or call one of the following crisis lines: Beth Israel Hospital Rape Crisis Service at 617-667-4645 or the Greater Boston Rape Crisis Center at 617-492-RAPE (7273), which is a 24-hour hotline. Victims have the option to contact state or local police regarding a sexual assault. Wheelock authorities will assist sexual assault victims in notifying police, if requested.

#### **A Climate of Respect (excerpted from the Student Code of Conduct)**

Wheelock College is committed to providing a Climate of Respect within its learning and living environment. It is expected that students will conduct their affairs with the utmost respect toward those within and without the College community in accordance with the College mission and creed. Sexual assault in any of its forms is contrary to the foundations of this commitment. Any student who treats another unfairly, unkindly, disrespectfully or abusively is in violation of the Wheelock Code of Conduct and will be subject to adjudication.

## **Definition of Sexual Assault**

**Sexual Assault** is a category of violent crime that includes **rape, attempted rape and indecent assault and battery**. National statistics indicate that 20-25% of female college students will have experienced rape or attempted rape during their college career. (BARCC website) National statistics also indicate 3% of American men will have experienced rape during their lifespan, although this is thought to be a highly underestimated statistic because of under reporting by male victims.

## **Acquaintance Rape**

A preponderance of national reports on rape indicates that 65% - 77% of sexual assaults are by someone the victim knew. According to one national college survey, in college settings 84% of victims knew their attacker and 57% of rapes occurred on dates.

## **Alcohol, Drugs and Consent**

Massachusetts law provides that legally intoxicated individuals (.08 or above blood alcohol level) are unable to consent to any sexual activity. Drugs are often unknowingly given to victims of rape. The three most used are Rohypnol or Roofies, Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate or GHB and Ketamine or Special K. If you suspect that you have consumed any of these, please seek medical assistance.

## **Steps to Take if You Are Sexually Assaulted**

### **Get to a safe place**

Call someone you trust

### **Let someone know what happened**

The following offices can be of immediate assistance and facilitate a plan of help:

- Public Safety: even if you are off campus, they can assist in getting you back to campus or to a medical facility 617-879-2151
- Residence Life: an RA or RD, there is always an RA and RD on call
- The Counseling Center:
  - During office hours 617-879-2413
  - there is always a Counselor on Call (COC) available by phone - they can be reached by calling Public Safety and asking to have the COC paged
  - The Boston or the local Police department where the assault occurred 911.

### **Get medical help immediately**

- Have injuries treated
- Receive assessment for risk of pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases
- Gather needed physical evidence, should you wish to have the option to press charges
- Where to go for medical care:
  - Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center 617-667-7000, ask for the Emergency Room – the hospital has staff that are specially trained to assist individuals who have been sexually assaulted, The Center for Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery 617-667-8141
  - Harvard Vanguard Health Services Urgent Care – the unit functions as Wheelock’s student health service 617-21-1196
  - Fenway Community Health Service, Violence Recovery Program 617-972-6250, after 5:00 pm or on the weekends 877-785-2020
  - Brigham and Women’s Hospital (617) 732-5640
  - Mass General Hospital Emergency Department 617-724-4100

### **Preserve physical evidence**

- If at all possible, try to avoid washing, using the toilet or changing clothes. If clothes are removed, place them in a paper not plastic bag and bring them with you to the medical examination

### **Common Reactions to Sexual and Other Kinds of Assault**

- ❖ Shock
- ❖ Anxiety and hypervigilance
- ❖ Fear of being alone
- ❖ Disrupted appetite and sleep
- ❖ Guilt and shame
- ❖ Disgust with your body
- ❖ Lack of trust of others, both known and strangers
- ❖ Nightmares, flashbacks
- ❖ Self-blame
- ❖ Difficult concentrating
- ❖ physical symptoms

### **Getting Emotional Support and Counseling**

#### **On Campus**

The Counseling Center provides a safe environment in which counselors can assist students in crisis by providing options for immediate and longer term care, including emotional and psychological support, guidance in accessing medical care and other off campus resources

- The Center's office hours are:
  - Monday 8:30 am – 5 pm,
  - Tuesday - Thurs 8:30 am – 7 pm
  - Fridays 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

#### **Off Campus**

- BARCC or the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center has a 24 hour confidential hotline
- BIDMC Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery Center
- Cambridge Hospital Victims of Violence (VOV)
- Fenway Community Health Center

### **Criminal Charges**

When the College is aware that criminal charges have been brought against a Wheelock College student by federal, state or local authorities, the College reserves the right to take appropriate action against the student, including but not limited to, suspension or expulsion from the College, and/or from residence, pending the outcome of judicial proceedings.

Expression of any form which is degrading, demeaning, abusive or harassing toward others, particularly on the basis of race, color, cultural background, handicap, age, sexual orientation, or political or religious beliefs. This covers all forms of communication, including verbal, written, and electronic media, and all forms of interaction, including physical and verbal.

### **CRIME REPORTING**

Wheelock encourages the accurate and prompt reporting of all crimes and violations of College policies. In the event that crimes or policy violations occur, the College will inform the campus community.

The Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 require colleges and universities to publish certain campus crime and arrest statistics annually.

## **SAFETY PROCEDURES**

Each member of the Wheelock community—students, faculty, administrators, and staff—is responsible for his or her own safety while on campus or at College-sponsored activities. The College has established safety policies that are explained below. Everyone is expected to follow these policies and is expected to attend orientation and security-related meetings which will be held from time to time throughout the year.

### **Your Responsibilities**

All members of the Wheelock community are expected to:

- Follow the College’s policies concerning visitors, the use of alcohol and drugs, security, and the rights of others.
- Report any unescorted strangers in College buildings or suspicious people on the campus to Public Safety immediately at extension 2151. Accompany your visitors from arrival on to departure from campus.
- Adhere to the College’s parking regulations.
- Use good judgment and be careful in all matters pertaining to personal safety or the safety of others. Specifically, the College expects that students, faculty, administrators, staff, or visitors will not circumvent College regulations or security systems. These regulations and security systems are established for everyone’s protection.

Failure to comply with security policies is a violation of the Code of Conduct and can lead to sanctions or disciplinary actions. Failure to heed warnings can also lead to loss of property and increase risks to personal safety.

### **Security System**

To help provide security at the College, Wheelock has installed a security system that includes several different components. At the beginning of each academic year, and occasionally throughout the year, this security system will be explained to all students. Each Wheelock student is responsible for knowing and complying with security policies distributed in the fall and is responsible for being present at residence hall and campus security-related meetings. The College reserves the right to change Wheelock’s security system at any time and for any reason.

The central Public Safety Desk in the lobby of Peabody is staffed by Public Safety officers on duty 24 hour a day, 7 days a week. Each Public Safety staff member is trained to handle on-campus incidents or problems. The campus Public Safety staff urges each student to report any situation that could threaten the security of the campus. This includes thefts, strangers on campus, and unsafe conditions. Security and safety is everyone’s responsibility, and the Public Safety staff depends on and is appreciative of the help of students, faculty and staff to maintain a safe campus environment.

All students should know the following emergency telephone numbers:

Public Safety:	617-879-2151	
Health Center:	617-421-1196	
Boston or Brookline Police, Fire, and Medical Emergency:		911

To dial an off-campus number, including 911, you must dial 9 first for an outside line. Therefore, to dial 911 from campus dial 9-911.

Any student who is concerned about security or who has a complaint concerning security should contact his or her Resident Assistant or Resident Director. The student will be asked to complete a “Security Complaint” form, which will be submitted to the Dean of Students and the Director of Facilities Management.

## **BICYCLES**

Bicycles may not be parked or stored in the hallways, stairwells or public areas of any building on campus, due to city fire and safety regulations. Always lock your bicycle at appropriate bicycle racks located on campus.

## **IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

The Fenway Card is the College's official means of identification, enabling students to access essential campus facilities and services including the residence halls, Food Services and the Library. Most services can be accessed with the card via readers placed around the College. Students should carry the card at all times while on campus.

The Fenway Card offers a convenient prepaid spending account - Fenway Cash - accepted as a form of payment at the Longfellow Café, Campus Store, Lucy's Café and the Campus Center Dining Room. Students may also use Fenway Cash to make purchases at popular local businesses in the Fenway neighborhood and accepting locations at the other five member institutions of the Colleges of the Fenway. For a complete list of accepting locations, visit [www.fenwaycard.com](http://www.fenwaycard.com).

To learn more about the Fenway Card program, visit [www.fenwaycard.com](http://www.fenwaycard.com) or contact the Fenway Card Service Center at [mycard@fenwaycard.com](mailto:mycard@fenwaycard.com) or 1-877-COF-8340 (263-8340) Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## **PARKING**

Due to limited parking spaces, the following parking policies apply at all College facilities:

- There is no on campus parking for first-year and sophomore students.
- There is no on campus parking for students between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Students with Wheelock parking permits may park on campus after 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. in open parking lots and from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. in the underground garages on weekdays and from 5:00 PM Friday to 7:00 AM Monday on weekends.
- Parking in Colchester House driveway is limited to College employees and Colchester House residents who have a Wheelock parking permit. If snow is forecasted, there will be no overnight parking in the Colchester House driveway. Students with parking permits may park in the College underground garages until 7:00 a.m.
- Students are not permitted to park on campus during College breaks and vacations.
- During snow emergencies, the City of Boston “snow ban” parking regulations will also apply to Wheelock open parking lots. Cars that are not removed will be towed.

There are several handicap-designated parking spaces on the College campus for Wheelock students, faculty, staff, and visitors. These spaces are for vehicles with “HP” plates and a Wheelock parking permit or parking pass only. All others will be towed.

Cars parked in violation of these parking policies or not parked in designated spaces will be towed at the owner's expense. Wheelock College is not responsible for cars or for personal property in cars parked on College property.

Wheelock uses a private towing company, which charges \$125 (or more) whenever a car is towed. The College does not receive the towing fee or have any financial interest in the company that tows cars. Please note:

- All vehicles without Wheelock parking permits or parking passes will be towed.
- All vehicles not parked in legally designated spaces will be towed.
- All vehicles in handicap spaces without “HP” plates or official “HP” stickers and a Wheelock parking permit will be towed.
- All vehicles parked in the open lot at 25 Pilgrim Road or the lot at 43 Hawes Street between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. will be towed.
- All student vehicles parked on campus during College breaks and vacations will be towed.
- All vehicles parked in Admissions Visitors spaces in the small lot next to Peabody Hall will be towed. This lot is reserved for vehicles with an Admissions Visitor temporary parking pass only.
- To inquire if your car has been towed, call Public Safety at extension 2151.