

---

# VIPER is:

- ◆ SWOSU's violence prevention program.
  - ◆ An acronym for Violence Intervention, Prevention and Early Response.
  - ◆ Designed to augment SWOSU's student services including Campus Police, Health and Counseling Services, Office of the Dean of Students, etc.
  - ◆ An educational program designed to develop **men and women** committed to healthy interpersonal relationships.
  - ◆ Committed to providing a cohesive response system to provide appropriate care to all SWOSU community members who are survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence/abuse, and/or stalking.
  - ◆ Committed to creating an environment at Southwestern Oklahoma State University that will not tolerate violent relational crimes.
- 

## If you need help:

Call 911 or Campus Police at 3111

### Local Agencies Available:

Action Associates: (580) 323 - 8700

Catholic Charities: (580) 323 -6363

District Attorney's Office: (580) 323 - 3232

Red Rock: (580) 323 -6021

SWOSU's VIPER Office: (580) 774 -6037

### Oklahoma Hotline:

Safeline: 1-800-522-SAFE (7233)

### National Hotline:

Safeline: 1-800-522-SAFE (7233)



---

This project was supported by Grant No. 2007-WA-AX-0004 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinion, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Phone: 580-774-6037  
Fax: 580-774-6038  
E-mail: [viper@swosu.edu](mailto:viper@swosu.edu)  
Website: <http://www.swosu.edu/viper>

---

**VIPER:**  
*Violence Intervention,  
Prevention and  
Early Response*

---

*Developing Healthy  
Relationships  
for a Stronger  
Campus Community*



---

100 Campus Drive  
Weatherford, OK 73096

---

**Wendy Henson, Coordinator**  
**Office:** Stafford, 346  
**Phone:** (580) 774 - 6037  
**Fax:** (580) 774 - 6038  
**Email:** [viper@swosu.edu](mailto:viper@swosu.edu)  
**Website:** [www.swosu.edu/viper](http://www.swosu.edu/viper)

# What We Do

## Program Goal

The overall goal is to effectively minimize the incidence of violent relational crime such as sexual assault, intimate partner violence/abuse, and stalking in the SWOSU campus community.

## Program Objectives

- ◆ VIPER will train SWOSU students, faculty, and staff to recognize signs of violence and how to get assistance.
- ◆ VIPER will maintain mandatory prevention education programs for all incoming, continuing, and transfer students.
- ◆ VIPER will coordinate information sharing between response agencies to allow SWOSU to confidentially monitor, respond to, and effectively work to reduce the number of these crimes at SWOSU.
- ◆ VIPER will maintain a Community Education Response Team (CERT) to oversee and provide a survivor response system, educational awareness programs, and develop/monitor effective campus judicial policies relating to these crimes.
- ◆ VIPER will provide training for campus police to improve their response to these crimes.



# Program Need

## Why the Program?

College campuses typically serve students in a high-risk age group for these crimes. Here are some of the statistics:

- ◆ Women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest per capita rates of intimate partner violence.
- ◆ Oklahoma currently ranks 10th for the number of females murdered by males.

### **Not Just a Women's Issue Anymore!**

- ◆ 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetime.
- ◆ In America, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape.

-National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2007

## Why have VIPER at SWOSU?

Part of SWOSU's mission statement is to "contribute to the educational, economic, and cultural environment; and support scholarly activity," so SWOSU must continue to develop a campus culture that fosters healthy relationships and does not condone violence toward any SWOSU community member. A community, unbroken by violence and fear, will provide the atmosphere necessary to prepare educated young adults to be successful members and leaders of our society-at-large.

When an incident of violence occurs against members of the SWOSU community, the university must be able to respond appropriately to the needs of the survivor, while holding the perpetrator accountable. When this happens, both the survivor and the community have the opportunity to regain their health.

# Program Support

"I think the Crime Prevention Program is great! It lets anyone at SWOSU know there is a place to go if they ever feel threatened."

-Sarah Webb, SWOSU Student

"I am excited that Southwestern Oklahoma State University has been chosen to participate in a grant to educate about the problem of "Violence against Women". This violence or abuse can manifest itself in physical, mental, and emotional trauma. Violence against women in any form is a crime, whether the abuser is a family member; a current or past spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend; an acquaintance; or a stranger. Violence has severe health consequences for those abused; it is a social problem that warrants an immediate coordinated response from multiple sectors of our society."

-Dr. Les Crall,

SWOSU Professor; Associate Dean,  
School of Business and Technology

"Interpersonal relationships such as friendships, dating, marriage, etc. are often complicated. Violence prevention programs offer the potential for female and male students gaining resources, making these relationships much more meaningful as well as avoiding the more extreme and damaging forms of conflict."

-Dr. Philip Holley,

SWOSU Associate Professor; Chair of the Department of Social Sciences

"Sometimes violence is an accident, sometimes it isn't. Either way, it is great that SWOSU has a person and a program of this quality to offer violence prevention therapy and intervention."

-Cindy Dougherty,

SWOSU Dean of Students