

# UNDERSTANDING CONSENT

Consent is agreeing to engage in sexual contact or sexual activity.

All sexual contact and activities—from touching, to kissing, to having sex—require consent *each time!* Silence or lack of resistance does not imply consent. Consent can look and sound like:

## Verbal Consent

“Yes”  
“I want to . . .”  
“That feels good”  
“I like that”  
“More”

## Non-Verbal Consent

Head nod  
Thumbs up  
Initiating sexual activity  
Active touching/participation  
Pulling in closer



Consent can be withdrawn *at any time* during sexual activity, after which sexual activity must immediately stop. Denying and withdrawing consent can look and sound like:

## Verbal Denial/Withdrawal of Consent

“No”  
“Stop”  
“I don’t want to”  
“I don’t like that”  
“I’m not ready”  
“I don’t feel up for that”  
“I’m tired”

## Non-Verbal Denial/Withdrawal of Consent

Crying  
Pushing away  
Turning away  
Not participating  
Silence  
Avoiding touch  
Uncomfortable or upset expression

*Help us keep our campus safe!*

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## Incapacitation

A person cannot consent if they are incapacitated. Consent is automatically withdrawn if someone becomes incapacitated during sexual activity.

Incapacitation occurs when a person is

- Intoxicated or impaired by drugs
- Unaware that the act is occurring
- Impaired by a mental condition or disability
- Forced into the sexual activity by physical force, threats, intimidation, or coercion

Signs of incapacitation include

- Sleeping or unconsciousness
- Slurred or unclear speech or inability to speak
- Stumbling, falling, or inability to stand or walk without assistance
- Confusion about what is happening and/or where they are
- Failure to remember basic facts or answer basic questions (e.g., day, names of friends, location)
- Vomiting
- Urinating or defecating on themselves or not in a toilet
- Combative or emotionally volatile
- Involuntary restraints