



NMT 2026 Student Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct & Sex-based Discrimination

Executive Summary

**Division of Student Life
Health and Well-being Cluster**

Introduction and Purpose

New Mexico Tech (NMT) is committed to maintaining a healthy and safe learning, living, and working environment that promotes responsibility, dignity, and respect for all persons. NMT prohibits all forms of discrimination, including those based on sex, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity. Sex-based harassment—encompassing sexual violence/assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, hostile environment, and quid pro quo—is collectively referred to by NMT as Sexual Misconduct.

Assessing campus culture regarding Sexual Misconduct provides vital data on student perceptions, behaviors, and the efficacy of prevention programs. This biennial survey assesses student perspectives across NMT. The gathered insights directly inform future policy decisions, notification and response processes, safety protocols, support resources, and overarching communication strategies.

Survey Methodology

Data collection was administered digitally via an online questionnaire to capture confidential student responses.

- **Administration & Timeline:** Promoted initially on April 1, 2026, alongside SAAM events, followed by a dedicated invitation email to all NMT students, and a reminder on April 10, 2026. The survey closed on April 22, 2026.
- **Institutional Approval:** Approved by NMT's Institutional Review Board (IRB #2026.03.002) on March 24, 2026.
- **Target Audience & Participation:** Reached a target population of 1,406 students through the "All-Student" email distribution list, yielding 462 participants (32.9% response rate). Due to topic sensitivity, only initial demographic fields were mandatory. Participation was voluntary, taking 8–12 minutes, with zero Personally Identifiable Information (PII) collected. Of the 462 students that started the survey, 376 (81.4%) completed the full survey.
- **Incentive to Participate:** Students who completed the survey could elect to be entered into a drawing to win one of three incentives: a Nintendo Switch 2, a \$50 NMT Bookstore Gift Card, or a \$50 NMT Food Service Gift Card. Entry was handled through a separate, confidential site using a Random Number Generator to select the winners.

Key Findings

1. Student Demographics & Profile

- **Age Distribution:** 18 (7.2%), 19 (20.2%), 20 (18.1%), 21 (15.2%), 22 (13.6%), 23 (6.1%), 24 (2.7%), 25 (2.7%), Over 25 (14.4%).
- **Student Status:** 95.7% Full-time, 4.3% Part-time. Undergraduates comprised 78.3% of respondents (Freshmen: 14.2%, Sophomores: 22.3%, Juniors: 21.4%, Seniors: 20.4%).

Graduate students accounted for 20.7% (Master's: 10.7%, Pre-candidate: 7.0%, Candidate: 1.9%, Post-Doc/Other: 1.1%).

- **Gender Identity:** Male (54.0%), Female (35.2%), Non-binary/Third gender (5.1%), Trans-female (2.4%), Trans-male (0.8%), Prefer not to disclose (1.6%), Other (0.8%).
- **Sexual Orientation:** Straight/Heterosexual (65.2%), Bisexual (20.9%), Lesbian (4.3%), Gay (1.4%), Other (8.2%).
- **Race & Ethnicity:** White (77.6%), Asian (13.5%), Black/African American (4.4%), American Indian/Alaska Native (4.1%), Pacific Islander (0.3%). 32.5% identified as Hispanic or Latino.

2. Sexual Misconduct & Victimization Rates

- **Sexual Assault Prevalence:** 11.0% of student respondents reported being sexually assaulted (unwanted sexual contact or non-consensual sex) since enrolling at NMT.
- **Coercion & Substance Use:** 40.5% of these victims reported experiencing coercion (threats, false promises, or persistent pressure). In 54.0% of incidents, the perpetrator was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- **Repeat Victimization:** 35.1% reported 1 incident, 32.4% experienced 2 incidents, 18.9% experienced 3 incidents, and 13.5% reported 5 or more incidents.

3. Harassment & Hostile Environment

- **Peer Harassment:** 36.1% of students experienced gender-based differential treatment, 32.0% faced offensive sexist remarks, and 30.5% experienced condescending behavior regarding gender identity. 43.4% had another student disclose experiencing gender discrimination at NMT.
- **Faculty/Staff Harassment:** 18.6% reported differential treatment by faculty/staff due to gender, 13.9% faced gender-based condescension, and 12.3% reported offensive sexist remarks from employees. 20.3% had a peer disclose gender discrimination by an NMT employee.
- **Stalking Prevalence:** The most reported stalking behaviors were being approached/followed at home, school, or work (20.6%), watched or spied on via camera/GPS (15.1%), and receiving unwanted messages (10.1%). Compared to the 2024 survey, these figures have increased by 3.2%, 4.70%, and 1.0%, respectively.
- **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV):** 6.1% experienced non-physical partner intimidation, 5.5% reported being pushed/grabbed/shaken, and 3.2% reported being hit by a partner.

4. Institutional Trust, Safety Perception, & Bystander Action

- **Institutional Response:** Students expressed moderate-to-high trust that NMT would maintain victim privacy (3.48/5) and support victims (3.28/5). Areas needing improvement include providing institutional accommodations (2.99/5) and addressing systemic factors leading to misconduct (2.93/5).
- **Perceptions of Safety:** Students feel safest on Tech's campus (e.g., sexual harassment safety mean 2.22, sexual violence safety mean 1.96). Safety concerns increase at off-

campus student parties (harassment safety mean 2.71) and in the broader Socorro community (stalking safety mean 2.61).

- **Bystander Intervention Gains:** Active bystander behaviors increased significantly between 2024 and 2026. The largest increases were observed in escorting intoxicated friends home (+1.00 mean increase), intervening in physical abuse (+0.75), not leaving friends behind (+0.74), and checking on upset peers (+0.63).
- **Reporting Patterns:** Victims primarily disclose incidents to informal support structures—close friends (27.4%), romantic partners (19.0%), and roommates (18.1%). Formal institutional reporting remains low, with 10.0% reporting to the Title IX Coordinator, 8.4% to faculty/staff, 8.1% to Campus Police, and 6.5% to the Dean of Students/Student Conduct.

Recommendations and Next Steps

1. **Enhance Institutional Accommodations & Systemic Action:** Address low confidence in administrative accommodations (2.99/5) and root-cause resolution (2.93/5) by streamlining academic, housing, and safety accommodations for reporting students.
2. **Expand Bystander Training Programs:** Capitalize on strong gains in bystander intervention (+1.00 increase in escorting intoxicated peers) by embedding advanced bystander intervention modules into new student orientation and residence life programming.
3. **Address Off-Campus & Community Safety Concerns:** Partner with local Socorro community leaders, law enforcement, and student organizations to address elevated safety concerns at off-campus social gatherings and within the broader community.
4. **Target Faculty & Staff Professional Development:** Implement mandatory training for faculty and staff focused on preventing gender-based condescension, differential treatment, and hostile workplace/academic environments.
5. **Strengthen Awareness of Formal Reporting Pathways:** Increase visibility and lower barriers to formal reporting channels (Title IX Office, Campus Police, Dean of Students), bridging the gap between informal disclosures to peers (27.4%) and formal reporting (10.0%).

Survey Questions

A copy of the survey and the questions can be found on the [NMT Title IX Office \(2026 NMT Student Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct & Sex-based Discrimination\)](#)

Data and Results

A complete break-down of the basic dataset can be found at [NMT Title IX Office](#) at the above survey under **Student Climate Results 2026**. The NMT Title Coordinator can work with groups to drill down on the data or conduct cross-tabulations on any available study population, if needed This Executive Summary will also be archived on that site.

