

Prevention is Possible Seminar

WHAT IS THE SEMINAR?

The Prevention is Possible (PIP) Seminar at the University of Kansas is an innovative program developed by the Sexual Assault Prevention & Education Center (SAPEC) which incorporates sexual violence prevention education into students' academic coursework. As sexual violence has a significant impact on community health and safety on campuses, universities must invest in effective prevention interventions to proactively address risk factors.

The PIP seminar is an eight-week academic course offered through the School of Social Welfare that educates students about sexual violence recognition, risk factors, effective prevention strategies, and campus and community support resources. Through the course, students receive 16 hours of classroom-based or synchronous online prevention education and can receive one hour of academic credit. Through partnerships between SAPEC, Kansas Athletics, the KU Panhellenic Council (PHA), and the KU Interfraternity Council (IFC), campus organizations changed their policies to include requirements that all members of a PHA sorority or IFC fraternity enroll in the course.

COURSE SNAPSHOT

- 8-week, 1 credit hour academic class
- 1,455 students enrolled in 60 sections in AY24
- Taught by passionate team of 20+ instructors from departments across campus, trained by content experts at the Sexual Assault Prevention & Education Center

USING WHAT WORKS

Campus resources are limited and sexual violence prevention on college campuses is an issue of great urgency, therefore the KU PIP Seminar uses best prevention practices. Research shows that



brief, one-time prevention programs are not successful strategies to prevent sexual violence on university campuses, and that large one-hour programs do not have lasting effects on students' sexual violence behavioral outcomes.¹ **Interventions which are appropriately timed, comprehensive, received multiple times, and administered by well-trained staff are more effective than brief interventions in positively influencing attitudes and behaviors associated with sexual violence.**^{1, 2, 3, 4} Prevention resources should also be targeted toward populations with the highest rates of sexual violence victimization or perpetration. Student athletes and student members of sorority and fraternity life organizations are more likely to be involved in (i.e., perpetrate and experience) sexual violence than other students.^{2, 6, 7} With that in mind, current partnerships with KU Athletics, the KU Panhellenic Associate and the KU Interfraternity council and their high rate of course completion (over 90%) are essential to the course's impact on campus culture and safety.

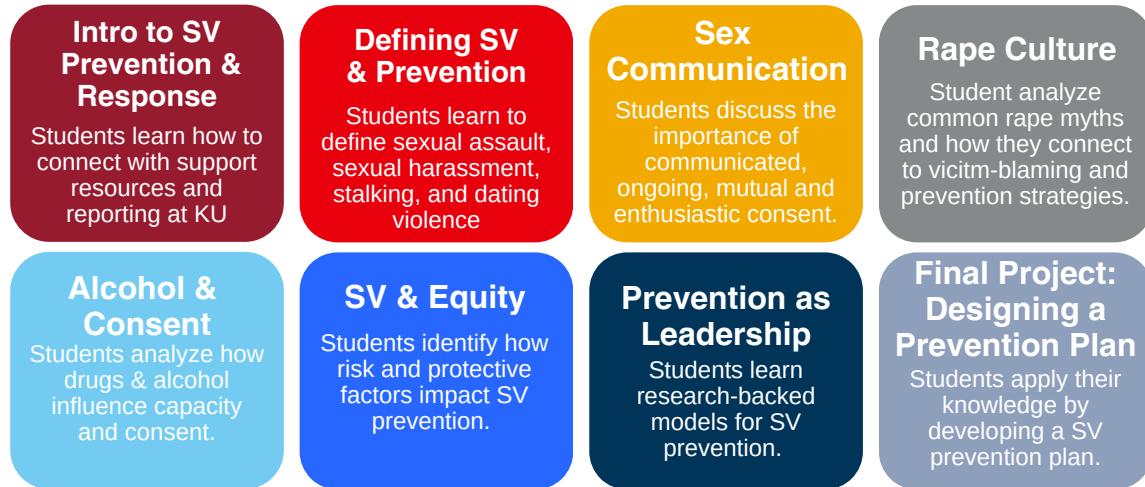
PARTNERSHIPS

These organizations require their members to enroll in the Prevention is Possible Seminar:

- KU Panhellenic Association
- KU Interfraternity Council

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Course Topics & Learning Outcomes



ALIGNING WITH INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING GOALS

The Prevention is Possible Seminar fulfills KU's institutional learning goals, particularly:

- **Leadership & Collaboration,**
- **Ethical & Professional Responsibility**
- **Social Awareness & Cultural Understanding**

The seminar is grounded in leadership theory, and focuses on students' roles as leaders in GBV prevention. Course learning outcomes prepare students to engage in ethical leadership and violence prevention both at KU and in their future careers. Through collaborations with the KU

School of Social Welfare, the Health Education Resource Office, and the Student Engagement Center, the course supports the development of student social awareness & cultural understanding, including how risk and protective factors held by college students impact both victimization and violence prevention.

Overall, the course is firmly grounded in theories and practice that have an impact on a wide range of fields within higher education, and is well-aligned with KU's institutional learning outcomes.^{7,8,9}

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The KU Prevention is Possible Seminar develops future leaders to prevent gender-based violence at KU and beyond.

"This course made an immeasurable impact on my educational journey at KU and I can say without hesitation that it is one of the most important courses offered on this campus.

The best way to illustrate what I've learned is to actually do something with the knowledge and that is exactly what I plan to do."

-Former PIP Seminar Student