

2026–2027 HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Surveys Information Sheet

Updated: 8-07-2026

In this information sheet, we detail the options for administering these surveys, as well as our expectations, practices, fees, and terms of service. We cover the following information:

- [Survey Content and Design](#)
- [Survey Administration Window](#)
- [Report and Data Files](#)
 - [Custom Reports](#)
- [Consulting About Survey Results](#)
- [Survey Administration Methods](#)
- [Fees](#)
- [Other Survey Information](#)
 - *Including information about survey contacts, IRB approval, unfinished surveys, supplemental questions, changes to the survey questions, state requirements or initiatives, incentives, ADA accessibility, etc.*
- [Practices and Agreements for Ensuring Anonymity](#)
- [Data Security](#)
- [Deadlines](#)
- [Registering for the Survey](#)
- [Contact Information](#)

Survey Content and Design

The HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Surveys were updated in 2025-2026. We have offered three versions of this survey—for undergraduates, advanced degree students, and faculty and staff—for multiple years. Last year, with the trend of survey response rates declining, we have made the surveys shorter and less complex to reduce the chance of dropout. We closely analyzed data from past years to guide our revisions.

We found that undergraduates report far more incidents of sexual assault than graduate students, faculty, staff, or administrators, and that some questions and response options did not provide useful data on sexual assault, were ignored, or were demographics that showed no differences in experiences of assault. As a result, [we streamlined the undergraduate survey](#) and created brief, pulse surveys for graduate students ([5–8 questions](#)) and employees ([7–11 questions](#)).

HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey – Undergraduate Version (~10 minutes)

Asks your undergraduate students about:

- their perceptions of your campus's climate;
- their perceptions of how your institution responds to sexual assaults; and
- whether they have experienced unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault.

HEDS Campus Sexual Violence Surveys – Pulse Surveys (~5 minutes)

- **Advanced degree students** are asked about their perceptions of how your institution responds to incidents of sexual violence, its educational programming about sexual violence, and whether they have experienced sexual violence while a graduate student at your institution.
- **Faculty and staff** are asked about their perceptions of how your institution addresses and responds to incidents of sexual violence, whether they understand the institutional reporting procedures, and whether they have experienced sexual violence while employed at your institution.

Due to the surveys' sensitive subject matter, responses for all three surveys are anonymous, and the surveys can **only be administered to those at least 18 years of age**. All three surveys are designed for people who spend a significant amount of time on campus. They're not designed for online students or remote employees. These surveys can be administered together or individually. Administering all three surveys will provide a fuller picture of your campus climate around sexual assault and sexual violence.

Survey Administration Window

You can administer these surveys for any 3–6 week period between October 5, 2026, and May 28, 2027. **You must register at least seven weeks before the date on which you plan to begin administering the survey.**

Reports and Data Files

When you do this survey, you will receive:

HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey – Undergraduates

- A live online summary report
- Your institution's unit-record survey data in both SPSS and Microsoft Excel files.
- A separate formatted Microsoft Excel file with your students open-ended survey responses.
- A summary and a frequency report that compares your institution's results to those of all other participating institutions on all survey questions and indicators.

HEDS Campus Sexual Violence Surveys – Advanced Degree Students and Faculty/Staff

- A live online summary report
- Your institution's unit-record survey data in both SPSS and Microsoft Excel files
- A frequency report that compares your institution's results to those of all other participating institutions on all survey questions.

Delivery Timelines

Live Online Summary Report

- You will have immediate access to this live summary report displaying results for select survey questions. The report updates continuously throughout the administration period, allowing you to gain an early, high-level sense of how people are responding to key parts of the survey; monitor response rates and adjust communication or outreach strategies as needed; and access an immediate summary of results as soon as the survey closes. This report is printable and may be shared with anyone on your campus.

Data Files:

- **Undergraduate** – a preliminary unit-record data file and separate open-ended comment file will be delivered within 50 business days after your survey closes. This timeline ensures we can thoroughly review open-ended responses and remove the names of anyone who identifies themselves or is accused of sexual assault. The responses in the comment file *cannot* be linked to responses in your unit-record data file. A final data file will be sent with your comparison report.
- **Advanced Degree and Faculty/Staff** – final data files will be delivered within 10 business days of your survey closing.

Given the sensitive nature of this data, we require that you accept our secure [data handling agreement](#) before we send you any data files.

Comparison Reports:

- On all surveys, comparison reports will be delivered to you late summer or early fall 2027. Since we cannot begin developing these reports until all surveys close at the end of May, we cannot accommodate requests to deliver reports earlier than that date.

Custom Reports

As time permits, we occasionally create custom reports for institutions. When we have the capacity to create a custom report, the fee will be based on the complexity of your request. If you are interested in a custom report, please let us know when we are working with you to set up the administration of your survey.

Consulting About Survey Results

As time permits, we are glad to schedule an hour-long conversation with you and your colleagues to answer questions and provide some guidance for interpreting your survey data. We charge a fee for more extensive support, such as writing a short memo summarizing your institution's survey data or making a presentation on your data to select groups at your institution. For example, we occasionally make virtual presentations on an institution's survey data or visit campuses to make presentations, conduct follow-up focus groups, or work with the institution to consider ways of acting on data from the survey. For the 2026-2027 academic year, our typical fee for up to three virtual presentations is \$3,100 for HEDS institutions and \$4,100 for institutions that don't belong to HEDS. For campus visits, we typically charge \$3,400 plus expenses for HEDS institutions and \$4,500 plus expenses for institutions that don't belong to HEDS. Please note, the fees we list above are examples, and what we charge will vary depending on what you ask us to do. Furthermore, we are a small organization, so the number of consultations we can provide is limited.

Survey Administration Methods

We typically use one of three methods to invite people to take your survey. For full details about these methods, including the advantages and disadvantages of each, please see our [Administration Methods for Anonymous Surveys](#) document.

- **Email method** – We send each participant an email invitation with a unique link to the survey. You may send up to three email reminders to participants who do not complete the survey. Each message appears to come from your institution and is personalized with your institution name and contact information.
- **Authentication method** – You provide participants with a common link, and they use a unique password, such as their email address and/or ID number, to access the survey.
- **General link method** – You provide participants with a general link to the survey. No password is required to access and complete the survey. *Anyone* who follows the link can submit their responses.

If you want to use both email and authentication, please let us know so we can discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this approach. To ensure consistency in the administration process, comparative data, and people's anonymity, we do not allow institutions to administer any HEDS survey through their own survey engines.

Fees

As noted, we offer a full survey for undergraduate students, and short, pulse survey versions for advanced degree students and faculty, staff, and administrators. The options on the pulse surveys are restricted to allow us to keep the surveys short and inexpensive, only options shown in the fees table below are available.

Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey for Undergraduate Students

	HEDS institutions*	Institutions not in HEDS
Base cost of undergraduate survey includes: - One 3- to 6-week survey administration - One administration method - Unlimited number of people invited to take the survey - Up to 1,000 completed surveys - Up to 10 close-ended supplemental questions (<i>e.g., multiple-choice, check-all-that-apply, matrix</i>) No open text fields may be used. - Reports and data files as specified above	\$675	\$2,575
Discount for using the general link administration method only	-\$50	-\$150
Using both the authentication and email administration methods	+ \$150	+ \$200
Up to 10 additional close-ended supplemental questions (<i>for a total of 11–20 close-ended supplemental questions</i>) No open text fields may be used.	+ \$325	+ \$375
One open-ended supplemental question (<i>Responses to this question must be reviewed by HEDS.</i>)	+ \$150	+ \$200
Completed surveys beyond the first 1,000. (<i>Count includes all administration methods but does not include partially completed surveys. Invoiced after survey window closes.</i>)	+ \$1.30 per additional completed survey	+ \$1.80 per additional completed survey
Completed surveys beyond the first 1,000 if you add an open-ended supplemental question. (<i>We charge more given the additional staff time needed to review text responses for identifying information.</i>)	+ \$2.00 per additional completed survey	+ \$3.00 per additional completed survey
If you would like to manage your fees for over 1,000 responses, please ask us about capping the number of completed responses your survey will accept.		

HEDS Campus Sexual Violence Surveys for Advanced Degree Students or Faculty and Staff

	HEDS institutions*	Institutions not in HEDS
Base cost for either survey includes: - One 3- to 6-week survey administration - One administration method - Unlimited number of people invited to take the survey - Up to 1,000 completed surveys - One survey invitation and up to three reminders for email method - Up to 5 close-ended supplemental questions (<i>e.g., multiple-choice, check-all-that-apply, matrix</i>) No open text fields may be used. - Reports and data files as specified above	\$350	\$650

Completed surveys beyond the first 1,000. <i>(Count includes all administration methods but does not include partially completed surveys. Invoiced after survey window closes.)</i> If you would like to manage your fees for over 1,000 responses, please ask us about capping the number of completed responses your survey will accept.	+ \$0.65 per additional completed survey	+ \$0.95 per additional completed survey
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Late Fees – All Versions

	HEDS institutions*	Institutions not in HEDS
Late registration fee <i>(See explanation in registration section below)</i>	+ \$275	+ \$325
Late cancellation fee <i>(If you cancel after we have set up your survey in our survey engine, we will invoice you for a cancellation fee.)</i>	+ \$300	+ \$350

Special Fees

Multi-campus/multi-institution administrations – If you want to administer a survey to people at multiple campuses or within a multi-institution system, please contact us for more information and pricing.

Contracts or survey agreements from your institution – If your institution requires us to use an agreement or contract developed by your institution and we determine that we need our attorney to review that agreement, we will add the cost of that review to your survey fee. The standard rate for a contract review by our counsel is \$500.

Errors in participant list – If you realize that you made an error in the participant list you provided us (e.g., incomplete list, incorrect group of people, emails with incorrect names) after the survey has launched, please notify us immediately. Depending on the scope of the error, we may need to close the survey, clear any responses, and relaunch the survey for an additional fee.

Invoicing

We will send your invoice about the time your survey opens. This invoice will include the base cost of the survey, any additional options you chose, and (if you registered less than seven weeks prior to your survey start date) the late registration fee. You can pay by credit card (3.5% fee applies), direct deposit, or check.

HEDS member prices – In order to qualify for the HEDS member discounted survey fees listed above, your institution must have paid its HEDS membership fee for 2026-2027 by the time we invoice you, or we will charge you the full survey price. Please talk to us if you are uncertain if your institution is up to date on its membership fee.

Surveys above 1,000 – If your total responses go over 1,000 we will invoice you separately for this after your survey closes and we have a final count.

Non-payment – Please be aware, we will not send your reports until your invoice has been paid.

Other Survey Information

Survey liaison – You need to identify one individual from your institution to serve as the survey liaison. We'll direct all communication to the survey liaison, and the survey liaison is responsible for contacting other people on their campus about survey logistics. The survey liaison will be responsible for providing the survey materials needed based on the administration method chosen ([see above](#)), testing the survey, and collaborating with us to troubleshoot if technical problems arise.

HEDS Primary Contacts – If you belong to a HEDS member institution you have a [HEDS Primary Contact](#) who, according to [Section 1.03 of HEDS Bylaws](#), is responsible for approving institutional participation in HEDS surveys. The survey liaison does not need to be the primary contact, but we will need your primary contact to give their consent for your institution to administer the survey. We will include them in the invitation to your set-up call, and they will also receive a copy of all data files and reports from the survey.

Campus and local resources for sexual violence – Survey liaisons will provide contact information for campus and local resources for sexual violence and may also provide information about how to report incidents of sexual assault to campus authorities. We include this information for participants in your survey.

IRB approval – The HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Surveys have been [approved](#) by the Wabash College Institutional Review Board (IRB) for use as voluntary surveys. We encourage your institution’s survey liaison to contact the IRB at your institution to determine whether their approval is needed, including approval of supplemental questions if applicable, before administering these surveys. The Wabash IRB will not enter into authorization agreements with institutions that use HEDS surveys.

Incentives – You may offer incentives. We will provide instructions for how to do so on an anonymous survey.

Unfinished surveys – Participants may choose not to answer any question in the survey. They may also stop taking the survey at any time and choose not to submit their data. *This means that we will only keep survey responses if they click the “submit” button at the end of the survey.* We have done this to ensure that people have complete control over whether their responses are included in our data files and reports.

Supplemental questions – You can add supplemental questions related to the survey’s subject matter at the end of the survey. The questions must not ask for information that would lead to the identification of people taking the survey. Each sub-question on a multipart or matrix question counts as one close-ended supplemental question. A question that is answered with a text response counts as an open-ended supplemental question. Your data file(s) will include participants’ responses to these questions, but the HEDS reports will not. For more information on how to count and format supplemental questions before submitting them to HEDS, please review our [Supplemental Question Guide](#).

Changes to the survey questions – While you can *add* supplemental questions to the end, we do not modify our survey questions or response options. We standardize the questions and response options across all institutions to maintain the quality of the comparative data. For two-year institutions, we have a small set of response options that may not apply that we can hide. If your institution is a two-year college, we will discuss these options with you during our call about your survey administration.

Additional module for institutions in New York – If your institution is in the state of New York, we can add a module to the end of your survey at no cost, so that the survey satisfies the requirements of the State of New York Senate Bill S5965.

Other state requirements or initiatives – If your institution is in a state that requires or has an initiative to survey students or faculty/staff about sexual violence, we will work with you to meet those obligations. Please contact us to describe your needs.

Embedding institution names – We will set up the survey so that your institution’s name appears prominently on each page and in questions.

Additional language versions – Qualtrics, our survey engine, can translate your survey into other languages using Google Translate. If you are interested in this option, please let us know. Depending on our survey load, we may have to limit you to using one additional language or charge extra for using more than one additional language.

ADA Accessibility – Please let us know if anyone at your institution needs a version of the survey that is compatible with screen readers or has other ADA-related requirements so we can discuss options with you.

Practices and Agreements for Ensuring Anonymity

We go to great lengths to protect the anonymity of your students and employees. We exclude personal information, including name, email address, student or employee identification number, and IP address, from the data you receive.

Additionally, we remove a few variables that might make identification possible from your data file, such as responses to the “Are you transgender?” question. We also review open-ended text responses, remove the names of anyone who identifies themselves or is accused of discrimination and/or harassment, and send the reviewed open-ended text responses in a separate file.

Finally, given the sensitive nature of the data from these surveys, we require that your institution agree to the following conditions before we send you your institution’s unit record data file. These are:

1. No more than 5 people at your institution will have access to the unit-record data file that HEDS sends to you.
2. Everyone who has access to the unit-record data file from HEDS will be required to follow your institution’s rules, policies, and procedures for protecting and maintaining the confidentiality of sensitive, identifiable student and employee information.
3. Given the responses that people from vulnerable groups/positions at your institution may provide on this survey, people from the following groups should not be among the 5 people who have access to your institution’s unit-record file unless their access is *essential* for analyzing your institution’s survey data. These are:
 - a. Managers, Deans, Program Directors, Department Chairs, and other supervisors or people in authority
 - b. Faculty
 - c. Students
4. You will ensure that all reports or presentations based on data from the unit-record file do not identify or include any data or findings from groups smaller than 5 people.

We also encourage you to work with your institutional review board (IRB) to help assure your campus constituencies that your institution is treating the survey data and findings appropriately.

Data Security

HEDS secures your survey data and participant information by:

- Using a secure survey engine. Our survey engine, Qualtrics, stores your participant information and responses securely. Qualtrics protects its servers with firewalls, security scans, and nightly data backups. Qualtrics’ security statement is available at <http://www.qualtrics.com/security-statement/>.
- Using Box, a password-protected, encrypted, secure file storage system. We use Box to receive, store, and send files with personally identifiable data. See more information about Box’s privacy and security at <https://www.box.com/security-compliance>.
- We use TunnelBear as a virtual private network (VPN) to secure our online tasks when we work remotely. Learn more about how TunnelBear secures internet browsing here: <https://www.tunnelbear.com/blog/stronger-encryption/>.
- We will not share any personally identifiable information with any outside individuals or entities.

Deadlines

Below we review your deadlines for each step in our work together to set up a survey. Setting up surveys exactly how you'd like them is complicated, and we may be setting up and running many dozens of surveys at a time. We've set the following deadlines to ensure we have enough time to do a good job administering your survey. If you miss a deadline, we will probably have to delay the opening of your survey. The deadlines below are based on the date you wish to start your survey administration.

Task for your institution	Deadline
Register for the Survey	At least seven weeks (35 business days) before the survey start date. <i>Earlier is better to allow you more time to work out the details of your survey.</i>
Set up Call with HEDS to Discuss Survey Details HEDS will contact you to set up a call to discuss the details of your survey administration, fees, and to let you know what materials you will need to provide.	Call takes place 2–9 business days after registering. <i>We will offer you meeting times and dates within this 2–9 day window. If our call occurs during this period, you will have at least ten (10) business days to gather your materials.</i>
Provide All Final Survey Materials to HEDS Final means <i>all stakeholders</i> have viewed and approved any of the following submitted to HEDS: how your institution's name will appear in the survey, information about the survey leader(s) at your institution, links to resources for sexual assault and relationship violence, administration method(s), a participant list, dates to send and information to personalize the invitations and reminders, incentive options, and supplemental questions. <i>Once we set up your survey in our survey engine for testing, any changes you make to the content of these materials will result in a significant delay in launching your survey .</i>	By end-of-day, sixteen (16) business days before the survey start date. <i>This is a very important deadline for meeting your desired survey start date. The earlier you register and meet with your HEDS survey team member, the more time you will have to gather your materials and get them approved.</i>
Provide HEDS with Feedback on Survey Test	By end-of-day, eight (8) business days before the survey start date. <i>You will have a minimum of 3 business days to test your survey.</i>
Provide HEDS with Feedback on Final Survey Test (only if necessary) A second test will <i>only</i> happen if there was a technical difficulty to resolve, or if we made an error when setting up your survey.	By end-of-day, four (4) business days before the survey start date. <i>You will have a minimum of 2 business days to review the second test.</i>

Important Note About Survey Testing

The purpose of testing is to ensure that the survey will run smoothly and to fix any technical difficulties (i.e., invitation messages going to spam) before your survey launches. Testing also allows you to check that we entered

the custom section in your invitation message (if using the email method) and supplemental questions exactly as you submitted them to us. We need to work with the final, approved version of all survey materials when setting up your survey for testing. **Testing isn't the time to edit the content of emails or supplemental survey questions. Once we've used the information you've sent us to set up your survey for testing, any changes you make in that information will result in a significant delay, potentially days, in when we can launch your survey.** It is important that you ask anyone at your institution who needs to review and approve your survey materials to do so before sending that material to us.

Registering for the HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Surveys

You can register for the 2026–2027 HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Surveys using our [online registration form](#). **You must register at least seven weeks from the date you wish your survey to begin.** We will only accept late registrations in rare circumstances, and there will be a late fee ([see the bottom row of the Late Fees table](#)). The last day to register will be March 19, 2027. Once you submit the registration form, we will contact you to discuss your survey preferences and the associated fees. Following this conversation, we will send you the materials we need filled out to set up your survey as we discussed.

Questions about the HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Surveys?

Please email us at SexualAssaultSurvey@hedsconsortium.org if you have any questions. You can download copies of the surveys from our website at: <https://www.hedsconsortium.org/heds-sexual-assault-campus-survey/>.