Advocate organizes all communication, records and reporting capabilities into one cloud-based source that can be accessed by an unlimited number of team members. Managers of the system can set access controls to ensure that various departments can only see what is necessary, protecting the privacy of more sensitive student information.

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Who Uses Advocate?

Duke University

Emory Law

NYU

Berkeley University of California

William & Mary

CURRENT SITUATION

An organized, efficient way of tracking conduct, mental health and liability-related concerns is pivotal to a university’s ability to protect both its students and its reputation. During their time at college, roughly 43% of women will report dating violence, 19% of women and 6% of men will be sexually assaulted, and 13% of women will report being stalked.¹

College students are one of the most at-risk demographics for developing drug and alcohol problems. Campus and university shootings, some of which could have been prevented with early psychiatric intervention, are in the news at an alarming rate—there were 23 in the US in 2015 alone.² The reality is that universities inherently face countless risks in terms of both student wellbeing and liability.

While preventing issues like this should be an institution’s first priority, compliance with federal requirements should be a close second. Any federally-funded educational institution must comply with Title IX requirements and guidelines for federal reporting. Penalties for a college or university failing to accurately report crime statistics can result in anything from facing significant fines to complete loss of government funding.

Institutions need a method of monitoring concerns and maintaining compliance with federal requirements that consolidates all necessary information and communication into one core place. Such serious matters cannot be efficiently dealt with if there is a lack of organization and synchronicity between staff members—the entire team needs to be linked to the same comprehensive, easy-to-use resource. When staff members are all on the same page, students will be able to tell, and they’ll feel safe enough in their environment to focus on excelling.

SOLUTION

Advocate organizes all communication, records and reporting capabilities into one cloud-based source that can be accessed by an unlimited number of team members. Managers of the system can set access controls to ensure that various departments can only see what is necessary, protecting the privacy of more sensitive student information.

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Various parts of the case management process can be routed to specific team members to ensure a smooth and organized workflow, and Advocate will suggest “next steps” along the way. These include end-to-end options from scheduling an initial meeting with students to choosing a sanction, up to notifying the police in an emergency situation.

Within Advocate, team members can view a full event log for each case for complete visibility into how an investigation proceeded, as well as a full incident history for each student in the database. In addition, staff can create customized incident report forms to incorporate whatever criteria is needed. With these forms, staff can utilize Advocate’s reporting feature to gather statistics and analyze trends (e.g., “How many incidents occurred in White Hall in 2015?”)

Advocate’s CARE Network feature allows staff to submit a “care report” for students of concern to ensure that early intervention is taken for any behavioral, conduct-related or psychiatric concern. With the ability to step in earlier, schools have far more control over the outcome of a potentially dangerous situation. The Title IX Manager and federal reporting features within Advocate allow institutions to feel confident that they are complying with all requirements in regards to Title IX and federal reporting.

Advocate’s system will walk staff members through the entire process to ensure that incidents are handled and reported accurately. Symplicity maintains a level of expertise in matters of Title IX and federal reporting by partnering closely with the U.S. Department of Education and highly reputable law firms like Crowell & Moring LLP. This expertise has been finely woven into Advocate to ensure that higher ed staff is guided flawlessly through the proper reporting steps.

The campus community can feel safer with Advocate knowing they have a confidential and easy-to-use method of reporting any concerns they might have about their security. With this increased confidence, they will be able to thrive on campus and optimize their academic potential, resulting in higher retention rates for the institution overall.

1 | http://knowyourix.org/statistics/