let's talk SELF CARE

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2021

center for advocacy, resources & education
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH CAN BE:

A very hard and challenging time for many, so the UC Davis Center for Advocacy, Resources & Education (CARE) created this toolkit to deepen the conversation around self care and provide our community with some information regarding how to care for themselves.

A NOTE FROM OUR TEAM

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It is safe to say that most people picture face masks, journaling, and bubble baths when they think of self care. While those are great ways to relax and unwind, everyone deserves to have their own self care rituals. Remember that what works for you may not work for your loved ones! It is important to give everyone their own space to care for themselves the way they need to.

We also want to acknowledge that this Sexual Assault Awareness Month is different due to the COVID-19 pandemic so caring for yourself may look different this year. This time has been difficult for all of us so allow yourself the time to feel that and challenge yourself to try new habits. SAAM is a time to raise attention on a crime often overlooked which can take a toll on people, so here is your reminder to sit in the sun, make your favorite meal, move your body, or maybe do all of the above.
TYPES OF SELF CARE

**Self-Care:** Looking after yourself; treating yourself as a person who deserves care

While everyone self cares differently, it is also important to understand the different types of self care. These categories allow us to better access which part of our selves need the most attention and helps narrow the search for the correct remedy.

- **Emotional:** Activities that help you connect, process, and reflect on a full range of emotions.
- **Physical:** Activities you do that improve the well-being of your physical health.
- **Psychological:** Any activity that stimulates your mind or your intellect.
- **Spiritual:** Activities that nurture your spirit and allows you to think bigger than yourself. Spiritual self care does not have to be religious, although for some it is.
- **Workspace:** Tasks you complete that fulfill core aspects of your life in order to prevent future stressful situations.
- **Relationship:** Activities that nurture and deepens the relationships with people in your life.

Definitions from Planned Parenthood

When you are faced with a hard day, evaluate which aspect of your self care you have been neglecting.

- **Emotional:** This type of self care is the most discussed in mainstream conversations. Journaling, creating art, or seeing a therapist, fall into the emotional self-care category. Remember that your mistakes do not define you and growth is always ahead.

- **Physical:** Moving your body, whether high intensity exercise, yoga, or blasting your favorite song and dancing around your room, helps clear your head while also grounding your body back to earth. Remember that these activities do not need to take up long periods of time, even just 5 minutes can change your day.

- **Psychological:** Psychological self-care can look like many different things from reading a book to taking a class you are really excited about.

- **Spiritual:** Mindfulness is a great way to ground yourself spiritually. Additionally, attending a place of worship or going somewhere in nature are spiritual self-care.

- **Workspace:** Insuring that your workspace is healthy, not only helps with work efficiency but it also can make work more enjoyable. This can look like setting clear boundaries with your coworker, balancing work and life well, or surrounding your desk with beautiful and calming things.

- **Relationship:** Platonic or romantic, relationships can be a space of self care but it is important to communicate your boundaries with your loved ones. Remember to spend time with the people that make you happy and bring you joy.
Brainstorm the ways you take care of yourself

- Emotional
- Physical
- Psychological
- Spiritual
- Workplace
- Relationship
3 things to notice daily:

1. What energizes you?
2. What are you grateful for?
3. What's not working for you?

Work on changing your self talk

Next time you think "am I behind?" try "what can I celebrate?"

Next time you think "I messed up," ask yourself, "what did I learn?"

jot down your thoughts!

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________
To fill in when you need it

End of the week check-in

I feel... I celebrate...
I need... I release...
I forgive... I trust...

When you’re feeling overwhelmed...
~ 3 breaths
~ establish steps to take care of yourself for the day
~ find small things to keep in mind & to remind yourself of
SELF CARE TOOLKIT 2020

SELF CARE IN
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a time to spread awareness and work to end this violence, so it is important to center the survivor experience in our conversations. That means ensuring we are trauma informed in our approaches. Experiencing violence is an act that strips people of their power, so as support people of survivors, we should always be asking ourselves, "How can I help restore some of the power this individual lost?" Here are some ways to practice that.

- Listen and then ask how you can help
- Offer options, rather than pressuring them to report
- Refer them to resources
I am grateful for...

Take some time to fill in things you are grateful for.
CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES

CENTER FOR ADVOCACY, RESOURCES, & EDUCATION (CARE)
https://care.ucdavis.edu
Confidential resource for any UCD student, staff, or faculty who has experienced sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, and sexual harassment. CARE has offices both on the main Davis campus as well as UCD Health in Sacramento.

COUNSELING SERVICES
https://shcs.ucdavis.edu/ counseling-services
Free, short-term confidential counseling for all UC Davis students. Counseling Services help students to realize their academic and personal goals. Meeting with a counselor can help students clarify issues, explore options, and cope more effectively.

EMPOWER YOLO
https://empoweryolo.org
24-hour crisis intervention, emergency shelter, confidential counseling, legal assistance, and other services for individuals and families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and child abuse.

WOMEN’S RESOURCES & RESEARCH CENTER (WRRC)
https://wrrc.ucdavis.edu
The Women’s Resources and Research Center (WRRC) provides a place for students to learn about resources and educational programs that focus on gender equity and social justice. The WRRC is confidential per UC Davis policy.

LGBTQIA RESOURCE CENTER
https://lgbtqia.ucdavis.edu
The purpose of the LGBTQIA Resource Center is to provide an open, safe, inclusive space and community. The LGBTQIARC promotes education as well as space for self-exploration about all sexes, genders and sexualities and their intersections with other identities. The LGBTQIARC is confidential per UC Davis policy.
We created this assessment so you can take a look at your self care practices. Remember that it is ok to not be ok, and you don't always need to be happy but hopefully this give you the opportunity to figure out what you can change.

Rate the following areas according to how well you think you are doing:
3 = I do this well (e.g., frequently)
2 = I do this OK (e.g., occasionally)
1 = I barely or rarely do this
0 = I never do this
? = This never occurred to me

Physical Self-Care
___ Eat Regularly (e.g. breakfast, lunch, and dinner)
___ Eat healthily
___ Exercise
___ Get regular medical care for prevention
___ Get medical care when needed
___ Take time off when sick
___ Get massages
___ Dance, swim, walk, run, play sports, sing, or do some other fun physical activity
___ Take time to be sexual – with myself, with a partner
___ Get enough sleep
___ Wear clothes I like
self care assessment

Psychological Self-Care
____ Take day trips or mini vacations
____ Make time away from phones, email, and the internet
____ Make time for self-reflection
____ Notice thoughts, belief, attitudes, feelings
____ Have personal psychotherapy
____ Write in a journal
____ Read literature that is unrelated to work
____ Do something at which I’m not an expert or in charge
____ Attend to minimizing stress in my life
____ Engage intelligence in a new area, e.g. go to an art show, sports event, theatre
____ Be curious
____ Say no to extra responsibilities sometimes

Emotional Self-Care
____ Stay in contact with important people in my life
____ Give myself affirmations, praise myself
____ Notice thoughts, belief, attitudes, feelings
____ Have personal psychotherapy
____ Write in a journal
____ Read literature that is unrelated to work
____ Do something at which I’m not an expert or in charge
____ Attend to minimizing stress in my life
____ Engage intelligence in a new area, e.g. go to an art show, sports event, theatre
____ Be curious
____ Say no to extra responsibilities sometimes

Once you are finished, look for patterns in your responses. Are you more active in some areas of self-care but ignore others? Are there items on the list that make you think, “I would never do that”? Listen to your inner responses, your internal dialogue of self-care, and make yourself a priority.
Sexual Assault Survivors

It can be very hard for a survivor to talk about their experience. The fact that they are telling you specifically shows that they trust you. Make sure you acknowledge the difficulty of disclosing and thank them for trusting you.

Remind them it is not their fault and challenge statements of self-blame. Survivors may blame themselves for the abuse. Reinforce that they deserve to be treated with respect and that they are not responsible for the actions of the abuser.

"This is not your fault."
HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP REMINDERS
SAAM 2021

1. Respect your partners' boundaries & set your own
2. Share your needs & listen to your partners' needs
3. Be respectful and open to compromise during conflicts
4. Always ask for consent
5. Support your partner & tell them when you need support
6. Make trust a central part of your relationship
7. Celebrate your partner and their unique qualities
fill each brick with something that is comforting to you
MENTAL NOTE: trust your journey.
no matter how many detours we take or delays we encounter, we will always be led back to where we're meant to be.
When things get tough, it is very hard to think of what to do for yourself. It is best to have a plan ready for when you need it.

1. Make a list of what to do when you are upset that will be good for you (i.e. Big List of Self-Care)
   a. What will help me relax? (examples: breathing, music, reading for fun, exercising, taking a walk)
   b. What do I like to do when I’m in a good mood? List all the things you like to do so you can remember what they are when you need to think of something to do.
   c. What can I do that will help me throughout the day? (Examples: avoid too much caffeine if feeling anxious, watch my thoughts, stay in the moment).
2. Make a list of people you can contact if you need support or a distraction.

a. Divide the list of people into categories by asking yourself the following questions:
   · Who can I call if I’m feeling depressed or anxious?
   · Who can I call if I’m lonely?
   · Who will come over to be with me if I need company?
   · Who will listen?
   · Who will encourage me to get out of the house and do something fun?
   · Who will remind me to follow my self-care plan?

3. Next, make a list of positive things to say to yourself when you are giving yourself a hard time:
Example: “I can’t get all this done, I should drop out.” CHANGE to: “I will develop a schedule and make a list so that I can get all this done.” “I can check with other students for ideas.” “I can get some feedback from the professors that might help me do the assignments.”
The impact can be profound whether you are a community member learning more about the dynamics of sexual assault, someone attending an event during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, or a friend providing support to a survivor. While we encourage everyone to do what they can to participate in SAAM, we also acknowledge that everyone has limitations. As you play your part this April, please practice self-care. We hope this self-care content gave you some new ideas of how to care for yourself.