

UMatter at UMass

What's Up Listen Up Show Up Stand Up Follow Up

What are Acts of Bias and Hate?

- **Hate Crime:** Hate crimes are traditional crimes motivated by the offender's bias toward the victim because the victim is a member of a **protected group**. The Massachusetts hate crime statute specifies three elements of hate crimes: 1) underlying criminal offense, 2) offender's intent, and 3) victim's protected characteristics, which are race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. The determination of whether an incident is a hate crime is not made by campus officials. Suspected violations of hate crime laws are criminal acts and offenders are typically prosecuted by the District Attorney's office.
- **Discrimination:** A violation of the University's Harassment and Discrimination Policy, other University policies, and/or anti-discrimination laws. Suspected violations of university discrimination policy are investigated and determined by the Office of Equal Opportunity.
- **Act of Hate/Bias Incident:** A bias incident is a hateful action taken against people or property that does not appear to constitute a crime or actionable discrimination, but which may intimidate, mock, degrade, or threaten a member or group. Hateful and offensive speech or symbols, although repugnant, are not necessarily violations of civil rights law or crimes. Violations of the **Code of Conduct** are investigated and determined by Student Conduct and Compliance.

The UMPD **daily crime log** posts a list of all calls including those related to hate crimes, discrimination, and acts of hate/bias. The Diversity Matters page keeps a **tracker for acts of hate and bias** updated every Friday.



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What's Up With...

- Alcohol and other Drugs
- Acts of Bias and Hate
- Bullying, Harassment and Violence
- Sexual Misconduct
- Depression and Suicide

[Be an Active Bystander](#)

[Practice the 3Ds](#)

[Campus Resources](#)

[Downloadable Tools](#)

Dean of Students Office
227 Whitmore

Administration Building

413-545-2684

All Emergencies: 911

UMass Amherst Police Department

413-545-2121

UMass Amherst Police Rape Reporting Line

413-545-2677

Center for Counseling and Psychological Health

413-545-2337

(24-hour crisis)

University Health Services

413-577-5000

(24-hour medical advice)

Center for Women and Community

413-545-0883

Sexual Assault Support & Advocacy (SASA) Hotline

413-545-0800

