

# SASTA USER'S GUIDE

## Introduction

The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information Services' (WV FRIS) **Sexual Assault Service Training Academy (SASTA) courses** offer agencies and individual students the flexibility to customize their education on sexual assault and related issues to their specific needs and circumstances. **Individual students and/or agency representatives can select courses and/or modules within courses to complete, depending on their interests.** They can determine the pace which they will work through the material.

- **The vast majority of the SASTA courses are written for individual students**, whether they are assigned the course by their agency or are working independently. An agency may choose to supplement its face-to-face staff/volunteer training program with these online courses, having its students work alone or together to complete the courses. In some modules, for example, there are activities that could be completed either through in-person and/or online discussions. In instances that an agency wishes its students to interact to promote knowledge and skill acquisition, a moderator from their agency could be assigned to monitor and guide the dialogue towards the learning goals.
- **There are a few courses (as indicated in the course introduction) that are intended more for agency use than for individual students.** One example is *Tools to Increase Access to Services for Victims with Disabilities*. Each module in this course has online introductory information, as well as assessment and/or planning tools (mainly offline). Another example is *Collaboration: Getting Started*. It is meant to aid two or more agencies in developing collaborative partnerships to increase sexual assault victims' access to services. It includes a combination of online introductory information and preparation activities and offline meeting agendas.

Most courses are comprised of several topical modules. However, some cover one distinct topical area—in those cases, the courses are essentially just one module.

## Module Structure

Many course modules present **Core Knowledge** on the topic at hand. Some end with **Quiz Questions** to assess what information the student acquired.

Some modules include **Activities** to allow students to practice or reinforce what they learned in a lesson. The types of activities can vary from one module to the next, but often include: **Consider This, Consider This/These Scenario(s)** and/or **What Do You Think?** (questions and answers forums and reflection questions).

Modules may include supplemental **Resources or Tools**. One standard resource is a **Lifeline Handout or Tool** on the topic at hand that can be downloaded and printed out as a companion to the online lesson. Other types of resources are offered, such as other documents or links to web sites.

In addition, modules may include **Notes** and **Video Clips** related to a module and **Key Points** summarizing lessons in the module.

Some courses also include **resource modules**. Rather than including core knowledge, quiz and activity sections, resource modules typically guide students in exploring a select grouping of WV FRIS materials and/or external resources to build their knowledge of a particular topic.

Many modules and courses are intertwined insofar as one module or course may suggest reviewing another to more fully understand a concept, law, procedure, issue, etc. Modules and courses have been cross-referenced as appropriate.

## Navigation Instructions

On the left side of the screen, there are navigation links that allow students to move among courses and modules. All of the online courses and modules available to students are listed. Students can select from among the courses, decide whether to complete all the modules in the course or just select one, and/or elect to complete the modules sequentially or choose their own order.

## Explanation of Terms

Explanations of terms can be found throughout these courses. Two important initial explanations are:

- The terms "sexual violence" and "sexual assault" are generally used in these courses to encompass sexual assault, sexual abuse and other forms of sexual violence, unless otherwise specified. One exception is when terms refer to legal definitions.
- Rape crisis centers often use the terms "victims" and "clients" to refer to persons who seek their assistance. Other service agencies often refer to those they serve as "clients" and "consumers." All of these terms are used in these courses.

If you are having difficulty accessing a document referenced in these courses through the links provided, another option is to locate the document by doing a web search for titles.

## Referencing and Reproduction of Materials

The non-commercial use and adaptation of written materials from SASTA courses to increase knowledge about sexual violence and/or to use as a supplement or guide to training or professional development is permitted. Please credit material referenced, used or adapted from these courses to the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services (WV FRIS), as well as other sources cited.

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