A Green Dot is a single choice in one moment in time to use your voice, actions or choices to make one small corner of our campus safer.

What It Is

Green Dot is a violence prevention strategy predicated on the belief that individual safety is a community responsibility and not just that of the victim or perpetrator. The goal of Green Dot is to attract a force of engaged and proactive bystanders campus-wide to communicate that violence will not be tolerated in our community and that everyone has a responsibility to help.

What It Means

Red dots on a map typically suggest the spread of some terrible epidemic with each dot representing an individual case. Together, these red dots are the accumulation of individual decisions, moments, values and actions that contribute to a culture of violence and bystander inaction.

In contrast, a green dot signifies any behavior, choice, word or attitude that promotes safety and intolerance for violence. A green dot is striking up a conversation with a friend or family member about how much violence prevention matters or putting an awareness post on your Facebook page. Simply put, a green dot is an individual choice at any given moment to make Notre Dame safer.

How It Works

Green Dot is a campus-wide initiative. The program targets students, faculty and staff and asks them to participate in a basic overview program that will teach them how to integrate moments of prevention into their existing relationships and activities. The initiative is built on the premise that in order to measurably reduce the perpetration of power-based personal violence, a cultural shift is necessary. In order to create a cultural shift, a critical mass of people need to engage in a new behavior or set of behaviors that will make violence less sustainable within our community.
The power of Green Dot is the momentum that can be created and sustained when individuals see themselves in connection with others across our work units, academic departments and our University’s divisions. Together we send the same message but in different ways to show students that we stand against violence and we stand with them when they intervene on behalf of one another.

- A faculty member includes a bystander tip on the whiteboard
- A dining hall server wears a Green Dot pin
- A staff member displays a poster in his or her office
- An administrator adds a line to his or her email signature

How To Get Involved

The Green Dot strategy includes two primary components: The Overview Speech and Bystander Training. The Overview Speech introduces the basic elements of Green Dot to generate community buy-in and start the process of behavioral change. This speech is available to departments, units, organizations, clubs and residences. If you are interested in hosting an Overview Speech for your peers, departments or work units, please contact Heather Ryan at heatherryan@nd.edu.

Bystander Training is an interactive training designed to equip students with the necessary connection, knowledge and skill to increase their proactive and reactive bystander behaviors. Students will be introduced to bystander intervention during Welcome Weekend and the Moreau First Year Experience course. However, we also need our upper level students to attend the comprehensive bystander trainings on Oct. 2, Oct 25 or Dec 5. If you know of a student of influence who could serve our community as a trained bystander, please contact Maureen McKenney at mmckenney@nd.edu.

For more information about the Green Dot program at Notre Dame, please contact co-chairs Christine Caron Gebhardt at ccaronge@nd.edu or William Stackman at wstackma@nd.edu.