Consent means two people (or more) deciding together to do the same thing, at the same time, in the same way, with each other. Any sexual act that is initiated upon a person without their consent is against the law and is a violation of CSU/District policy.

Elements of Consent

C Comprehension that the act is taking place.
O Optional for both parties.
N Negotiation with partner.
S Sobriety – must have knowledge of the nature of the act.
E Engagement in the act.
N Nonviolent.
T Talking about it—silence does not equal consent!

Consent means...
- Every person has a right to personal sovereignty.

- Consent means that you can't make assumptions about what your partner does or does not want.

- Absence of clear communication means that there is no permission to touch someone else. Absence of clear communication does not mean consent is being given.

- No means no, but silence also means no. Silence and passivity do not equal consent. Consent to one form of sexual activity does not automatically imply consent to other forms of sexual activity.

- While engaging in sexual activity, one person can change their mind and withdraw consent at any time, as long as that withdrawal is clearly communicated by the person withdrawing it.

Circumstances in which consent is given, but it is not valid are...
- Consent would be invalid when coerced, intimidated, threatened, forced, or when given by a mentally or physically incapacitated person (including an intoxicated person), or a minor.

- When one person withdraws (stops engaging or touching back) it is time to stop completely and talk about each other’s desires and limits.

- Continued requests or verbal pressure for sexual activity can be coercive and/or intimidating and may invalidate consent.

“Without consent” includes any of the following:
- The person is coerced by the immediate use or threatened use of force against a person or property.

- The person is incapable of consent by reason of mental disorder, drugs, alcohol, sleep or any other similar impairment of cognition.

- The person is intentionally deceived as to the nature of the act.

- The person is intentionally deceived to erroneously believe the perpetrator is the victim’s spouse/partner.

*Written by the UC Irvine Student Health Center and from the Supplement to Student Conduct Committee Training Manual on Sexual Misconduct (2000)
CONSENT

Consent is based on choice. Consent is active, not passive. Consent is possible only when there is equal power. Consent means two people (or more) deciding together to do the same thing, at the same time, in the same way, with each other.

Giving in because of fear is not consent. Going along with something because of fear is not consent. Going along with something because of wanting to fit in with the group is not consent. Giving in to gain approval or to avoid being hurt is not consent.

Being unable to make a decision because of alcohol, drugs, or medication is not consent. Being unsure is not consent. If you are unwilling to accept a “no,” then “yes” has no meaning. **If you cannot say “no” comfortably then “yes" has no meaning.**

-YWCA Rape Crisis