

## Title IX General Overview

### What is Title IX?

Title IX is a U.S. civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education. Civil rights laws are designed to create access for groups who have previously been marginalized and excluded from participation in the U.S.

People commonly use the term “Title IX” to encompass the statute (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.), implementing Regulations by the Department of Education (34 CFR part 106, released in 1975 and amended in 2020), Department of Education guidance documents, as well as related laws such as The Clery Act (20 U.S.C. § 1092(f)) and the Violence Against Women Act (42 U.S.C. sections 13701).

At its core, Title IX requires schools to:

- **Prohibit** sex-based discrimination and harassment (including sexual misconduct);
- Take measures to **prevent** sex-based discrimination and harassment (including sexual misconduct);
- Effectively **respond** to discrimination, harassment and misconduct of which it is aware, which includes:
  - Stop it;
  - Prevent it from reoccurring; and
  - Remedy its effects.

### What is Sex-Based Discrimination?

Sex-based discrimination means being treated unfairly or adversely in your educational or employment opportunities based on:

- Biological Sex, including but not limited to sex stereotypes and sex characteristics;
- Gender Identity or Expression;
- Sexual Orientation; and/or
- Parental, Family, or Marital Status, including conditions related to pregnancy or parenting.

Sexual misconduct is an extreme form of sex-based discrimination, which includes:

- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Exploitation
- Sexual Harassment
- Dating and Domestic Violence
- Stalking

### What are the relevant policies at Carnegie Mellon?

The University’s prohibition on discrimination on the basis of protected identity (including sex, sexual orientation, and sexual identity) is set forth in the [University’s Statement of Assurance](#). The University’s prohibition on sexual harassment and sexual misconduct is set forth in the [University’s Discriminatory and Sexual Misconduct Policy \(Interim\)](#).

## What does the Office for Institutional Equity and Title IX do?

The Office for Institutional Equity and Title IX (IEX Office) is dedicated to promoting equity at Carnegie Mellon University, which includes coordinating the University's efforts to prevent and effectively respond to all forms of gender discrimination (including gender identity discrimination) and sexual misconduct impacting community members, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating and domestic violence, and stalking, which includes:

- Offering training and education to all members of the campus community, including first responders (University Police; University Health Services; CaPS and Student Affairs Staff)
- Maintaining a website and other resources to help people understand their rights, options, and the University's policies
- Receiving and recording all reports of sex-based discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct with a centralized, trauma-informed approach
- Offering support and assistance to community members impacted by or accused of sex-based discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct
- Counseling complainants about their options for resolution both at the University and in the community
- Investigating reports when a complainant chooses to pursue formal resolution
- Implementing mutually agreed upon alternative resolution of complaints where appropriate
- Consulting with and advising community members about gender equity and Title IX compliance
- Monitoring, assessing, and responding to patterns and threats to the CMU community, including emergency response and risk assessment, often in conjunction with University Police and Student Affairs
- Maintaining important relationships with campus and community partners, including other colleges and universities, law enforcement, and local non-profits
- Staying informed about emerging best practices and changes to the law

## What does CMU do in terms of prevention?

The University is committed to preventing incidents of sexual misconduct before they occur wherever possible. These efforts include raising awareness, providing education and training programs, and providing campus safety initiatives including police and security patrols.

- All incoming first-year students receive sexual misconduct prevention and risk reduction programming as part of Orientation.
- All incoming graduate students are strongly recommended to take sexual misconduct prevention and risk reduction programming as part of Orientation.
- All new staff receive training on Title IX and CMU's Discriminatory and Sexual Misconduct Policy (Interim) as part of the New Hire Orientation.
- All incoming faculty and staff are required to take an online harassment prevention program from United Educators within thirty (30) days of hire.



Throughout the year, the IEX Office (in conjunction with on- and off-campus partners) offers various programs and trainings for students, staff and faculty to attend voluntarily or as requested by a department, student organization, residence hall, or other group, including:

- Programming about IEX, including the University policy, reporting expectations, and how to support an impacted party, that can be customized based on your needs for 30, 60 or 90 minutes of content.
- An interactive 30-45 minute workshop on sex-based discrimination in education and employment, including second generation forms of discrimination (such as unconscious bias and micro-aggressions), with practical suggestions for prevention and response.
- An interactive 60-90 minute workshop on what sexual harassment looks like, why it matters, and what can be done about it.
- An interactive 45-60 minute workshop on healthy, unhealthy, and abusive relationships.
- An interactive 45-60 minute workshop on consent and communication.
- An interactive 45-60 minute workshop on assertiveness.
- Other programs by request.

## Reporting Bias/Discrimination/Sexual Misconduct/Sex Discrimination

### How do I make a report?

- You can simply call 412-268-7125 or email [institutionalequity@cmu.edu](mailto:institutionalequity@cmu.edu)
- You can also download the [form](#) from our website, complete it, and return it to us
  - via email to: [institutionalequity@cmu.edu](mailto:institutionalequity@cmu.edu)
  - or mail to: Title IX Coordinator, 4615 Forbes Ave, Suite 330, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
- If you wish to report something anonymously, you can use the Ethics Reporting Hotline
  - Call 844-587-0793, or
  - Visit [cmu.ethicspoint.com](http://cmu.ethicspoint.com)

### What concerns should I report to The IEX Office?

You should make a report to the IEX Office if you believe that you or someone you know has been (or is being):

- Discriminated against on the basis of:
  - Sex, which includes sex stereotypes and characteristics,
    - Gender identity or expression,
    - Sexual orientation,
    - Parental, family, or marital status, including pregnancy-related conditions;
  - Harassed on the basis of any of the characteristics listed above; and/or
  - Impacted by sexual misconduct, which includes:
    - Sexual assault,
    - Sexual harassment (including quid pro quo or hostile environment harassment),
    - Dating violence or domestic violence,
    - Stalking (based on sex).

### What happens when I file a report about something that impacted me?

Someone from the IEX Office will reach out to you and provide you with information about the supportive measures available to you, as well as your options if you should choose to pursue next steps. We typically like to meet (in person, via Zoom, or by phone), as it is a lot of information to cover. However, you are not required to meet and we are happy to provide information via email.



**You choose what happens next.** Sometimes, people may just want to register the concern with us. Often, people want to seek out support, but do not want the University to take any further actions. Other times, people may want to pursue some sort of resolution through the University, the courts, or both. We will make sure that you understand your options, and what happens next is up to you.

In very, very limited circumstances, the University may be required to take additional steps to protect the campus community. For example, the University may need to investigate if there are multiple reports of similar conduct against one individual. Additionally, if there is a crime reported to have occurred on or near campus that represents a possible threat to the community, the University Police Chief may need to send out a “[timely warning](#)” to the community; the warning will not include identifying information about the impacted party.

### What happens when I file a report about something that impacted another person?

We will respond to you to acknowledge the report and provide information about support and next steps. Our preference is to contact the impacted person directly, so we can talk through the options and resources above. However, if need be, we can work with you to provide you with the information to pass along. Our most important goal is to make sure that the impacted person knows about the resources and supportive measures available, as well as their options. If you do not have mandatory reporting expectations, you can consult with us without disclosing the name of the person or persons who have been impacted.

### What happens if a report is filed about me?

We know that it can be scary to be accused of harming another person. As a member of our community, we will provide you with the same support and resources we offer to a complainant. It is crucial for you to be able to meaningfully participate in the process.

The Office for Institutional Equity and Title IX records information provided by the complainant or a third party. Based upon our experiences, often complainants are seeking supportive measures only, in which case you would not be notified that a report has been made. Our records are private, and we do not disclose or confirm the existence of a report to community members or third parties (student organizations, other educational institutions or employers) except as required by law, subpoena, search warrant or court order. In very limited circumstances, when necessary to safeguard the community, such reports may be shared with Senior Leadership at the University who need to know including, University Police and/or the Dean of Student Affairs.

If a complainant does choose to pursue investigation and/or resolution (or if there are multiple reports of a similar nature that suggest a possible threat to the community), someone in the IEX Office will reach out and ask to meet (whether in person, by Zoom or by phone). It is important that you respond to any such outreach. During the meeting, we will talk with you about the nature of the concerns, the complainant’s wishes, and the next steps. We will also give you a chance to respond to the concerns.

You are presumed not to be responsible for policy violation(s) unless and until either (1) you voluntarily accept responsibility or (2) you are found responsible after a fair and impartial investigation and determination of facts.

Punitive actions cannot and will not be taken against you unless you’ve either voluntarily accepted responsibility or have been found responsible for a policy violation. In rare circumstances, the University may take necessary actions to protect the safety of the community, such as interim removal from campus or limitations on access to university property or events. In such cases, you will receive notice and have the opportunity to appeal through the Safety Intervention Protocol. Additionally, any decisions regarding interim removal, administrative leave, or



supportive measures that significantly impact your access or involvement will provide specific grounds for appeal as outlined in the university's policies.

## What happens in a Formal Investigation?

First, a trained investigator will sit down with the complainant and try to get a full picture of the concerns. The investigator's purpose is to create an objective report of the alleged misconduct. Although there are often not witnesses or evidence available, the investigator will ask whether anyone may have additional information (witnesses) or if there may be additional types of evidence (for example, phone logs, messages, video recordings, et cetera). The complainant may have a support person or advisor of their choosing at all meetings and contacts with the IEX Office.

Then, the IEX Office will notify the respondent about the reported concerns and will provide an opportunity for the respondent to sit down with the investigator and respond to the concerns and share their perspective. The respondent can also identify if there are any individuals with additional information. Both the complainant and the respondent may have a support person or advisor of their choosing at all meetings and contacts with the IEX Office. Additionally, the respondent is not required to respond to the concerns if they do not wish to do so; however, the investigation and resolution will continue based upon the other evidence the investigator collects, including what has been shared by the complainant.

The investigator will reach out to appropriate witnesses and will attempt to interview them. The investigator will also collect and review all available evidence and information. The investigator may have follow up questions for any of the parties or witnesses.

The investigator will then draft a report summarizing the investigative process and the relevant information that has been collected. Each party will have Seven (7) business days to review the report and provide any supplements or corrections. The investigator will review any additional information or documentation provided by the parties and will update the report accordingly.

The investigator does not decide whether there has been a policy violation. Instead, the investigator turns over the report to a decision-maker to determine whether any University policy has been violated. If the decision-maker determines that the policy has been violated, appropriate outcomes and remedies will be imposed.

Each party has the right to appeal the finding (responsible or not responsible) based upon specific grounds within seven (7) calendar days of the official notification of the determination.

## What are employee reporting obligations?

All Carnegie Mellon employees are required to report information about potential violations of this Policy to the Office for Institutional Equity and Title IX (IEX Office) or the Title IX Coordinator. Reporting information to the Title IX Coordinator does not automatically initiate a formal investigation or impose obligations on the reporting party. The reporting party may be someone other than the impacted individual or Complainant. However, providing this information allows the university to offer supportive measures to the impacted party, ensuring they maintain equal access to educational and work environments. Supportive measures are available regardless of whether a formal complaint is filed.



Reporters are asked to provide as much information as possible such as:

- The name(s) of the party/ies involved including the impacted party and the accused party;
- Details about the nature of the incident(s); and
- Other relevant facts including date(s), time(s) and location(s).

A Mandated Employee is not required to seek additional information beyond what has been provided to them, but they must disclose the information of which they are aware.

Please note, if an impacted party is a minor (under age 18) at the time of disclosure, University employees are required to report potential child abuse to the child protection services agency under the [Child Protective Services Law](#).

## Support and Assistance

[What types of support and assistance does The IEX Office provide?](#)

The University will offer support to all parties, based upon what is appropriate given the circumstances of the report and the needs of the individual. Examples of Supportive Measures may include:

- Assistance in seeking academic support services and accommodations, including the ability to reschedule classes, exams and assignments, transfer course sections, or withdraw from courses;
- Academic schedule modifications (typically to separate complainant and respondent);
- Work schedule or job assignment modifications (for university employment);
- Changes in on-campus work or university housing location;
- On-campus counseling services and/or assistance in connecting to community-based counseling services;
- Assistance in connecting to community-based medical services;
- No contact agreements (agreements between parties to stop all attempts at communication or other interaction with one another);
- Temporarily limiting an individual's access to certain university facilities or activities;
- Work schedule or job assignment modifications,
- Information about and/or assistance with obtaining personal protection orders;
- Leaves of absence
- Increased monitoring and security of certain areas of the campus;
- Individualized limitations on the parties' communications and interactions with each other; or
- A combination of any of these measures.

[How do I support someone who has been impacted by sexual misconduct?](#)

Some tips and strategies to help a friend who has been affected by sexual misconduct include:

- Learn more about the types of sexual misconduct and resources available.
- Listen, Validate, and tell them that what happened was not their fault.
- Ask how you can help. Examples might include offering to walk them to Health Services, CaPS, or helping to contact the Office for Institutional Equity and Title IX or University Police.
- Respect your friend's privacy. Only tell people who need to know to help your friend.
- Don't ask for details. Accept what your friend feels comfortable telling you.
- Don't try to "fix" everything.
- Don't minimize the friend's experience; avoid saying things like "everything will be alright" or "it could have been worse."





- Don't ask "why" questions, which might make your friend feel like they are being blamed for what happened.
- Don't promise not to tell anyone. You might need to tell someone to get your friend the help they need.
- Consider contacting the Office for Institutional Equity and Title IX for support, information, resources and referrals. We can consult with you without knowing the person's identity or on a "hypothetical basis."
- Be sure to take care of yourself

## How do I support someone who has been accused of sexual misconduct?

Supporting someone accused of misconduct involves similar strategies to supporting someone impacted by misconduct. Remember that being accused can be highly distressing for the individual (the "respondent"), as they face a formal process with potential consequences. Providing balanced support includes listening without judgment and understanding that reports can stem from various circumstances.

When supporting a respondent, consider these possibilities:

- They may have knowingly committed a policy violation.
- They may have violated policy unintentionally and are aware of it.
- They may have unintentionally violated policy without awareness.
- Both parties may have different perceptions or interpretations of the same events.
- They may not have violated policy, even if the complaint is made in good faith.
  - They may not have violated policy, and the complaint could involve malicious intent (known as "process abuse").
  - There may be mutual or overlapping harmful actions, where the respondent may also have a grievance.

The golden rule (treating another person as you would like to be treated) is always a good place to start, and, as the Dalai Lama recognized: "compassion is the radicalism of our time." Moreover, research has consistently demonstrated that isolation and ostracism can lead to negative effects. As noted above, please be sure to take care of yourself.

## What should I do if I am close with both of the parties?

This is a very challenging, and unfortunately in our work, not an uncommon place to be. Start by taking good care of yourself. We recommend reading the answers to the questions above: "How do I support someone who has been impacted by sexual misconduct?" and "How do I support someone who has been accused of sexual misconduct?" Think carefully about what role(s) you can play for either or both of the parties. If you feel comfortable doing so, try to find out how each person feels about you remaining in touch with the other. Maintain good boundaries, and again, be sure to take good care of yourself.

## Resolution

### What are my options for resolution?

- **No Resolution:** You can simply share a concern and access support and resources. The University will not take any further action.
- **Formal Resolution at the University:** If you choose, you may file a Formal Complaint to initiate an



investigation of the concerns and there will be a formal process to determine whether any University policies have been violated, and if so, what the appropriate outcomes would be. This is the only way that punitive or disciplinary outcomes can be imposed against a University community member.

- **Alternative Resolution at the University:** This can be a resolution that is agreed upon by the parties and does not include the formal resolution process.

Examples may include:

- providing an educational intervention or experience for the responding party;
- implementing a No Contact Agreement and agreeing upon measures to reduce possible interactions;
- and/or programming or training for a group (department, student organization, residence hall, et cetera).

**External Options:** In addition to (or instead of) University resolution, individuals may also seek resolution through external channels. Examples include:

- **Criminal Justice System:** Some conduct that violates University policy may also violate criminal law. You may file a police report and go through the criminal justice process.
- **Civil Courts:** You may seek relief by filing a complaint in a civil court. In some circumstances, you may be able to seek a Protection from Abuse or Restraining Order.
- **National Science Foundation's Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI):** This office enforces Title IX among NSF grantees. To file a complaint, or for more information, contact (703) 292-8020, email [programcomplaints@nsf.gov](mailto:programcomplaints@nsf.gov), or complete [this form] (link to the form if available).
- **Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Education:** If you believe that the school has violated your Title IX rights, you may file a complaint with OCR.
- **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC):** If you believe you have experienced sex-based discrimination or harassment in an employment setting, you may file a complaint with the EEOC, which investigates employment-related discrimination, including gender discrimination, under federal law. (800)669-4000 | [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov)
- **Title IX Process at Another Institution:** If the responding party is a student or employee at another school, we can work with you to report your concerns to the Title IX Coordinator at that institution.

### Can I pursue more than one option at a time?

Yes, you can. You can only pursue one option for resolution at a time at the University (formal or alternative). However, you can also pursue any or all the external options at the same time, before, after or instead of University resolution.

### What is the difference between an NCA, NCO, PFA and restraining order?

A **No Contact Agreement** ("NCA") is a document that reflects that two people have mutually and voluntarily agreed not to contact one another, directly or indirectly.

- An NCA is not a punishment or a finding of responsibility for violating a University policy.
- Violating an NCA can result in disciplinary action being taken by the University.
- An NCA does not restrict individuals from being in the same place, organization, class or otherwise restrict their physical distance.





A **No Contact Order** (“NCO”) is a University directive issued by a University Official that prohibits one person from contacting another. It can only be issued for good cause where:

- (1) An NCA is reasonably necessary to prevent further unwanted contact, and one of the parties is not willing to agree to an NCA;
- (2) One or both parties have violated an existing NCA; or
- (3) As a disciplinary outcome where one of the parties has been found responsible for violating University Policy.
  - An NCO can be – but is not necessarily – imposed as a punitive measure after a finding of responsibility for violation of University policy.
  - Violating an NCO can result in disciplinary action being taken by the University.
  - An NCO can be accompanied by directives restricting an individual’s access to University property or events.

A **Restraining Order** is an order from a Court of Law designed to protect one person from another. While some States have restraining orders, Pennsylvania has **Protection from Abuse Orders** (PFAs). A PFA is only available when:

- (1) another person (must be a family member or past or current intimate partner)
- (2) has caused or threatened physical or sexual violence against you, and/or stalked you, and
- (3) you are in reasonable fear of further harm if the order is not granted.

A PFA may provide several different types of relief, including but not limited to:

- prohibiting the other party from contacting you;
- prohibiting the other party from coming within a certain distance from you;
- prohibiting the other party from coming to certain places, such as your place of work;
- prohibiting the other party from engaging in any further abusive contact;
- evicting the other party from the home; and/or
- requiring the other party to turn over weapons to law enforcement.

There are also Protection from Sexual Violence and Protection from Intimidation Orders available in limited circumstances. You can learn more about PFAs and other Protection Orders available in Pennsylvania from the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence ([www.pcadv.org](http://www.pcadv.org)).

### Who can be my support person or advisor?

Your support person or advisor can be any person of your choosing (who is willing and able to serve in this role) including but not limited to: a friend; a parent or guardian; a partner or spouse; a student, faculty or staff member at the University; and a lawyer or a legal advocate. However, your support person or advisor cannot serve as a witness in your case.

### What standard of evidence does the University use in formal resolutions?

The University uses the preponderance of the evidence standard, which means “more likely than not.” This is the most commonly used standard of evidence in the US and applies in most civil court cases and most agency matters. You may have heard of the standard called “beyond a reasonable doubt” which is only used in criminal court cases in the US. A third standard is “clear and convincing evidence” which is used in court in very limited cases in the US, including some types of fraud and child custody matters. A helpful visual of the standards of evidence, demonstrated on scales, is included below:



Images Source: <http://www.byrdslaw.com/faqs/Criminal-Law-FAQs/index.html>.

## What are the possible outcomes if someone is found responsible for a policy violation?

There are three types of outcomes that can be imposed if a person is found responsible for a policy violation. The outcomes are not mutually exclusive and in fact are often combined. There may also be a referral for action under other policies.

### 1. Educational/Intervention

- Educational outcomes including conversation with staff and/or reflective paper or project
- Mandatory training
- Written apology
- Written or verbal warning
- Mental health and/or substance use assessment and recommended follow up
- Community service

### 2. Restrictions

- Restrictions/limitations on access to campus programs or activities
- Restrictions/limitations on access to campus property
- Removal/ban from university housing
- Mandated removal from class or change to academic schedule
- Relocation of office
- Restriction or ban on attending Carnegie Mellon programs and events
- Removal/ban from campus

### 3. Status

- Probation
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Suspension from employment
- Termination of employment
- Suspension of a conferred degree
- Revocation of a degree



## Will The IEX Office call the police to file a criminal report?

In general, the IEX Office will not call the police (University, Pittsburgh or otherwise) without your express request or agreement. However, IEX staff are available to assist you in contacting the police, if you wish.

The IEX Office does provide de-identified statistics about crimes that are reported on or near campus for purposes of compiling data for the University's [Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#), as required by the Clery Act.

In very limited circumstances, where a crime or crimes have occurred and pose an ongoing threat to University students and employees, the IEX Office may be required to provide information to University Police so a "[timely warning](#)" can be issued, as required by the Clery Act. In such instances, the IEX Office will protect their privacy—to the extent possible—while also providing the community with information regarding potential risks. The warning will not include identifying information about the impacted party.

If you are currently under age 18 and are reporting something that could be child abuse, the IEX Office is required to make a report to the state child protective services agency under the [Child Protective Services Law](#).

## Retaliation

### What does retaliation mean?

Retaliation means a negative action to punish for or deter a person from making a good faith Title IX report and/or from participating in the University's Title IX process. Complainants, respondents and witnesses can be the victims of retaliation. Examples may include: threats, harassment, poor grade(s) or evaluation(s), and/or discipline.

### What is the University's position on retaliation?

The University strictly prohibits retaliation, both in the [Interim Discriminatory and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) as well as in a stand-alone [Policy Against Retaliation](#).

The University takes concerns of retaliation very seriously. The IEX Office advises all parties about the University's prohibition on retaliation. An individual who is found responsible for retaliation can be subject to disciplinary sanctions, even if they are not found responsible for other policy violations.

## New Regulations and Policy

### How do the new regulations impact the University's efforts to prevent and respond to sexual misconduct?

The most significant change is the introduction of the new Discriminatory and Sexual Misconduct Policy, which replaces the previous Sexual Misconduct Policy. While our ongoing commitment to educating and supporting community members remains unchanged, the new regulations primarily impact the processes for resolving complaints and documenting cases. Key updates include:

- **Expanded Definitions of Prohibited Conduct:** The new policy provides detailed definitions of Discrimination, Discriminatory Harassment, and other forms of misconduct, including specific prohibitions against sex-based harassment, retaliation, and violations of protective measures.



- **Training Materials:** The IEX Office is now required to publish training materials on its website for individuals involved in receiving, investigating, adjudicating, or resolving Federal Rule Sexual Misconduct cases.
- **Evidence Standard:** While universities may now choose between the “Preponderance of Evidence” and “Clear and Convincing Evidence” standards, Carnegie Mellon will continue using the Preponderance of Evidence standard.
- **Clarified Scope of Jurisdiction:** The policy now explicitly includes off-campus and online conduct if it significantly impacts the university community or creates a hostile environment within university programs or activities.
- **Confidential Resources and Privacy Protections:** Certain university employees are designated as “Confidential Employees,” able to discuss incidents with individuals without triggering a formal investigation.
- **Alternative Resolution Options:** The Alternative Resolution Process offers voluntary resolution methods outside formal adjudication, allowing for flexibility and confidentiality. However, this process is not used in cases involving violence, such as sexual assault or dating violence.
- **Mandatory Reporter Designation:** The definition of who is considered a mandatory reporter for Title IX purposes has been updated, affecting the process and obligations for reporting potential policy violations.
- **Enhanced Protections Against Retaliation:** Retaliation protections now explicitly cover not only complainants but also respondents and witnesses, ensuring comprehensive safety and support throughout the reporting and investigation process.
- **Amnesty for Reporting Students:** To encourage reporting, students who report prohibited conduct are granted amnesty from disciplinary actions for minor policy violations, such as alcohol use, as long as there is no risk to others.

## Scope of University Jurisdiction

The University’s Discriminatory and Sexual Misconduct Policy applies when conduct has a reasonable connection to the University, such as:

- **Within a University Program or Activity:** Including, but not limited to:
  - Conduct occurring on university property or in the context of university employment,
  - University-sponsored activities, including study abroad, fieldwork, practica, and internship programs.
- **Outside of University Programs or Activities:** If conduct:
  - Poses a serious threat of harm,
  - Has a continuing adverse effect, or
  - Creates a hostile environment for any member of the university community (students, faculty, or staff).



Behaviors Under Discriminatory and Sexual Misconduct Policy	Simplified Definition (see <i>Policy for full definition</i> )	University Jurisdiction
SEXUAL ASSAULT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical sexual act</li> <li>• Directed toward another person</li> <li>• Without their consent</li> </ul>	Jurisdiction applies if the conduct is reasonably connected to the University.
SEX-BASED HARASSMENT (QUID PRO QUO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unwelcome conduct or cues of a sexual nature</li> <li>• Tied to a person’s employment or education status</li> <li>• By a person in greater power or authority</li> </ul>	Jurisdiction applies if related to University programs or activities.
SEX-BASED HARASSMENT (HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT) <i>(Includes Sexual Exploitation)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unwelcome conduct or cues of a sexual nature</li> <li>• Severe or pervasive</li> <li>• Interferes with education or employment</li> </ul>	Jurisdiction applies if the environment is connected to University activities.
DATING and/or DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threats or acts of physical or sexual violence</li> <li>• Directed toward a partner, spouse or family member</li> </ul>	University jurisdiction includes cases reasonably linked to University activities.
STALKING <i>(Sex-Based)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pattern of behavior or communications</li> <li>• Directed at a specific person</li> <li>• Causes fear for safety or substantial emotional distress</li> <li>• Must be based on sex</li> </ul>	University jurisdiction applies if the conduct impacts University community members or activities.

**Do I need to hire a lawyer if I am involved in a Title IX process?**

You do not need to hire a lawyer if you are involved in the Title IX process; however, you are welcome to do so if you choose. You can have any person of your choosing serve as your support person or advisor including but not limited to: a friend; a parent or guardian; a partner or spouse; a student, faculty or staff member at the University; and a lawyer or a legal advocate. However, your support person or advisor cannot serve as a witness in your case.

If you wish to hire an attorney, we cannot make recommendations. However, we would encourage you to contact the Allegheny County Bar Association Lawyer referral service at <https://www.getapittsburghlawyer.com/> or 412-261-5555 or [lrs@acba.org](mailto:lrs@acba.org).