From One Title IX Coordinator to Another: A Practical Approach to Navigating Beyond Compliance in a Post Regulatory World

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Meet Your Facilitators

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About Us

Vision
We exist to help create safe and equitable work and educational environments.

Mission
Bring systemic change to how school districts and institutions of higher education address their Clery Act & Title IX obligations.

Core Values
- Responsive Partnership
- Innovation
- Accountability
- Transformation
- Integrity
Let’s Take a Moment. Title IX Coordinator to Title IX Coordinator.
Agenda

1. The Ever-Evolving Jurisprudence of Title IX
2. Building a Foundation of Success
3. Compliance
4. Education and Training
5. Receipt of Reports
   - Actual Knowledge, Report Response, Initial Assessments, & Supportive Measures
6. Complainant Intake & Supportive Measures
7. Report Resolution
   - Remedies Based, Informal, or Formal
The Ever-Evolving Jurisprudence of Title IX

“If nothing else, Title IX Coordinators are experts at adapting.”
Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

Title IX Applies to All Forms of Sex Discrimination

- Sexual Harassment
- Achievement Awards
- Athletics
- Benefits
- Financial Aid
- Leaves of absence and re-entry policies
- Opportunities to join groups
- Pay rates
- Recruitment
- Retention Rates
- Safety
- Screening Exams
- Sign-on Bonuses
- Student and Employee Benefits
- Thesis Approvals
- Vocational or College Counseling
- Research opportunities
The History of Title IX

1972: Title IX is Passed

1979: Cannon v University of Chicago

1992: Franklin v Gwinnett

1998: Gebser v Lago Vista

1999: Davis v Monroe

2001: Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance

2011: Dear Colleague Letter ("DCL")

2016: DCL on Transgender Students

2018: DCL and Q&A

2017: 2011 DCL guidance & 2016 DCL on Transgender Students Rescinded

2020: Withdrawal of 2001 Guidance

2020: Q&A

2020: Regulations

2011: Dear Colleague Letter ("DCL")
The Title IX Regulations
Sexual Harassment Only

1. Narrows the definition of sexual harassment;
2. Narrows the scope of the institution's educational program or activity;
3. Narrows eligibility to file a complaint;
4. Develops procedural requirements for the investigation and adjudication of sexual harassment complaints, only.

Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. Conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;

2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, OR objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient’s education program or activity; or

3. Sexual assault is a form of sexual harassment

*Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Stalking not included pre 2020 regulations
Sexual Harassment: *Section 106.30*

Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An employee of the recipient conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;

2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient’s education program or activity; or

Covered Geography

Includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the recipient exercised **substantial control** over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs, and also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by a postsecondary institution.

✓ On campus or in a building owned or controlled
✓ Off-campus incident that occurs as part of the institution's operations
✓ Institution exercised substantial control over the respondent and the context of alleged sexual harassment that occurred off campus pursuant to § 106.44(a); or
✓ the incident of sexual harassment occurs at an off-campus building owned or controlled by a student organization officially recognized by a postsecondary institution
Not Covered

- Off campus conduct, even if it has an impact on the educational program or activity;
- Conduct that occurs outside of the United States.
Covered Individuals
Eligibility for Title IX’s Protections

“At the time of filing a formal complaint, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of the recipient with which the formal complaint is filed.” 34 C.F.R. § 106.30

Applicant
Accepted/Hired
Enrolled/Employed
Title IX Application Post May 2020 Regulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Conduct</th>
<th>Ed Program or Activity</th>
<th>Required Identity</th>
<th>Apply 106.45 Procedures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hostile Environment</td>
<td>On campus</td>
<td>Complainant is participating or attempting to participate in the Ed Program or activity</td>
<td>Required Response: Section 106.45 Procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Harassment</td>
<td>Campus Program, Activity, Building, and In the United States</td>
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<td>Quid Pro Quo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual Assault</td>
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<td>Dating/Domestic Violence</td>
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<td>Stalking</td>
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GRAND RIVER SOLUTIONS
Conduct Falling Outside the Scope of Title IX

- Apply other institutional policies and procedures
- Ensure that those policies and procedures are complaint with VAWA/Clery, other intersecting federal and state laws
## Actual Notice

### A Narrowed Scope of Institutional Responsibility

**Institution must respond when it has:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Actual knowledge”</th>
<th>When “an official of the recipient who has authority to institute corrective measures” has notice, e.g., Title IX Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of “sexual harassment” (as newly defined)</td>
<td>“includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the recipient exercised substantial control” over the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurred</td>
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<tr>
<td>that occurred within the school’s “education program or activity”</td>
<td>Fact specific inquiry focused on control, sponsorship, applicable rules, etc.</td>
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<td>against a “person in the United States” (so, not in study abroad context)</td>
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Initial Response Requirements

Receipt of Report

Outreach/Response from Title IX Coordinator

Support Measures, whether or not Formal Complaint is filed

How to File

Options for Resolution
Procedural Requirements for Investigations

- Notice to both parties
- Equal opportunity to present evidence
- An advisor of choice
- Written notification of meetings, etc., and sufficient time to prepare
- Opportunity to review all evidence, and 10 days to submit a written response to the evidence prior to completion of the report
- Report summarizing relevant evidence and 10 day review of report prior to hearing
# Procedural Requirements for Hearings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Must be live, but can be conducted remotely</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cannot compel participation of parties or witnesses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Standard of proof used may be preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing; standard must be the same for student and employee matters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross examination must be permitted and must be conducted by advisor of choice or provided by the institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decision maker determines relevancy of questions and evidence offered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written decision must be issued that includes finding and sanction</td>
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Institutions must offer both parties an appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, and from a recipient's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein.

Final Rule § 106.45(b)(8)
Appeals: Mandatory Grounds

(A) Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;

(B) New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and/or

(C) The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.
Other Requirements of the Regulations

- Designation of a Title IX Coordinator
- Dissemination of policy
- Separation of Responsibilities
- Training and posting of training
- Impartiality
- Record Keeping
Building a Foundation of Success
Final Rule, Section 106.8(a)

The institution must notify applicants and all members of the community of the Title IX Coordinators:

1. Name or Title
2. Office address
3. Email address
4. Phone number

Any person may report, at any time, sex discrimination, including sexual harassment in person, by mail, by telephone, by email, or any other means using the contact information listed.
“Responsibilities Required Under Title IX and the Regulations”

• Serve as the primary pathway for receipt of reports of sex discrimination and sexual harassment;
• Upon receipt of a report, promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures and to explain the process of filing a formal complaint;
• Coordinate the effective implementation of supportive measures;
• Where a report is made, but a formal complaint is not filed by the complainant, determine whether a formal complaint should be filed and sign that formal complaint;
• Effective implementation of any remedies imposed by a decision maker at the conclusion of a grievance process.
Responsibilities Often Delegated to the Title IX Coordinator

- Ensuring that the institutional policies and procedures are compliant with Title IX
- Ensuring dissemination of the policy
- Overseeing the grievance process to ensure it is compliant
- Coordinating a compliant grievance process
- Staffing various roles
- Ensuring training requirements are met
- Record keeping
- Compliance with intersecting federal and state laws
- Education and prevention efforts
The Three Essential Functions of Title IX Compliance

01 Response
02 Education & Prevention
03 Compliance
Another moment, please.
A Successful Title IX Coordinator...

C - Understands the Importance of Consistency
A - Adheres to policies and procedures
R - Records or documents everything
E - Engages meaningfully with the community
S - Strategically plans for success
Strategic

- Conduct your own review: Evaluate the institution’s state of compliance, strengths, and opportunities in all areas
- Develop plans for success in every area
- Prioritize the implementation and execution of those plans
Engage

• Understand the needs of the community you serve
• Build awareness
• Build trust
• When you engage, others engage
• Can assist with workload
Adhere

- Adhere to policies and procedures
- Implement training plans
- Stick to compliance plans
- Use the forms that are developed
Consistency

- Development of Annual Plans for Training
- Creation of Forms & Templates
- Development of Annual Plans for Compliance
- Comprehensive Policies & Procedures
Record

Document, Document, Document!

1. Compliance
   1. Maintain old policies
   2. Keep records of all responses to reporting requirement

2. Training
   1. Dates, times, locations
   2. Attendees
   3. Training materials
   4. Reason for the training

3. Response
   1. EVERYTHING
Successful Coordinators Approach all Aspects of the Work

Utilizing Best Practices Impartially With Empathy
The Requirement of Impartiality
Section 106.45(b)(1)(iii)

The grievance process must require that any individual designated by the recipient as Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision maker, or facilitator of informal resolution not to have a conflict of interest or bias.

1. For or against complainants or respondents generally, or
2. An individual complainant or respondent
What Constitutes Bias?

Conduct a fact-specific, objective inquiry based in common sense to determine bias.

Includes:
- Decision-making that is grounded in stereotypes
- Different treatment based on a person's sex or other protected characteristic
- A decision based on something other than the facts
Impermissible Bias

Making a decision, determination, or finding that is based on something other than the evidence and specific facts of the case.
Conflict of Interest
Avoiding Prejudgment of the Facts

Requires that the Title IX professional refrain from making a judgement on individual facts, the allegations, or whether a policy violation occurred until they have had the opportunity to consider all of the evidence.
An Impartial Response is...

- Not influenced by bias or conflict of interest.
- Committed to decisions based on an objective view of the facts as you know them and as they evolve.
- Information seeking, not confirming.
Sources of Compliance Obligations

- Title IX Final Regulations
- Violence Against Women Act
- Other, Intersecting Federal Laws
- State Law: MD Educ Code 11-601
- Legal Precedent
- Institutional Policies
- Resolution Agreements
# Title IX Compliance Obligations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designate</th>
<th>Designate a Title IX Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disseminate</td>
<td>Disseminate Policy</td>
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<td>• Notification</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respond</td>
<td>Promptly respond to instances of sexual harassment occurring within the educational program or activity of which the institution has actual knowledge in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide</td>
<td>Provide supportive measures in accordance with the requirements of section 160.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilize</td>
<td>For reports of sexual harassment utilize grievance procedures that comply with section 160.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require</td>
<td>Require that individuals participating in the grievance process do so impartially and that they are trained in accordance with the 160.45(b)(1)(iii).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain</td>
<td>Maintain records response to sexual harassment in accordance with 160.45 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comply</td>
<td>Comply with 160.71 prohibition against retaliation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Maryland Education Code Section 11-601

1. Adopt, disseminate and post, a policy compliant with the provisions of this law;
2. The policy must include procedures for reporting and taking disciplinary action;
3. Parties going through an administrative adjudication process are entitled to assistance of an attorney paid for by MHEC;
4. Administer and report results of a campus climate survey, every two years.
Categories of Compliance Requirements

- Staffing
- Notice
- Training Education
- Procedural
- Reporting
Developing a Strategy for Compliance

IDENTIFY COMPLIANCE OBLIGATIONS

HOW WILL YOU PROVE THAT YOU ARE COMPLIANT

RECORD KEEPING
Implementing the Strategy for Compliance

- Partnerships
- Record Keeping Databases
- Calendar
Educating ourselves and our communities in a post-regulatory world
Sources of Training Requirements

- Title IX Final Regulations
- Violence Against Women Act
- MD Educ Code 11-601
- Resolution Agreements
Training and Education
Two Areas of Focus

1. Institutional Response to Sex Discrimination
2. Prevention Education
Institutional Response Training

1. Institutional Policies and Procedures
2. Prohibited Conduct
3. Options for Confidential Support
4. The Identify, Role, and Requirements of the Responsible Employee
5. Options and methods for Reporting
6. The Grievance Process
7. The Role of the Title IX Coordinator
A Really Important Moment. Listen Up. It’s Okay…

To not know the answer to every question thrown your way

To say, “I don’t know”, “I’d like to think about that”, “I’ll get back to you”, “Thank you for sharing your perspective”

To decline to answer a question

To recognize and assert your expertise
Who Must Receive Training?

Title IX Staff
• Coordinators
• Investigators
• Decision Makers (hearings and appeals)
• Facilitators of Informal Resolution
• “Those who are charged with ensuring a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation and result.” (VAWA)

Students
• New Students
• Existing Students
• Specialized populations
• Student staff

Faculty
• New faculty
• Existing faculty
• Adjunct Faculty
• Supervising faculty

Staff
• Senior leadership
• Public Safety/campus law enforcement
• Health care workers
Community Partners?

- Boards of Trustees
- Law Enforcement
- Advocacy Groups
- Health Care Providers
- Attorneys
- Media
Training for Title IX Staff

The scope of the institution’s education program or activity (i.e., its Title IX “jurisdiction”)

How to conduct the grievance process

How to serve impartially

The technology to be used at a live hearing

Issues of relevance of questions and evidence

Rape shield protections; and,

Issues of relevance in creating an investigative report.
Responsible Employees/Officials with Authority
Responsible Employee Training: Additional Areas of Focus

- Take time to explain the reason for and importance of Responsible Employee reporting
- Provide advice on how to receive a report
- Provide suggestions on how to share their obligation to report with the reporting individual
- Instruct on their options for reporting to the Title IX Coordinator
- Fully explain what happens after they report a disclosure
Special Considerations for Training & Education in the Post Regulatory Landscape

- Explaining the narrowed scope of Title IX
- Explaining the institutional decision for two processes/procedures
- Responsible Employee challenges
- Burden of proof challenges
- Length of Training
- Time for questions/community processing
"The Department understands commenters’ beliefs that the Department should create rules that monitor drinking, teach about interpersonal boundaries, sexuality, bystander intervention, and sexual consent communication... [A]nd while the Department does not mandate educational curricula, nothing in the final regulations impedes recipients’ discretion to provide students (or employees) with educational information." 85 Fed. Reg. 30063 (May 19, 2020).
Prevention Education: Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

A primary prevention and awareness program [which includes bystander intervention] aims to prevent dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Ongoing prevention and awareness campaigns.
## Elements of Annual Training Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify population to be trained</td>
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<tr>
<td>Determine topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule the training</td>
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<tr>
<td>How will you deliver the training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community input/feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement as passive education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ongoing Assessment of Trainings

- Pre and Post Surveys
- Observation
- Opportunities for Feedback & Suggestions
- Engage and Listen
Communicate Training Successes

- Annual Report
- On your website
- When training
- In conversations
Receipt of Reports

Actual Knowledge, Report Response, Initial Assessments, and Supportive Measures
Infrastructure for Reporting

- Develop a plan for receiving and reviewing the reports.
- Develop methods/avenues for reporting.
- Communicate reporting methods and what folks should expect after submitting a report.
- Develop a protocol that ensures a prompt response to reports.
- Develop and adhere to practices for documenting reports and responses.
Regulatory Requirements

Options

Notice to College/University

Outreach/Response from Title IX Coordinator

Support Measures, whether or not Formal Complaint is filed

How to File

Options
Receiving Reports and Initiating the Response

1. REVIEW THE REPORT
2. DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE INITIAL RESPONSE
3. PROMPTLY INITIATE THAT RESPONSE
4. DOCUMENT/RECORD THE RECEIPT OF THE REPORT AND THE RESPONSE THERETO
**Initial Outreach**

**FIRST — SAFETY**

- **Email**
  - Create forms

- **Phone**

- **In person**
  - Use RA
  - Campus safety

- **Follow up emails**
Emergency Removal of Student

- High threshold
- Not a determination of responsibility
- Whether or not grievance is underway
- Individualized
- Immediate threat (physical)
- Opportunity to challenge
The Title IX Office receives the following anonymous report via your institution’s online reporting form:

Riley Smith is in trouble. I live on their floor in River Hall and I constantly hear fighting and crying coming from their room at night. Every time I see Riley with their partner, they seem really submissive and nervous and I have noticed bruises on Riley the mornings after the biggest fights. The RA and Riley’s partner are friends and so the RA doesn’t do anything about it. It’s getting so bad that some of the other people on the floor are talking about intervening, but we are afraid of Riley’s partner too.
I really don't want to bother you but I'm in a really hard situation.

I and my boyfriend had a row for these days. And he beat me yesterday and this morning that I attached some pictures before XXXX final starts this afternoon because I found out I couldn't hold pencil because of trembling and I couldn't even think in the first thirty minutes. These pictures shows my arms after he twisting them, which doesn't look violent but feel hurt. One hour before lab final started, I told him I'm going to call police after he beat me, then he dragged me from bed to the floor and threatened to kill me if I call police. It was horrible and hard to reminisce. I knew he tends to use violence before and I forgave him some times when he just pinched my chin and dragged my arm. But this time it is too bad. So he took my phone away and restrain me in my room, not letting me go because I told him I would tell my TA about this whole thing after the final. So he just let me go to final after I promised I won't tell school and police.

When I go to two finals today (XXXX and XXXX, especially the latter), I really couldn't think and even hold pen (and I grabbed my bag but almost nothing in it) for the first thirty minutes. Now everything is done, he promised not to show up in my life nor my room, which is good because I don't want to take penalty on anyone. But I couldn't predict what my final shows out. It won't match my work for the whole semester. I don't expect any makeup chance. I just want to let you know since I barely know any American women here, am I doing wrong? Is there anything I can do to fix anything from academics or life?

Sorry for bothering.
My name is Professor Jones. One of my students shared that they were raped last weekend at a party by another student. They don’t want the school starting an investigation, and so I am not going to share their name or the details with you. They are thinking about talking to the police but are not sure who to contact. Can you please provide me with information that I can share with the student?
Complainant Intake & Supportive Measures
Initial Meeting with the Complainant

- Prepare for the meeting
- Select appropriate space
- Build trust and rapport; empower
- Explain your role
- Discuss available support
- Options for reporting
- Answer questions
- Evidence collection/preservation
- Conclude with a discussion of next steps
Supportive Measures

Non-Disciplinary

May not unreasonably burden the other party

Non-punitive

As appropriate and reasonably available

Confidential

Designed to restore or preserve equal access

Supportive Measures

GRAND RIVER SOLUTIONS
Examples of Supportive Measures

- Assistance obtaining access to counseling, advocacy, or medical services;
- Assistance obtaining access to academic support and requesting academic accommodations;
- Changes in class schedules;
- Assistance requesting changes in work schedules, job assignments, or other work accommodations;
- Changes in campus housing;
- Safety escorts;
- Leaves of absence;
- Mutual restrictions on contact between the Parties (“No-contact” orders).
“Mutual Restrictions On Contact Between the Parties”
Post Meeting Tasks

- Document the meeting
- Make connections
- Provide the supportive measures
- Send a summary email with resources, options, next steps
- Follow up

Document supportive measures requested, provided, and not provided. Where not provided, indicate why.
Report Resolution

Remedies Based, Informal, or Formal
How to Proceed?

Remedies-based
No formal process

Alternative/Informal
Signed agreement;
Voluntary;
What records?

Formal/ Investigation/
Hearing
All requirements of 106.45
Remedies Based Resolution

07(a)
Remedies Based Resolutions

• Supportive Measures
• Educational Conversations
• Targeted Education
Formal Complaint & Notice Requirements

07(b)
Formal Complaint Filed

By Complainant

By the Title IX Coordinator
Factors to Consider When Determining Whether to File a Formal Complaint

- Allegations of Violence
- Threats
- Use of weapons
- Serial predation
Formal Complaint

A Formal Complaint must include:

1. The Complainant's digital or physical signature, or an indication that the Complainant is the person filing the Formal Complaint;

2. An allegation of Prohibited Conduct as defined under this Policy. This may include:
   - Where the incident(s) occurred; what incident(s) occurred; when the incident(s) occurred;

3. Identity of Respondent, if known;

4. A request for a resolution.

Formal Complaints may be made to the Title IX Coordinator by US Mail, email, or in person.
# Dismissing Complaints

## MANDATORY
- Not sexual harassment
- Did not occur in program or activity
- Not against person in the U.S.

## DISCRETIONARY
- Complainant withdraws complaint
- Respondent no longer enrolled/employed
- School unable to collect sufficient info
Can Proceed Under Other Policy
Notifying the Respondent

- FIRST—SAFETY
  - Make sure support available
  - Written Notification Meetings and Sufficient Time to Prepare
- Don’t send at 5pm
- Don’t send on a Friday
- How will you notify
- Consider impact of notification on Respondent

GRAND RIVER SOLUTIONS
Notice of Allegation Requirements

• Notice of the allegations, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include:
  • the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known,
  • the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment under § 106.30,
  • and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known.

• The written notice must include a statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

• The written notice must inform the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, under paragraph (b)(5)(iv) of this section, and may inspect and review evidence under paragraph (b)(5)(vi) of this section.

• The written notice must inform the parties of any provision in the recipient's code of conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process
Advisor of Choice

The advisor can be anyone, including an attorney;

Institutions cannot place restrictions on who can serve

No training required

Institution must provide advisor for the purposes of cross examination, only.
Initial Meeting with Respondent

- Prepare for the meeting
- Select appropriate space
- Build trust and rapport; empower
- Explain your role
- Discuss available supportive measures
- Supportive measures that provided to complainant that impact them
- Answer questions
- Evidence collection/preservation
- Conclude with a discussion of next steps
Post Meeting Tasks

- Document the meeting
- Send a summary email with resources, options, next steps
- Follow up
- Provide the supportive measures
- Make connections
Formal Complaint Resolution

Informal Resolution

- Formal Complaint Required
- Parties must agree
- Can withdraw from process
- Alternate Resolution/Mediation
- No appeal

Formal Resolution

- Investigation and Adjudication process in compliance with Section 106.45
Informal Resolution
Informal Resolution Requirements

- Formal Complaint must be filed
- Participation in an informal resolution must be voluntary
- Must occur prior to resolution via a formal process
- Parties must be permitted to withdraw and seek formal resolution
- Voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution must be obtained
- Facilitators of informal resolution must be trained
Informal Resolution Notice Requirements

- the allegations,
- the requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations, provided, however, that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint, and any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared;
Facilitators of Informal Resolution as Witnesses
Informal Resolution is prohibited to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.
Formal Resolution

07(d)
Procedural Requirements for Investigations

- Notice to both parties
- Equal opportunity to present evidence
- An advisor of choice
- Written notification of meetings, etc., and sufficient time to prepare
- Opportunity to review all evidence, and 10 days to submit a written response to the evidence prior to completion of the report
- Report summarizing relevant evidence and 10 day review of report prior to hearing
Title IX Coordinator’s Role

In the Investigation

➢ Title IX Coordinator is permitted to conduct the investigation, though this is not favored
➢ If conducting the investigation, do so in accordance with the applicable institutional policy
➢ If not conducting the investigation, may serve as a support to the investigators
➢ May serve as a resource to the parties
## Procedural Requirements for Hearings

- Must be live, but can be conducted remotely
- No Compelling participation
- Standard of proof used may be preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing; standard must be the same for student and employee matters
- Cross examination must be permitted and must be conducted by advisor of choice or provided by the institution
- Decision maker determines relevancy of questions and evidence offered
- Exclusion of Evidence if no cross examination
- Written decision must be issued that includes finding and sanction
Title IX Coordinator’s Role
In the Adjudication

➢ Title IX Coordinator may not serve as the decision maker
➢ May serve to support the decision maker(s)
➢ May participate in the hearing to provide logistical support to decision makers
➢ Responsible for effective implementation of remedies imposed
Institutions must offer both parties an appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, and from a recipient’s dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein.

Final Rule § 106.45(b)(8)
Title IX Coordinator’s Role
In the Appeal

➢ Title IX Coordinator may not serve as an appellate reviewer
➢ May serve to support the appellate reviewer/panel
➢ May provide logistical support
➢ May coordinate implementation of appellate findings, where appropriate.
➢ Responsible for effective implementation of remedies imposed
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