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PURPOSE

To ensure the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (“UAMS” or “the University”) does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its Education Programs and Activities and maintains compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*, and the U.S. Department of Education’s implementing regulations, 34 CFR Part 106.

SCOPE

The University’s nondiscrimination policy extends to admission, employment, and other programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106 may be sent to the University’s Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, or both.

This policy shall apply to allegations and complaints of Sexual Harassment as defined herein. All other complaints of discrimination or misconduct that do not fall within the jurisdiction of Title IX may be made through other campus procedures.

This policy shall not be construed or applied to restrict academic freedom at the University. Further, it shall not be construed to restrict any rights protected under the First Amendment, the Due Process Clause, or any other constitutional provisions. This policy also does not limit an employee’s rights under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

DEFINITIONS

Complainant shall mean any individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment. At the time of the filing of 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. Any person may report sex discrimination, including harassment, whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of discrimination or harassment.

Consent shall mean the permission, or act of giving permission, for an action to happen. Consent is clear, knowing, and voluntary. Consent is active, not passive. Silence, in and of itself, cannot be interpreted as Consent. Consent can be given by words or actions, if those words or actions create mutually understandable clear permission regarding willingness to engage in (and the conditions of) sexual activity. If coercion, intimidation, threats, or physical force are used, there is no Consent.

If a person is mentally or physically incapacitated so that the person cannot understand the fact, nature, or extent of the sexual situation, there is no Consent. Incapacitation can be due to alcohol

or drugs or being asleep or unconscious. This policy also covers incapacity due to mental disability, involuntary physical restraint, or from the taking of rape drugs. Possession, use and/or distribution of any of these substances, including Rohypnol, Ketamine, GHB, Brundage, etc. is prohibited, and administering one of these drugs to another person is a violation of this policy. More information on these drugs can be found at <http://www.911rape.org/>

Use of alcohol or other drugs will never function as a defense to a violation of this policy. An individual violates this policy if the individual initiates and engages in sexual activity with someone who is incapacitated, and (1) the individual knew the other person was incapacitated, or (2) a sober, reasonable person under similar circumstances as the person initiating the sexual activity would have known the other person was incapacitated.

There is also no Consent when there is force, expressed or implied, or use of duress or deception upon the victim. Whether an individual has taken advantage of a position of influence over an alleged victim may be a factor in determining Consent.

Force is the use of physical violence and/or imposing on someone physically to gain sexual access. Force also includes overt threats, implied threats, intimidation, and coercion that overcome resistance or produce Consent.

Coercion is unreasonable pressure for sexual activity. Coercive behavior differs from seductive behavior based on the type of pressure someone uses to get Consent from another. When someone makes clear to you that they do not want sex, that they want to stop, or that they do not want to go past a certain point of sexual interaction, continued pressure beyond that point can be coercive.

Under Arkansas law, the age of Consent varies with the degrees of assault, the age of the actor, and the relationship of the actor to the other Party. For specific information, please refer to Arkansas statutes (e.g., Arkansas Code Annotated § 5-14-125, Sexual Assault in the Second Degree).

Consent to any one form of sexual activity cannot automatically imply Consent to any other forms of sexual activity. In addition, previous relationships or prior Consent cannot imply Consent to future sexual acts.

Dating Violence shall mean a violent act committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim and where the existence of such relationship is determined based on consideration of the following factors: (1) the length of the relationship; (2) the type of relationship; and (3) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Days shall mean working days, rather than calendar days, unless otherwise specified.

Domestic Violence shall mean felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or

family violence laws of Arkansas, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the laws of Arkansas. Under the Arkansas law on domestic abuse, "family or household members" means spouses, former spouses, parents and children, persons related by blood within the fourth degree of consanguinity, in-laws, any children residing in the household, persons who presently or in the past have resided or cohabitated together, persons who have or have had a child in common, and persons who are presently or in the past have been in a dating relationship together.

Education Program or Activity shall mean locations, events, or circumstances over which UAMS exercised substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the Sexual Harassment occurred, and also includes any building owned or controlled by an officially recognized student organization.

Formal Complaint shall mean a document filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging Sexual Harassment against a Respondent and requesting that the recipient investigate the allegation of Sexual Harassment. The phrase "document filed by a complainant" means a document or electronic submission (such as by electronic mail or through an online portal provided for this purpose by the University) that contains the Complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the Complainant is the person filing the Formal Complaint.

Party shall mean the Complainant or Respondent.

Preponderance of the Evidence shall mean a standard of proof where the conclusion is based on facts that are more likely true than not.

Respondent shall mean an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment.

Sanctions shall mean a penalty for violation of this policy. The determination of Sanctions to be imposed against a Respondent who is found to have been responsible for violating this policy will depend upon the nature and gravity of the misconduct, any record of prior discipline for a violation of this Policy, or both. Sanctions against students may include, without limitation, expulsion or suspension from the University, disciplinary probation, expulsion from campus housing, mandated counseling, and/or educational Sanctions. Sanctions against employees and other non-students may include, without limitation, a written reprimand, disciplinary probation, suspension, termination, demotion, reassignment, revision of job duties, reduction in pay, exclusion from campus or particular activities, and/or educational Sanctions deemed appropriate.

Sexual Assault shall mean an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A nonforcible sex offense includes incest (*i.e.*, the nonforcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law) and statutory rape (*i.e.*, nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of Consent). A forcible sex offense is any sexual act directed against another person, without the Consent of the victim including instances where the victim is incapable of giving Consent. A forcible sex offense includes:

- **Forcible Rape** shall mean the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any part of the body or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the Consent of the victim.
- **Forcible Sodomy** shall mean oral or sexual intercourse with another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will or not forcibly or against that person's will in instances where the victim is incapable of giving Consent because of their youth or because of their temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
- **Sexual Assault with an Object** shall mean using an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will or not forcibly or against that person's will in instances where the victim is incapable of giving Consent because of their youth or because their temporary or permanent or physical incapacity.
- **Forcible Fondling** shall mean the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, forcibly and/or against that person's will or not forcibly or against that person's will in instances where the victim is incapable of giving Consent because of victim's youth or temporary or permanent or physical incapacity.

Sexual Exploitation shall mean when a person takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for their own advantage or benefit, or to benefit or advantage anyone other than the one being exploited, and that behavior does not otherwise constitute one of other sexual misconduct offenses. Examples of behavior that could rise to the level of Sexual Exploitation include but are not limited to:

- Invading sexual privacy.
- Prostituting another person.
- Non-consensual video or audiotaping of sexual activity.
- Going beyond the boundaries of Consent (e.g., allowing others to watch consensual sex without that Party's knowledge or Consent); engaging in voyeurism.
- Non-consensual distribution of photos, other images, or information of an individual's sexual activity, intimate body parts, or nakedness, with the intent to or having the effect of embarrassing an individual who is the subject of such images or information.

Sexual Harassment shall mean conduct on the basis of sex constituting one of the following:

- (1) An employee of UAMS conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the institution 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 University's educational programs or activities; or
- (3) Any of the following:
 - (A) "Sexual Assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v) and this policy
 - (B) "Dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10) and this policy
 - (C) "Domestic Violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8) and this policy
 - (D) "Stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30) and this policy

Stalking shall mean engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional

distress.

Supportive Measures shall mean non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without a fee or charge to the Complainant or Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Complaint or where no Formal Complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's Education Program or Activity without unreasonably burdening the other Party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all Parties or the University's educational environment or deter Sexual Harassment.

POLICY

Sexual Harassment as defined in this policy (including Sexual Assault) is a form of sex discrimination and is prohibited. Title IX requires the University to promptly and reasonably respond to Sexual Harassment in the University's Education Programs and Activities, provided that the harassment was perpetrated against a person in the United States. At the time that a Formal Complaint is filed, the Complainant must be participating in (or attempting to participate in) an Education Program or Activity of the University. An Education Program or Activity includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the University 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.

PROCEDURE

1. Reporting

All complaints or reports about sex discrimination (including Sexual Harassment) should be submitted to the Title IX Coordinator:

Title IX Coordinator

Michelle Zengulis

Title IX/ADA Coordinator Education Building II, 2/109 Office: 501.526.5641|

Email: mzengulis@uams.edu

Complaints can be submitted electronically through via [i-safe](#).

Deputy Title IX Coordinator-Employees

Audrey Bradley

Sr. HR Director-Employee Relations Central Building, 4C

Office: 501.603.1579

Email: bradleyaudrey@uams.edu

Complaints can be submitted electronically through via [i-safe](#).

A list of [Deputy Title IX Coordinators by College](https://hr.uams.edu/employee-relations/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/06/Title-IX-Information-FINAL-rev-6-30-2022-FINAL.pdf) can be found at <https://hr.uams.edu/employee-relations/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/06/Title-IX-Information-FINAL-rev-6-30-2022-FINAL.pdf>.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, may be contacted by phone 800-421-3481 or by email at ocr@ed.gov.

Any person may report sex discrimination, including Sexual Harassment (whether or not the person is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed above, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the telephone number or electronic mail address, or by mail to the office address, listed for the Title IX Coordinator.

2. Consensual Relationships

The mission of the UAMS is promoted by an atmosphere of professionalism, mutual respect and trust. This trust is put at risk when members of the University community engage in romantic or sexual relationships that involve persons with unequal power; *i.e.*, administrator and faculty, faculty and student, supervisor and employee, coach and athlete. The power differential inherent in such relationships makes any apparent Consent invalid.

Any employee involved in a consensual romantic or sexual relationship with another member of the University community is required to advise their direct supervisor, the academic or administrative department head, or the appropriate Vice President of the relationship. The employee is further required to cooperate in eliminating any actual or potential conflict of interest resulting from the relationship.

3. Confidentiality

Except as compelled by law or as required to conduct a full and fair grievance proceeding in response to a Formal Complaint, the University will treat the information obtained or produced as part of the Title IX procedures as confidential. The University will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, any Complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any Respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the FERPA statute, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 CFR Part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 CFR Part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceedings arising thereunder.

4. Amnesty

The University encourages reporting of incidents of prohibited conduct and seeks to remove any barriers to reporting. The University recognizes that an individual who has been drinking or using drugs at the time of an incident may be hesitant to make a report because of potential consequences for their own conduct. Individuals who report prohibited conduct or participate as witnesses will not be subject to disciplinary Sanctions for personal consumption of alcohol and/or other substances.

The University may initiate an educational discussion with individuals about their alcohol and/or drug use or may direct these individuals to services such as counseling for alcohol and/or drug use. Amnesty will not be extended for any violations of University policy other than alcohol/drug use. The use of alcohol, drugs, and/or legally prescribed medication does not justify or excuse behavior that constitutes prohibited conduct under this policy.

5. Filing Report with Local Law Enforcement

In some instances, Sexual Harassment may constitute both a violation of this policy and criminal activity. The University grievance process is not a substitute for instituting legal action. **The University encourages individuals to report alleged sexual misconduct promptly to campus officials AND to law enforcement authorities, where appropriate.** Individuals may file a report directly with local law enforcement agencies by dialing 911. Individuals may also contact any of the following for assistance in filing a report with local law enforcement:

UAMS Police Department
4301 W Markham St, #583
Little Rock, AR 72205
501.686.7777

City/County Police Department
Emergencies: 911

Little Rock Police Department
501.371.4621

Pulaski County Sherriff's Department
501.340.6600

6. Preserving Evidence

It is important that evidence of Sexual Assault be preserved, because it may be needed for prosecuting a criminal case. Victims and others should not alter the scene of an attack. The victim should not change clothes, bathe or shower, drink or eat anything, or brush their teeth before reporting the assault. Any items worn by the victim during the assault, but are not currently being worn, and any materials encountered during the assault (*i.e.*, bed sheets, blankets, etc.) should be placed in a paper bag and brought along with the victim to a local hospital emergency department that has kits to collect and preserve evidence of Sexual Assault.

7. Employee's Duty to Report to Title IX Coordinator

In order to enable the University to respond effectively and to proactively stop instances of Sexual Harassment, employees must, within 24 hours of receiving information regarding a potential violation of this policy, report information to the Title IX Coordinator. Any employee who fails to promptly report a matter to the Title IX Coordinator may be subjected to disciplinary action for failing to do so. There are two categories of employees who are exempt from this requirement: (1) licensed health-care professionals and other employees who are statutorily prohibited from reporting such information and (2) persons designated by the campus as victim advocates.

8. Off-Campus Conduct

Conduct that occurs off campus that is the subject of a Formal Complaint or report will be evaluated to determine whether the matter falls within the University's jurisdiction under Title IX or should be referred to a different department or official within the University.

9. Anonymous Reports

An individual may anonymously report prohibited conduct to the University by contacting the Title IX Coordinator. Depending on the amount of information available about the incident and/or the individuals involved, the University's ability to respond to an anonymous report may be limited. The University will attempt to take appropriate steps to protect the safety of the University community based on the information reasonably available. Reports can be submitted electronically through the [i-safe reporting](#) platform.

10. Availability of Counseling and Advocacy

Counseling and other mental health services for victims of Sexual Assault are available on campus and in the community. Students and employees may use the [Student Wellness Center](#). Employees of the University may be able to seek help through the [Employee Assistance Program](#). Community mental health agencies, such as the [Community Health Centers of Arkansas](#), and counselors and psychotherapists in private practice in the area can provide individual and group therapy. Committee Against Spouse Abuse ("CASA") Women's Shelter or Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Programs may assist with making referrals for individual counseling and support groups and in identifying non-counseling campus and community resources that may be of additional help and serve as a victim advocate upon request.

11. Education and Awareness Programs

The University's Title IX Coordinator is responsible for planning and coordinating campus education and awareness programs about all forms of Sexual Harassment. Programs are presented regularly throughout the academic year in the academic setting, employee training and professional development, and in other settings that are likely to reach people throughout the campus community. Employees will be required to complete an annual electronic training via Workday or a comparable online training tool. Campus-wide education and awareness activities are also conducted during Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month.

12. Grievance Procedure

These procedures apply to all grievances regarding conduct that may constitute Sexual Harassment as defined in this policy (including Sexual Assault) and that falls within the University's Title IX jurisdiction. All other grievances by students, employees, or third parties shall be addressed through other procedures. The University's Title IX grievance process includes formal and informal procedures that encourage prompt resolution of complaints. In most cases, the Complainant's submission of a formal, written complaint to the Title IX Coordinator will initiate the formal grievance process. However, the Title IX Coordinator may also submit a Formal

Complaint under the circumstances described below. The University will respond promptly to all Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment.

13. Basic Requirements

The University's grievance process shall adhere to the following principles:

- All relevant evidence — including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence — will be evaluated.
- Credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or panel members, decision-makers on appeal, persons involved with the informal resolution, and any other persons that play a significant role in the Title IX grievance process shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or for or against an individual Complainant or Respondent. The University shall carry out its disciplinary proceedings in a manner that is free from conflicts of interest by ensuring that there is no commingling of administrative or adjudicative roles. An advisor, investigator, adjudicator, and appellate adjudicator shall not carry out more than one role; however, it is not a conflict of interest for University's investigator to present evidence to an adjudicator.
- The Respondent is presumed to not be responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination of responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.
- The time frames for concluding the grievance process shall be reasonably prompt, as set forth in more detail in the procedures below.
- The grievance process may be temporarily delayed, and limited extensions of time frames may be granted, for good cause. In such instances, written notice to the Complainant and the Respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action will be provided. Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a Party, a Party's advisor, or a witness; concurring law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodations of disabilities.
- Questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege will not be required, allowed, relied upon, or otherwise used. The University shall not consider, disclose, or otherwise use a Party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in the capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the Party, unless the University obtains that person's voluntary, written Consent to do so for a grievance under this section.
- No Party shall be restricted from discussing the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.
- A Party whose participation in a hearing, investigative interview, or other meeting shall be provided with a written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings, investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the Party to prepare to participate.
- The University shall maintain an administrative file that includes without limitation all documents and evidence in the institution's possession or control that is relevant to an

alleged violation and the University's investigation. The parties shall have reasonable continuing access to the administrative file and may ask the Title IX Coordinator to schedule a reasonable time to inspect it. The administrative file shall not include privileged documents, internal communications, or communications from nonparties that the institution does not intend to introduce as evidence at a disciplinary proceeding. The administrative file shall include, without limitation

- Exculpatory evidence;
- Statements by an accuser or an accused student;
- Third-party witness statements;
- Written communications;
- Social media posts;
- Demonstrative evidence;
- Documents submitted by any participant involved in disciplinary procedures; and
- The University's choice of a video recording, audio recording, or a transcript of any disciplinary ultimately held on the matter.

14. Initial Report/Intake Process

Initial Meeting with Complainant: Promptly upon receiving a report of conduct that could potentially be a violation of Title IX, the Title IX Coordinator (or designee) will contact the Complainant to schedule an initial meeting to, as applicable:

- Provide a copy of this policy and a copy of the Arkansas Student Due Process and Protection Act, codified at Ark. Code Ann. § 6-60-1401 et seq.
- Explain the process for filing a Formal Complaint and provide a copy of the Sexual Harassment Complaint Form on which the Complainant may, if they agree to disclose the information, provide details regarding the allegation, including the name of the accused individual and the date, location, and general nature of the alleged violation of policy
- Explain avenues for resolution, including informal and formal
- Explain the steps involved in an investigation and hearing under this policy
- Discuss confidentiality standards and concerns
- Refer to law enforcement, counseling, medical, academic or other resources, as appropriate
- Discuss, as appropriate, possible Supportive Measures, which are available with or without the filing of a Formal Complaint

If the Complainant requests that no further action be taken and/or that no Formal Complaint be pursued, the Title IX Coordinator (and/or their designee) will inform the Complainant that retaliation is prohibited and that honoring the Complainant's request may limit the University's ability to fully respond to the incident. In the event the Complainant stands firm on their request that no further action be taken, the Title IX Coordinator will evaluate whether to file a complaint under the criteria set forth below.

15. Formal Complaint Process

Form and Filing of Complaint: The filing of a formal, written complaint initiates the formal

grievance process and is available to any person who is participating in (or attempting to participate in) a University educational program or activity. The Title IX Coordinator (or an investigator designated by the Title IX Coordinator) will investigate the allegations in the Formal Complaint. Formal Complaints can be filed in several ways. The Complainant may utilize the form provided or may submit the Complainant's own document that contains the Complainant's signature (either physical or digital) and is filed with the University's Title IX Office by U.S. mail, in person, through the Title IX portal provided for this purpose, or by email. The Formal Complaint should set forth the allegations and request that the Title IX Office investigate the matter.

Filing by Title IX Coordinator: The Title IX Coordinator may initiate the grievance process, even where the Complainant declines to file a Formal Complaint, if the Coordinator determines that the particular circumstances require the University to formally respond to and address the allegations. Circumstances to be considered include, among others, a pattern of alleged misconduct by a Respondent and whether the complaint has alleged use of violence, weapons, or other similar conduct. The Title IX Coordinator will also consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to Supportive Measures and desired response by the University. Where a report is made anonymously and the Title IX Coordinator files the complaint, both the Complainant and Respondent will receive notice of the allegations with written details and identities of the Parties if known.

Consolidation of Formal Complaints: The Title IX Coordinator may consolidate Formal Complaints as to allegations of Sexual Harassment against more than one Respondent, or by more than one Complainant against one or more Respondents, or by one Party against the other Party, where the allegations of Sexual Harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

Dismissal of Complaint Prior to Resolution: A Formal Complaint must be dismissed by the Title IX Coordinator if the alleged conduct (1) does not constitute Sexual Harassment, as defined in this policy, even if proved; (2) did not occur in the University's Education Program or Activity; or (3) did not occur against a person in the United States. In addition, a Formal Complaint may be dismissed if, at any time during the investigation or hearing, a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the Formal Complaint or any allegations therein; the Respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the recipient; or specific circumstances prevent the gathering of evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the Formal Complaint or any allegations therein.

Upon dismissal of a Formal Complaint, for any reason, the Title IX Coordinator will send simultaneous, written notice of and reason(s) for the dismissal to the Parties. The dismissal decision may be appealed pursuant to the procedure for appeals set forth in this policy. Dismissal of a complaint under this Title IX policy does not preclude a Complainant from pursuing a grievance through other appropriate campus procedures.

Notice of Formal Complaint: Upon receipt of the Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will send simultaneous notifications of the filing of the complaint to the Complainant and the Respondent (if known). If, in the course of an investigation, the Title IX Coordinator decides to investigate allegations about the Complainant or Respondent that are not included in the initial notice, the Title IX Coordinator will provide notice of the additional allegations to the Parties whose identities are known. The initial notice will contain the following:

- The allegations of the complaint that potentially constitute Sexual Harassment, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview (including the identities of the Parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting Sexual Harassment under this policy, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known)
- A copy of the Title IX policy
- 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
- A statement informing the Parties that a Party may seek representation by an attorney. Additionally, a statement that the Parties have a right to have one advisor of their choice to assist them throughout the proceedings who may be (but is not required to be) an attorney
- A statement that the Parties have the right to inspect and review all evidence collected during the complaint process
- A statement that any Party who knowingly makes false statements or submits false information during the grievance process will be subject to disciplinary procedures

Initial Meeting with Respondent: If a Formal Complaint is filed, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly schedule an initial meeting with the Respondent after the written notice of the Formal Complaint is sent as described above. Prior to the initial meeting, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide a written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the meeting, with sufficient time for the Party to prepare to participate. During the initial meeting with the Respondent, the Title IX Coordinator (or designee) will, as applicable:

- Provide a copy of this policy and a copy of the Arkansas Student Due Process and Protection Act, codified at Ark. Code Ann. § 6-62-1401 et seq. (if not previously provided)
- Explain avenues for resolution, including informal and formal
- Explain the steps involved in an investigation and hearing under this policy
- Discuss confidentiality standards and concerns
- Discuss non-retaliation requirements
- Inform of any Supportive Measures already determined and being provided to the Complainant that would directly affect the Respondent
- Refer to law enforcement, counseling, medical, academic or other resources, as appropriate
- Discuss, as appropriate, possible Supportive Measures that can be provided to the Respondent
- At least 24 hours before a student may be questioned regarding the events giving rise to the complaint, the student must be notified of the student's rights under the Arkansas Student Due Process and Protection Act, including the right to have the assistance of an advisor

Student Respondent(s) who fail to comply with the request to meet with the Title IX Coordinator will be referred to the Dean of Student's Office of their respective College or Graduate School. The failure to meet will be addressed under the provisions of the Student Code of and treated as a failure to respond to a summons from a University official.

Employee Respondent(s): the request for a meeting with the Title IX Coordinator should be coordinated with the employees' supervisor. Failure of the employee to cooperate in the process may be considered insubordination. Consult must occur with Employee Relations, in these instances.

Right to Advisor: The University shall advise the parties that they may seek representation by an attorney. Additionally, both Parties will be advised that they may be accompanied by one advisor/support person to assist them throughout the Title IX process (including any appeals), which can be (but is not required to be) an attorney. The advisor may discreetly advise the interviewee but may not interfere with the information gathering process. It is the Party's responsibility to obtain the services of an advisor, except that the University will make an advisor available to the Parties during the hearing to determine responsibility upon request. A Party who wants the University to provide an advisor for the determination hearing should make a request within 15 Days after the Party's filing or receipt of the Formal Complaint. The advisor's role at the hearing is further explained below.

Emergency Removal: The University may remove an accused student from the University's programs or activities on an emergency basis if the University:

- Undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis;
- Determines that an immediate threat or the threat of safety of a student or another individual arising from the allegations of misconduct justifies removal of the accused student; and
- Provides the accused student with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following his or her removal.
- An institution that removes an accused student on an emergency basis shall:
 - Within 24 hours of an institution removing an accused student on an emergency basis, provide written notice to the accused student that explains the institution's reasons for removing the accused student on an emergency basis;
 - Within 3 business Days of the written notice, unless otherwise waived by the removed student, convene an interim hearing to determine whether there is substantial evidence that the removed accused student poses a risk to the health or safety of any student or other individual and that the emergency removal of the accused student is appropriate to mitigate that risk.
 - At the interim hearing, the removed accused student and the accusing student may be represented by an attorney or non-attorney advocate who may fully participate to the same extent as in a final hearing to determine responsibility.
 - An accused student's waiver of his or her right to be represented by an attorney or a non-attorney advocate shall not constitute an admission of guilt or a waiver of additional rights.

Administrative leave: Nothing in this policy precludes the University from placing a non-student employee Respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process.

Supportive Measures: Supportive Measures, as defined in this policy, will be based on the facts and circumstances of each situation. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of Supportive Measures. They may include, but are not limited to, the

following:

- Counseling
- Extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments
- Modifications of work or class schedules
- Campus escort services
- Mutual restrictions on contact between the Parties
- Changes in working or housing locations
- Leaves of absence
- Increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus

The University will maintain as confidential any Supportive Measures provided to the Complainant or Respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the University to provide the Supportive Measures.

Informal Resolution: At any time after a formal written complaint is filed but prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the University may facilitate a resolution without a full investigation and adjudication. The Complainant and Respondent must give their voluntary, written Consent to the informal resolution process. The informal resolution process will not be utilized to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

Prior to commencing the informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator or designee must provide the Parties a written notice that includes the following information:

- Notice of the allegations contained in the Formal Complaint, including dates, location(s), and identities of the Parties
- Any agreed upon resolution reached at the conclusion of the informal complaint process will preclude the Parties from resuming a Formal Complaint arising from the same allegations
- 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
- Any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared

An informal resolution process may include conducting targeted or broad-based educational programming or training, increased supervision, mediation and/or any other remedy that can be tailored to the situation to transform the environment, prevent recurrence of the issues and remedy the effects of the particular complaint.

16. Comprehensive Investigation

If resolution of the allegations does not proceed through the informal process, the matter will proceed with a comprehensive investigation and resolution through the Formal Complaint processes. The Title IX Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing the prompt, equitable, and impartial investigation during the Formal Complaint process. The burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility shall rest on the

University and not the Parties.

The Title IX Coordinator will apprise the head of the appropriate division or department of the complaint, or, if the complaint is against a student, the vice provost for student affairs and dean of students for the student's respective College.

Assignment of Investigator: If the Title IX Coordinator's designee is to conduct the investigation, the Title IX Coordinator will forward the complaint to the investigator and share the investigator's name and contact information with the Complainant and the Respondent.

Conflicts of Interest and Bias: Within three (3) Days after the identity of the person who will conduct the investigation is determined and communicated to the Parties, the investigator, the Complainant, or the Respondent may identify to the Title IX Coordinator in writing any real or perceived conflicts of interest or bias that the person charged with conducting the investigation (including the Title IX coordinator, where applicable) may have. The Title IX Coordinator will carefully consider such statements and will assign a different individual as investigator if it is determined that a material conflict of interest or bias exists.

Overview of Investigation: Upon receipt of the Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator/Investigator (hereinafter "Investigator") will promptly begin the investigation, which shall include but is not limited to the following:

- Conducting interviews with the Complainant, the Respondent, and any witnesses (including expert witnesses, where applicable) and summarizing such interviews in written form
- Visiting, inspecting, and taking photographs at relevant sites
- Where applicable, collecting and preserving relevant evidence (in cases of corresponding criminal reports, this step may be coordinated with law enforcement agencies)
- Obtaining any relevant medical records pertaining to treatment of the Complainant, provided that the Complainant has voluntarily authorized release of the records in writing to the investigator

Inspection and Access to Evidence: The Parties may identify to the Investigator any evidence or witnesses they wish to be included as part of the investigation. Both Parties will also have equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained during the investigation. The Investigator will complete the gathering of evidence as soon as practicable, which will ordinarily occur within approximately 30 Days after the filing of the Formal Complaint.

After the gathering of evidence has been completed, but prior to completion of the investigative report, the Investigator will provide to each Party and Party's advisor, if any, any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the Formal Complaint, including the evidence upon which the University does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence (whether obtained from a Party or other source), so that each Party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation. The evidence will be provided in an electronic format or a hard copy. The Parties will have 10 calendar Days to submit a written response to the evidence, which

will be considered by the Investigator prior to completion of the investigative report. The evidence will be made available for the Parties to use at the hearing to determine responsibility.

Investigative Report: The investigative report shall fairly summarize the relevant evidence and must include the following items and information that is relevant to the allegations in the Formal Complaint:

- The dates of the Title IX Coordinator's initial receipt of a report of alleged Sexual Harassment against the Complainant, intake meeting, and the filing of the Formal Complaint
- A statement of the allegation(s), a description of the incident(s), the date(s) and time(s) (if known), and location of the alleged incident(s)
- The names of all known witnesses to the alleged incident(s)
- The dates that the Complainant, Respondent, and other witnesses were interviewed, along with summaries of the interviews
- Descriptions or summaries of any physical or documentary evidence that was obtained (e.g., text messages, emails, surveillance video footage, photographs)
- Any written statements of the Complainant, Respondent, or other witnesses
- The response of University personnel and, if applicable, University-level officials, including any Supportive Measures taken with respect to the Complainant and Respondent

The Investigator shall provide a draft of the investigative report to the Title IX Coordinator for review before the report becomes final. An electronic or hard-copy version of the final investigative report will be provided to each Party (and each Party's advisor) concurrently. The investigative report shall be provided as soon as practicable after the Parties have submitted their written responses to the evidence (if any) and at least 10 working Days prior to the determination hearing. The Parties may provide a written response to the investigative report within 5 calendar Days after receiving it.

17. Determination Hearing

Following the conclusion and distribution of the investigative report, a hearing will be conducted to determine the outcome and resolution of the complaint. The Parties and their advisors, if any, will be notified by Title IX Coordinator of the date, time and location of the hearing, as set forth in the notice provisions below. A student or student organization may waive the right to be present at a disciplinary proceeding, but the waiver must be in writing and signed by the student. A copy of the signed waiver shall be provided to the student and placed in the administrative file. If a student waives the right to be present at a disciplinary proceeding, the student shall not have a right to appeal the University's initial decision regarding whether the student is responsible for violating this policy.

Hearing Panel: Within 3 Days of the release of the investigative report to the Parties, the Chancellor or their designee will appoint a single Hearing Officer, who may be (but is not required to be) an outside person not permanently employed by the University, or (2) a three-member Hearing Panel, which shall be composed of at least 2 faculty and/or staff members and may include (but is not required to include) one outside person who is not permanently employed by the

University. If a Hearing Panel will be used, the Chancellor or their designee will select one member of the Hearing Panel to act as the Chair. The Title IX Coordinator will provide a copy of the Formal Complaint and the investigative report, along with the Parties' written responses to the investigative report, to each member of the Hearing Panel.

Promptly after the appointment of the members of the Hearing Panel, the Title IX Coordinator will provide concurrent written notice to the Complainant and the Respondent, setting forth the names of the individuals selected to serve as the member of the Hearing Panel. The Parties may challenge the participation of any decision-maker based on bias or a conflict of interest by submitting a written objection to the Chancellor or their designee within 3 calendar Days of receipt of the notice. Any objection must state the specific reason(s) for the objection. The Chancellor or their designee will evaluate the objection and determine whether to select a new alter the composition of the Hearing Panel. Failure to submit a timely and proper objection will constitute a waiver of the objection. Any changes in the Hearing Panel will be provided in writing to both Parties prior to the date of the hearing.

Submission of Witnesses Lists: Within 5 calendar Days of receipt of the notice of the Hearing Panel, both Parties may provide to the Chair of the Hearing Panel a list of witnesses, if any, that they propose be called to testify and a brief description of each proposed witness's connection to and/or knowledge of the issues in dispute. Absent good cause, a Party cannot include a witness on the Party's pre-hearing witness list unless the witness was identified during the investigation. The Hearing Panel reserves the right to call relevant witnesses who may not have been included on a Party's witness list.

Notice of the Hearing: Not less than 5 Days but not more than 10 Days after delivery of the notice of the Chair of the Hearing Panel will provide a separate notice to the Complainant, Respondent, and any other witnesses whose testimony the Hearing Panel deems relevant, requesting such individuals to appear at the hearing to determine responsibility. The notice should set forth the date, time, and location for the individual's requested presence. The Hearing Panel shall provide, in its notice to the Parties, the names of the witnesses that the Hearing Panel plans to call. The hearing shall be conducted promptly but no sooner than 10 calendar Days after release of the investigative report.

Failure to Appear: If any Party fails to appear at the hearing if requested to do so, and such Party was provided notice of the hearing as set forth above, then absent extenuating circumstances, the Hearing Panel will proceed to determine the resolution of the complaint. As explained below, a Party's failure to appear may impact the Hearing Officer or Hearing Panel's consideration and weight given to the non-appearing Party's version of events based on another source, such as the Formal Complaint or a prior statement.

Option for Virtual or Separate Presence: Live hearings may be conducted with either all Parties present in the same geographic location or, at the University's discretion, any or all Parties and witnesses may appear at the live hearing virtually, with technology enabling participants simultaneously to see and hear each other. Either Party may request not to be in the same room as the other Party. If any Party makes such a request, then both Parties will be required to attend the hearing from a location or room different from where the Hearing Panel is sitting. If the hearing is

virtual, or there is a request for separate rooms at a physical location, the University will ensure that all participants are able to simultaneously see and hear the Party or witness answering questions. Instructions will be provided for accessibility prior to the hearing date.

Recordings: An audio or audio-visual recording will be created of the live hearing and will be made available for inspection and review at any Party's request.

Advisor's Role at Hearing: The Complainant and Respondent may be accompanied by an advisor during the hearing to determine responsibility. A Party must identify their advisor (if any) at least 5 Days prior to the hearing. The advisor may fully participate to the same extent as a Party, including by (1) making an opening and closing statement, (2) presenting relevant evidence, and (3) cross-examining adverse witnesses. The advisor can be anyone, including an attorney. A Party may arrange for the Party's advisor of choice to attend the hearing at the Party's own expense. Alternatively, the University will select and provide an advisor to assist a Party at the hearing to determine responsibility, without fee or charge, upon request. In either scenario, the advisor may only participate in the hearing to the extent allowed under this policy. A Party who wants an advisor to be provided by the University should notify the Title IX Coordinator at least 15 Days after the filing or receipt of the Formal Complaint.

Evidentiary Matters and Procedure: The Parties, through their advisors, shall have an equal opportunity to question the opposing Party and other witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and present other inculpatory or exculpatory evidence. Formal rules of evidence will not be observed during the hearing. The Hearing Panel will conduct the initial questioning of witnesses prior to the questioning by an advisor. The Chair of the Hearing Panel (acting alone or in consultation with other panelists) will make all determinations regarding the order of witnesses, relevancy of questions, and the evidence to be considered or excluded during the hearing and decision-making process. The Hearing Panel may, in its discretion, choose to call the Investigator for the purpose of providing an overview of the investigation and findings.

Witness Examinations by the Parties: Each Party's advisor is permitted to question the opposing Party and the other witnesses, so long as the questions are relevant and not duplicative of the questions posed by the Hearing Panel. The questions may include challenges to credibility. No other questioning or speaking participation by an advisor will be allowed. A Party may not examine a Party or witness directly; rather, a Party must utilize the services of an advisor for the purpose of posing questions to another Party or witness. A Party not represented by an advisor may, however, submit a list of proposed questions to the Chair of the Hearing Panel and ask that the questions be posed to the opposing Party or witness.

The decision-maker(s) cannot draw an inference about responsibility based solely on a Party's or witness's absence from the live hearing or refusal to answer cross-examination or other questions. In a circumstance where a Party or witness does not participate in a hearing, the Hearing Panel should weigh the facts and circumstances in determining whether to consider, and what weight to assign, any statements furnished outside the hearing process.

The Chair of the Hearing Panel will make determinations regarding relevancy of questions before a Party or witness answers. If a determination is made to exclude the question based on relevancy, the Panel Chair will provide an explanation of why the question was deemed irrelevant and

excluded.

The Panel Chair may disallow the attendance of any advisor if, in the discretion of the Panel Chair, such person's presence becomes disruptive or obstructive to the hearing or otherwise warrants removal. Advisors will not be permitted to badger or question the opposing Party or any witness in an abusive or threatening manner. Absent accommodation for a disability, the Parties may not be accompanied by any other individual during the hearing process except as set forth in this policy. University officials may seek advice from the University's Office of General Counsel on questions of law, policy, and procedure at any time during the process.

Prior Sexual Conduct: Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove Consent.

Confidentiality and Disclosure. To comply with FERPA and Title IX and to provide an orderly process for the presentation and consideration of relevant information without undue intimidation or pressure, the grievance process is not open to the general public. Accordingly, documents prepared in anticipation of the hearing (including the Formal Complaint, investigative report, evidentiary materials, notices, and prehearing submissions), recordings of the hearing, and documents, testimony, or other information used at the hearing may not be disclosed outside of the hearing proceedings, except as may be required or authorized by law.

Decision of the Panel and Standard of Evidence: Following the conclusion of the hearing, the Hearing Panel will confer and determine whether the evidence establishes that it is more likely than not that the Respondent committed a violation of this policy. In other words, the standard of proof will be the Preponderance of the Evidence. This standard applies to complaints against both students and employees. In reaching the determination, the Hearing Panel will objectively and thoroughly evaluate all relevant evidence, both inculpatory and exculpatory, and reach an independent decision, without deference to the investigative report. If a Hearing Panel is utilized, the determination of responsibility shall be made by majority vote.

Written Determination of Responsibility: As soon as practicable following the hearing (and ordinarily within 10 Days thereafter), the Panel Chair shall complete a report of the decision-maker's findings. The Panel Chair will send simultaneous notification of the decision to both Parties and their advisors, where applicable, with the following information:

- Identification of the allegations potentially constituting Sexual Harassment under the policy
- A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the Formal Complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the Parties, interviews with Parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence and the hearing held
- Findings of fact that support the determination

- Conclusions regarding the application of the University’s conduct standards to the facts
- A statement and rationale for the result as to each allegation, including a determination as to responsibility using the Preponderance of the Evidence standard
- Any disciplinary Sanctions imposed on Respondent
- Whether any remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the University’s Education Program or Activity will be provided to the Complainant (description of remedies is not included)
- Procedures and permissible bases for the Parties to appeal

Sanctions: If the Hearing Panel determines that more likely than not the Respondent committed a violation of this policy, then the Hearing Panel will determine Sanctions and give consideration to whether a given Sanction will (a) bring an end to the violation in question, (b) reasonably prevent a recurrence of a similar violation, and (c) remedy the effects of the violation. Sanctions for a finding of responsibility will depend upon the nature and gravity of the misconduct, any record of prior discipline for a violation of this policy, or both. The range of potential Sanctions is set forth in the definitions section of this policy.

Ordinarily, Sanctions will not be imposed until the resolution of any timely appeal under this policy. However, if it is deemed necessary to protect the welfare of the victim or the University community, the Hearing Panel may recommend to the decision-maker on appeal that any Sanctions be imposed immediately and continue in effect until such time as the appeal process is exhausted.

Sanctions imposed on faculty and staff may include, without limitation, notification to the licensure board, letters of reprimand, demotion, withholding a promotion or pay increase, reassigning employment, disciplinary action to include terminating employment, temporary suspension without pay, or mandatory retraining.

Sanctions, which may be imposed on students, may include, without limitation, disciplinary probation, expulsion or suspension from the University, mandated counseling, and/or educational Sanctions as deemed appropriate. Further, the University reserves the right to delay or refuse the conferring of an academic degree (undergraduate or graduate) during a pending investigation.

Failure to Satisfy or Timely Complete a Disciplinary Sanction and/or Condition: A student’s failure to satisfy or complete a mandated Sanction and/or condition within the allotted time may result in additional administrative actions, including, but not limited to, a block on the student’s ability to register for classes.

An employee’s failure to satisfy or complete a mandated Sanction and/or condition within the allotted time may result in additional actions, to include discipline.

Remedies: Where a determination is made that the Respondent was responsible for Sexual Harassment, the Hearing Panel will determine any final remedies to be provided to the Complainant, if any, and the Title IX Coordinator will communicate such decision to the Complainant and the Respondent to the extent that it affects him/her. Remedies must be provided in all instances in which a determination of responsibility for Sexual Harassment has been made against the Respondent. Remedies must be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the

University's Education Program or Activity. Such remedies may include the same individualized services described above as "Supportive Measures"; however, remedies need not be non-disciplinary or non-punitive and need not avoid burdening the Respondent.

No Retaliation: The Title IX Coordinator will take steps to prevent any harassment of or retaliation against the Complainant, the Respondent, or third parties, such as informing them about how to report subsequent problems, following up with them to ensure that there are no subsequent problems, and providing training for the campus community.

18. Appeals

Procedure for Appeals: Both the Complainant and the Respondent may appeal from (1) the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein or (2) the Hearing Panel's determination. The appeal should be submitted in writing to the Title IX Coordinator within 7 Days of receipt of the Hearing Panel's decision. The Title IX Coordinator will forward the appeal to the Chancellor or their designee. The appeal will be decided based on the written record and without deference to the decision of the Hearing Panel.

If the Respondent is an employee, the Chancellor or their designee will decide the appeal. If the Respondent is a student, the appeal will be decided by the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee or, in the alternative, the Chancellor will designate an Appeal Panel comprised of at least two faculty and/or staff members. One of the members of the Appeal Panel can be (but need not be) an outside person who is not an employee. The Chair of the Appeal Panel (in cases where the Respondent is a student) or the Chancellor or designee (in other cases) shall make any decisions concerning appellate jurisdiction under the permissible grounds for appeal described below. The appeals process will be conducted through a paper review process. A new live hearing will not be conducted.

The Party appealing may use the Appeal Form or the Party may submit their own written and signed document. Acceptable means of notification include email, facsimile, hand-delivered notification, or postal delivery. The Title IX Coordinator will promptly inform the other Party of the appeal.

Grounds for Appeal: The appeal from the decision of the Hearing Panel must be for one of the following reasons:

- 1) a procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the decision;
- 2) there is new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made and that could affect the outcome of the matter; or
- 3) the Title IX Coordinator, Investigator(s), or Panel Member(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents in general or against an individual Complainant or Respondent that affected the outcome.

Responses to Appeal: Within 5 Days of receipt of the appeal, the other Party may submit a written statement in response to the appeal and which supports or challenges the dismissal or determination. The response should be submitted to the Title IX Coordinator, who shall provide a

copy to the decision-maker and the appealing Party.

Decision on Appeal: As soon as practicable after receiving the Parties' written submissions (and ordinarily within approximately 10 Days), the Chancellor (or designee) or Appeal Panel will issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result. The decision on appeal may uphold the decision, modify it, or remand for further factual development. The decision-maker on appeal will concurrently notify the Complainant and the Respondent of the decision, with a written copy provided to the Title IX Coordinator.

Employees: All non-tenure track faculty and staff members of the University without term contracts are at-will employees who may be terminated at any time, with or without cause. With regard to such faculty and staff, nothing in this Policy shall create an expectation of continued employment with the University or be construed to prevent or delay the University from taking any disciplinary action deemed appropriate (including suspension and immediate termination of employment) for any violation of state law, federal law or University policy.

19. Certification of Compliance

At the conclusion of a hearing and appeal (if any), the Chancellor or Provost shall certify that the substantial rights of student Complainants and Respondents as established in the Arkansas Student Due Process and Protection Act, codified at Ark. Code Ann. § 6-60-1401 et seq., have been followed. The certification shall be maintained in the administrative file.

20. Time Periods

The University will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the investigation and resolution of a complaint occurs in as timely and efficient a manner as possible.

Any Party may request an extension of any deadline by providing the Title IX Coordinator or their respective deputies with a written request for an extension that includes reference to the duration of the proposed extension and the basis for the request.

The Title IX Coordinator may also modify timelines in cases where information is not clear, judged to be incomplete, relevant parties are not available for interview, absence of an advisor, concurrent law enforcement activity, the need for language assistance or disability accommodation and/or other circumstances that may arise.

21. Retaliation Prohibited

No person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, or this policy, or because an individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part. Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including changes against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or

Formal Complaint of sex discrimination of harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, or this policy, constitutes retaliation. However, the exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation.

22. False Reports

Willfully making a false report of Sexual Harassment or submitting false information during these proceedings is a violation of University policy and is a serious offense. However, a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any Party made a materially false statement in bad faith. Any person who willfully makes or participates in making a false or frivolous report of discrimination, harassment, retaliation or sexual misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action. False reporting may also violate state criminal statutes and civil defamation laws.

23. External Reporting Agencies

Although Complainants are encouraged to resolve their grievances related to discrimination by utilizing this Complaint/Grievance Procedure, they may have the right to file a complaint directly with the following agencies. Individuals who wish to file complaints with these external agencies should make contact as soon as possible and verify any applicable time limits and deadlines.

Office of Civil Rights (OCR)

U.S. Department of Education
1999 Bryan St., Suite 1620
Dallas, TX 75201-6810
Toll Free: 1-800-421-3481
Telephone: 214-661-9600
Fax: 214-661-9587
Email: OCR.Dallas@ed.gov

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

820 Louisiana Street, Suite
200 Little Rock, Arkansas,
72201 Toll Free Phone:
1.800.669.4000 Telephone:
501.324.5060
TTY: 1.800.669.6820
Fax: 501.324.5991
Website: www.eeoc.gov

NSF Grantees Only

National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone: 703-292-8020

Fax: 703-292-9072

Email: programcomplaints@nsf.gov

24. Effective Date

The University reserves the right to make changes and amendments to this Policy as needed, with appropriate notice to the campus community. However, the Policy in force at the time that a Complaint is filed will be the Policy used throughout the investigation, hearing, and any appeals.

25. Retention of Records

For a period of at least seven years, the University will maintain the records of:

- Each Sexual Harassment investigation, including any determination regarding responsibility, any recordings or transcripts, disciplinary Sanctions, and remedies provided to the Complainant
- Any appeal and the result therefrom
- Any informal resolution and the result therefrom
- All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. These materials will be made publicly available on the University's website.
- Records of any actions, including Supportive Measures, taken in response to a report or Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, along with documentation of the University's bases for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent.

Documentation pertaining to terminations, expulsions or educational Sanctions may be retained indefinitely.

REFERENCES

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, as amended

Clery Act, as amended

Campus SaVE Act, as amended

Family and Educational Rights to Privacy Act, as amended

Academic Affairs Policy 2.2.1, Grievance Procedure for Students Alleging Discrimination

Administrative Guide Policy 4.4.16, Employee Grievance Procedure

Administrative Guide Policy 4.4.02, Employee Discipline

Administrative Guide Policy 3.1.55, Policy on Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment (Non-Title IX)

Signature: _____



Date: July 23, 2025