

What is Prohibited by This policy

This policy prohibits Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation as defined below. These acts shall also be referred to as Prohibited Conduct under this policy.

Discrimination

Discrimination is defined as treating members of a protected category less favorably because of their actual or perceived membership in that category or as having a policy or practice that adversely impacts the members of one protected category more than others.

Discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, and pregnancy or related conditions.

Discriminatory Harassment

Discriminatory Harassment is unwelcome non-verbal or physical, verbal, or online conduct where such conduct is based on actual or perceived membership in a protected category and is sufficiently severe or pervasive that it has the effect, intended or unintended, of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or it has created an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment and would have such an effect on a reasonable person.

Protected categories include age, color, disability, gender, national or ethnic origin, or race.

Sex-Based Harassment

Sex-based harassment is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, including on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, and pregnancy or related conditions. Sex-Based Harassment includes the following:

- a. Quid pro quo harassment: An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the University to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the University's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.
- b. Hostile environment harassment: Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the University's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:
 - The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the University's education program or activity;
 - The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;
 - The parties' ages, roles within the University's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about a party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;
 - The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and
 - Other sex-based harassment in the University's education program or activity.
- c. Sexual assault: an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Specifically, this includes:

Rape—The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

Fondling—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of their age or because of their temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

Incest—Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape—Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

d. Dating violence: violence 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 a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - o The length of the relationship;
 - o The type of relationship; and
 - o The frequency of interaction between the people involved in the relationship.

Emotional and psychological abuse do not constitute violence for the purposes of this definition.

e. Domestic violence: felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a person who:

- o Is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction of the University, or a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim;
- o Is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
- o Shares a child in common with the victim; or
- o Commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction.

Emotional and psychological abuse do not constitute violence for the purposes of this definition.

f. Stalking: Engaging in a course of conduct, on the basis of sex, directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

g. Sexual Coercion: The application of unreasonable pressure, including emotionally or physically manipulative actions or statements, or direct or implied threats, in order to compel the person to engage in sexual activity.

h. Sexual Exploitation is the abuse or exploitation of another person's sexuality without consent, for the perpetrators own advantage or benefit, or for the benefit or advantage of anyone other than the one being exploited. Sexual Exploitation includes, without limitation, causing or attempting to cause the incapacitation of another person in order to gain a sexual advantage over that person; causing the prostitution of another person; electronically recording, photographing, or transmitting intimate or sexual utterances, sounds or images of another person; allowing third parties to

observe sexual acts; engaging in voyeurism; distributing intimate or sexual information about another person; and/or knowingly transmitting a sexually transmitted infection, including HIV, to another person.]

- i. Sexual Harassment: Iowa Code Section 19B.12 defines sexual harassment as "persistent, repetitive, or highly egregious conduct directed at a specific individual or group of individuals that a reasonable person would interpret as intentional harassment of a sexual nature, taking into consideration the full context in which the conduct occurs, which conduct threatens to impair the ability of a person to perform the duties of employment, or otherwise function normally within an institution responsible for the person's care, rehabilitation, education, or training.

There are two forms of sexual harassment:

- i. An employee is subjected to unwelcome speech or conduct of a sexual or non-sexual nature that is directed at the employee because of his or her sex, and the conduct creates a "hostile work environment."
- ii. An employment benefit or continued employment is conditioned on the employee's participation in some form of sexual behavior. This is also known as "quid pro quo harassment."

Retaliation:

Retaliation is any materially adverse action taken against an individual because they were involved in the disclosure, reporting, investigation, or resolution of a report of Prohibited Conduct. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion, discrimination, violence, or any other conduct against any person by the University, a student, or an employee or other person authorized by the University to provide aid, benefit, or service under the University's education program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by this policy or by law, including Title IX or its regulations. Adverse action does not include perceived or petty slights, or trivial annoyances.

The prohibition against retaliation applies to any individuals who participate (or refuse to participate) in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing, and to any student who refuses to participate in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing.

Retaliation may occur even where there is a finding of "not responsible" under this policy. Good faith actions lawfully pursued in response to a report of Prohibited Conduct are not Retaliation.