



Office of Human Resources and Employee Relations
3041 West Avenue K, Lancaster, CA 93536-5426 | 661.722.6300 | www.avc.edu

Unlawful Discrimination Complaint Form

Name: Last First

Address: Street or P.O. Box City State Zip

Phone: Day Evening

I Am A: Student Employee Other

I Wish To Complain Against:

District/College:

Date of Most Recent Incident of Alleged Discrimination:

(Non-employment complaints must be filed within one year of the date of the alleged unlawful discrimination. Employment complaints must be filed within 180 days of the date of the alleged unlawful discrimination.)

I Allege Discrimination Based on the Following Category Protected under Title 5 (you must select at least one):

- Age Ethnic Group Identification National Origin Religion
Ancestry Genetic Information Physical Disability Retaliation**
Color Mental Disability Race Sex/Gender (includes Harassment)
Sexual Orientation
Perceived to be in protected category or associated with those in protected category

Clearly state your complaint. Describe each incident of alleged discrimination separately. For each incident provide the following information: 1) date(s) the discriminatory action occurred; 2) name of individual(s) who discriminated; 3) what happened; 4) witnesses (if any); and 5) why you believe the discrimination was because of the basis you indicated above. **If applicable, explain why you believe you were retaliated against for filing a complaint or asserting your right to be free from discrimination on any of the above grounds.

(Attach additional pages as necessary.)

Blank lines for providing details of the discrimination incident.

What would you like the District to do as a result of your complaint -- what remedy are you seeking?

Blank lines for providing desired remedies.

I certify that this information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Complainant

Date

Send Original to the District, or:

Chancellor's Office, California Community Colleges
1102 Q Street, Sacramento, California 95811
Attention: Legal Affairs Division

(Revised 02/14)



Human Resources and Employee Relations

**PROHIBITION OF HARASSMENT
AND
COMPLAINT PROCEDURE FOR ALLEGATION OF DISCRIMINATION
OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT
BASED ON CATEGORIES PROTECTED UNDER
TITLE 5 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS**

**AP/BP 3430 PROHIBITION OF HARASSMENT
AP 3435 DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS**

AP 3430 Prohibition of Harassment

References:

Education Code Sections 212.5; 44100; 66281.5; Government Code Sections 12940 and 12923 Civil Code Section 51.9; Title 2 Sections 10500 et seq.; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; Title 5, Sections 59320 et seq.; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C.A. § 2000e.

The District is committed to providing an academic and work environment free of unlawful harassment. This procedure defines sexual harassment and other forms of harassment on campus, and sets forth a procedure for the investigation and resolution of complaints of harassment by or against any staff or faculty member or student within the District.

This policy protects students, employees, unpaid interns and volunteers in connection with all the academic, educational, extracurricular, athletic, and other programs of the District, whether those programs take place in the District's facilities, District bus, or at a class or training program sponsored by the District at another location.

Definitions:

General Harassment. Harassment based on race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, or sexual orientation of any person, military and veteran status, or the perception that a person has one or more of these characteristics is illegal and violates District policy. Harassment shall be found where a reasonable person with the same characteristics as the victim of the harassing conduct would be adversely affected to a degree that interferes with his or her ability to participate in or to realize the intended benefits of an institutional activity, employment, or resource.

Gender-based harassment does not necessarily involve conduct that is sexual. Any hostile or offensive conduct based on gender can constitute prohibited harassment if it meets the definition above. For example, repeated derisive comments about a person's competency to do the job, when based on that person's gender, could constitute gender-based harassment. Harassment comes in many forms, including but not limited to the following conduct that could, depending on the circumstances, meet the definition above, or could contribute to a set of circumstances that meets the definition:

- **Verbal:** Inappropriate or offensive remarks, slurs, jokes or innuendoes based on a person's race gender, sexual orientation, or other protected status. This may include, but is not limited to, inappropriate comments regarding an individual's body, physical appearance, attire, sexual prowess, marital status or

sexual orientation; unwelcome flirting or propositions; demands for sexual favors; verbal abuse, threats or intimidation; or sexist, patronizing or ridiculing statements that convey derogatory attitudes based on gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation or other protected status.

- **Physical:** Inappropriate or offensive touching, assault, or physical interference with free movement. This may include, but is not limited to, kissing, patting, lingering or intimate touches, grabbing, pinching, leering, staring, unnecessarily brushing against or blocking another person, whistling or sexual gestures. It also includes any physical assault or intimidation directed at an individual due to that person's gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation or other protected status. Physical sexual harassment includes acts of sexual violence, such as rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion. Sexual violence refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's use of drugs or alcohol. An individual also may be unable to give consent due to an intellectual or other disability.
- **Visual or Written:** The display or circulation of visual or written material that degrades an individual or group based on gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation or other protected status. This may include, but is not limited to, posters, cartoons, drawings, graffiti, reading materials, computer graphics or electronic media transmissions.
- **Environmental:** A hostile academic or work environment may exist where it is permeated by sexual innuendo; insults or abusive comments directed at an individual or group based on gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation or other protected status; or gratuitous comments regarding gender, race, sexual orientation, or other protected status that are not relevant to the subject matter of the class or activities on the job. A hostile environment can arise from an unwarranted focus on sexual topics or sexually suggestive statements in the classroom or work environment. It can also be created by an unwarranted focus on, or stereotyping of, particular racial or ethnic groups, sexual orientations, genders or other protected statuses. An environment may also be hostile toward anyone who merely witnesses unlawful harassment in his or her immediate surroundings, although the conduct is directed at others. The determination of whether an environment is hostile is based on the totality of the circumstances, including such factors as the frequency of the conduct, the severity of the conduct, whether the conduct is humiliating or physically threatening, and whether the conduct unreasonably interferes with an individual's learning or work.

Sexual Harassment. In addition to the above, sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made by someone from, or in, the work or educational setting when:

- submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of an individual's employment, academic status, progress, internship, or volunteer activity;
- submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as a basis of employment or academic decisions affecting the individual;
- the conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or educational environment (as more fully described below); or
- submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the community college.

This definition encompasses two kinds of sexual harassment:

- **"Quid pro quo"** sexual harassment occurs when a person in a position of authority makes educational or employment benefits conditional upon an individual's willingness to engage in or tolerate unwanted sexual conduct.
- **"Hostile Environment"** sexual harassment occurs when unwelcome conduct based on a person's gender alters the conditions of an individual's learning or work environment, unreasonably interfere with an individual's academic or work performance, or create an intimidating, hostile, or abusive learning or work environment. The victim must subjectively perceive the environment as hostile, and the harassment must be such that a reasonable person of the same gender would perceive the environment as hostile. A single or isolated incident of sexual harassment may be sufficient to create a hostile environment if it unreasonably interfered with the person's academic or work performance or created an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning or working environment.

Sexually harassing conduct can occur between people of the same or different genders. The standard for determining whether conduct constitutes sexual harassment is whether a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim would perceive the conduct as harassment based on sex.

Consensual Relationships

Romantic or sexual relationships between supervisors and employees, or between administrators, faculty or staff members and students are discouraged. There is an inherent imbalance of power and potential for exploitation in such relationships. A conflict of interest may arise if the administrator, faculty or staff member must evaluate the student's or employee's work or make decisions affecting the employee or student. The relationship may create an appearance of impropriety and lead to charges of favoritism by other students or employees. A consensual sexual relationship may change, with the result that sexual conduct that was once welcome becomes unwelcome and harassing. In the event that such relationships do occur, the District has the authority to transfer any involved employee to eliminate or attenuate the supervisory authority of one over the other, or of a teacher over a student. Such action by the District is a proactive and preventive measure to avoid possible charges of harassment and does not constitute discipline against any affected employee.

Academic Freedom

No provision of this Administrative Procedure shall be interpreted to prohibit conduct that is legitimately related to the course content, teaching methods, scholarship, or public commentary of an individual faculty member or the educational, political, artistic, or literary expression of students in classrooms and public forums. Freedom of speech and academic freedom are, however, not limitless and this procedure will not protect speech or expressive conduct that violates federal or California antidiscrimination laws.

11/7/05
Revised: /13/12
Revised: 5/9/16
Revised: 5/13/19

BP 3430 Prohibition of Harassment

Reference:

Education Code Sections 212.5; 44100; 66252; 66281.5; Government Codes 12923,12940 and 12950.1; Civil Code Section 51.9; Title 2 Sections 10500 et seq.; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C.A. § 2000e.

All forms of harassment are contrary to basic standards of conduct between individuals and are prohibited by state and federal law, as well as this policy, and will not be tolerated. The District is committed to providing an academic and work environment that respects the dignity of individuals and groups. The District shall be free of sexual harassment and all forms of sexual intimidation and exploitation including acts of sexual violence. It shall also be free of other unlawful harassment, including that which is based on any of the following statuses: race,

religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, or sexual orientation of any person, Vietnam Veteran, or because he or she is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics.

The District seeks to foster an environment in which all employees, students, unpaid interns, and volunteers feel free to report incidents of harassment without fear of retaliation or reprisal.

Therefore, the District also strictly prohibits retaliation against any individual for filing a complaint of harassment or for participating in a harassment investigation. Such conduct is illegal and constitutes a violation of this policy. All allegations of retaliation will be swiftly and thoroughly investigated. If the District determines that retaliation has occurred, it will take all reasonable steps within its power to stop such conduct. Individuals who engage in retaliatory conduct are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination or expulsion.

Any student, employee, unpaid intern, or volunteer who believes that he or she has been harassed or retaliated against in violation of this policy should immediately report such incidents by following the procedures described in AP 3435. Supervisors are mandated to report all incidents of harassment and retaliation that come to their attention.

This policy applies to all aspects of the academic environment, including but not limited to classroom conditions, grades, academic standing, employment opportunities, scholarships, recommendations, disciplinary actions, and participation in any community college activity. In addition, this policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including but not limited to hiring, placement, promotion, disciplinary action, layoff, recall, transfer, leave of absence, training opportunities and compensation.

To this end the Superintendent/President shall ensure that the institution undertakes education and training activities to counter discrimination and to prevent, minimize and/or eliminate any hostile environment that impairs access to equal education opportunity or impacts the terms and conditions of employment.

The Superintendent/President shall establish procedures that define harassment on campus. The Superintendent/President shall further establish procedures for employees, students, unpaid interns, volunteers and other members of the campus community that provide for the investigation and resolution of complaints regarding harassment and discrimination, and procedures for students to resolve complaints of harassment and discrimination. All participants are protected from retaliatory acts by the District, its employees, students, and agents.

Notice of this policy and related written procedures including the procedure for making complaints, shall be widely published and publicized to administrators, faculty, staff, students, unpaid interns, and volunteers particularly when they are new to the institution. They shall be available for students, employees, unpaid interns and volunteers in all administrative offices, and shall be posted on the District's website.

Employees who violate the policy and procedures may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. Students who violate this policy and related procedures may be subject to disciplinary measures up to and including expulsion. Unpaid interns who violate this policy and related procedures may be subject to disciplinary measures up to and including termination from the internship or other unpaid work experience program.

Adopted: 11/7/05
Revised: 8/13/12
Revised: 10/9/17
Revised: 5/13/19

AP 3435 Discrimination and Harassment Complaints and Investigations

Reference:

20 U.S.C. Section 1681 et seq.; Education Code Section 212.5, 231.5, 66281.5, and 67386; Government Code 12923 and 12950.1; Title 5, Sections 59320, 59324, 59326, 59328, and 59300 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. Section 106.8(b); Title 2 Sections 11023 and 11024

ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE COMPLAINT PROCEDURE FOR ALLEGATION OF DISCRIMINATION* OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Complaints

The law prohibits coworkers, supervisors, managers, and third parties with whom an employee comes into contact from engaging in harassment, discrimination, or retaliation. Any person who has suffered harassment, discrimination, or retaliation may file a formal or informal complaint of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation.

A formal complaint is a written and signed statement filed with the District or the State Chancellor's office that alleges harassment, discrimination, or retaliation in violation of the District's Board Policies, Administrative Procedures or in violation of state or federal law. An informal complaint is any of the following: (1) An unwritten allegation of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation; (2) a written allegation of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation that falls outside the timelines for a formal complaint; or (3) a written complaint alleging harassment, discrimination, or retaliation filed by an individual who expressly indicates that he or she does not want to file a formal complaint.

Informal Complaint

Any person may submit an informal complaint to the Vice President of Human Resources or any other District or college administrator. Administrators receiving an informal complaint shall immediately notify the Vice President of Human Resources in writing of all pertinent information and facts alleged in the informal complaint.

Upon receipt of an informal complaint, the Vice President of Human Resources or designee will notify the person bringing the informal complaint of his or her right to file a formal complaint, if the incident falls within the timeline for a formal complaint, and explain the procedure for doing so. The complainant may later decide to file a formal complaint, if within the timelines to do so. If the individual chooses not to file a formal complaint, or if the alleged conduct falls outside the timeline to file a formal complaint, the Vice President of Human Resources or designee shall consider the allegations contained in the informal complaint and determine the appropriate course of action. This may include efforts to informally resolve the matter, or a fact-finding investigation.

Investigation of an informal complaint will be appropriate if the Vice President of Human Resources or designee determines that the allegation(s), if proven true, would constitute a violation of the District policy prohibiting harassment, discrimination, or retaliation. The Vice President of Human Resources or designee will explain to any individual bringing an informal complaint that the Vice President of Human Resources or designee may decide to initiate an investigation, even if the individual does not wish the Vice President of Human Resources or designee to do so. The Vice President of Human Resources or designee shall not disregard any allegations of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation solely on the basis that the alleged conduct falls outside the deadline to file a formal complaint.

Formal Complaints

Formal Complaints must be filed with the State Chancellor or the Vice President of Human Resources or designee unless the party submitting the Formal Complaint alleges discrimination, harassment, or retaliation against the responsible District officer, in which case it should be submitted directly to the Superintendent/President or the State Chancellor.

Formal Complaints should be submitted on the form prescribed by the State Chancellor. A copy of the form will be available at the Human Resources Office and on the college's/district's website.

If any party submits a written allegation of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation not on the form described above, the District will seek to have the individual complete and submit the form. However, if the individual chooses not to do so, the District will attach the written allegation(s) to the form and treat it as a Formal Complaint. In no instance will the District reject a written allegation of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation on the basis that it was not submitted on the proper form.

A Formal Complaint must meet each of the following criteria:

- It must allege facts with enough specificity to show that the allegations, if true, would constitute a violation of District policies or procedures prohibiting discrimination, harassment, or retaliation;
- The complainant must sign and date the Formal Complaint;
- The complainant must file any Formal Complaint not involving employment within one year of the date of the alleged discriminatory, harassing, or retaliatory conduct or within one year of the date on which the complainant knew or should have known of the facts underlying the allegation(s) of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.
- The complainant must file any Formal Complaint alleging discrimination, harassment, or retaliation in employment within 180 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory, harassing, or retaliatory conduct, except that this period shall be extended by no more than 90 days following the expiration of the 180 days if the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged violation after the expiration of the 180 days.

If the Formal Complaint does not meet the requirements set forth above, the Vice President of Human Resources or designee will promptly return it to the complainant and specify the defect. If the sole defect is that the Formal Complaint was filed outside the applicable proscribed timeline, the Vice President of Human Resources or designee will handle the matter as an informal complaint.

Oversight of Complaint Procedure

The Vice President of Human Resources is the "responsible District officer" charged with receiving complaints of discrimination or harassment, and coordinating their investigation.

The actual investigation of complaints may be assigned by the Vice President of Human Resources to other staff or to outside persons or organizations under contract with the District. This shall occur whenever the Vice President of Human Resources is named in the complaint or implicated by the allegations in the complaint or if it is deemed more appropriate to have an outside investigator involved.

Who May File a Complaint

Any student, employee, or third party who believes he/she has been discriminated against or harassed by a student, employee, or third party in violation of this procedure and the related policy.

A student, employee, or third party who believes he/she has been discriminated against or harassed in violation of these policy and procedures may make a complaint orally or in writing

Where to File a Complaint

If a complainant decides to file a formal written unlawful discrimination or harassment complaint against the District, he/she must file the complaint on a form prescribed by the State Chancellor's Office. These approved forms are available from the Human Resources Office and at the State Chancellor's website.

The completed form must be filed with any of the following:

- The Vice President of Human Resources or designee;

- The Vice President of Student Services
- Superintendent/President
- The State Chancellor's Office.

Employment-Related Complaints

Complainants filing employment-related complaints shall be notified that they may file employment discrimination complaints with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH).

Complaints filed with the EEOC or the DFEH should be forwarded to the State Chancellor's Office. Any District employee who receives a harassment or discrimination complaint shall notify the Vice President of Human Resources immediately.

Filing a Timely Complaint

Since failure to report harassment and discrimination impedes the District's ability to stop the behavior, the District strongly encourages anyone who believes they are being harassed or discriminated against, to file a complaint. The District also strongly encourages the filing of such complaints within 30 days of the alleged incident. While all complaints are taken seriously and will be investigated promptly, delay in filing impedes the District's ability to investigate and remediate.

All supervisors and managers have a mandatory duty to report incidents of harassment and discrimination; the existence of a hostile, offensive or intimidating work environment, and acts of retaliation.

The District will investigate complaints involving acts that occur off campus if they are related to an academic or work activity or if the harassing conduct interferes with or limits a student's or employee's ability to participate in or benefit from the school's programs or activities

Communicating that the Conduct is Unwelcome

Although it is not required, the District encourages students and staff to let the offending person know immediately and firmly that the conduct or behavior is unwelcome, offensive, in poor taste or inappropriate.

Intake and Processing of the Complaint

Upon receiving notification of a harassment or discrimination complaint, the Vice President of Human Resources or designee shall:

- Undertake efforts to informally resolve the charges, including but not limited to mediation, rearrangement of work/academic schedules; obtaining apologies; providing informal counseling, training, etc.
- Advise the complainant that he/she need not participate in an informal resolution of the complaint, as described above, and has the right to end the informal resolution process at any time. Mediation in all cases is permitted as long as all parties agree.
- Advise a student complainant that he/she may file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education and employee complainants may file a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. All complainants should be advised that they have a right to file a complaint with local law enforcement, if the act complained of is also a criminal act. The District must investigate even if the complainant files a complaint with local law enforcement. In addition, the District should ensure that complainants are aware of any available resources, such as counseling, health, and mental health services. The Vice President of Human Resources or designee shall also notify the State Chancellor's Office of the complaint.
- Take interim steps to protect a complainant from coming into contact with an accused individual, especially if the complainant is a victim of sexual violence. The Vice President of Human Resources should notify the

complainant of his or her options to avoid contact with the accused individual and allow students to change academic situations as appropriate. For instance, the District may prohibit the accused individual from having any contact with the complainant pending the results of the investigation. When taking steps to separate the complainant and accused individual, the District shall minimize the burden on the complainant. For example, it is not appropriate to remove complainants from classes or housing while allowing accused individuals to remain.

Investigation

The Vice President of Human Resources shall:

- Authorize the investigation of the complaint, and supervise or conduct a thorough, prompt and impartial investigation of the complaint, as set forth below. Where complainants opt for informal resolution, the designated officer will determine whether further investigation is necessary to ensure resolution of the matter and utilize the investigation process outlined below as appropriate. In the case of a formal complaint, the investigation will include interviews with the complainant, the accused, and any other persons who may have relevant knowledge concerning the complaint. This may include victims of similar conduct.
- Review the factual information gathered through the investigation to determine whether the alleged conduct constitutes harassment, or other unlawful discriminatory conduct, giving consideration to all factual information and the totality of the circumstances, including the nature of the verbal, physical, visual or sexual conduct, and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

Investigation of the Complaint

The District shall promptly investigate every complaint and claim of harassment or discrimination. No claim of workplace or academic harassment or discrimination shall remain unexamined. This includes complaints involving activities that occur off campus and in connection with all the academic, educational, extracurricular, athletic, and other programs of the District, whether those programs take place in the District's facilities, on a District bus, or at a class or training program sponsored by the District at another location. The District shall promptly investigate complaints of harassment or discrimination that occur off campus if the alleged conduct creates a hostile environment on campus.

As set forth above, where the complainant opts for an informal resolution, the Vice President of Human Resources or designee may limit the scope of the investigation, as appropriate. The District will keep the investigation confidential to the extent possible, but cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality because release of some information on a "need-to-know-basis" is essential to a thorough investigation. When determining whether to maintain confidentiality, the District may weigh the request for confidentiality against the following factors: the seriousness of the alleged harassment; the complainant's age; whether there have been other harassment complaints about the same individual; and the accused individual's rights to receive information about the allegations if the information is maintained by the District as an "education record" under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S. Code Section 1232g; 34 Code Federal Regulations Part 99.15. The District will inform the complainant if it cannot maintain confidentiality.

Investigation Steps

The District will fairly and objectively investigate harassment and discrimination complaints. Employees designated to serve as investigators under this policy shall have adequate training on what constitutes sexual harassment, including sexual violence, and that they understand how the District's grievance procedures operate. The investigator may not have any real or perceived conflicts of interest and must be able to investigate the allegations impartially.

Investigators will use the following steps:

- Interview the complainant(s)

- Interview the accused individual(s)
- Identify and interview witnesses and evidence identified by each party
- Identify and interview any other witnesses
- If needed; remind all individuals interviewed of the District's no-retaliation policy
- Consider whether any involved person should be removed from the campus pending completion of the investigation
- Review personnel/academic files of all involved parties as warranted.
- Reach a conclusion as to the allegations and any appropriate disciplinary and remedial action; and see that all recommended action is carried out in a timely fashion.
- When the District evaluates the complaint, it shall do so using a preponderance of the evidence standard. Thus, after considering all the evidence it has gathered, the District will decide whether it is more likely than not that discrimination or harassment has occurred.

Timeline for Completion

The District will undertake its investigation promptly and swiftly as possible. To that end, the investigator shall complete the above steps, and prepare a written report within 90 days of the District receiving the complaint.

Cooperation Encouraged

All employees are expected to cooperate with a District investigation into allegations of harassment or discrimination. Lack of cooperation impedes the ability of the District to investigate thoroughly and respond effectively. However, lack of cooperation by a complainant or witnesses does not relieve the District of its obligation to investigate. The District will conduct an investigation if it is discovered that harassment is, or may be occurring, with or without the cooperation of the alleged victim(s) and regardless of whether a complaint is filed. No employee will be retaliated against as a result of lodging a complaint or participating in any workplace investigation.

Written Report

The results of the investigation of a complaint shall be set forth in a written report that will include at least all of the following information:

- A description of the circumstances giving rise to the Formal Complaint;
- A summary of the testimony provided by each witness interviewed by the investigator;
- An analysis of relevant evidence collected during the course of the investigation;
- A specific finding as to whether there is probable cause to believe that discrimination, harassment, or retaliation occurred with respect to each allegation in the complaint; and
- Any other information deemed appropriate by the District.

Confidentiality of the Process

Investigations are best conducted within a confidential climate. Therefore, the District does not reveal information about ongoing investigations except as necessary to fulfill its legal obligations. The District will keep the

investigation confidential to the extent possible, but it cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality because release of some information on a “need-to-know-basis” is essential to a thorough investigation and to protect the rights of Accused students and employees during the investigation process and any ensuing discipline.

Administrative Determination

- In any case not involving employment discrimination, within 90 days of receiving a formal complaint, the District shall complete its investigation and forward a copy of the investigative report to the State Chancellor, a copy or summary of the report to the complainant, and written notice setting forth all of the following to both the complainant and the Chancellor:
 - The determination of the Vice President of Human Resources or designee as to whether there is probable cause to believe discrimination occurred with respect to each allegation in the complaint;
 - A description of actions taken, if any, to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future;
 - The proposed resolution of the complaint; and
 - The complainant's right to appeal to the district governing board and the Chancellor.

- In any case involving employment discrimination, within 90 days of receiving a formal complaint, the District shall complete its investigation and forward a copy or summary of the report to the complainant, and written notice setting forth all the following to the complainant:
 - The determination of the Vice President of Human Resources or designee as to whether there is probable cause to believe discrimination occurred with respect to each allegation in the complaint;
 - A description of actions taken, if any, to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future;
 - The proposed resolution of the complaint; and
 - The complainant's right to appeal to the District governing board and to file a complaint with Department of Fair Employment and Housing or the U.S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Discipline and Corrective Action

If harassment, discrimination or retaliation occurred in violation of the policy or procedure, the District shall take disciplinary action against the accused and any other remedial action it determines to be appropriate. The action will be prompt, effective, and commensurate with the severity of the offense. Remedies for the complainant might include, but are not limited to:

- Providing an escort to ensure that the complainant can move safely between classes and activities;

- Ensuring that the complainant and alleged perpetrator do not attend the same classes or work in the same work area;

- Preventing offending third parties from entering campus;

- Providing counseling services or a referral to counseling services

- Providing medical services or a referral to medical services;

- Providing academic support services, such as tutoring;

- Arranging for a student-complainant to re-take a course or withdraw from a class without penalty, including ensuring that any changes do not adversely affect the complainant's academic record; and

- Reviewing any disciplinary actions taken against the complainant to see if there is a causal connection between the harassment and the misconduct that may have resulted in the complainant being disciplined.

If the District imposes discipline, the nature of the discipline will not be communicated to the complainant. However, the District may disclose information about the sanction imposed on an individual who was found to have engaged in harassment when the sanction directly relates to the complainant; for example, the District may inform the complainant that the harasser must stay away from the complainant.

Disciplinary actions against faculty, staff, and students will conform to all relevant statutes, regulations, personnel policies and procedures, including the provisions of any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

The District shall also take reasonable steps to protect the complainant from further harassment, or discrimination, and to protect the complainant and witnesses from retaliation as a result of communicating the complaint or assisting in the investigation. The District will ensure that complainants and witnesses know how to report any subsequent problems, and should follow-up with complainants to determine whether any retaliation or new incidents of harassment have occurred. The District shall take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the investigation and to protect the privacy of all parties to the extent possible without impeding the District's ability to investigate and respond effectively to the complaint.

If the District cannot take disciplinary action against the accused individual because the complainant refuses to participate in the investigation, it should pursue other steps to limit the effects of the alleged harassment and prevent its recurrence.

Appeals and District Final Decision

If the District imposes discipline against a student or employee as a result of the findings in its investigation, the student or employee may appeal the decision using the procedure for appealing a disciplinary decision.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the results of the administrative determination, the complainant may, within fifteen (15) days, submit a written appeal to the district governing board. The governing board shall review the original complaint, the investigative report, the administrative determination, and the appeal and issue a final district decision in the matter within forty-five (45) days after receiving the appeal. A copy of the final district decision rendered by the governing board shall be forwarded to the complainant and to the Chancellor. The complainant shall also be notified of his/her right to appeal this decision.

If the governing board does not act within forty-five (45) days, the administrative determination shall be deemed approved and shall become the final district decision in the matter.

In any case not involving employment discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, the complainant shall have the right to file a written appeal with the Chancellor within thirty (30) days after the governing board issues the final district decision or permits the administrative determination to become final. Such appeals shall be processed pursuant to the provision of Title 5 Section 59350

In any case involving an allegation of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age, in the provision of programs and services provided by the college, a complainant may also file a complaint with U.S. Department of Education. Complaints may also be filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (addresses listed below)

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Roybal Federal Building
255 E. Temple Street, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
<http://www.eeoc.gov>

Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
United States Department of Education
50 Beale Street, Suite 7200

Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH)
611 West Sixth Street, Suite 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90017
<http://www.dfeh.ca.gov/default.asp>

Extension of time

Within 150 days of receiving a complaint, the district will forward the following to the Chancellor:

- The original complaint;
- The report describing the nature and extent of the investigation conducted by the district;
- A copy of the notice sent to the complainant (pursuant to Government Code 59336);
- A copy of the final district decision rendered by the governing board or a statement indicating the date on which the administrative decision became final
- A copy of the notice to the complainant (pursuant to Government Code 59338); •
- Such other information as the Chancellor may require.

Extensions Failure to Comply

If a District, for reasons beyond its control, is unable to comply with the 150-day deadline specified for submission of materials to the Chancellor, the District may file a written request that the Chancellor grant an extension of the deadline. The request shall be submitted no later than ten (10) days prior to the expiration of the deadline established and shall set the reasons for the request and the date by which the District expects to be able to submit the required materials.

A copy of the request for an extension shall be sent to the complainant who may file written objections with the Chancellor within five (5) days of receipt.

The Chancellor may grant the request unless delay would be prejudicial to the complainant.

If a District fails to comply with the requirements by the required deadline, including any extension granted, the Chancellor may proceed to review the case based on the original complaint and any other relevant information then available.

File Retention

The District will retain on file for a period of at least three years after closing the case copies of:

- The original complaint;
- The investigatory report;
- The summary of the report if one is prepared;
- The notice provided to the complainant, of the District's administrative determination and his or her right to appeal;
- Any appeal; and

- The District's final decision.

The District will make such documents available to the State Chancellor upon request

Where the complaint allegation consists of Sexual Misconduct, as defined by Title IX, the following applies:

Sexual Misconduct

Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment and sexual violence.

- Sexual harassment may include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, made by someone from or in the work or education setting.
- Sexual violence refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or when a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's use of drugs or alcohol or due to an intellectual or other disability. Sexual violence includes rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion.
- Affirmative consent means an affirmative, conscious, and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity.

Sexual misconduct creates a hostile environment if the conduct is sufficiently serious that it interferes with or limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the District's program. A single or isolated incident may create a hostile environment if the incident is sufficiently severe.

Complaint Procedure

Where the complaint involves a minor, the District will comply with California mandated reporting requirements.

All responsible employees are required to report all actual or suspected sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator immediately. A responsible employee is any employee who has the authority to take action to redress sexual misconduct, who has been given the duty of reporting incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator or Vice President of Human Resources or designee, or whom a student or employee could reasonably believe has this authority or duty. The District is on notice if a responsible employee knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known, about the sexual misconduct.

Any person may make a complaint by contacting the Title IX Coordinator directly. The District's Title IX Coordinator is the Vice President of Human Resources. The Title IX Coordinator will receive all relevant details about the alleged sexual misconduct reported to the District responsible employee in order to determine what occurred and how to resolve the situation. This includes the names of alleged victim and alleged perpetrator (if known), and the date, time, and location of the alleged sexual misconduct.

Privileged or Confidential Reporting

A responsible District employee should, whenever possible, before a student or employee reveals information that he or she may wish to keep confidential, ensure that the person making the report understands the employee's obligations to report to the Title IX Coordinator, the victim's option to request confidentiality, which the District will take into consideration, and the victim's ability to share the information confidentially with designated District employees.

Professional, licensed, mental health counselors, and pastoral counselors, who provide mental- health counseling to members of the District community, or interns, graduate students, and others supervised by professional licensed counselors, are not required to report any information to the title IX Coordinator.

Non-professional counselors who work or volunteer in health center, victim advocacy office, women's center, etc., including front desk personnel and student employees in the course of their duties, may maintain confidentiality.

They are not required to report actual or suspected sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator in a way that identifies the student without the victims consent.

Authority over Parties

The District has authority over students, employees, and third parties for alleged violations of this policy that occur on District property. The District has authority over District employees and students for alleged violations of this policy that occur at District activities or events. The District may exercise authority over events that occur off-campus to determine if the conduct occurred in the context of an education program or activity or had continuing effects on campus or in an off-campus education program or activity.

Standard of Proof

The District will use a “preponderance of the evidence” standard of proof in determining whether there has been a violation of this policy. This standard of proof is also known as “more likely than not” standard.

Upon Receiving the Complaint – Health and Safety

The Title IX Coordinator or designee, will make an immediate assessment concerning the health and safety of the victim and campus community as a whole. The District will provide the reporting party and responding party with immediate, interim measures necessary to protect his or her health and safety. These immediate interim measures may include:

- Providing an escort

- Ensuring that the victim and perpetrator do not attend the same classes or work in the same area

- Preventing offending third parties from entering campus

- Providing counseling services or a referral to counseling services •

- Providing academic support services

Where the District determines that there is a substantial threat to the campus community, it will issue a timely warning. The District will issue the warning according to District Administrative Procedures. The District will not disclose the victim’s name or other identifying information when issuing the warning.

Communicating that the Conduct is Unwelcome

The employee or student may, but is not required to let the offending person know immediately and firmly that the conduct or behavior is unwelcome, offensive, in poor taste, or inappropriate.

Intake and Processing of the Complaint

If the District determines that a sexual misconduct complaint is appropriate for informal resolution, it may permit an informal resolution, including mediation. All parties, including the complainant and respondent, must receive full disclosure of the allegations and information about options for formal resolution before voluntarily agreeing to participate in an informal resolution. If parties agree to an informal resolution, the District does not have to complete a full investigation and adjudication of a report of sexual misconduct.

Confidentiality

Where the victim requests confidentiality regarding a reportable incident the District will take all reasonable steps to comply with the victim’s request or inform the victim when it cannot ensure confidentiality. The District will not disclose the name of the victim unless the victim provides written consent after being informed of his/her right to have the information withheld. Where the victim insists that the District not disclose his or her name or other identifiable information to the alleged perpetrator, the District will inform the victim that its ability to respond will be limited. The District will evaluate this request in the context of its responsibility to provide a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all employees and students. When weighing a request for confidentiality

against the seriousness of the alleged harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will take the factors listed above into consideration.

Fact-Finding Investigation

Where the victim has filed a criminal complaint with local law enforcement, the District will consider what information the District is able to share, pursuant to state and federal law, to ensure that victims are not unnecessarily required to give multiple statements about a traumatic event. The District will continue to conduct its own thorough, reliable, prompt, and impartial investigation. The District will normally complete its sexual misconduct investigation within 90 days of receiving the complaint, unless extended by the Title IX Coordinator for good cause. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the victim and accused in writing of the reason for the extension and the projected new timeline.

The victim and accused will have equal opportunity to present relevant witnesses and other evidence to the District investigator. The District will provide the same opportunities to the victim and accused, for example if the District permits the victim or accused to have a lawyer or other advisor present, it must do so for the other party. Any District imposed restrictions on the ability of a lawyer or other advisor to speak or participate in the interview must also apply equally.

The results of the fact-finding investigation will be set out in a formal investigative report which will include the requirements listed above and a credibility determination of the victim, accused, and witnesses.

Reporting to State Chancellor's Office

The District considers all sexual misconduct complaints to be formal complaints. The Vice President or designee must notify the State Chancellor's Office of any sexual misconduct complaints. Upon completing the investigation, the District shall forward to the Chancellor's Office a copy of the investigative report and administrative determination and to the complainant a copy or summary of the investigative report and administrative determination.

Dissemination of Policy and Procedures

District Policy and Procedures related to harassment will include information that specifically addresses sexual violence. District policy and procedures will be provided to all students, faculty members, members of the administrative staff and members of the support staff, and will be posted on campus and on the District's website.

When hired, employees are required to sign that they have received the policy and procedures, and the signed acknowledgment of receipt is placed in each employee's personnel file. In addition, these policies and procedures are incorporated into the District's course catalogs and orientation materials for new students.

Supervisory Employee Training

By January 1, 2020, the District shall provide at least two hours of classroom or other effective interactive training and education regarding sexual harassment to all supervisory employees and at least one hour of classroom or other effective interactive training and education regarding sexual harassment to all nonsupervisory employees. All new employees must be provided with the training and education within six months of their assumption of his/her position. After January 1, 2020, the District shall provide sexual harassment training and education to each employee once every two years.

The training and education required by this procedure shall include information and practical guidance regarding the federal and state statutory provisions concerning the prohibition against and the prevention and correction of sexual harassment and the remedies available to victims of sexual harassment in employment, a review of "abusive conduct," and harassment based on gender identify, gender expression, and sexual orientation. The training and education shall also include practical examples aimed at instructing supervisors in the prevention of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation, and shall be presented by trainers or educators with knowledge and expertise in the prevention of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation.

Supervisor's harassment training must also address potential exposure and liability for employers and individuals, supervisor's obligation to report sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation when they become aware of it, appropriate remedial measures to correct harassing behavior.

The District will maintain appropriate records of the training provided, including the names of the supervisory employees trained, the date of training, sign in sheets, copies of all certificates of attendance or completion issued, the type of training provided, a copy of all written or recorded training materials, and the name of the training provider. If the training is provided by webinar, the District will maintain a copy of the webinar, all written materials used by the training and all written questions submitted during the webinar, and document all written response or guidance the trainer provided during the webinar. The District will retain these records for at least three years.

Staff Training

The District will also provide training to students who lead student organizations. The District should provide copies of the sexual harassment policies and training to all District law enforcement unit employees regarding the grievance procedures and any other procedures used for investigating reports of sexual violence.

In years in which a substantive policy or procedural change has occurred, all District employees will attend a training update and/or receive a copy of the revised policies and procedures.

Participants in training programs will be required to sign a statement that they have either understood the policies and procedures, their responsibilities, and their own and the District's potential liability, or that they did not understand the policy and desire further training.

Education and Prevention for Students

In order to take proactive measures to prevent sexual harassment and violence toward students, the District will provide preventive education programs and make victim resources, including comprehensive victim services, available. The District will include such programs in their orientation programs for new students, and in training for student athletes and coaches. These programs will include discussion of what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence, the District's policies and disciplinary procedures, and the consequences of violating these policies. A training program or informational services will be made available to all students at least once annually.

The education programs will also include information aimed at encouraging students to report incidents of sexual violence to the appropriate District and law enforcement authorities. Since victims or third parties may be deterred from reporting incidents if alcohol, drugs, or other violations of District or campus rules were involved, the District will inform students that the primary concern is for student safety and that use of alcohol or drugs never makes the victim at fault for sexual violence. If other rules are violated, the District will address such violations separately from an allegation of sexual violence.

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