Appendix I: Nondiscrimination Policy

I. Policy Statement

The University of Texas at Austin (University) is committed to providing an educational and working environment for students, faculty, and staff that is free from discrimination based on race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, sexual orientation, gender expression, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, veteran status, disability, genetic information, active duty military status, or any other legally protected basis. This Policy prohibits such conduct.

This Policy also prohibits retaliation against someone because the individual reported under this Policy, opposed an unlawful practice, participated in an investigation, or requested supportive measures. Finally, this Policy fails to cooperate in good faith, filing false complaints or providing materially false information, interfering with this Policy's processes, abusing the investigation process, or failing to report incidents reasonably believed to constitute discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.

This Policy does not cover prohibited conduct of a sexual nature. Procedures for reporting sexual assault, interpersonal violence, stalking, and sexual harassment, are addressed by Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP) 3-3031. While these are forms of sex discrimination, their sexual nature removes them from the purview of this Policy.

Inquiries regarding this Policy may be directed to the Department of Investigation and Adjudication (DIA) at 512-471-3701 or dia@austin.utexas.edu (dia@austin.utexas.edu)

II. Who this Policy Applies To

This Policy applies to all University faculty, staff, employees, students, student organizations, visitors, contractors, university affiliates, and applicants for admission or employment with the University and others conducting business on campus. Reports and Complaints against individuals subject to this Policy are processed according to the parameters set out below. Reports and Complaints against individuals not subject to this Policy are processed to provide support resources to the affected individual where appropriate.

III. Where this Policy Applies

This Policy applies to conduct that occurs on campus, in university-owned housing, or in an education program or activity. Campus means any building or property owned or leased by the University that is used in direct support of the University's educational purposes. An education program or activity means locations, events, or circumstances over which the University exercises substantial control, and includes any building owned or controlled by a registered student organization. This Policy applies to off-campus conduct when the conduct substantially affects a person's education or employment with the University or poses a risk of harm to members of the University community.

IV. Policy Violations

The following are categories of conduct that violate this Policy. Individuals who believe they have been subjected to conduct that violates this Policy are encouraged to file a Complaint with the University using the procedures described below (See Section VII.B.1). Any person found in violation of this Policy is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination or expulsion, or losing affiliate status.

(A) Discrimination: Conduct directed at an individual or group of identifiable individuals that subjects them to treatment that creates a materially adverse impact to their employment or education because of their race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, sexual orientation, gender expression, religion, age, national origin, veteran status, disability, genetic information, military service, or any other legally protected basis.

(B) Harassment: Verbal or physical conduct that is directed at an individual or group because of their race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, sexual orientation, gender expression, religion, age, national origin, veteran status, disability, genetic information, military service, or any other legally protected basis. This conduct must be sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to have the purpose or effect of interfering with the impacted individual's academic or work performance.

(C) Retaliation: Any action taken to cause a materially adverse effect in the terms or conditions of an individual's academic experience or employment with the University, or other institutional status of a student, employee, university affiliate, visitor, or applicant for admission or employment with the University, because an individual has in good faith reported or brought a complaint under this Policy, opposed an unlawful practice, participated in an investigation, or requested supportive or protective measures.

Examples of retaliation include, but are not limited to, denial of an educational opportunity, experience or promotion; non-selection/refusal to hire; denial of job benefits; demotion or negative impact on grades or academic status; suspension; discharge; reprimands; negative evaluations; harassment; or other adverse treatment that is likely to deter reasonable people from pursuing their rights.

Retaliation may be found even when an underlying Report or Complaint made in good faith was not substantiated.

(D) Investigation Participant Violations:

(1) Failing to Cooperate

Everyone who is subject to this Policy must cooperate in good faith with University investigations. Failing to cooperate in good faith is a violation of this Policy. Good faith cooperation includes, but is not limited to:

- providing full and truthful answers during the investigation;
- identifying witnesses to the alleged conduct or other relevant witnesses; providing full and complete documents relevant to the alleged conduct;
- responding to requests for interviews or information from DIA or any other University administrator; and
- appearing for scheduled meetings or interviews.

(2) Filing of False Complaints and Providing Materially False Information
It is a violation of this Policy to knowingly and intentionally file a false Complaint or Report under this Policy or to knowingly and intentionally provide materially false information about an alleged violation under this Policy. A Complaint or Report that is ultimately unsubstantiated is not a false Complaint or Report unless it was filed in bad faith. Bad faith is an intent to harm or deceive. Information is materially false if it is untrue and would tend to influence the outcome of an investigation of an alleged violation under this Policy.

(3) Investigation Process Interference

Any person who intentionally interferes with the administration of this Policy commits a violation of this Policy. Interference may include, but is not limited to:

- attempting to coerce, compel, or prevent an individual from providing testimony or relevant information;
- removing, destroying, withholding, or altering documentation relevant to the Complaint or Report; or
- knowingly providing false or misleading information to DIA or any other university administrator or encouraging others to do so.

(4) Abuse of Investigation Process

This Policy prohibits individuals from abusing the investigative process. DIA will determine whether conduct is an abuse of the process by assessing the totality of the circumstances. Abuse of the investigation process is a pattern of behavior that overburdens DIA staff and resources, including but not limited to:

- repeatedly refusing to specify Complaint or Report allegations;
- repeatedly failing to timely schedule or appear at investigative interviews or meetings, without good cause; or
- filing multiple Complaints or Reports on the same or substantially similar events.

(E) Failing to Report Known Incidents of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation: Every supervisor, administrator, University official, or other employee who has the authority to take action to redress an alleged violation, must promptly report to DIA any incidents reasonably believed to constitute discrimination, harassment, or retaliation in violation of this Policy that come to their attention during the course of their employment.

V. Website (for policy)


VI. Contacts

Department of Investigation and Adjudication:

Phone: 512-471-3701 Website: https://compliance.utexas.edu/department-investigation-and-adjudication Email: dia@austin.utexas.edu

Center for Equity and Inclusion:

Phone: 512-471-1849 Website: https://equity.utexas.edu Email: equity@utexas.edu

University Compliance Services:

Phone: English: 877-507-7321 Español: 800-216-1288 Website: https://compliance.utexas.edu/ Email: compliance@austin.utexas.edu

VII. Responsibilities & Procedures

A. Definitions

a. Complainant: The individual who is alleged to be the victim of any prohibited conduct under this Policy.

b. Complaint: Information, including oral statements (if appropriately acknowledged), submitted to DIA by a Complainant, alleging a violation of this Policy.

c. Notification: Notification under this Policy occurs on the date any document is sent by electronic mail and/or facsimile, when properly addressed. Notification may also occur two days after the date of posting of any document in the United States mail, properly addressed, or upon the date of receipt of any document, when placed in the campus mail, properly addressed. DIA will use the address included in the Complaint or the last known address contained in DIA’s file.

d. Parties: The “Complainant” and the “Respondent” under this Policy.

e. Preponderance of the Evidence: The greater weight of the credible evidence. Preponderance of the evidence is the standard for determining allegations of conduct that violate this Policy. This standard is satisfied if the action is deemed more likely to have occurred than not.

f. Relevant: Evidence that has (i) any tendency to make a fact more or less probable than it would be without its existence, and (ii) the fact is of consequence in determining if a policy violation has occurred.

g. Report: Information, including oral statements (if appropriately acknowledged), submitted to DIA by a Reporter, alleging a violation of this Policy.

h. Reporter: An individual, other than a Complainant, making a Report of an incident(s) under this Policy.

i. Respondent: The individual and/or organization reported to be the alleged perpetrator of conduct that violates this Policy.

B. General Procedures

The University recognizes the rights of Parties to report an incident to the University and to receive a prompt and equitable resolution of the Report.

1. Reporting Incidents. Any person may report an incident under this Policy to DIA—via email at dia@austin.utexas.edu, (dia@austin.utexas.edu) via mail at 100 W. Dean Keeton, Suite 4.102, Mail Code D9250, by calling 512-471-3701, or via https://compliance.utexas.edu/department-investigation-and-adjudication—regardless of whether the person reporting is the person alleged to be subject to the complained-of behavior. Any person may report incidents anonymously via the online reporting form found at DIA’s website.

A person who believes that they have experienced discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should promptly report the incident to any official, administrator, supervisor, or employee with the authority to redress an alleged violation. They are also encouraged to report such incidents to DIA directly. No person is required to report Discrimination or Harassment to the alleged offender.

2. Complaints and Reports. A Complaint or Report alleging a violation of this Policy shall be submitted to DIA. The Complaint or Report should contain the following information:
C. Initial Review and Assessment Procedures

1. Purpose. DIA will conduct an initial review of all Reports and Complaints. This initial review is to assess whether a Complaint or Report describes in sufficient detail the conduct that is the basis of the Complaint, whether the alleged conduct (if true) implicates this Policy, and whether a formal investigation is warranted.

2. Intake Review. DIA will conduct an intake review, which may include interviews to gather more information regarding the allegation(s). DIA will determine whether the Complaint or Report should be referred to an appropriate department for resolution or for restorative practice. If additional information is needed to evaluate the Complaint or Report, DIA will conduct a due diligence inquiry.

3. Due Diligence Inquiry. A due diligence inquiry is not a formal investigation but includes all appropriate steps to properly and thoroughly evaluate a Complaint or Report. DIA will take appropriate steps to gather sufficient information to determine whether a formal investigation is warranted.

4. Potential Outcome/Resolution of Complaints or Reports. DIA will ultimately determine whether the Complaint or Report should be (i) closed due to insufficient evidence or information; (ii) extended the 180-day filing deadline when good cause supports the extension. DIA may determine in its discretion whether informal resolution is appropriate and, if so, will refer the Complaint or Report to the appropriate department.

Methods for informal resolution may include, but are not limited to:

- coaching the person on how to directly address a situation which is causing a problem; mediating the dispute with the Parties;
- aiding in the modification of a situation in which the offensive conduct occurred;
- assisting a division with the resolution of a real or perceived problem; or
- arranging a documented meeting to discuss the University's requirements for behavior.

The University will document any informal resolution. DIA will retain this documentation and keep it confidential to the extent permitted by law.

E. Restorative Practices Alternative

The University recognizes that in some circumstances, pursuing restorative practices in lieu of the formal investigation process is preferable to the Parties involved. When appropriate, the University supports and encourages the benefits available through this alternative resolution path. You can learn more about this option here.
The Restorative Practices Alternative may be an appropriate means of addressing some incidents reported under this Policy. DIA within its discretion, may recommend this alternative to address some incidents reported under this Policy that have not been elevated to a Formal Investigation.

F. Formal Investigation Procedures

1. Investigation Responsibility. DIA is responsible for conducting formal investigations of Complaints and Reports involving possible violations of this Policy. DIA will initiate a formal investigation if a Complaint is within the scope of this Policy and articulates sufficient specific facts, which, if determined to be true, would support a finding that this Policy was violated.

Notwithstanding the above, DIA may initiate an investigation at the request of Human Resources representatives, deans, directors, department or unit heads, or vice-presidents, or at DIA’s sole discretion when the facts or circumstances warrant such investigation.

Additionally, if a Complaint/Report is withdrawn, DIA may choose to initiate a formal investigation if the alleged conduct implicates this Policy.

2. Delegation in Certain Circumstances. If a Complaint or Report is directed against an individual who would otherwise play a role in investigating or resolving the Complaint, or there is any other conflict of interest present, the function assigned to that person by these procedures will be delegated to another person, as determined appropriate by the Chief Compliance Officer, in consultation with the Vice President for Legal Affairs.

3. Notice of Investigation. If a formal investigation is warranted, DIA will provide the Parties a written Notice of Investigation (NOI). The NOI will include:

- A statement of the allegation(s) to be investigated;
- A statement notifying the Respondent that they have an opportunity to submit a written response to the allegation(s) within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the NOI, unless unusual circumstances warrant additional time;
- A statement advising the Parties that Retaliation is prohibited and that engaging in Retaliation will result in appropriate disciplinary action;
- A statement notifying the Parties that they have a right to an advisor during the investigation process;
- A statement requesting confidentiality by the Parties to preserve the integrity of the investigation;
- A statement regarding the Parties’ duty to cooperate; Information regarding resources available to the Parties; and
- Contact information for the DIA investigator assigned to the formal investigation.

4. Investigative Process—Gathering of Evidence

a. Respondent Statement. Within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the NOI, the Respondent has an opportunity to submit to DIA a written response to the allegations. DIA may extend this deadline if it determines circumstances warrant it.

b. Notice of Meetings. DIA will notify the Parties and witnesses of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of any meeting. DIA will also notify them of their right to be accompanied by an advisor.

c. Interviews. During a formal investigation, DIA may interview the Complainant(s), Respondent(s), and persons that have relevant information related to the Complaint or Report. Parties should submit the name(s) and contact information for any witnesses they would like to be interviewed and a brief explanation of the witness’ relevance to the investigation. In most cases, DIA will not interview character witnesses.

d. Evidence. The Parties may present any information or evidence that may be relevant to the investigation. DIA may also gather relevant evidence from witnesses or other departments as appropriate.

e. Findings. DIA will use the Preponderance of the Evidence standard to determine if a policy violation has occurred.

5. Investigation Report and Referral

a. Preliminary Investigation Report and Access to Evidence. After completion of the investigative process, DIA will provide the Parties a Preliminary Investigation Report (PIR) and access to relevant evidence. The PIR will outline each of the allegations that potentially constitutes a violation of this Policy, provide the timeline of the investigation, and fairly summarize the relevant evidence, participant statements, responses to questions, and documentary evidence. The PIR will also include a statement of finding of violation or no finding of violation and the related rationale.

DIA will redact student identifiable information and other information that is confidential by law. DIA also reserves the right to redact the names of witnesses for confidentiality and privacy reasons, as well as to mitigate a perceived risk of Retaliation.

DIA will provide a copy of the PIR and access to the relevant evidence to the appropriate vice president, dean, or designee.

b. Opportunity to Respond. The Parties and their advisors will have ten (10) business days to review, inspect, and submit a written response to the PIR and the relevant evidence. The written response should include any additional fact(s) or witnesses who may provide relevant information. DIA will review and consider the responses received from the Parties, if any, and determine whether further investigation is warranted.

c. Discipline Decision-maker Review of PIR. The PIR will be provided to the appropriate discipline decision-maker, who may consult with DIA before the report is finalized regarding the investigative process, evidence collected, and the rationale provided for the determination of a finding or no finding of violation.

d. Completed Investigation Report and Referral. After the Parties have an opportunity to respond to the PIR, DIA will provide a Completed Investigation Report (CIR) and access to the relevant evidence to the Parties and the appropriate vice president, dean, or designee. Within ten (10) business days of receiving the CIR, the appropriate vice president, dean, or designee should discuss the findings with DIA, and review the record, along with any comments and proposed corrections submitted by the Complainant and Respondent, if necessary.
If there is a finding of violation, the CIR will be provided to the appropriate discipline decision-makers for disciplinary determinations as follows:

- If the Respondent is a student, it will be referred to the Dean of Students for discipline decision, in accordance with University’s student disciplinary procedures;
- If the Respondent is faculty, it will be referred to the Executive Vice President and Provost for discipline decision, in accordance with the University’s policies for discipline and termination of faculty; and
- If the Respondent is staff, it will be referred to the Associate Vice President of Human Resources for discipline decision, in accordance with the University’s policies for discipline and termination of staff.

The vice president, dean, or designee will inform the Parties, DIA, and the appropriate department head in writing of the decision.

e. Privacy. As required by federal law, any disclosure of the findings and decision of the Office of the Dean of Students will be governed by the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other applicable law.

G. Right to Advisor

The Complainant(s) and the Respondent(s) may be accompanied by an advisor, who may be an attorney, to any meeting or interview with DIA. No advisor may examine witnesses or otherwise actively participate in a meeting or interview. An individual may only have one advisor present at a time.

H. Submission of Evidence

During an initial review or formal investigation, the Complainant(s) and the Respondent(s) should provide DIA with all relevant evidence in their care, custody, or control. They should also identify any witnesses that they believe have Relevant information. Any witness list should include a summary of the information the witness can provide regarding the issues raised in the Complaint.

I. Miscellaneous

1. Grievance of a Disciplinary Action

a. Any employee disciplined pursuant to this Policy, except faculty, teaching assistants, assistant instructors or members of the University of Texas Police Department (each of whom are subject to separate procedures \( \text{p. 4} \)), may grieve that action by submitting a written grievance, within ten (10) business days of the imposition of the disciplinary action, to the President’s Office. Ordinarily, the President will assign responsibility for review and action on the appeal of the vice president’s action to another vice president; however, when required by unusual circumstances, the President may review and handle a grievance pursuant to this Policy.

b. If the disciplinary action that is being grieved does not involve termination, demotion, or suspension without pay, the vice president will thoroughly review and finally decide the matter within thirty (30) calendar days of its receipt unless unusual circumstances require more time.

c. If the disciplinary action that is being grieved involves the termination, demotion or suspension without pay of an employee who is covered by HOP 5-2420 the vice president who is assigned to review the grievance will follow the procedures for appealing such actions contained in that section. Complainants will be required to appear and testify at hearings that may be a part of such proceedings.

d. Any student disciplined under this Policy has the right to appeal as provided in General Information Catalog, Appendix C, Chapter 11- Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities.

2. Effect on Pending Personnel Actions

The filing of a Report or Complaint under this Policy will not stop or delay any personnel/academic actions including: (1) any evaluation or disciplinary action relating to a person who is not performing up to acceptable standards or who has violated University rules or policies; (2) any evaluation or grading of students participating in a class, or the ability of a student to add/drop a class, change academic programs, or receive financial reimbursement for a class; or (3) any job-related functions of a University employee. Nothing in this section shall limit the University’s ability to take interim action or execute an emergency removal.

3. Relationship of Complaint Process to Outside Agency Time Limits

The filing of a Discrimination or Harassment Complaint does not excuse the Complainant from meeting deadlines set by law or an outside administrative agency.

4. Time Frames

DIA may extend the time frames mentioned in this Policy at its discretion.

5. Documentation and Confidentiality

The University will maintain documents related to Complaints under this Policy as required by law. The Office of the Dean of Students will be responsible for records related to Complaints against students.

DIA will be responsible for records related to Complaints against non-students. The confidentiality of a Complaint under this Policy and all documents, correspondence, interviews and discussions relating to the investigation of the information contained in a Complaint will be maintained on a need-to-know basis to the extent permitted by law. Any person who knowingly and intentionally makes an unauthorized disclosure of confidential information contained in a Complaint or otherwise relating to the investigation of a Complaint under this Policy is subject to disciplinary action. The University may release information in the event of a lawsuit, official inquiry, or administrative action.

For Assistance: Questions regarding this policy should be directed to DIA.

Sources: Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended; Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974; Executive Order of 11246; Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Texas Labor Code, Chapter 21; BOR 2.I.6; Previous policies: HOP 7.01 and 7.16

[1] Pregnancy discrimination involves treating a person unfavorably because of pregnancy, childbirth, or a medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth.
See Section 13-204 of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities (Appendix C to the General Information Catalog) for further information concerning harassment; and Sec. 11-701(b) for information concerning enhanced student penalties for offenses motivated by race, color, or national origin.

The president or designee who is specifically designated by the president for this purpose may authorize an independent investigation into matters that fall under this Policy. In these instances, the investigators may be asked to perform any task related to an investigation under this Policy and, if so directed, may Report directly to the president and/or the designee.

Complaints of full-time faculty, including professional librarians with academic titles, who are notified that they will not be reappointed, or that the subsequent academic year will be their terminal appointment, and who contend that such decisions were made for unlawfully discriminatory reasons will be referred to the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost for handling pursuant to Rule 31008 of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System.

VIII. Resources

A. Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line (BCCAL)
   (512) 232-5050
   Allows members of the University community to discuss their concerns about an individual’s behavior (available 24-hours a day)
   https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line

B. Counseling and Mental Health Center
   (512) 471-3515
   24-hour telephone counseling service at (512) 471-CALL (2255) http://cmhc.utexas.edu

C. Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Faculty/Staff
   Department of Investigation and Adjudication (512) 471-3701
   https://compliance.utexas.edu/department-investigation-and-adjudication

D. Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students
   Office of the Dean of Students (512) 471-5017
   http://titleix.utexas.edu/

E. Human Resources
   (512) 471-4772
   hrsc@austin.utexas.edu
   http://hr.utexas.edu

F. University Ombuds
   For students and staff: (512) 471-3825
   For Faculty: (512) 471-5866 https://ombuds.utexas.edu/staff
   Provides a neutral, informal, and independent space for information about University resources and processes for students, staff and faculty

G. Disability and Access
   (512)-471-6259
   access@austin.utexas.edu
   https://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/

H. Center for Equity and Inclusion
   (512) 471-1849
   equity@utexas.edu
   http://equity.utexas.edu

I. Student Emergency Services in the Office of the Dean of Students
   (512) 471-5017
   Provides referrals within the University and in the Austin area when necessary http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency

J. University Compliance Services
   English: 1-877-507-7321 Español 1-800-216-1288
   compliance@austin.utexas.edu
   http://utexas.edu/hotline

K. University Health Services
   Appointments: (512) 471-4955
   24-hour Nurse Advice Line: (512) 475-6877
   Health Promotion Resource Center: (512) 475-8252
   http://healthyhorns.utexas.edu

L. University of Texas Police Department
   Emergencies: 911
   Non-emergencies: (512) 471-4441, enter “9”
   https://www.utexas.edu/police/

M. University Title IX Coordinator
   University Compliance Services
   (512) 232-3992
   titleix@austin.utexas.edu
   http://titleix.utexas.edu/

IX. Frequently Asked Questions

None

X. Related Information

Students:

Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities, Appendix C, Chapter 11 (Student Conduct and Academic Integrity)

Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities, Appendix C, Chapter 13 (Speech, Expression, and Assembly)
Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities, Appendix D
(Policy on Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Misconduct, Interpersonal Violence and Stalking)

Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities, Appendix I
(Nondiscrimination Policy) Handbook of Operating Procedure HOP 8-1010 (Prohibition of Campus Violence)

University Faculty and Staff:

Prohibition of Sexual Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Misconduct, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking (HOP 3-3031)

Policies and Procedures for Discipline and Dismissal of Employees (HOP 5-2420)

XI. History

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