Title IX 101

Introduction, Overview and Title IX law and process
Introduction

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Disclaimers

- Not legal advice
- Introductory module to provide an overview of Title IX and institution's obligations under Title IX
**TITLE IX**

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

**TITLE IX IS:**
- Federal law
- Enforced by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
- Prohibits discrimination based on sex
- Historically viewed as requiring gender-equity in athletics
What informs Compliance Obligations?

- New Regulations
- OCR Guidance/Resolution Agreements
- State Laws/Court Cases – Federal and State

Title IX Conduct – What It Is/What It Isn’t

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OCR sets forth administrative enforcement standards for investigating institutions under Title IX. As part of these investigations, OCR does not provide for monetary damages like you see in court cases, rather OCR puts forth regulatory guidance or “sub-regulations”. These federal regulations cannot change existing legislation, but rather inform how legislation is interpreted or enforced.
OPTIONS

OCR

Lawsuit

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MAY 6, 2020
The Day Everything Changed
TITLE IX

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Sexual Harassment

- Conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:
  - An employee of the recipient conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
  - Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive AND objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's education program or activity; or
  - "Sexual Assault," "Dating Violence," "Domestic Violence" or "Stalking" as defined in the Clery Act.
SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual Assault: An offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest or statutory rape as used in the FBI's Crime Reporting system. A sex offense is any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

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 his/her age or because of his/her 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.

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. The existence of such a relationship shall be based upon the reporting party’s statement with consideration of the following factors:

(i) The length of the relationship
(ii) The type of relationship
(iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse.
Domestic Violence: A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; or by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; or by a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; or by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred; or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.

STALKING
Stalking: Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to

(1) Fear for the person’s safety or the safety of others; or
(2) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

For purposes of this definition:

Course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method device, or means follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about, a person, or interferes with a person’s property.

Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.
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SEXUAL HARASSMENT + EDUCATION PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY = FORMAL TITLE IX PROCESS
Title IX Applies to...

- Bullying
- Hazing
- Vandalism
- Arson
- Program Equity Decisions, such as:
  - Admission
  - Athletics or Club Participation
  - Hiring
  - Firing
  - Promotion, etc.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

May also include actions motivated by gender or sex, such as:

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WHAT ABOUT NON TITLE IX SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Not Education Program/ Activity 'harassment'

Important Terms

Complainant: Individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment

Respondent: Individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment
Title IX Coordinator
Title IX Coordinator

Supportive Measures

Defined term:
individualized services provided to a complainant or respondent that are non-punitive, non-disciplinary, and do not unreasonably burden the other party yet are designed to restore or preserve a person's equal access to education.
Institution Process vs. Law Enforcement

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We are here for you!
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Contact your Title IX Coordinator