

Harassment of Employees

Staff and Services Handbook Page 5-8; Section 5.20

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The University is committed to offering employment opportunity based on ability and performance, in a productive climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, harassment of any kind, by supervisors, co-workers, or non-employees in the workplace, will not be tolerated.

- A. **General Harassment:** Ethnic or racial slurs and other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, religion, or national origin constitutes harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work environment.

- B. **Sexual Harassment:** Sexual harassment, like other forms of harassment and discrimination, is illegal and will not be tolerated by the University or at any event or function associated with the University. It is the responsibility of all university students, faculty, staff, and administrators to assure that the university community is free from sexual harassment.

Accordingly, all university employees must avoid any conduct that is or has the appearance of sexual harassment. Included are sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or an individual's status as a student;
2. Submission to or rejections of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual or for decisions adversely affecting the academic or other status of such individuals as a student; and
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or with an individual's performance or achievement as a student or has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or learning environment.

Complaints of alleged sexual harassment may be reported in several ways. Such behavior should be reported to the department chair, dean, director, or their direct supervisor; however, if not appropriate, then to the Director of Human Resources and Affirmative Action, to the University Legal Counsel, to the Ombudsman, or to the President. The complaints will be promptly and thoroughly investigated, and the results will be communicated to the complaining employee or student. Every effort will

be made to keep all complaints (and their details) as confidential as possible, but with any investigation, often some disclosure is inevitable. Any supervisor having knowledge or information of sexual harassment gained through direct, indirect, or informal means should report such harassment to the next appropriate supervisor or administrative level.

Prompt disciplinary action will be taken, if necessary. Any student, faculty member, staff member, or administrator who violates this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including possible termination of employment or suspension from the University.

All students, faculty, staff, and administrators have an obligation to report harassment, whether as a victim or as an observer. Any retaliatory action against an employee or student complaining of harassment is illegal and will not be tolerated.