

POLICY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

I. NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE AND GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

Equal employment and equal educational opportunity are fundamental principles at Knox College. The College strictly prohibits Discrimination or Harassment because of actual or perceived sex, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, religion or religious affiliation, sexual orientation or preference, age, marital or family status, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local laws and ordinances (“Protected Categories”).

The College’s prohibition on Discrimination and Harassment extends to all aspects of its operations, including admissions and employment. The College also prohibits various forms of Retaliation as provided by law. Reports and Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Retaliation may be made to the College’s Title IX Coordinator, whose contact information is specified below.

Members of the College Community who commit Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Retaliation are subject to the full range of College discipline including verbal reprimand; written reprimand; mandatory training, coaching, or counseling; mandatory monitoring; partial or full probation; partial or full suspension; demotion; fines; permanent separation from the institution (that is, termination or dismissal); physical restriction from College property; cancellation of contracts; and any combination of the same.

The College will provide persons who have experienced Discrimination and/or Harassment ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the College’s Education Programs or Activities.

Consistent with Title IX, the College also provides certain supports and modifications for persons who are experiencing pregnancy or pregnancy related conditions. The College has a separate [Pregnancy Modifications Policy](#) that governs the provision of such supports and modifications.

The College has designated a Title IX Coordinator to respond to questions about the Policy; to receive Reports and Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment, and to coordinate and oversee the College’s response to Discrimination and Harassment as dictated by the Policy and applicable laws and regulations. The Title IX Coordinator’s name and contact information is:

Kari Hohn
Interim Title IX Coordinator
2 East South Street
Galesburg, IL 61401
309-341-7751
cultureofrespect@knox.edu

The Title IX Coordinator may assign one or more designees to carry out some of the College's responsibilities for compliance with applicable federal and state law, but the Title IX Coordinator retains ultimate oversight for those responsibilities.

In addition to the Title IX Coordinator, questions about Title IX and its implementing regulations or other applicable federal laws may be referred to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"). Contact information for OCR is available at [this link](#).

II. DEFINITIONS

Capitalized terms have the meaning described in Appendix 1 "Definitions".

III. SCOPE

This Policy applies to Discrimination and Harassment that occurs within the College's Education Programs or Activities and that is committed by a member of the College Community.

This Policy does not apply to Discrimination or Harassment that occurs outside the scope of the College's Education Programs or Activities. Nevertheless, the College will address Hostile Environment Harassment and Sex-Based Harassment occurring in its Education Programs or Activities even when some conduct alleged to be contributing to the hostile environment occurred outside the Education Programs or Activities or outside of the United States.

The procedures contained in this Policy constitute the College's Section 504 grievance procedures and the College's Age Discrimination Act grievance procedures.

While this Policy is the exclusive policy governing Discrimination and Harassment that occurs within the College's Education Programs or Activities, Reports and Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment may implicate conduct that violates other College policies and standards. The College retains full discretion to enforce its other policies and standards with respect to applicable conduct, whether prior to, at the same time as, or after allegations of Discrimination and Harassment have been resolved pursuant to this Policy.

IV. REPORTING DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

Any person may Report Discrimination and/or Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. Reports may be made in person, by regular mail, telephone, electronic mail, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's Report. In-person Reports must be made during normal business hours, but Reports can be made by regular mail, telephone, or electronic mail at any time, including outside normal business hours. Reports can be made anonymously via the College's online system.

All College Employees, who are not designated as Confidential Employees or Confidential Advisors, are required to promptly report potential Discrimination or Harassment in the College's Education Programs or Activities to the Title IX Coordinator. An Employee's duty to Report is triggered when: (1) the Employee receives a Report of potential Discrimination or Harassment from another person; (2) the Employee observes potential Discrimination or Harassment; or (3) the Employee learns about potential Discrimination or Harassment through some other means.

A. Confidential Reporting

The College recognizes that individuals who feel they have been victims of Discrimination or Harassment, including Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking, may require time and support in considering whether or how to participate in any College or law enforcement process. The College also recognizes that individuals who have been accused of Discrimination or Harassment may also require support. There are confidential resources on campus and in the community available to any individual who needs support or assistance.

1. On-Campus Confidential Advisors

Individuals wishing to receive confidential assistance without making a report to the College may speak with the College's Confidential Advisors. This confidential resource is available to assist you and will not report your circumstances to the College without your permission unless otherwise required to do so by law (such as when the victim is a minor). A Confidential Advisor is available to discuss incidents or accusations of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking with both Reporting Parties and Responding Parties in confidence, and provide emotional support in a safe and confidential space.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, when necessary, the on-campus Confidential Advisor will make a non-identifying report to the appropriate College personnel so that reported crimes can be included in the College's annual crime statistics disclosure. Disclosures to a Confidential Advisor will not trigger the College's investigation into an incident.

The College's Confidential Advisors receive forty hours (40) of initial training regarding sexual violence and participate in six (6) hours of annual continuing education thereafter. In addition to providing confidential counseling, Confidential Advisors also provide emergency and ongoing support to individuals who have experienced or been accused of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking including:

- Providing information regarding the individual's reporting options and possible outcomes, including making a Report or a Complaint under this Policy and notifying local law enforcement;
- Providing information about available resources and services, including but not

limited to services available on campus and through community-based resources such as sexual assault crisis centers, medical treatment facilities, counseling services, legal resources, medical forensic services and mental health services;

- Providing information regarding orders of protection, no contact orders or similar lawful orders issued by the College or a criminal or civil court;
- An explanation of the individual's right to have privileged, confidential communications with the Confidential Advisor consistent with applicable law;
- Upon request and as appropriate, providing assistance in contacting campus officials, community-based sexual assault crisis centers, campus security and/or local law enforcement; and/or
- Upon request, providing assistance with securing Supportive Measures and accommodations.

On-Campus Confidential Advisors include Knox Counseling Services and Knox College Health Services.

2. Confidential Employees

Confidential Employees are not required to report potential Discrimination or Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. However, if they observe potential Discrimination or Harassment, receive a report about potential Discrimination or Harassment, or learn about potential Discrimination or Harassment through some other means, Confidential Employees must:

- Explain their confidential status to any person who informs the Confidential Employee about potential Discrimination or Harassment, including the circumstances in which the Confidential Employee is not required to notify the Title IX Coordinator about conduct that reasonably may constitute Discrimination or Harassment.
- Provide such person with contact information for the Title IX Coordinator.
- Explain how the individual may make a complaint of Discrimination or Harassment directly to the Title IX Coordinator.
- Explain that the Title IX Coordinator may be able to offer and coordinate supportive measures, as well as initiate an alternate resolution process or an investigation under the grievance procedures.

The provisions of this section notwithstanding, a Confidential Employee must comply with any applicable state or local law that requires the Confidential Employee to report certain conduct to a state agency or local law enforcement, such as laws mandating the reporting

of sexual abuse of minors, imminent threats of suicide or physical violence, or the abuse of the elderly or persons who are under a conservatorship.

3. Public Awareness Events

From time to time, the College may host public awareness events regarding Discrimination or Harassment, whether such events occur in person on campus or through an online platform. When potential Discrimination or Harassment is disclosed in the context of a public awareness event, the College will not act on the information solely because of the disclosure at the public awareness event, unless the information reveals an immediate and serious threat to the health or safety of any person. However, the Title IX Coordinator will use information disclosed during a public awareness event to inform efforts to prevent Discrimination or Harassment, including by providing tailored training and education.

The Title IX Coordinator will monitor the College's Education Programs or Activities for any barriers to reporting potential Discrimination or Harassment and take steps reasonably calculated to address any such barriers.

V. SPECIAL ADVICE FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, OR STALKING

If you believe you are the victim of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Dating Violence, the College recommends the following:

- If the incident has just occurred, get to a safe place as soon as possible.
- Contact law enforcement by calling 911.
- Try to preserve all physical evidence related to the incident—avoid bathing, using the toilet, rinsing one's mouth, or changing clothes to facilitate the efficacy of a forensic examination. If it is necessary, put all clothing that was worn at the time of the incident in a paper bag, not a plastic one.
- Do not launder or discard bedding or otherwise clean the area where the assault occurred – preserve for law enforcement.
- Get medical attention and consider consenting to a forensic examination. Medical forensic examinations are available at no charge. A forensic examination may result in the collection of evidence that will be needed if you decide to make a report to police. Most local hospitals have forensic examination protocols and those that do not can refer you elsewhere. Take a full change of clothing, including shoes, for use after a medical examination.
- Preserve all forms of electronic communication that occurred before, during, or after the assault.

- Contact a trusted person, such as a friend or family member for support.
- Talk with a professional licensed counselor, chaplain, or health care provider who can help explain options, give information, and provide emotional support.
- Make a report to the Title IX Coordinator.
- Explore potential avenues for investigation and determination under this Policy.

It is also important to take steps to preserve evidence in cases of Stalking, to the extent such evidence exists. Such evidence is more likely to be in the form of letters, emails, text messages, electronic images, and social media exchanges, rather than evidence of physical contact and violence. This type of non-physical evidence will also be useful in all types of Sex-Based Harassment investigations.

Once a report of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking is made, the victim has several options such as, but not limited to:

- Obtaining Supportive Measures.
- Contacting parents or a relative.
- Seeking legal advice.
- Seeking personal counseling.
- Pursuing criminal or civil legal action against the perpetrator.
- Submitting a Complaint to the Title IX Coordinator.
- Requesting that no further action be taken.

VI. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

After receiving a Report of potential Discrimination or Harassment the Title IX Coordinator will conduct a preliminary assessment to determine:

- Whether the conduct, as reported, falls or may fall within the scope of this Policy (see “Scope”); and
- Whether the conduct, as reported, constitutes or may constitute Discrimination or Harassment.

If the Title IX Coordinator determines that the conduct reported does not and could not fall within the scope of the Policy, and/or does not and could not constitute Discrimination or Harassment, even if investigated further, the Title IX Coordinator will close the matter

and may notify the reporting party if doing so is consistent with FERPA. The Title IX Coordinator may refer the report to other College offices, as appropriate.

If the Title IX Coordinator determines that the conduct reported could fall within the scope of this Policy, and/or could constitute Discrimination or Harassment, if investigated further, the Title IX Coordinator will proceed to contact the Reporting Party (see “Contacting the Reporting Party”).

As part of the preliminary assessment, the Title IX Coordinator may take investigative steps to determine the identity of the Reporting Party, if it is not apparent from the Report.

VII. CONTACTING THE REPORTING PARTY

If a Report is not closed as a result of the preliminary assessment (see “Preliminary Assessment”) and the Reporting Party’s identity is known, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the Reporting Party to discuss the availability of Supportive Measures (see “Supportive Measures”); to discuss and consider the Reporting Party’s wishes with respect to Supportive Measures; to inform the Reporting Party about the availability of Supportive Measures with or without making a Complaint; to explain the process for making a Complaint; and to advise the Reporting Party of the investigation and adjudication procedures set forth in this Policy. The Reporting Party will also be provided options for filing complaints with local law enforcement and information about resources that are available on campus and in the community.

VIII. SUPPORTIVE MEASURES

A. Availability of Supportive Measures

If a Report is not closed as a result of the preliminary assessment (see “Preliminary Assessment”), the Title IX Coordinator will offer and make available Supportive Measures to the Reporting Party regardless of whether the Reporting Party elects to make a Complaint.

Contemporaneously with the Responding Party being notified of a Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the Responding Party of the availability of Supportive Measures for the Responding Party, and the College will offer and make available Supportive Measures to the Responding Party in the same manner in which it offers and makes them available to the Reporting Party. The College will also offer and make available Supportive Measures to the Responding Party prior to the Responding Party being notified of a Complaint, if the Responding Party requests such measures.

Supportive Measures that burden a Responding Party will only be imposed after a Complaint is made and will be terminated at the conclusion of the investigation and adjudication process. Supportive Measures that burden a Responding Party must be no more restrictive of the Responding Party than is necessary to restore or preserve the Reporting Party’s access to the College’s Education Programs or Activities and will not be imposed for punitive or disciplinary reasons.

For Supportive Measures, other than those that burden a Responding Party, the College may, as appropriate, modify or terminate such Supportive Measures at the conclusion of the investigation and adjudication process or at the conclusion of any alternate resolution process, or the College may continue them beyond that point.

Either party may request that the Title IX Coordinator modify, augment, or terminate Supportive Measures, after their imposition, if circumstances have changed materially.

If a party affected by Supportive Measures qualifies as a person with a disability under applicable law, the Title IX Coordinator may consult, as appropriate, with the individual or office at the College designated to provide support to persons with disabilities to ensure that the College complies with relevant disability law in the implementation of Supportive Measures.

Supportive Measures are confidential and will not be disclosed to persons other than the party to whom the Supportive Measure pertains unless wider disclosure is necessary to provide the Supportive Measure. The College may inform a party of Supportive Measures provided to or imposed on the other party only if necessary to restore or preserve that party's access to the College's Education Programs or Activities.

B. Right to Challenge Supportive Measure Decisions

If a party is affected by the Title IX Coordinator's decision to provide, deny, modify, augment, or terminate Supportive Measures, and wishes to seek a modification or reversal of the decision, the party may appeal the matter to a College designated supportive measures appeals officer. Such an appeal must be made in writing and generally must be made within seven (7) days of the date the party is notified of the decision that the party wishes to appeal, provided, however, that the supportive measures appeals officer may hear appeals made outside the seven (7) day window for good cause shown, after considering all the facts and circumstances. If the Supportive Measures at issue in an appeal are ones that may affect the other party, the supportive measures appeals officer will notify the potentially affected party and allow that party to submit a written response, prior to deciding the appeal. The decision of the supportive measures appeals officer is final and not subject to further review.

If a Supportive Measure burdens the Responding Party, the Responding Party will be given an opportunity to appeal the imposition of the Supportive Measure prior to the Supportive Measure taking effect unless such pre-imposition appeal is impractical, in which case the Responding Party will be given an opportunity to appeal as soon as possible after the Supportive Measure has taken effect.

IX. INTERIM REMOVAL

At any time after receiving a report of Discrimination or Harassment, the Title IX Coordinator may remove a Student Responding Party from one or more of the College's Education Programs or Activities on a temporary basis if an individualized safety and risk analysis determines that an immediate threat to the health or safety of any Student or other individual arising from the allegations of Discrimination or Harassment justifies

removal. In the event the Title IX Coordinator imposes an interim removal, the interim removal is subject to appeal pursuant to the appeal procedure specified in “Right to Challenge Supportive Measure Decisions.”

In the case of a Responding Party who is a non-student Employee (e.g., administrator, faculty, or staff), and in its discretion, the College may place the Responding Party on full or partial administrative leave at any time after receiving a report of Discrimination or Harassment, including during the pendency of the investigation and adjudication process (see “Investigation” and “Adjudication”).

For all other Responding Parties, including volunteers, guests, and independent contractors, the College retains broad discretion to prohibit such persons from entering onto its campus and other properties at any time, and for any reason, whether after receiving a report of Discrimination or Harassment or otherwise.

X. MAKING A COMPLAINT

A person may make a Complaint with the Title IX Coordinator requesting that the College investigate and adjudicate Discrimination or Harassment in accordance with the provisions “Investigation” and “Adjudication.” Provided, however, that the person must (1) meet the definition of Reporting Party; (2) be a person who has the legal right to act on a Reporting Party’s behalf; (3) be the Title IX Coordinator; or (4) with respect to Complaints of Discrimination or Harassment other than Sex-Based Harassment, be a Student or Employee or a third-party who is participating or attempting to participate in the College’s Education Programs or Activities when the alleged Discrimination or Harassment occurred.

Complaints may be made to the Title IX Coordinator in person, by regular mail, or by email using the contact information specified in “Reporting Discrimination or Harassment.”

In deference to the agency of alleged victims of Discrimination or Harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will exercise the authority to make a Complaint only after careful consideration of multiple factors suggests there is an immediate and serious threat to the health or safety of the Reporting Party or other person or where not making a Complaint would prevent the College from maintaining a non-discriminatory environment. Such factors to be considered include: (1) the Reporting Party’s request not to proceed with initiation of a complaint; (2) the Reporting Party’s reasonable safety concerns regarding initiation of a Complaint; (3) the risk of additional Discrimination or Harassment; (4) the severity of the alleged Discrimination or Harassment, including whether the discrimination, if established, would require the removal of the Responding Party from campus or imposition of another disciplinary sanction to end the discrimination and prevent its recurrence; (5) the age and relationship of the parties involved; (6) whether the alleged perpetrator is an Employee; (7) the scope of the alleged Discrimination or Harassment, including information suggesting a pattern, ongoing Discrimination or Harassment, or Discrimination or Harassment alleged to have impacted multiple individuals; (8) the availability of evidence; and (9) whether the College could end the

alleged Discrimination or Harassment and prevent its recurrence without initiating the investigation and adjudication procedures.

If the Title IX Coordinator makes a Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the Reporting Party prior to doing so and appropriately address reasonable concerns about the Reporting Party's safety or the safety of others, including by providing Supportive Measures.

If the Reporting Party or the Title IX Coordinator makes a Complaint, the College will commence an investigation as specified in "Investigation" and proceed to adjudicate the matter as specified in "Adjudication," below. In all cases where a Complaint is made, the Reporting Party will be treated as a party, irrespective of the party's level of participation.

In a case where the Title IX Coordinator makes a Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will not act as a Reporting Party or otherwise as a party for purposes of the investigation and adjudication processes.

If the Title IX Coordinator elects not to make a Complaint, and no other person makes a Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will still evaluate the need for and, if appropriate, implement other prompt and effective steps to ensure that Discrimination or Harassment does not continue or recur in the College's Education Programs or Activities and to remedy its effects, if any.

XI. CONSOLIDATION OF COMPLAINTS

The College may consolidate Complaints as to allegations of Discrimination or Harassment against more than one Responding Party, or by more than one Reporting Party against one or more Responding Parties, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of Discrimination or Harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances. Where the investigation and adjudication processes involve more than one Reporting Party or more than one Responding Party, references in this Policy to the singular "party," "Reporting Party," or "Responding Party" include the plural, as applicable. A Complaint of Retaliation may be consolidated with a Complaint of Discrimination or Harassment.

XII. DISMISSAL OF COMPLAINT

Any time after a Complaint is made, the Title IX Coordinator may dismiss it for any of the following reasons:

- The College is unable to identify the Responding Party after taking reasonable steps to do so.
- The Responding Party is not participating in the College's Education Programs or Activities and is not employed by the College.
- The Reporting Party voluntarily withdraws any or all the allegations in the Complaint, in writing, and the Title IX Coordinator determines that without

the withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains part of the Complaint, if any, would not constitute Discrimination or Harassment even if proven.

- After first taking reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations, the Title IX Coordinator determines that the conduct alleged in the Complaint, even if proven, would not constitute Discrimination or Harassment.

Upon dismissal, the Title IX Coordinator must promptly notify the Reporting Party of the dismissal and its basis, in writing. If the dismissal occurs after the Responding Party has been notified of the Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator must also simultaneously notify the Responding Party of the dismissal and its basis, in writing. The written notice to the Reporting Party and/or the Responding Party, as applicable must advise the party of their right to appeal the dismissal pursuant to the procedures specified in “Appeal.”

Even when a Complaint is dismissed, the Reporting Party and, as applicable, the Responding Party, are still eligible for Supportive Measures as set forth in “Supportive Measures,” and the Title IX Coordinator shall evaluate whether to take other prompt and effective steps to ensure that Discrimination or Harassment does not continue in the College’s Education Programs or Activities.

XIII. NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

Within five (5) days of the Title IX Coordinator receiving a Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will transmit a written notice to the Reporting Party and Responding Party that includes:

- A full copy of this Policy, whether in physical or electronic form.
- Sufficient information available at the time to allow the parties to respond to the allegations. Sufficient information includes the identities of the parties involved in the incident, the conduct alleged to constitute Discrimination or Harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident, to the extent that information is available to the College.
- A statement that the Responding Party is presumed not responsible for the alleged Discrimination or Harassment until an adjudication of responsibility is made final and that the parties will have an opportunity to present relevant evidence to a trained, impartial decisionmaker prior to such adjudication being made.
- A statement that the party is entitled to receive access to relevant evidence or to an investigative report that accurately summarizes the evidence; if the College provides the party with a summary of the relevant evidence, the parties will have an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence upon the request of any party.

- Notification to the Reporting Party and Responding Party of the College's prohibitions on Retaliation and false statements specified in "Bad Faith Complaints and False Information" and "Retaliation."
- If the case is one involving Sex-Based Harassment and a Student Reporting Party or Student Responding Party, a statement that the party may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, and who is permitted to fulfill the role described in "Advisor of Choice."

If there are legitimate concerns for the safety of any person because of providing the written notice of Complaint, providing such written notice may be reasonably delayed to address the safety concern appropriately. Safety concerns that would justify delay of providing the written notice must be based on an individualized safety and risk analysis and not mere speculation or stereotypes. In any event, the written notice of Complaint will be provided to a party sufficiently in advance of their initial investigative interview such that the party has sufficient time to prepare.

Should the College elect, at any point, to investigate allegations that are materially beyond the scope of the initial written notice, the College will provide a supplemental written notice describing the additional allegations to be investigated.

XIV. INVESTIGATION

A. Commencement and Timing

After the written notice of a Complaint is transmitted to the parties, the Title IX Coordinator, or an investigator selected by the Title IX Coordinator, will undertake an investigation to gather evidence relevant to the alleged Discrimination or Harassment, including inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. The burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination in the adjudication lies with the College and not with the parties. Although the length of each investigation may vary depending on the totality of the circumstances, the College strives to complete each investigation within thirty (30) to forty-five (45) days of the transmittal of the written notice of the Complaint.

B. Fair Notice and Equal Opportunity

During the investigation, the investigator will provide advance written notice to a party of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all meetings and investigative interviews pertaining to that party, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate. The investigator will provide an equal opportunity for the parties to be interviewed, to identify witnesses and to present other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the investigator retains discretion to limit the number of witness interviews the investigator conducts if the investigator finds that testimony would be unreasonably cumulative, if the witnesses are offered solely as character references and do not have information relevant to the allegations at issue, or if the witnesses are offered to render testimony that is categorically inadmissible under "Inadmissible

Evidence and Impermissible Questioning.” The investigator will not restrict the ability of the parties to gather and present relevant evidence on their own.

The investigation is a party’s opportunity to present testimonial and other evidence that the party believes is Relevant to the allegations in the Complaint. A party who is aware of and has a reasonable opportunity to present particular evidence and/or identify particular witnesses during the investigation, and elects not to, will be prohibited from introducing any such evidence during the adjudication absent a showing of mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect.

C. Documentation of Investigation

The investigator will take reasonable steps to ensure the investigation is documented. Interviews of the parties and witnesses may be documented by the investigator’s notes, audio recorded, video recorded, or transcribed. The particular method utilized to record the interviews of parties and witnesses will be determined by the investigator in the investigator’s sole discretion, although whatever method is chosen shall be used consistently throughout a particular investigation, to the extent possible.

XV. ADJUDICATION PROCESS

A. Preparation of the Investigation Report, Appointment of the Adjudicator, and Notification to the Parties

After the evidence gathering phase of the investigation is completed, the investigator will prepare a written investigation report that summarizes the investigation and append to it all the potentially admissible evidence that is relevant to the allegations in the Complaint, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. The investigator will then notify the Title IX Coordinator that the investigation is complete and transmit the investigation report and its appended evidence to the Title IX Coordinator and to the parties.

The Title IX Coordinator will then appoint an adjudicator whose responsibility it will be to adjudicate the Complaint. The adjudicator may be the investigator or the Title IX Coordinator themselves, or other designee selected by the Title IX Coordinator.

The investigation report and its appended evidence will be transmitted to the adjudicator. The adjudicator will promptly send written notice to the parties notifying the parties of the adjudicator’s appointment; setting a deadline for the parties to submit a written response to the investigation report and its appended evidence which shall not be sooner than seven (7) days from the date the investigator transmitted the investigation report; and setting a date and time for each party to meet with the adjudicator separately. The adjudicator’s meetings with the parties will not be held any earlier than ten (10) days from the date the investigator transmitted the investigation report to the parties.

B. Response to the Investigation Report

A party’s written response to the investigation report must include:

- To the extent the party wishes to respond to any aspect of the investigation report or evidence, any such response.
- A statement as to whether the party contends the credibility of the other party or any witness is in dispute; if so, how such credibility dispute is relevant in evaluating any of the allegations in the Complaint.
- A list of questions the party contends should be posed to the other party and any witnesses.
- Any argument that a particular piece or class of evidence should be categorically excluded from consideration based on any one or more of the standards specified in “Inadmissible Evidence and Impermissible Questioning.”
- Argument regarding whether any of the allegations in the Complaint are supported by a preponderance of the evidence.
- Argument regarding whether any of the allegations in the Complaint constitute Discrimination or Harassment.

While the party may receive assistance in preparing the written response, the written response must be submitted and signed by the party themselves or someone with legal authority to act on their behalf.

C. Meetings with Parties and Witnesses

After reviewing the parties’ written responses to the investigation report, the adjudicator will meet separately with each party to ask questions, including questions posed by the other party, concerning the party’s written response, the investigation report, and/or the evidence collected during the investigation, including questions that may bear on credibility. The adjudicator may also meet with specific witnesses whose credibility is in dispute, and whose testimony is potentially relevant in evaluating any allegations in the Complaint, to pose questions that may bear on credibility.

When a Complaint includes Sex-Based Harassment allegations involving a Student Reporting Party or Student Responding Party, the individual meetings will be video and/or audio recorded. The adjudicator will provide copies of the recordings, or transcripts of the recordings, to the parties. Each party will have seven (7) days to review the recordings or transcripts and propose follow-up questions to be posed to the other party and/or witnesses. The adjudicator will then meet promptly with parties and/or witnesses to pose follow-up questions, as deemed appropriate by the adjudicator.

The adjudicator will screen questions submitted by the parties to ensure they are clear, relevant, and not harassing, and will exclude questions and evidence that are inadmissible under “Inadmissible Evidence and Impermissible Questioning.” The adjudicator will give a party an opportunity to clarify or revise a question that the

adjudicator has determined is unclear or harassing and, if the advisor sufficiently clarifies or revises the question, the question will be posed.

D. Subjection to Questioning

In the event a party or witness who was interviewed during the investigation declines to meet with the adjudicator or respond to questions that have been deemed relevant and not impermissible, the adjudicator may consider the individual's statements, although the adjudicator must consider whether the individual's failure to meet and/or respond to questions about their credibility should affect the weight to be given to such statement. The adjudicator may choose to place less or no weight upon the individual's prior statements, provided that the adjudicator may not draw an inference about whether Discrimination or Harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness' refusal to respond to questions.

E. Deliberation and Determination

After meeting with each party and any witnesses whose credibility is in dispute, the adjudicator will objectively evaluate all relevant evidence, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, and ensure that any credibility determinations made are not based on a person's status as a Reporting Party, Responding Party, or witness. The adjudicator will take care to exclude from consideration any evidence that the adjudicator determines is inadmissible on the grounds explained in "Inadmissible Evidence and Impermissible Questioning." The adjudicator will resolve disputed facts using a preponderance of the evidence (that is, "more likely than not") standard and reach a determination regarding whether the facts that are supported by a preponderance of the evidence constitute one or more violations of the Policy as alleged in the Complaint.

In the event the adjudicator determines that the Responding Party is responsible for violating this Policy, the adjudicator will, prior to issuing a written decision, consult with an appropriate College official with disciplinary authority over the Responding Party and such official will determine any discipline to be imposed. The adjudicator will also, prior to issuing a written decision, consult with the Title IX Coordinator who will determine whether and to what extent ongoing support measures or other remedies will be provided to the Reporting Party and other persons, as appropriate. The adjudicator may seek legal advice from the College's in-house or outside counsel.

F. Written Decision

After reaching a determination and consulting with the appropriate College official and Title IX Coordinator, as necessary, the adjudicator will prepare a written decision that will include:

- A description of the alleged Discrimination and/or Harassment.
- Information about the policies and procedures the College used to evaluate the allegations.

- The adjudicator’s evaluation of all relevant evidence and determination of whether Discrimination and/or Harassment occurred.
- When the adjudicator finds that Discrimination and/or Harassment occurred, discipline determined by the appropriate College official.
- Whether the Reporting Party, Responding Party, or, to the extent appropriate, other persons, will receive any ongoing Supportive Measures or other remedies as determined by the Title IX Coordinator.
- A description of the College’s process and grounds for appeal, as specified in “Appeal.”

The adjudicator will transmit the written decision to the Title IX Coordinator and the parties. Transmittal of the written decision to the parties concludes the adjudication process, subject to any right of appeal as specified in “Appeal.” Any discipline imposed will be stayed pending the completion of any appeal.

Although the length of time needed to issue the written decision will vary depending on the totality of the circumstances, the College strives to issue the adjudicator’s written decision within thirty (30) days of the adjudicator’s appointment.

XVI. APPEAL

Either party may appeal the written decision of an adjudication, or a dismissal of a Complaint, on one or more of the following grounds:

- A procedural irregularity that would change the determination of whether a Policy violation occurred.
- There is new evidence that would change the outcome of the matter and that was not reasonably available at the time the determination of whether the Policy was violated occurred or dismissal was made.
- The sanction is disproportionate to the violation.
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or adjudicator, as the case may be, had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Reporting Parties or Responding Parties generally, or against the individual Reporting Party or Responding Party, that would change the outcome.

No other grounds for appeal are permitted.

A party must file an appeal within seven (7) days of the date they receive notice the written decision or dismissal appealed from or, if the other party appeals, within three (3) days of receiving notice that the other party has appealed, whichever is later. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Title IX Coordinator who will transmit to the College-designated appeals officer. The appeal must specifically identify the written decision

and/or dismissal appealed from, articulate which one or more of the three grounds for appeal are being asserted, explain in detail why the appealing party believes the appeal should be granted, and articulate what specific relief the appealing party seeks.

Promptly upon receipt of an appeal, the appeal officer will conduct an initial evaluation to confirm that the appeal is timely filed and that it invokes at least one of the permitted grounds for appeal. If the appeal officer determines that the appeal is not timely, or that it fails to invoke a permitted ground for appeal, the appeal officer will dismiss the appeal and provide written notice of the same to the parties.

If the appeal officer confirms that the appeal is timely and invokes at least one permitted ground for appeal, the appeal officer will provide written notice to the other party that an appeal has been filed and that the other party may submit a written opposition to the appeal within seven (7) days. The appeal officer shall also promptly obtain from the Title IX Coordinator any records from the investigation and adjudication necessary to resolve the grounds raised in the appeal.

Upon receipt of any opposition, or after the time for submission of an opposition has passed without one being filed, the appeal officer will promptly decide the appeal and transmit a written decision to the parties that explains the outcome of the appeal and the rationale.

The determination of a Complaint, including any discipline, becomes final when the time for appeal has passed with no party filing an appeal or, if any appeal is filed, at the point when the appeal officer has resolved all appeals, either by dismissal or by transmittal of a written decision.

No further review beyond the appeal is permitted.

Although the length of each appeal will vary depending on the totality of the circumstances, the College strives to issue the appeal officer's written decision within seven (7) days of an appeal being filed.

XVII. ADVISOR OF CHOICE AND OTHER ACCOMPANYING PERSONS

From the point a Complaint is made that involves Sex-Based Harassment and a Student Reporting Party or Student Responding Party, and until an investigation, adjudication, and appeal are complete, the Reporting Party and Responding Party in such a case will have the right to be accompanied by an advisor of their choice to all meetings and interviews that are part of the investigation, adjudication, and appeal process. The advisor may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. The right to be accompanied by an advisor does not apply with regard to other Complaints of Discrimination or Harassment.

The advisor will play a passive role and is not permitted to communicate on behalf of a party, insist that communication flow through the advisor, or communicate with the College about the matter without the party being included in the communication. In the event a party's advisor of choice engages in material violation of the parameters specified

in this Policy, the College may preclude the advisor from further participation, in which case the party may select a new advisor of their choice.

The College is not required to provide a party with an advisor in any circumstance. For this reason, the College may prohibit its employees from serving as advisors where such service would interfere with the employee's work or other obligations to the College or where such employee's service would create a conflict of interest.

As a general matter, the advisor described in this section is the only person who may accompany a party to meetings and interviews. To the extent the College deviates from this rule and allows a party to be accompanied by one or more persons in addition to an advisor, the same right shall be extended to the other party.

XVIII. INADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE AND IMPERMISSIBLE QUESTIONING

During the investigation and adjudication processes, questioning and evidence of the following subject matters are inadmissible and impermissible:

- Evidence that is protected under a privilege as recognized by federal, state, or local law, or evidence provided to a confidential employee, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality.
- A party's records that are maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless the College obtains that party's voluntary, written consent for use in the College's investigation and adjudication process.
- The Reporting Party's sexual interests or prior sexual conduct unless such questions and/or evidence is offered to prove that someone other than the Responding Party committed the alleged conduct or is offered to prove consent with evidence concerning specific incidents of the Reporting Party's prior sexual conduct with the Responding Party. The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the Reporting Party and Responding Party does not demonstrate or imply the Reporting Party's consent to the alleged Discrimination or Harassment or preclude a determination that Discrimination or Harassment occurred.

XIX. ALTERNATE RESOLUTION

At any time after the parties are provided written notice of the Complaint as specified in "Notice of Complaint," and before the completion of any appeal specified in "Appeal," the parties may voluntarily consent, with the Title IX Coordinator's approval, to engage in mediation, facilitated resolution, or other form of dispute resolution the goal of which is to enter into a final resolution resolving the allegations raised in the Complaint by agreement of the parties. The Title IX Coordinator may reject the use of alternate resolution in a

specific case despite one or more of the parties' wishes. Alternate resolution will not be permitted in any case where alternate resolution would otherwise conflict with federal, state, or local law.

The specific manner of any alternate resolution process will be determined by the Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with the Parties. Prior to commencing the alternate resolution process agreed upon, the Title IX Coordinator will transmit a written notice to the parties that:

- Describes the allegations if such notice has not already been provided in writing.
- Describes the parameters and requirements of the alternate resolution process to be utilized.
- Identifies the individual responsible for facilitating the alternate resolution (who may be the Title IX Coordinator, another College official, or a suitable third-party, provided such person is not the investigator or adjudicator).
- Explains the effect of participating in alternate resolution and/or reaching a final resolution will have on a party's ability to resume the investigation and adjudication of the allegations at issue in the Complaint.
- Explains that either party has the right to withdraw from alternate resolution and initiate or resume the investigation and adjudication process.
- Explains any other consequence resulting from participation in the alternate resolution process, including a description of records that will be generated, maintained, and/or shared.
- Explains potential terms that may be requested or offered in the alternate resolution, including restrictions on contact and restrictions on the Responding Party's participation in one or more of the College's Education Programs or Activities.
- Explains that an alternate resolution agreement is binding only on the parties.
- Describes which records will be maintained and shared.
- Explains if the College resumes its investigation and adjudication process, the College will not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use information, including records, obtained solely through the alternate resolution process as part of the investigation or determination of the Complaint.
- Explains that, if the College resumes its investigation and adjudication process, the person facilitating alternate resolution could serve as a witness

for purposes other than providing information obtained solely through the alternate resolution process.

After receiving the written notice specified in this paragraph, each party must voluntarily provide written consent to the Title IX Coordinator, before the alternate resolution may commence.

During the pendency of the alternate resolution process, the investigation and adjudication processes that would otherwise occur are stayed and all related deadlines are suspended.

If the parties reach a resolution through the alternate resolution process, and the Title IX Coordinator agrees that the resolution is not clearly unreasonable, the Title IX Coordinator will reduce the terms of the agreed resolution to writing and present the resolution to the parties for their written signature. Once both parties and the Title IX Coordinator sign the resolution, the resolution is final, and the allegations addressed by the resolution are considered resolved and will not be subject to further investigation, adjudication, remediation, or discipline by the College, except as otherwise provided in the resolution itself, absent a showing that a party induced the resolution by fraud, misrepresentation, or other misconduct or where required to avoid a manifest injustice to either party or to the College.

A party may withdraw their consent to participate in alternate resolution at any time before a resolution has been finalized.

Absent extension by the Title IX Coordinator, any alternate resolution process must be completed within twenty-one (21) days. If an alternate resolution process does not result in a resolution within twenty-one (21) days, and absent an extension, abeyance, or other contrary ruling by the Title IX Coordinator, the alternate resolution process will be deemed terminated, and the Complaint will be resolved pursuant to the investigation and adjudication procedures. The Title IX Coordinator may adjust any time periods or deadlines in the investigation and/or adjudication process that were suspended due to the alternate resolution.

Nothing in this section diminishes the Title IX Coordinator's obligation to take prompt and effective steps when necessary to ensure that Discrimination or Harassment does not continue or recur within the College's Education Programs or Activities.

XX. PRESUMPTION OF NON-RESPONSIBILITY

From the time a Report or Complaint is made, a Responding Party is presumed not responsible for the alleged Discrimination or Harassment until an adjudication of responsibility is made final.

XXI. RESOURCES

Any individual affected by or accused of Discrimination or Harassment will have equal access to support and counseling services offered through the College. The College

encourages any individual who has questions or concerns to seek support of College identified resources.

Campus Safety can be contacted at:

Knox College Department of Campus Safety
368 South Prairie Street Administrative Services Center 105
Duty Officer All Hours: 309-341-7979
Email: campus-safety@knox.edu

The City of Galesburg Police Department can be contacted via phone at 309-343-9151 (non-emergency) or 911. The Illinois State's Attorney Office (Knox County) can be contacted at 309-345-3880.

Community Resources include the following organizations:

Galesburg Police, 150 S. Broad Street
9-1-1 or 309-343-9151

OSF St. Mary Medical Center, 3333 N. Seminary Street
309-344-3161 (main) or 309-344-9403 (emergency)

WIRC Victims Services
309-837-5555 CONFIDENTIAL

Safe Harbor Crisis Center
309-343-SAFE (7233) CONFIDENTIAL

National Sexual Assault Hotline (RAINN)
800-656-HOPE (4673) CONFIDENTIAL

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-SAFE (7233) CONFIDENTIAL

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
800-273-TALK (8255) CONFIDENTIAL

Medical forensic examinations can be obtained from the following provider:

OSF St. Francis Medical Center
530 NE Glen Oak Avenue
Peoria, IL 61637
309-665-2000

Medical attention can be obtained from the following providers:

Knox Health Services
Furrow Hall,
175 W. Knox Street
Galesburg, IL 61401
309-341-7559

OSF St. Mary Medical Center
3333 N. Seminary Street
Galesburg, IL 61401
309-344-3161 (main switchboard)
309-344-9403 (emergency)

A list of all College identified resources is located on the Title IX Resource Card, which can be found online at <https://www.knox.edu/title-ix-at-knox/get-help-now>.

XXII. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, BIAS, AND PROCEDURAL COMPLAINTS

The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, adjudicator, appeals officer, alternate resolution facilitator, and other officials implementing this Policy will be free of any material conflicts of interest or material bias. Any party who believes one or more of these College officials has a material conflict of interest or material bias must raise the concern promptly so that the College may evaluate the concern and find a substitute, if appropriate. The failure of a party to timely raise a concern of a conflict of interest or bias may result in a waiver of the issue for purposes of any appeal specified in “Appeal,” or otherwise.

XXIII. OBJECTIONS GENERALLY

Parties are expected to raise any objections, concerns, or complaints about the investigation, adjudication, and appeals process in a prompt and timely manner so that the College may evaluate the matter and address it, if appropriate.

XXIV. ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The College values free expression, academic freedom, and the open exchange of ideas; the expression of controversial ideas and differing views is vital to college discourse. The College is equally committed to creating and maintaining a safe, healthy, and harassment-free environment for all members of its community, and firmly believes that these two legitimate interests can coexist. Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation against members of the College community are not protected expression or the proper exercise of academic freedom.

This policy is not meant to stifle teaching methods or infringe upon academic freedom or freedom of expression. The protections of academic freedom must be carefully considered in all reports of Discrimination and Harassment involving speech or other

expressive conduct. The fact that speech or a particular expression is offensive is not, standing alone, sufficient basis to establish Discrimination or Harassment. When reported speech takes place in the teaching context, it typically also must be persistent, pervasive, and not germane to the subject matter to meet the definition of Harassment under this policy.

The College will construe and apply this Policy consistent with the College's principles of academic freedom and free expression. In no case will a Responding Party be found to have violated this Policy based on conduct that is protected by principles of academic freedom and/or free expression.

XXV. RELATIONSHIP WITH CRIMINAL PROCESS

This Policy sets forth the College's processes for responding to Reports and Complaints of Discrimination or Harassment. The College's processes are separate, distinct, and independent of any criminal processes. While the College may temporarily delay its processes under this Policy to avoid interfering with law enforcement efforts if requested by law enforcement, the College will otherwise apply this Policy and its processes without regard to the status or outcome of any criminal process.

XXVI. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER LEGAL PROCESS

In some cases, allegations of Discrimination or Harassment under this Policy may be the subject of parallel civil lawsuits, administrative complaints, or regulatory processes under federal, state, or local law. The pendency of such parallel litigation may necessitate a delay or modification of the processes set forth in this Policy, especially where the processes in this Policy might interfere with the authority of a court or regulatory body with jurisdiction over such parallel litigation, violate rules or orders governing such parallel litigation, violate the rights of a party in such parallel litigation, or create a conflict of interest for the College itself. In such instances, the College retains discretion to pause, modify, or terminate proceedings under this Policy.

XXVII. RECORDINGS

Wherever this Policy specifies that an audio or video recording will be made, the recording will be made only by the College and is considered property of the College, subject to any right of access that a party may have under this Policy, FERPA, and other applicable federal, state, or local laws. Only the College is permitted to make audio or video recordings under this Policy. The surreptitious recording of any meeting, interview, or other interaction contemplated under this Policy is strictly prohibited.

XXVIII. VOLUNTEERS, VENDORS, CONTRACTORS AND THIRD PARTIES

The College does business with various volunteers, vendors, contractors, and other third-parties who are not Students or Employees of the College. Notwithstanding any rights that a given volunteer, vendor, contractor, or third-party Responding Party may have under this Policy, the College retains its right to limit any volunteer, vendor, contractor, or third-party's access to campus for any reason. And the College retains all rights it enjoys

by contract or law to terminate its relationship with any volunteer, vendor, contractor, or third-party irrespective of any process or outcome under this Policy.

XXIX. BAD FAITH COMPLAINTS AND FALSE INFORMATION

It is a violation of this Policy for any person to submit, or to aid or abet another to submit, a Report or Complaint that the person knows, at the time the Report or Complaint is submitted, to be false or frivolous. It is also a violation of this Policy for any person to knowingly make, or to aid or abet another to make, a materially false statement during an investigation, adjudication, or appeal under this Policy, although a party, witness, or other person who knowingly makes a materially false statement will not be punished based solely on the College's determination of whether Discrimination or Harassment occurred. Violations of this section are not subject to the investigation and adjudication processes in this Policy; instead, they will be addressed under the Student Code of Conduct in the case of students and other College policies and standards, as applicable, for other persons.

XXX. RETALIATION

It is a violation of this policy to engage in Retaliation. Reports and Complaints of Retaliation may be made in the manner specified in "Reporting Discrimination or Harassment," and "Making a Complaint." Any Report or Complaint of Retaliation will be processed under this Policy in the same manner as a Report or Complaint of Discrimination or Harassment, as the case may be. The College retains discretion to consolidate a Complaint of Retaliation with a Complaint of Discrimination or Harassment for investigation and/or adjudication purposes if the two Complaints share a common nexus.

XXXI. CONFIDENTIALITY

The College will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a Report or Complaint of Discrimination or Harassment or Retaliation including any Reporting Party, the identity of any individual who has been reported to be a perpetrator of Discrimination or Harassment or Retaliation including any Responding Party, and the identity of any witness or other participant in the College's investigation and adjudication processes except:

- When the individual has provided prior written consent to disclose their identity.
- When disclosure is permitted by FERPA or its implementing regulations.
- As otherwise required by applicable federal, state, or local law.
- As required by Federal regulations or the terms and conditions of a Federal award, including a grant award or other funding agreement.

- As necessary to carry out the purposes of federal law and its implementing regulations, including the requirement to take action to address potential Discrimination or Harassment under the College's Education Programs or Activities.

The College will also maintain the confidentiality of its various records generated in response to Reports and Complaints, including, but not limited to, information concerning Supportive Measures, notices, investigation materials, adjudication records, and appeal records. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the College may disclose any record if permitted by FERPA or its implementing regulations, as otherwise required by applicable federal, state, or local law, or as necessary to carry out the purposes of Title IX and its implementing regulations, including the requirement to address potential Discrimination or Harassment under the College's Education Programs or Activities.

Further, notwithstanding the College's general obligation to maintain confidentiality as specified herein, the parties to a Complaint will be given access to investigation and adjudication materials in the circumstances specified in this Policy. Such investigation and adjudication materials, including the investigation report and appended evidence, and the written decision, are for the sole use of the party (and, if the party is entitled to one, an advisor) in the proceedings contemplated by this Policy; such materials may not be disseminated to third parties or otherwise published. If a party violates the confidentiality rules governing investigation and adjudication materials, the party is subject to disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct in the case of a student, and other College policies and standards, as applicable, for other persons.

While the College will maintain confidentiality specified in this section, the College will not limit the ability of the parties to discuss the allegations at issue in a particular case. Parties are advised, however, that the manner in which they communicate about, or discuss a particular case, may constitute Discrimination or Harassment or Retaliation in certain circumstances and be subject to discipline pursuant to the processes specified in this Policy.

Certain types of Discrimination or Harassment are considered crimes for which the College must disclose crime statistics in its Annual Security Report that is provided to the campus community and available to the public. These disclosures will be made without including personally identifying information.

XXXII. OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY

Alleged violations of this Policy, other than violations of the prohibitions on Discrimination or Harassment and Retaliation, will be subject to review and resolution under the Student Code of Conduct for Students, and other College policies and standards, as applicable, for other persons.

XXXIII. AMNESTY

The College encourages reporting and seeks to remove any barriers to reporting by making the procedures for reporting transparent and straightforward. The College recognizes that an individual who has been drinking or using drugs at the time of an incident of Discrimination or Harassment may be hesitant to make a report because of potential disciplinary consequences. To encourage reporting, the College offers amnesty or limited immunity to any student who reports, in good faith, an alleged violation of this Policy to the Title IX Coordinator, an Employee, or to the College's Campus Safety Department. An individual who makes a report of Discrimination or Harassment that was directed at them or another person will not be subject to disciplinary action by the College for violations of the College's Code of Conduct, including but not limited to personal consumption of alcohol or drugs that is related to or revealed in the course of the Discrimination or Harassment report or investigation, unless the College determines that the violation was serious and/or endangered the health or well-being of any other individual. The College may, however, initiate an education discussion or pursue other educational remedies, such as education regarding alcohol or other drugs, for an individual who makes such a good faith report.

XXXIV. SIGNATURES AND FORM OF CONSENT

For purposes of this Policy, either a physical signature or digital signature will be sufficient to satisfy any obligation that a document be signed. Where this Policy provides that written consent must be provided, consent in either physical or electronic form, containing a physical or digital signature will suffice.

XXXV. DEADLINES, TIME, NOTICES, AND METHOD OF TRANSMITTAL

Where this Policy specifies a period of days by which some act must be performed, the following method of calculation applies:

- Exclude the day of the event that triggers the period.
- Count every day, including intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays recognized by the federal government.
- Include the last day of the period until 5:00 p.m. central time, but if the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday recognized by the federal government, the period continues to run until 5:00 p.m. central time on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday recognized by the federal government.

All deadlines and other time periods specified in this Policy are subject to modification by the College where, in the College's sole discretion, good cause exists. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, the unavailability of parties or witnesses; the complexities of a given case; extended holidays or closures; sickness of the investigator, adjudicator, or

the parties; the need to consult with the College's legal counsel; unforeseen weather events; and the like.

Any party who wishes to seek an extension of any deadline or other time period may do so by filing a request with the investigator, adjudicator, appeals officer, or Title IX Coordinator, as the case may be, depending on the phase of the process. Such request must state the extension sought and explain what good cause exists for the requested extension. The College officer resolving the request for extension may, but is not required to, give the other party an opportunity to object. Whether to grant such a requested extension will be in the sole discretion of the College.

The parties will be provided written notice of the modification of any deadline or time period specified in this Policy, along with the reasons for the modification.

Where this Policy refers to notice being given to parties "simultaneously," notice will be deemed simultaneous if it is provided in relative proximity on the same day. It is not necessary that notice be provided at exactly the same hour and minute.

Unless otherwise specified in this Policy, the default method of transmission for all notices, reports, responses, and other forms of communication specified in this Policy will be email using College email addresses. If a party does not have a College email address, the party will be required to provide an email address to the Title IX Coordinator at the inception of a matter. A party may not insist or demand that the College communicate only through a party's representative, including an attorney.

A party is deemed to have received notice upon transmittal of an email to their College email address or, if they do not have a College email address, the email address they supply to the Title IX Coordinator at the inception of a matter.

If unforeseen circumstances necessitate notice be provided by U.S. mail, a party will be deemed to have received notice three (3) days after the notice in question is postmarked.

Any notice inviting or requiring a party or witness to attend a meeting or interview will be provided with sufficient time for the party to prepare for the meeting or interview, and will include relevant details such as the date, time, location, purpose, and participants. Unless a specific number of days is specified elsewhere in this Policy, the sufficient time to be provided will be determined in the sole discretion of the College, considering all the facts and circumstances, including, but not limited to, the nature of the meeting or interview; the nature and complexity of the allegations at issue; the schedules of relevant College officials; approaching holidays or closures; and the number and length of extensions already granted.

XXXVI. FACTS AND DETERMINATIONS BINDING

If a Complaint is dismissed or proceeds to a written decision of adjudication, and after any such dismissal or written decision is final, the facts and determinations made by the College are binding on the parties and may not be relitigated, challenged, or otherwise collaterally attacked by the parties in any other College process or procedure.

Additionally, a Reporting Party may not file successive Complaints under this Policy about the same incident or course of conduct, even if the Reporting Party alleges a new theory of Discrimination or Harassment arising from the same incident or course of conduct that was the subject of a prior written decision. Further, to the extent a complaint of Policy and Practice Discrimination has proceeded to a written decision, such written decision is binding on different Reporting Parties with respect to the same Policy and Practice Discrimination, unless such different Reporting Party alleges materially different facts that could result in a different outcome.

XXXVII. OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS, DUAL APPOINTMENTS, AND DELEGATIONS

The College retains discretion to retain and appoint suitably qualified persons who are not College employees to fulfill any function of the College under this Policy, including, but not limited to, the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, adjudicator, alternate resolution facilitator, and/or appeals officer.

The College also retains discretion to appoint two or more persons to jointly fulfill the role of investigator, adjudicator, alternate resolution facilitator, and/or appeals officer.

The functions assigned to a given College official under this Policy, including but not limited to the functions assigned to the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, adjudicator, alternate resolution facilitator, and appeals officer, may, in the College's discretion, be delegated by such College official to any suitably qualified individual and such delegation may be recalled by the College at any time.

XXXVIII. DUAL STATUS PERSONS

Where an individual is both a Student and an Employee of the College, and to the extent the distinction between Student or Employee status is material for any standard, obligation, right, or process set forth in this Policy, the Title IX Coordinator will determine the individual's status for purposes of this Policy. Such determination shall be made after a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of relevant circumstances, including whether the individual's primary relationship to the College is to receive an education or to work, and in what capacity the person was acting (or failing to act) with regard to the events in question.

XXXIX. EXERCISE OF RIGHTS

The rights afforded to Reporting Parties and Responding Parties throughout this Policy are personal to Reporting Parties and Responding Parties and may not be exercised by a third-party unless the third-party has the legal right to act on the party's behalf. As a general rule, parents do not have the right to act on behalf of adult students and are not entitled to participate in the investigation and adjudication processes in this Policy unless they are acting in the role of an advisor as described in "Advisor of Choice and Other Accompanying Persons." If a Complaint alleges Policy and Practice Discrimination against the College itself, such that no individual person is a Responding Party, the relevant department or unit whose policy or practice is at issue may appoint an individual

to represent the department or unit's interest and to act as a nominal Responding Party in such individual's official capacity on behalf of the department or unit at issue.

XL. TRAINING

The College will ensure that all Employees, and College officials acting under this Policy, including but not limited to the Title IX Coordinator, investigators, adjudicators, alternate resolution facilitators, College-provided advisors, and appeals officers receive training in compliance with Title IX and its implementing regulations, the Illinois Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act, and any other applicable federal, state, or local laws.

XLI. RECORDKEEPING

The College will retain those records specified in 34 C.F.R. § 106.8(f) for a period of seven years after which point in time they may be destroyed, or continue to be retained, in the College's sole discretion. Such materials will be made available for inspection and review only to the extent required by Title IX and its implementing regulations and/or other applicable federal, state, and/or local laws.

XLII. CHANGES IN THE LAW

In the event a change in controlling law conflicts with some provision of this Policy, necessitates the modification of some provision of this Policy, or mandates the inclusion of new provisions not included, the College may immediately apply the Policy in a manner consistent with such controlling law, after providing written notice to the parties of the change in controlling law, even if the Policy has yet to be formally amended to address the change in controlling law.

XLIII. DEFINITIONS

Words used in this Policy will have those meanings defined herein and/or in Appendix 1 and if not defined herein or in Appendix 1 will be construed according to their plain and ordinary meaning.

XLIV. DISCRETION IN APPLICATION

The College retains discretion to interpret and apply this Policy in a manner that is not clearly unreasonable, even if the College's interpretation or application differs from the interpretation of the parties.

Despite the College's reasonable efforts to anticipate all eventualities in drafting this Policy, it is possible unanticipated or extraordinary circumstances may not be specifically or reasonably addressed by the express language, in which case the College retains discretion to respond to the unanticipated or extraordinary circumstance in a way that is not clearly unreasonable.

The provisions of this Policy are **not contractual in nature** in their own right or as part of any other express or implied contract. Accordingly, the College retains discretion to

revise this Policy and Policy revisions to an active case provided that doing so is not clearly unreasonable.

APPENDIX 1: DEFINITIONS

“Adverse Treatment Discrimination or Harassment” means material, adverse action taken against a person because of their membership in a Protected Category (or a perception that someone is a member of a Protected Category), except where such action is permitted by law.

“Coercion” means to force a person to act based on fear of harm to self or others. Means of coercion may include, but are not limited to, pressure, threats, emotional intimidation, or the use of physical force.

“College Community” means all persons who participate in the College’s Education Programs or Activities, including board members, administrators, faculty, staff, other Employees, Students, volunteers, guests, and contractors.

“Complaint” means an oral or written request to the College to initiate an investigation and adjudication of alleged Discrimination or Harassment pursuant to the procedures in this Policy.

“Confidential Advisor” means a person who is employed or contracted by the College to provide emergency and ongoing support to student survivors of sexual violence with the training, duties, and responsibilities described in the Illinois Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act.

“Confidential Employee” means an Employee of the College who is not required to report potential Discrimination or Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator because:

- The Employee’s communications are privileged or confidential under federal or state law (e.g., attorneys, doctors and certain other medical providers, psychologists, and counselors). The Employee’s status as confidential is limited to information received about Discrimination or Harassment while the Employee is functioning within the scope of their duties to which the privilege or confidentiality applies.
- The College has designated the Employee as a confidential resource for the purpose of providing services to persons in connection with Discrimination or Harassment—but if the Employee also has a role or duty not associated with providing these services, the Employee’s status as confidential is limited to information received about Discrimination or Harassment in connection with providing these services.
- The Employee is conducting a College approved human subjects research study designed to gather information about Discrimination or Harassment—but the Employee’s confidential status is limited to information received while conducting the study.

A list of Confidential Employees by position type is available [here](#).

“Consent” means freely given words or actions that a reasonable person in the position of the Responding Party would understand as agreement to engage in the conduct at issue. A person’s lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the use of threat of force does not constitute consent. A person’s manner of dress does not constitute consent. A person’s consent to past sexual activity does not constitute consent to future sexual activity. A person’s consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not constitute consent to engage in sexual activity with a different person. A person who is Incapacitated is not capable of giving Consent, and a person who is under the age of consent cannot consent. Consent cannot be procured through Coercion. A person can withdraw consent at any time.

“Dating Violence” is violence committed by a person –

- Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
- Where the existence of such a relationship will be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - The length of the relationship;
 - The type of relationship; and
 - The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

“Discrimination” is an omnibus term that includes Adverse Treatment Discrimination, Policy or Practice Discrimination, and Sex-Based Harassment.

“Domestic Violence” is felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a person who:

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

“Employee” means a person who is paid wages to perform services for the College. Volunteers and independent contractors are not Employees.

“Education Programs or Activities” refers to:

- Activity occurring under any of the operations of the College in the United States,

including, but not limited to, in-person and online educational instruction, admissions, employment, research activities, extracurricular activities, athletics, residence life, dining services, performances, and community engagement and outreach programs.

- Activity that occurs on campus or on other property owned or occupied by the College.
- Activity that occurs in a building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the College.
- Activity that is subject to the College's disciplinary authority.

“FERPA” refers to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which is a federal law governing the confidentiality of a Student's education records and a Student's right to access, review, and seek amendment of education records.

“Harassment” is an omnibus term that refers to Hostile Environment Harassment, Sex-Based Harassment, and Quid Pro Quo Harassment.

“Hostile Environment Harassment” is unwelcome verbal or physical conduct directed toward an individual because of their membership in a Protected Category (or a perception that someone is a member of a Protected Category) that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the College's Education Programs or Activities. Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of:

- The degree to which the conduct affected the person's ability to access the College's Education Programs or Activities.
- The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct.
- The parties' ages, roles within the College's Education Programs or Activities, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct.
- The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred.
- The existence of other Harassment in the College's Education Programs or Activities.

Conduct that does not meet the definition of Hostile Environment Harassment may still violate other policies or expectations for appropriate/professional conduct set by the College and, accordingly, may result in discipline as determined appropriate by the College.

“Incapacitated” or **“Incapacity”** refers to the state where a person cannot make a

rational, reasonable decision to engage in sexual activity because they lack the ability to understand the fact, nature, or extent of the act (e.g., to understand the "who, what, when, where, why or how" of their sexual interaction), and/or are physically helpless.

"Policy" refers to this Policy against Discrimination and Harassment.

"Policy or Practice Discrimination" means a College policy, practice, or condition that has the effect of excluding or limiting a person from participating in the College's Education Programs or Activities, or that results in inequitable access to the College's Education Programs or Activities, because of the individual's membership in a Protected Category (or a perception that someone is a member of a Protected Category), except where such action is permitted by law.

"Pregnancy or Related Conditions" means:

- Pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation;
- Medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy or lactation;
- Recovery from pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, or their related medical conditions.

"Protected Category" means actual or perceived sex, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, religion or religious affiliation, sexual orientation or preference, age, marital or family status, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local laws and ordinances

"Quid Pro Quo Harassment" is an Employee, agent, or other person authorized to provide an aid, benefit, or service of the College explicitly or implicitly conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the College on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual or other prohibited conduct.

"Relevant" means related to the allegations of Discrimination or Harassment that are subject to investigation and adjudication as set forth in this Policy. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged Discrimination or Harassment occurred, and evidence is Relevant when it may aid an adjudicator in determining whether the alleged Discrimination or Harassment occurred.

"Report" means an oral or written notification of alleged Discrimination or Harassment.

"Reporting Party" means:

- A Student or Employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could be prohibited by this Policy; or
- A person other than a Student or Employee who is alleged to have been subjected

to conduct that could be prohibited by this Policy and who was participating or attempting to participate in the College's Education Programs or Activities when the alleged conduct occurred.

“Responding Party” means a person who is alleged, via this Policy, to have engaged in conduct that could be prohibited by this Policy.

“Retaliation” is intimidation, threats, Coercion, or Discrimination against any person by a Student, Employee, person authorized by the College to provide aid, benefit or service under the College's Education Programs or Activities, or the College itself, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by this Policy, or because the person has reported information, made a Complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in any investigation or proceeding under this Policy, or any other appropriate steps taken by the College in response to conduct prohibited by this Policy. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Retaliation does not include requiring an Employee or person authorized by the College to provide aid, benefit, or service under the College's Education Programs or Activities to participate as a witness in, or otherwise assist with, an investigation or proceeding under this Policy. Retaliation includes initiating disciplinary process against a person for a violation of another College conduct standard that does not involve Discrimination or Harassment but arises out of the same facts and circumstances of a Complaint or information about potential Discrimination or Harassment, if initiating such other disciplinary process is done for the purpose of interfering with the exercise of any right or privilege under applicable federal law. Retaliation can be committed by a peer. Retaliation does not include any conduct that a party has a right to engage in under the U.S. Constitution.

“Sex-Based” means on the basis of:

- sex
- sex stereotypes
- sex characteristics
- pregnancy or related conditions
- sexual orientation
- gender identity.

“Sex-Based Harassment” is a form of Discrimination or Harassment and consists of sexual and other Sex-Based harassment that constitutes Quid Pro Quo Harassment, Hostile Environment Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking.

“Sexual Assault” consists of one or more of the following:

- Rape: 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, or by a sex-related object. This definition also includes instance in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (include due to the influence of drugs or alcohol) or because of age. Physical resistance is not required on the part of the victim to demonstrate lack of consent.

- 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 unable to give consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
- Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by Illinois law.
- Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of Consent as defined by Illinois law.

“Sexual Exploitation” occurs when a person takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for anyone's advantage or benefit other than the person being exploited, and that behavior does not otherwise constitute Sex-Based Harassment. Examples of behaviors that could rise to the level of Sexual Exploitation include:

- Prostituting another person.
- Non-consensual visual (e.g., video, photograph) or audio-recording of sexual activity.
- Non-consensual distribution of photos, other images, or information of an individual's sexual activity, intimate body parts, or nakedness, with the intent to or having the effect of embarrassing an individual who is the subject of such images or information.
- Exceeding the boundaries of consent.
- Engaging in non-consensual voyeurism.
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- Knowingly transmitting an STI, such as HIV, to another without disclosing one's STI status.
- Exposing one's genitals in non-consensual circumstances, or inducing another to expose their genitals.
- Possessing, distributing, viewing, or forcing others to view illegal pornography.

“Stalking” is engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

- Fear for their safety or the safety of others; or
- Suffer substantial emotional distress.

“Student” means a person who has gained admission to the College, whether or not they have matriculated.

“Supportive Measures” are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized measures offered, as appropriate, as reasonably available, without unreasonably burdening a party, and without fee or charge to the Reporting Party or Responding Party to (i) restore or preserve that party’s access to the College’s Education Programs or Activities, including measures that are designed to protect the safety of the parties or the College’s educational environment, or (ii) provide support during the College’s investigation and adjudication process under this Policy, including any alternate resolution process. Examples of Supportive Measures that may be available depending on the facts of a particular matter include: counseling; extensions of deadlines and other academic adjustments; campus escort services; increased security and monitoring for certain areas of campus; restrictions on contact between parties; honoring an order of protection or no contact order entered by a State civil or criminal court; leaves of absence; voluntary and involuntary changes to class, work, housing, dining, or extracurricular or any other activity; and training and education.