

ILLINOIS COLLEGE POLICY ON SEX DISCRIMINATION, SEX-BASED HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

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BASED ON THE ATIXA 2022 MODEL SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ©2022 ATIXA. USED WITH PERMISSION.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Illinois College adheres to all federal and state civil rights laws banning discrimination in institutions of higher education, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), the Violence Against Women Act, and the Illinois Human Rights Act as well as the Illinois Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act. The College does not discriminate against an employee, applicant for employment, student, or applicant for admission on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, pregnancy, ethnicity, national identity, citizenship status, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, veteran or military status, predisposing genetic characteristics or any other protected category under applicable local, state, or federal law and in accordance with the College’s Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Values Statement and Strategic Plan as well as the provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and all other applicable state and federal laws.

The College is committed to the principles of equal opportunity and seeks to establish and maintain an environment which ensures equal access to education for all College community members including students, applicants for admission, employees, applicants for employment, guests, and visitors. The College does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity operated by the College including, but not limited to, admissions, employment, recruitment, compensation, and athletics as well as access to housing and facilities, classes and schools, counseling, employment assistance to students, health and insurance benefits and services, and fringe benefits. The College is required by Title IX and the regulations thereunder not to discriminate in such a manner.

For additional information or inquiries about the application of Title IX and the regulations thereunder, contact the College’s Title IX Coordinator and/or the Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Education.

Jurisdiction of Illinois College

This Policy applies to the education program and activities of the College, to conduct that takes place on the campus or on property owned or controlled by the College, at College-sponsored events, or in buildings owned or controlled by College’s recognized student organizations. The Respondent must be a member of the Illinois College community in order for its policies to apply.

This Policy can also be applicable to the effects of off-campus misconduct that effectively deprive someone of access to the College’s educational program. The College may also extend jurisdiction to off-campus and/or to online conduct when the Title IX Coordinator determines that the conduct affects a substantial College interest.

Regardless of where the conduct occurred, the College will address notice/complaints to determine whether the conduct occurred in the context of its employment or educational

program or activity and/or has continuing effects on campus or in an off-campus sponsored program or activity. A substantial College interest includes:

- a. Any action that constitutes a criminal offense as defined by law. This includes, but is not limited to, single or repeat violations of any local, state, or federal law;
- b. Any situation in which it is determined that the Respondent poses an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual;
- c. Any situation that significantly impinges upon the rights, property, or achievements of oneself or others or significantly breaches the peace and/or causes social disorder; and/or
- d. Any situation that is detrimental to the educational interests or mission of the College.

If the Respondent is unknown or is not a member of the College community, the Title IX Coordinator will assist the Complainant in identifying appropriate campus and local resources and support options and/or, when criminal conduct is alleged, in contacting local or campus law enforcement if the individual would like to file a police report.

Further, even when the Respondent is not a member of Illinois College's community, supportive measures, remedies, and resources may be accessible to the Complainant by contacting the Title IX Coordinator.

In addition, the College may take other actions, as appropriate, to protect the Complainant against third parties, such as barring individuals from College property and/or events.

All vendors serving the College through third-party contracts are subject to the policies and procedures of their employers or to these policies and procedures to which their employer has agreed to be bound by their contracts.

When the Respondent is enrolled in or employed by another institution, the Title IX Coordinator can assist the Complainant in liaising with the appropriate individual at that institution, as it may be possible to allege violations through that institution's policies.

Similarly, the Title IX Coordinator may be able to advocate for a student or employee Complainant who experiences discrimination in an externship, study abroad program, or other environment external to the College where sexual harassment or nondiscrimination policies and procedures of the facilitating or host organization may give recourse to the Complainant.

The Illinois College Title IX Coordinator

The Title IX Coordinator oversees implementation of the Illinois College Policy on Sex Discrimination, Sex-Based Harassment, and Retaliation.

The Title IX Coordinator has the primary responsibility for coordinating Illinois College's efforts related to the intake, investigation, resolution, and implementation of supportive measures to stop, remediate, and prevent discrimination, harassment, and retaliation prohibited under this Policy.

Independence and Conflict of Interest

The Title IX Coordinator manages the Title IX Team and acts with independence and authority free from bias and conflicts of interest. The Title IX Coordinator oversees all resolutions under this policy and these procedures. The members of the Title IX Team are vetted and trained to ensure they are not biased for or against any party in a specific case, or for or against Complainants and/or Respondents, generally.

To raise any concern involving bias, conflict of interest, misconduct, or discrimination by the Title IX Coordinator, contact Provost O'Connell at 217.245.3010 or provost@ic.edu. Concerns of bias, a potential conflict of interest, misconduct, or discrimination by any other Title IX Team member should be raised with the Title IX Coordinator.

Administrative Contact Information

Complaints or notice of alleged policy violations, or inquiries about or concerns regarding this policy or procedures may be made **internally** to:

Title IX Coordinator

Angela Valuck
Title IX Coordinator
Sturtevant 204
217.245.3660
angela.valuck@ic.edu

Title IX Deputy Coordinators

Sarah Kaisner
Director of Student Professional Development
Lincoln Hall Hub, 1087
217.245.3193
sarah.kaisner@ic.edu

Abby Vorreyer
Assistant Director of Athletics
Bruner, Room 1250
217.245.3342
abby.vorreyer@ic.edu

Illinois College has authorized the administrators listed in the section below on **Officials with Authority** (OWAs) to address and correct harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation. In addition to the Title IX Team members listed above, these OWAs may also accept notice or Formal Complaints on behalf of the College.

Illinois College has also classified all employees, including Resident Assistants and Hall Directors, as Mandated Reporters of any knowledge they have that a member of the community is experiencing harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation. The section below on **Mandated Reporting** details employee responsibilities accordingly.

Inquiries about or concerns regarding this Policy and procedures may be made **externally** to:

Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-1100
Customer Service Hotline #: (800) 421-3481
Facsimile: (202) 453-6012
TDD#: (877) 521-2172
Email: OCR@ed.gov
Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Chicago District Office
JCK Federal Building
230 S Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604
United States
[\(312\) 872-9744](tel:(312)872-9744)
Fax: [312-588-1260](tel:312-588-1260)
TTY: [1-866-740-3953](tel:1-866-740-3953)
ASL Video Phone: [844-234-5122](tel:844-234-5122)

Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR)
Sexual Harassment in Education
Chicago: 312.814.6200
Chicago TTY: 866.740.3953
Springfield: 217.785.5100
Springfield TTY: 866.740.3953
Website: <http://www2.illinois.gov/dhr/FilingCharge>

Notice of Complaints of Sex Discrimination, Sex-Based Harassment, and/or Retaliation

Notice of complaints of sex discrimination, sex-based harassment, and/or retaliation may be

made using any of the following options:

1. Report online, using the form linked at www.ic.edu/sexualmisconduct/report.
2. File a report with, or give verbal notice to, the Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Coordinators, or Officials with Authority ([contact information here](#)). Such a report may be made at any time, including during non-business hours, by using the phone number or email address, or by mail, to the office listed for the Title IX Coordinator or any other official listed.

Anonymous reports are accepted but can give rise to a need to investigate. The College tries to provide supportive measures to all Complainants, which may be impossible with an anonymous report that does not identify a Complainant.

Because reporting carries no obligation to initiate a formal response, and as the College respects Complainant requests to dismiss complaints unless there is a compelling threat to health and/or safety, the Complainant is largely in control and should not fear a loss of privacy by making a report that allows the College to discuss and/or provide supportive measures.

Mandated Reporters

Illinois College has also classified most employees, including Residential Assistants and Hall Directors, as Mandated Reporters of any knowledge they have that a member of the community is experiencing harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation. Such personnel who receive reports of violations of this policy, with the exception of those who are designated as Confidential Resources, are considered Mandated Reporters and are required to promptly forward all details of behaviors under this policy that they observe or have knowledge of, even if not reported to them by a Complainant or third-party.

Employees must also promptly share all details of behaviors under this Policy that they observe or have knowledge of, even if not reported to them by a Complainant or third party.

Complainants may want to carefully consider whether they share personally identifiable details with non-confidential Mandated Reporters, as those details must be shared with the Title IX Coordinator.

Generally, disclosures in climate surveys, classroom writing assignments or discussions, human subjects research, or at events such as “Take Back the Night” marches or speak-outs do not provide notice that must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator by employees, unless the Complainant clearly indicates that they desire a report to be made or seek a specific response from the College.

Failure of a Mandated Reporter, as described above in this section, to report an incident of harassment or discrimination of which they become aware is a violation of Illinois College policy

and Illinois law and can be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, as well as criminal and civil penalties, for failure to comply.

Confidential Resources

If you wish to report a violation of this policy but would like your information to remain confidential you may choose to report to any of the individuals listed on the website at www.ic.edu/sexualmisconduct/report. These employees are available to survivors, or those who know a survivor, to answer questions, provide information, and help navigate the options available at the College as well as in the Jacksonville community. These individuals have a confidentiality privilege to protect personal identification and can fulfill their reporting requirements by making general reports for statistical purposes and pattern tracking, but do not divulge personally identifiable information. Please note that if you report to a confidential employee and request confidentiality, your information will not be shared with the Title IX Coordinator and an investigation will not be initiated.

Officials with Authority

Illinois College has determined that the following administrators are Officials with Authority to address and correct harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation. These Officials with Authority listed below may also accept notice or complaints on behalf of the College:

- Provost & Academic Dean
- Director of Human Resources
- Dean of Faculty
- Director of Residential Life
- Director of Public Safety
- Athletic Director

Reporting to Law Enforcement

An individual has the right to report an incident exclusively to the College, exclusively to local law enforcement, or to both the College and local law enforcement. Illinois College employees can assist the reporting party in contacting local law enforcement, if explicitly requested by the reporting party. However, reporting an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and domestic violence to the College does not in any way equate to reporting the incident to local law enforcement.

Should an individual report an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence to both the College and local law enforcement, the College will cooperate with law enforcement in accordance with any existing memorandums of understanding (MOUs).

The College policy, definitions, and standard of proof differ from Illinois criminal law. Neither law enforcement's determination whether to prosecute a Respondent nor the outcome of any criminal prosecution will determine whether sexual misconduct or sexual harassment has occurred under this College policy. Proceedings under this Policy may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings off campus.

Care/Support Providers

In addition to reporting the matter to the Title IX Coordinator or an employee, individuals may also need to address immediate physical and/or emotional trauma associated with the harassment or assault. Importantly, a Complainant should contact any of the following immediate care providers:

- Emergency Call 911
- Jacksonville Police Department - 217.479.4630
- Jacksonville Memorial Hospital - 217.245.9541
- Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault (24/7 hotline) – 217.753.8081
- Chesley Health and Wellness Center – 217.245.3038 UWill Teletherapy (24/7 virtual therapy) - Accessible through SSO at login.ic.edu
- Illinois College Public Safety, Gardner Hall, Room 13 – 217.245.3111

There are also support resources outside the College community. The Chesley Health & Wellness Center maintains a list of local therapists, including psychologists, social workers and psychiatrists in private practice. While the cost of counseling outside the College is not covered for students by the College, many students have insurance benefits that will cover all or part of the cost of such counseling.

Supportive Measures

Illinois College will offer and implement appropriate and reasonable supportive measures to the parties upon notice of alleged harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation.

Supportive measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the parties to restore or preserve access to the College's education program or activity, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the College's educational environment, and/or deter harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation.

The Title IX Coordinator or their designee promptly makes supportive measures available to the parties upon receiving notice or a complaint. At the time that supportive measures are offered, the College will inform the Complainant, in writing, that they may file a Formal Complaint with the College either at that time or in the future, if they have not done so already. The Title IX Coordinator or their designee works with the Complainant to ensure that their wishes are taken into account with respect to the supportive measures that are planned and implemented.

Illinois College will maintain the privacy of the supportive measures, provided that privacy does not impair the College's ability to provide the supportive measures. The College will act to ensure as minimal an academic/occupational impact on the parties as possible. The College will implement measures in a way that does not unreasonably burden the other party.

These actions may include, but are not limited to:

- Referral to counseling, medical, and/or other healthcare services
- Referral to the Employee Assistance Program
- Referral to community-based service providers
- Visa and immigration assistance
- Student financial aid counseling
- Education to the community or community subgroup(s)
- Altering campus housing assignment(s)
- Altering work arrangements for employees or student-employees
- Safety planning
- Providing campus safety escorts
- Providing transportation accommodations
- Implementing contact limitations (no contact orders) between the parties
- Academic support, extensions of deadlines, or other course/program-related adjustments
- Trespass orders
- Timely warnings in accordance with the Illinois College Clery Policy
- Class schedule modifications, withdrawals, or leaves of absence
- Increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus
- Any other actions deemed appropriate by the Title IX Coordinator or designee

Violations of no contact orders or other restrictions may be referred to appropriate student or employee conduct processes for enforcement or added as collateral misconduct allegations to an ongoing complaint under this Policy.

Emergency Removal

The College can act to remove a Respondent entirely or partially from its education program or activities on an emergency basis when an individualized safety and risk analysis has determined that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual justifies removal. This risk analysis is performed by the Title IX Coordinator in conjunction with SAFE IC using its standard objective violence risk assessment procedures.

When an emergency removal is imposed, the student or employee will be given notice of the action and the option to request to meet with the Title IX Coordinator prior to such action/removal being imposed, or as soon thereafter as reasonably possible, to show cause why the action/removal should not be implemented or should be modified.

This meeting is not a hearing on the merits of the allegation(s), but rather is an administrative process intended to determine solely whether the interim removal is appropriate. When this meeting is not requested within three (3) business days of notification, objections to the emergency removal will be deemed waived. A Complainant and their Advisor may be permitted to participate in this meeting if the SAFE IC Co-Chairs and the Title IX Coordinator determine it is equitable to do so. There is no appeal process for emergency removal decisions.

A Respondent may be accompanied by an Advisor of their choice when meeting with the Title IX Coordinator for the show cause meeting. The Respondent will be given access to a written summary of the basis for the emergency removal prior to the meeting to allow for adequate preparation.

The Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with the Director of Human Resources (employees) and/or the Associate Provost of Student Success (students), has discretion under this policy to implement or modify an emergency removal and to determine the conditions and duration. Violation of an emergency removal under this policy will be grounds for discipline, which may include suspension or termination.

The College will implement the least restrictive emergency actions possible in light of the circumstances and safety concerns. As determined by the Title IX Coordinator, these actions could include, but are not limited to: removing a student from a residence hall, temporarily re-assigning an employee, restricting a student's or employee's access to or use of facilities or equipment, allowing a student to withdraw or take grades of incomplete without financial penalty, authorizing an administrative leave, and suspending a student's participation in extracurricular activities, student employment, student organizational leadership, or intercollegiate/intramural athletics.

At the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator in consultation with the Dean of Faculty, alternative coursework options may be pursued to ensure as minimal an academic impact as possible on the parties.

Promptness

All allegations are acted upon promptly by Illinois College once it has received notice or a Formal Complaint. Typically, Formal Complaints can take 90 business days to resolve. There are always exceptions and extenuating circumstances that can cause a resolution to take longer, but the College will avoid all undue delays within its control.

Any time the general timeframes for resolution outlined in the College's procedures will be delayed, written notice will be provided to the parties of the delay, the cause of the delay, and an estimate of the anticipated additional time that will be needed as a result of the delay.

Confidentiality/Privacy

Every effort is made by the College to preserve the privacy of reports. The College will not share the identity of any individual who has made a report or Formal Complaint of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation; any Complainant; any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination; any Respondent; or any witness, except as permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or its implementing regulations, or as required by law; or to carry out the purposes of 34 CFR Part 106, including the conducting of any investigation, hearing, or grievance proceeding arising under these policies and procedures. The College reserves the right to designate which College officials

have a legitimate educational interest in being informed about incidents that fall within this policy, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Information will be shared as necessary with Investigators, Decision-makers, witnesses, and the parties. The circle of people with this knowledge will be kept as tight as possible to preserve the parties' rights and privacy. The College may contact parents/guardians to inform them of situations in which there is a significant and articulable health and/or safety risk; but will usually consult with the student first before doing so.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, should the report concern an instance of interpersonal violence and/or sexual violence involving a minor (under the age of 17), then in that event, the College shall investigate the report without regard to the request for confidentiality and shall inform local, state and/or federal law enforcement officials of such incident as required by law.

When a Complainant Does Not Wish to Proceed

If a Complainant does not wish for their name to be shared, does not wish for an investigation to take place, or does not want a Formal Complaint to be pursued, they may make such a request to the Title IX Coordinator, who will evaluate that request in light of the duty to ensure the safety of the campus and to comply with state or federal law.

The Title IX Coordinator has ultimate discretion over whether the College proceeds when the Complainant does not wish to do so, and the Title IX Coordinator may sign a Formal Complaint to initiate a grievance process upon completion of an appropriate violence risk assessment.

The Title IX Coordinator's decision should be based on results of the violence risk assessment that show a compelling risk to health and/or safety that requires the College to pursue formal action to protect the community.

A compelling risk to health and/or safety may result from evidence of patterns of misconduct, predatory conduct, threats, abuse of minors, use of weapons, and/or violence. The College may be compelled to act on alleged employee misconduct irrespective of a Complainant's wishes.

The Title IX Coordinator must also consider the effect that non-participation by the Complainant may have on the availability of evidence and the College's ability to pursue a Formal Grievance Process fairly and effectively.

When the Title IX Coordinator executes the written complaint, they do not become the Complainant. The Complainant is the individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute a violation of this policy.

When the College proceeds, the Complainant (and/or their Advisor) may have as much or as little involvement in the process as they wish. The Complainant retains all rights of a Complainant under this Policy irrespective of their level of participation. Typically, when the

Complainant chooses not to participate, the Advisor may be appointed as proxy for the Complainant throughout the process, acting to ensure and protect the rights of the Complainant.

Note that the College's ability to remedy and respond to notice may be limited if the Complainant does not want the College to proceed with an investigation and/or grievance process. The goal is to provide the Complainant with as much control over the process as possible, while balancing the College's obligation to protect its community.

In cases in which the Complainant requests confidentiality/no formal action and the circumstances allow the College to honor that request, the College will offer Informal Resolution options, supportive measures, and remedies to the Complainant and the community, but will not otherwise pursue formal action.

If the Complainant elects to take no action, they can change that decision if they decide to pursue a Formal Complaint at a later date. Upon making a Formal Complaint, a Complainant has the right, and can expect, to have allegations taken seriously by the College and to have the incidents investigated and properly resolved through these procedures.

Time Limits on Reporting

There is no time limitation on providing notice/Formal Complaints to the Title IX Coordinator. However, if the Respondent is no longer subject to the College's jurisdiction and/or significant time has passed, the ability to investigate, respond, and provide remedies may be more limited or impossible.

Acting on notice/Formal Complaints significantly impacted by the passage of time (including, but not limited to, the rescission or revision of policy) is at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, who may document allegations for future reference, offer supportive measures and/or remedies, and/or engage in informal or formal action, as appropriate.

When notice/complaint is affected by a significant time delay, the College will typically apply the Policy in place at the time of the alleged misconduct and the procedures in place at the time of notice/complaint

Online Harassment and Misconduct

The policies include online and cyber manifestations of any of the behaviors prohibited below, when those behaviors occur in or have an effect on the College's education program and activities or use Illinois College networks, technology, or equipment.

While the College may not control websites, social media, and other venues in which harassing communications are made, when such communications are reported to the College, it will engage in a variety of means to address and mitigate the effects.

Members of the community are encouraged to be good digital citizens and to refrain from online misconduct, such as feeding anonymous gossip sites, sharing inappropriate content via Snaps or other social media, unwelcome sexting, revenge porn, breaches of privacy, or otherwise using the ease of transmission and/or anonymity of the Internet or other technology to harm another member of the College community.

Otherwise, such communications are considered speech protected by the First Amendment. Supportive measures for Complainants will be provided, but protected speech cannot legally be subjected to discipline.

Off-campus harassing speech by employees, whether online or in person, may be regulated by the College only when such speech is made in an employee's official or work-related capacity.

Sex-Based Harassment Policy

Students, staff, administrators, and faculty are entitled to an employment and educational environment that is free of discriminatory harassment. The College's harassment policy is not meant to inhibit or prohibit educational content or discussions inside or outside of the classroom that include germane, but controversial or sensitive subject matters protected by academic freedom. The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and State of Illinois under the Human Rights Act regard sexual harassment as an unlawful discriminatory practice.

The section below describes the specific forms of legally prohibited harassment that are also prohibited under Illinois College policy. When speech or conduct is protected by academic freedom and/or the First Amendment, it will not be considered a violation of College policy, though supportive measures will be offered to those impacted.

Acts of sexual harassment may be committed by any person upon any other person, regardless of the sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity of those involved. Illinois College has adopted the following definitions of sexual harassment in order to address the unique environment of an academic community. Two definitions are required by federal law. While they overlap, they are not identical, and they each apply as noted.

- A. Title VII/Illinois Human Rights Act Sexual Harassment applies to situations where an employee is subjected to workplace sexual harassment.
 - a. Unwelcome verbal, written, graphic, and/or physical conduct;
 - b. that is severe or pervasive and objectively offensive;
 - c. on the basis of sex/gender, that
 - d. unreasonably interferes with, limits, or effectively denies an individual's educational or employment access, benefits, or opportunities.

- B. **Title IX Sexual Harassment**

The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and the State of Illinois regard Sexual Harassment, a

specific form of discriminatory harassment, as an unlawful discriminatory practice.

Sexual Harassment, as an umbrella category, includes the offenses of quid pro quo sexual harassment, hostile environment sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. This definition applies to all Formal Complaints that fall within the Title IX jurisdiction as determined by the Title IX Coordinator. Sexual harassment includes:

Conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. Quid Pro Quo

An Illinois College employee conditioning provision of an aid, benefit or service of the College on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

For example, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature by a person having power or authority over another constitutes sexual harassment when submission to such sexual conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of rating or evaluating an individual's educational or employment progress, development, or performance.

Quid pro quo harassment does not need to be severe and pervasive because the abuse of authority in the form of even a single instance is inherently offensive and serious enough to jeopardize equal educational access.

2. Sexual Harassment (Hostile Environment)

Unwelcome conduct, determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, and pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the College's education program or activity.¹

3. Sexual Assault

i. Sex Offenses, Forcible: Any sexual act directed against a Complainant, without their consent, including instances where the Complainant is incapable of giving consent. Forcible sex offenses include:

a. Rape: (Except Statutory) 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 forcibly and/or against that person's will or not forcibly or against the person's will in instances where the Complainant is incapable of giving consent because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

¹ Unwelcomeness is subjective and determined by the Complainant (except when the Complainant is below the age of consent). Severity, pervasiveness, and objective offensiveness are evaluated based on the totality of the circumstances from the perspective of a reasonable person in the same or similar circumstances ("in the shoes of the Complainant"), including the context in which the alleged incident occurred and any similar, previous patterns that may be evidenced.

- b. **Sodomy:** Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will or not forcibly or against the person's will in instances where the Complainant is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age² or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
- c. **Sexual Assault with an Object:** To use an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will or not forcibly or against the person's will in instances where the Complainant is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
- d. **Fondling/Criminal Sexual Contact:** The intentional touching of the clothed or unclothed body parts without consent of the victim for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation. The forced touching by the victim of the actor's clothed or unclothed body parts, without consent of the victim for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification³, or sexual humiliation. This offense includes instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or incapacity due to temporary or permanent mental or physical impairment or intoxication for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation.

ii. Sex Offenses, Non-forcible:

- a. **Incest:** Non-forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
- b. **Statutory Rape:** Non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent. In Illinois, the age of consent is 17.

4. Dating Violence

Violence, on the basis of sex, committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the Complainant and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

1. The length of the relationship

² Per Illinois state law.

³ Contact with private body parts is considered to be done for the purpose of sexual gratification unless: (1) the contact can be proven inadvertent; (2) the contact is for a legitimate medical (or other privileged) purpose and thus is conduct for which consent should have been sought and obtained by the provider; (3) the contact involves a Respondent who is pre-sexual, based on maturity/age (thus their intent is not sexual); (4) the contact involves a Respondent who cannot developmentally understand sexual contact or that their contact is sexual; or (5) The contact is something like butt-slapping on a team and is both minimal and unlikely to have sexual motivation or purpose, as shown by the context of the act(s)

2. The type of relationship
3. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship
4. For the purposes of this definition dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse.
5. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence.

5. Domestic Violence⁴

Includes felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction includes the use or attempted use of physical abuse or sexual abuse, or a pattern of any other coercive behavior committed, enabled, or solicited to gain or maintain power and control over a victim, including verbal, psychological, economic, or technological abuse that may or may not constitute criminal behavior, by a person who:

1. is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the Complainant, or
2. is a person similarly situated to a spouse of the Complainant; or
3. is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the Complainant as a spouse or intimate partner; or
4. shares a child in common with the Complainant; or
5. commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of Illinois.

6. Stalking

Engaging in a course of conduct, on the basis of sex, directed at the Complainant, that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.

For the purposes of this definition:

1. Course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the Respondent directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property.
2. Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the Complainant.
3. Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may but does not necessarily require medical or other

⁴ To categorize an incident as Domestic Violence, the relationship between the Respondent and the Complainant must be more than just two people living together as roommates. The people cohabitating must be current or former spouses or have an intimate relationship.

professional treatment or counseling.

Illinois College reserves the right to impose any level of sanction, more specifically outlined in the Procedures for the Illinois College Policy on Sex Discrimination, Sex-Based Harassment, and Retaliation, ranging from a reprimand up to and including suspension or expulsion/termination, for any offense under this Policy.

C. Other Discriminatory and Harassing Offenses

In addition to the forms of sexual harassment described above, which fall within the coverage of the 2020 Title IX regulations, the College prohibits the following offenses as forms of discrimination outside of the 2020 Title IX regulations when the act is based upon the Complainant's actual or perceived sex stereotypes or sex characteristics. The Title IX Coordinator will refer reports of the following offenses accordingly for Administrative Resolution following the procedures for the Policy on Sex Discrimination, Sex-Based Harassment, and Retaliation.

1. Sex Discrimination

Discrimination is different treatment with respect to an individual's employment or participation in an education program or activity based, in whole or in part, upon the individual's actual or perceived sex (as defined above).

Sex discrimination can take two primary forms:

A. Disparate Treatment:

- Any intentional differential treatment of a person or persons that is based on an individual's actual or perceived sex and that:
 - Excludes an individual from participation in;
 - Denies the individual benefits of; or
 - Otherwise adversely affects a term or condition of an individual's participation in an Illinois College program or activity.

B. Disparate Impact:

- Disparate impact occurs when policies or practices that appear to be neutral unintentionally result in a disproportionate impact on a protected group or person that:
 - Excludes an individual from participation in;
 - Denies the individual benefits of; or
 - Otherwise adversely affects a term or condition of an individual's participation in an Illinois College program or activity.

Discrimination on the basis of sex includes on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, gender identity, sexual orientation, and pregnancy or related conditions.

2. Sexual Exploitation

Defined as taking non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for their own benefit or for the benefit of anyone other than the person being exploited, and that conduct does not otherwise constitute Sexual Harassment under this Policy.

Examples of Sexual Exploitation include, but are not limited to:

- Sexual voyeurism (such as observing or allowing others to observe a person undressing or using the bathroom or engaging in sexual acts, without the consent of the person being observed)
- Invasion of sexual privacy
- Taking pictures, video, or audio recording of another in a sexual act, or in any other sexually-related activity when there is a reasonable expectation of privacy during the activity, without the consent of all involved in the activity, or exceeding the boundaries of consent (such as allowing another person to hide in a closet and observe sexual activity, or disseminating sexual pictures without the photographed person's consent), including the making or posting of revenge pornography
- Prostituting another person
- Engaging in sexual activity with another person while knowingly infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or a sexually transmitted disease (STD) or infection (STI), without informing the other person of the infection
- Causing or attempting to cause the incapacitation of another person (through alcohol, drugs, or any other means) for the purpose of compromising that person's ability to give consent to sexual activity, or for the purpose of making that person vulnerable to non-consensual sexual activity
- Misappropriation of another person's identity on apps, websites, or other venues designed for dating or sexual connections
- Forcing a person to take an action against that person's will by threatening to show, post, or share information, video, audio, or an image that depicts the person's nudity or sexual activity
- Knowingly soliciting a minor for sexual activity
- Engaging in sex trafficking
- Creation, possession, or dissemination of child pornography

3. Harm/Endangerment

Threatening or causing physical harm, extreme verbal, emotional, or psychological abuse, or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person or damages their property, based on sex.

4. Intimidation

Implied threats or acts that cause an unreasonable fear of harm in another.

5. Hazing

Acts likely to cause physical or psychological harm or social ostracism to any person within the Illinois College community, when related to the admission, initiation, pledging, joining, or any other group-affiliation activity (as defined further in the Hazing Policy);

6. Bullying

Repeated and/or severe aggressive behavior likely to intimidate or intentionally hurt, control, or physically or mentally diminish another person. It is not speech or conduct otherwise protected by the First Amendment.

Sanctions for the above-listed offenses range from reprimand through expulsion/termination, which are detailed more specifically in the Student Code of Conduct (Blue Book), Faculty Handbook and/or Employee Handbook.

D. Force, Coercion, Consent, and Incapacitation

As used in the offenses above, the following definitions and understandings apply:

Force: The use of physical violence and/or physical imposition to gain sexual access. Force also includes threats, intimidation (implied threats), and coercion that is intended to overcome resistance or produce consent (e.g., “Have sex with me or I’ll hit you,” “Okay, don’t hit me, I’ll do what you want.”).

Sexual activity that is forced is, by definition, non-consensual, but non-consensual sexual activity is not necessarily forced. Silence or the absence of resistance alone is not consent. Consent is not demonstrated by the absence of resistance. While resistance is not required or necessary, it is a clear demonstration of non-consent.

Coercion: Unreasonable pressure for sexual activity. Coercive conduct differs from seductive conduct based on factors such as the type and/or extent of the pressure used to obtain consent. When someone makes clear that they do not want to engage in certain sexual activity, that they want to stop, or that they do not want to go past a certain point of sexual interaction, continued pressure beyond that point can be coercive.

Consent: According to Illinois Law, consent is a freely given agreement to the act of sexual penetration or sexual conduct in question.

- The lack of verbal or physical resistance, or submission by the Complainant resulting from the use of drugs, force, or threat by the Respondent shall not constitute consent.
- The manner of dress of the Complainant at the time of the offense shall not constitute consent.
- A person who initially consents to sexual penetration or sexual conduct is not

deemed to have consented to any sexual penetration or sexual conduct that occurs after they withdraw consent during the course of that sexual penetration or sexual conduct.

- A person's consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not constitute consent to engage in sexual activity with another person.
- A person can withdraw consent at any time.
- A person cannot consent to sexual activity if that person is unable to understand the nature of the activity or give knowing consent due to circumstances, including without limitation:
 - The person is incapacitated due to the use or influence of alcohol or drugs.
 - The person is asleep or unconscious.
 - The person is incapacitated due to a mental disability.

Since individuals may perceive and experience the same interaction in different ways, it is the responsibility of each party to determine that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.

If consent is not clearly provided prior to engaging in the activity, consent may be ratified by word or action at some point during the interaction or thereafter, but clear communication from the outset is strongly encouraged.

For consent to be valid, there must be a clear expression in words or actions that the other individual consented to that specific sexual conduct.

Consent can also be withdrawn once given, as long as the withdrawal is reasonably and clearly communicated. If consent is withdrawn, that sexual activity should cease within a reasonable time.

Consent to some sexual contact (such as kissing or fondling) cannot be presumed to be consent for other sexual activity (such as intercourse). A current or previous intimate relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent.

Proof of consent or non-consent is not a burden placed on either party involved in an incident. Instead, the burden remains on the College to determine whether its policy has been violated. The existence of consent is based on the totality of the circumstances evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable person in the same or similar circumstances, including the context in which the alleged incident occurred and any similar, previous patterns that may be evidenced.

Consent in relationships must also be considered in context. When parties consent to BDSM⁵ or other forms of kink, non-consent may be shown by the use of a safe word. Resistance, force, violence, or even saying "no" may be part of the kink and thus

⁵ Bondage, discipline/dominance, submission/sadism, and masochism.

consensual, so the College's evaluation of communication in kink situations should be guided by reasonableness, rather than strict adherence to policy that assumes non-kink relationships as a default.

Incapacitation: A person cannot consent if they are unable to understand what is happening or are disoriented, helpless, asleep, or unconscious, for any reason, including by alcohol or other drugs. As stated above, a Respondent violates this policy if they engage in sexual activity with someone who is incapable of giving consent.

It is a defense to a sexual assault policy violation that the Respondent neither knew nor should have known the Complainant to be physically or mentally incapacitated. "Should have known" is an objective, reasonable person standard which assumes that a reasonable person is both sober and exercising sound judgment.

Incapacitation occurs when someone cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because they lack the capacity to give knowing/informed consent (e.g., to understand the "who, what, when, where, why, or how" of their sexual interaction).

Incapacitation is determined through consideration of all relevant indicators of an individual's state and is not synonymous with intoxication, impairment, blackout, and/or being drunk.

This Policy also covers a person whose incapacity results from a temporary or permanent physical or mental health condition, involuntary physical restraint, and/or the consumption of incapacitating drugs.

Retaliation

Protected activity under this Policy includes reporting an incident that may implicate this policy, participating in the grievance process, supporting a Complainant or Respondent, assisting in providing information relevant to an investigation, and/or acting in good faith to oppose conduct that constitutes a violation of this Policy.

Acts of alleged retaliation should be reported immediately to the Title IX Coordinator and will be promptly investigated. The College is prepared to take appropriate steps to protect individuals who fear that they may be subjected to retaliation.

It is prohibited for the College or any member of the College's community to take materially adverse action by intimidating, threatening, coercing, harassing, or discriminating against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by law or policy, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this Policy and procedure.

Filing a complaint under the Administrative Resolution Process (Process B) could be considered retaliatory if those allegations could be subject to the Formal Grievance Process (Process A), when the Process B allegations are made for the purpose of interfering with or circumventing any right or privilege provided within Process A that is not provided by Process B. Therefore, Illinois College carefully vets all complaints to ensure this does not happen, and to ensure that complaints are routed to the appropriate process.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation.

Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this Policy and procedure does not constitute retaliation, provided that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party has made a materially false statement in bad faith.

Related Policies

Amnesty for Complainants and Witnesses

Illinois College encourages the reporting of misconduct and crimes by Complainants and witnesses. Sometimes, Complainants or witnesses are hesitant to report to College officials or participate in grievance processes because they fear that they themselves may be in violation of certain College policies, such as underage drinking or use of illicit drugs at the time of the incident.

It is in the best interests of the College community that Complainants choose to report misconduct to College officials, that witnesses come forward to share what they know, and that all parties be forthcoming during the process. Illinois College provides amnesty to any student who reports, in good faith, any alleged violations of this policy and witnesses participating in the grievance process. The Complainant and witnesses will not receive a disciplinary sanction by the College for a student conduct violation, such as underage drinking, that is revealed in the course of a report, unless the College determines that the violation was an action that places the health or safety of any other person at risk.

Amnesty does not apply to more serious allegations such as physical abuse of another or illicit drug distribution. The decision not to offer amnesty to a Respondent is based on neither sex nor gender, but on the fact that collateral misconduct is typically addressed for all students within a progressive discipline system, and the rationale for amnesty – the incentive to report serious misconduct – is rarely applicable to the Respondent with respect to a Complainant.

In addition to the foregoing, all faculty and staff who become aware of or suspect sexual abuse of a minor (under the age of 17) must report that information to the Title IX Coordinator who shall then inform local, state and/or federal law enforcement officials of such incident as required by law.

False Allegations and Evidence

Deliberately false and/or malicious accusations under this Policy, as opposed to allegations which, even if erroneous, are made in good faith, are a serious offense and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Additionally, witnesses and parties knowingly providing false evidence, tampering with or destroying evidence after being directed to preserve such evidence, or deliberately misleading an official conducting an investigation can be subject to discipline under Illinois College policy.

Federal Statistical Reporting Obligations

Certain campus officials – those deemed Campus Security Authorities – have a duty to report the following for federal statistical reporting purposes (Clery Act):

- a) All “primary crimes,” which include homicide, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson;
- b) Hate crimes, which include any bias motivated primary crime as well as any bias motivated larceny or theft, simple assault, intimidation, or destruction/damage/vandalism of property;
- c) VAWA⁶-based crimes, which include sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; and
- d) Arrests and referrals for disciplinary action for weapons-related law violations, liquor-related law violations, and drug abuse-related law violations.

All personally identifiable information is kept private, but statistical information must be passed along to the Clery Coordinator regarding the type of incident and its general location (on or off-campus or in the surrounding area, but no addresses are given) for publication in the Annual Security Report and daily campus crime log.

Campus Security Authorities include: all faculty, Student Success staff, Residence Hall Directors and RAs, all Athletic staff, the Human Resources Director, and Public Safety staff.

Federal Timely Warning Obligations

Parties reporting sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking should be aware that under the Clery Act, Illinois College must issue timely warnings for incidents reported to them that pose a serious or continuing threat of bodily harm or danger to members of the campus community.

The College will ensure that a Complainant’s name and other identifying information is not disclosed, while still providing enough information for community members to make safety decisions in light of the potential danger.

⁶ VAWA is the Violence Against Women Act, enacted in 1994 codified in part at 42 U.S.C. sections 13701 through 14040.

Preservation of Evidence

Seeking medical care is important, regardless of whether you choose to report to the police. Medical attention will provide for physical exam, treatment and collection of any evidence of the assault. It is important to remember:

- Sexual assault can result in injury or illness that you may not immediately see or feel. It is important that you seek appropriate medical care promptly.
- Resist the urge to change clothes, bathe, douche, eat, drink or brush your teeth.
- Bring a change of clothes with you when you go to the emergency room. Your clothing will be kept as evidence.
- Do not go to the bathroom, if possible. This is so that physical evidence can be collected and preserved.

You do not need to decide immediately following an assault whether you want to pursue legal action but if you save the evidence, it offers you more options in the future when you are better able to decide. The staff at Passavant Hospital and on campus at the Chesley Health and Wellness Center are trained to collect and save this type of evidence for you, should you decide to use it in pursuing legal action in the future.

Revision of this Policy

This Policy, [published on August 7, 2025](#), represents the current policy at Illinois College and supersedes any previous policy(ies) addressing harassment, sexual misconduct, discrimination, and/or retaliation and will be reviewed and updated annually by the Title IX Coordinator. The College reserves the right to make changes to this document as necessary and required by law. Any new language that is made within the past six (6) months is in blue text.

During the Resolution Process, the Title IX Coordinator may make minor modifications to the procedures that do not materially jeopardize the fairness owed to any party, such as to accommodate summer schedules. The Title IX Coordinator may also vary procedures materially with notice (on the institutional website, with the appropriate effective date identified) upon determining that changes to law or regulation require policy or procedural alterations not reflected in this Policy and procedures.

This document does not create legally enforceable protections beyond the protection of the background state and federal laws which frame such policies and codes, generally.

Appendix A: Definitions

- **Actual Knowledge** means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment delivered to Illinois College's Title IX Coordinator. Such notice includes reports sent to the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, by telephone, by email, telephone call, in-person, or by using the College online report form which can be found [here](#).
- **Administrative Process (Process B)** means a process of resolution designated by Illinois College to address conduct that falls within the policies included below and is dismissed under the provisions in Title IX thus not needing to comply with requirements of the Title IX regulations (34 CFR Part 106.45).
- **Advisor** means a person chosen by a party or appointed by the institution to accompany the party to meetings related to the Resolution Process, to advise the party on that process, and to conduct questioning for the party at the hearing, if any.
- **Business Day** means a day when Illinois College is in normal business operation.
- **Calendar Day** means a day on the calendar including weekends and holidays.
- **Complainant** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute harassment or discrimination based on a protected class; or retaliation for engaging in a protected activity.
- **Confidential Resource** means an employee who is not a Mandated Reporter of notice of harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation (irrespective of Clery Act Campus Security Authority status).
- **Education Program or Activity** means locations, events, or circumstances where Illinois College exercises substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment or discrimination occurs and also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the Illinois College.

The College's education program or activity also extends to operations which include computer and internet networks, digital platforms, and computer hardware or software owned or operated by, or used in the operations of the College.

- **Final Determination** means a conclusion by the preponderance of evidence that the alleged conduct occurred and whether it did or did not violate policy.
- **Finding** means a conclusion by the preponderance of evidence that the conduct did or

did not occur as alleged.

- **Formal Complaint** means a document filed/signed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sex-based harassment or retaliation against a Respondent and requesting that the College investigate the allegation. At the time of filing a Formal Complaint, the Complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in an education program or activity at the College.
- **Formal Grievance Process** means a method of formal resolution designated by Illinois College to address conduct that falls within the policies included below, and which complies with the requirements of the Title IX regulations (34 CFR Part 106.45).
- **Grievance Process Pool** includes any Investigators, Hearing Decision-makers, Appeal Decision-makers, and College-appointed Advisors who may perform any or all of these roles (though not at the same time or with respect to the same case).
- **Hearing Panel** refers to those who have decision-making and sanctioning authority within Illinois College's Formal Grievance process.
- **Informal Resolution** means a complaint resolution agreed to by the Parties and approved by the Title IX Coordinator that occurs prior to a Final Determination being reached. Informal resolution is not available for employee on student complaints.
- **Investigator** means the person or persons charged by Illinois College with gathering facts about an alleged violation of this Policy, assessing relevance and credibility, synthesizing the evidence, and compiling this information into an investigation report and file of directly related evidence.
- **Mandated Reporter** means an employee of Illinois College who is obligated by policy to share knowledge, notice, and/or reports of harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation with the Title IX Coordinator and/or the Executive Director of Residence Life & Campus Safety.⁷
- **Notice** means that an employee, student, or third-party informs (reports) the Title IX Coordinator or other Official with Authority of the alleged occurrence of harassing, discriminatory, and/or retaliatory conduct.
- **Official with Authority (OWA)** means an employee of the College explicitly vested with the responsibility to implement corrective measures for harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation on behalf of the College.

⁷ Not to be confused with Mandatory Reporters, who are mandated by state law to report child abuse, elder abuse, and/or abuse of individuals with disabilities to appropriate officials, though these responsibilities may overlap with those who have mandated reporting responsibility in this Policy.

- **Parties** include the Complainant(s) and Respondent(s), collectively.
- **Recipient** means Illinois College as a postsecondary education program that is a recipient of federal funding.
- **Remedies** are post-final determination actions directed to the Complainant and/or the community as mechanisms to address safety, prevent recurrence, and restore access to the College's educational program.
- **Respondent** means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute harassment or discrimination based on a protected class; or retaliation for engaging in a protected activity under this Policy.
- **Resolution** means the result of an Informal Resolution or Formal Grievance Process.
- **Sanction** means a consequence imposed by the College on a Respondent who is found to have violated this policy.
- **Sex** means sex assigned at birth (under Title IX). Outside Title IX, sex can include gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, sex characteristics, and sex stereotypes.
- **Sexual Harassment** is the umbrella category including the offenses of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and domestic violence. See section [here](#) for greater detail.
- **Standard of Evidence** means the standard used to determine if a policy violation occurred. The College uses a "preponderance of evidence" standard, which means that the evidence demonstrates that it is more likely than not that the alleged conduct or policy violation occurred.
- **Student** means any individual who has accepted an offer of admission, or who is registered or enrolled for credit or non-credit bearing coursework, and who maintains an ongoing educational relationship with Illinois College.
- **Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972** (29 USC 1681-1688) provides, "No person in the United States, shall on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Essentially, Title IX provides that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic, extracurricular, research, occupational training or other education program or activity operated by Illinois College. Title IX also provides that no person shall, on

the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in employment, or recruitment, consideration, or selection therefore, whether full-time or part-time, under any education program or activity operated by the College. Illinois College acknowledges its obligations under Title IX and is committed to complying with all Title IX requirements.

- **Title IX Coordinator** is the official designated by Illinois College to ensure compliance with Title IX and Title IX program. References to the Coordinator throughout this policy may also encompass a designee of the Coordinator for specific tasks.
- **VAWA:** Violence Against Women Act classifies dating violence, domestic violence and stalking as crimes. The VAWA reauthorization of 2013 amended the Clery Act to require institutions to compile statistics for incidents of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and to include certain policies, procedures, and programs pertaining to these incidents in their annual security reports.

Appendix B: Statement of the Rights of the Parties

- The right to an equitable investigation and resolution of all credible allegations of prohibited harassment or discrimination made in good faith to College officials.
- The right to timely written notice of all alleged violations, including the identity of the parties involved (if known), the precise misconduct being alleged, the date and location of the alleged misconduct (if known), the implicated policies and procedures, and possible sanctions.
- The right to timely written notice of any material adjustments to the allegations (e.g., additional incidents or allegations, additional Complainants, unsubstantiated allegations) and any attendant adjustments needed to clarify potentially implicated policy violations.
- The right to be informed in advance of any public release of information regarding the allegation(s) or underlying incident(s), whenever possible.
- The right not to have any personally identifiable information released to the public without consent provided, except to the extent permitted by law.
- The right to be treated with respect by College officials.
- The right to have College policies and procedures followed without material deviation.
- The right not to be pressured to mediate or otherwise informally resolve any reported misconduct involving violence, including sexual violence.
- The right not to be discouraged by College officials from reporting sexual misconduct or discrimination to both on-campus and off-campus authorities.
- The right to be informed by College officials of options to notify proper law enforcement authorities, including on-campus and local police, and the option(s) to be assisted by College authorities in notifying such authorities, if the party so chooses. This also includes the right not to be pressured to report, as well.
- The right to have allegations of violations of this Policy responded to promptly and with sensitivity by College officials.
- The right to be informed of available interim actions and supportive measures, such as counseling; advocacy; health care; legal, student financial aid, visa, and immigration assistance; or other services, both on campus and in the community.

- The right to a College-implemented no-contact notice when a person has engaged in or threatens to engage in stalking, threatening, harassing, or other improper conduct that presents a danger to the welfare of the party or others.
- The right to be informed of available assistance in changing academic, living, and/or working situations after an alleged incident of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation, if such changes are reasonably available. No formal report, or investigation, either campus or criminal, needs to occur before this option is available. Such actions may include, but are not limited to:
 - Relocating an on-campus student's housing to a different on-campus location
 - Changing an employee's work environment (e.g., reporting structure, office/workspace relocation)
 - Transportation accommodations
 - Visa/immigration assistance
 - Arranging to dissolve a housing contract and a pro-rated refund
 - Exam, paper, and/or assignment rescheduling or adjustment
 - Receiving an incomplete in, or a withdrawal from, a class (may be retroactive)
 - Transferring class sections
 - Temporary withdrawal/leave of absence (may be retroactive)
 - Campus safety escorts
 - Alternative course completion options.
- The right to have the College maintain such actions for as long as necessary and for supportive measures to remain private, provided privacy does not impair the College's ability to provide the supportive measures.
- The right to receive sufficiently advanced, written notice of any meeting or interview involving the other party, when possible.
- The right to ask the Investigator(s) and Decision-maker(s) to identify and question relevant witnesses, including expert witnesses.
- The right to provide the Investigator(s)/Decision-maker(s) with a list of questions that, if deemed relevant by the Investigator(s)/Chair, may be asked of any party or witness.
- The right not to have irrelevant prior sexual history or character admitted as evidence.
- The right to know the relevant and directly related evidence obtained and to respond to that evidence.
- The right to fair opportunity to provide the Investigator(s) with their account of the alleged misconduct and have that account be on the record.

- The right to receive a copy of the investigation report, including all factual, policy, and/or credibility analyses performed, and all relevant and directly related evidence available and used to produce the investigation report, subject to the privacy limitations imposed by state and federal law, prior to the hearing, and the right to have at least ten (10) business days to review the report prior to the hearing.
- The right to respond to the investigation report, including comments providing any additional relevant evidence after the opportunity to review the investigation report, and to have that response on the record.
- The right to be informed of the names of all witnesses whose information will be used to make a finding, in advance of that finding, when relevant.
- The right to regular updates on the status of the investigation and/or resolution.
- The right to have reports of alleged Policy violations addressed by Investigators, Title IX Coordinators, and Decision-maker(s) who have received relevant annual training.
- The right to a Hearing Panel that is not single-sex in its composition, if a panel is used.
- The right to preservation of privacy, to the extent possible and permitted by law.
- The right to meetings, interviews, and/or hearings that are closed to the public.
- The right to petition that any College representative in the process be recused on the basis of disqualifying bias and/or conflict of interest.
- The right to have an Advisor of their choice to accompany and assist the party in all meetings and/or interviews associated with the Resolution Process.
- The right to the use of the appropriate standard of evidence, (preponderance of the evidence) to make a finding after an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence.
- The right to be present, including presence via remote technology, during all testimony given and evidence presented during any formal grievance hearing.
- The right to have an impact statement considered by the Decision-maker(s) following a determination of responsibility for any allegation, but prior to sanctioning.
- The right to be promptly informed in a written Notice of Outcome letter of the finding(s) and sanction(s) of the Resolution Process and a detailed rationale therefor (including an explanation of how credibility was assessed), delivered simultaneously (without undue delay) to the parties.

- The right to be informed in writing of when a decision by the College is considered final and any changes to the sanction(s) that occur before the decision is finalized.
- The right to be informed of the opportunity to appeal the finding(s) and sanction(s) of the Resolution Process, and the procedures for doing so in accordance with the standards for appeal established by the College.
- The right to a fundamentally fair resolution as defined in these procedures.

Appendix C: Privacy, Privilege, and Confidentiality

For the purpose of this Policy, the terms privacy, confidentiality, and privilege have distinct meanings.

- **Privacy.** Means that information related to a complaint will be shared with a limited number of Illinois College employees who “need to know” in order to assist in providing supportive measures or evaluating, investigating, or resolving the Complaint. All employees who are involved in Illinois College’s response to Notice under this Policy receive specific training and guidance about sharing and safeguarding private information in accordance with federal and state law.
- **Confidentiality.** Exists in the context of laws or professional ethics (including Title IX) that protect certain relationships, including clinical care, mental health providers, and counselors. Confidentiality also applies to those designated by Illinois College as Confidential Employees for purposes of reports under this Policy, regardless of legal or ethical protections. When a Complainant shares information with a Confidential Employee, the Confidential Employee does not need to disclose that information to the Title IX Coordinator. The Confidential Resource will, however, provide the Complainant with the Title IX Coordinator’s contact information, assist the Complainant in reporting, if desired, and provide them with information on how the office can assist them. With respect to Confidential Employees, information may be disclosed when: (1) the reporting person gives written consent for its disclosure; (2) there is a concern that the person will likely cause serious physical harm to self or others; or (3) the information concerns conduct involving suspected abuse or neglect of a minor under the age of 18, elders, or persons with disabilities. Non-identifiable information may be shared by Confidential Employees for statistical tracking purposes as required by the Clery Act/Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Other information may be shared as required by law.
- **Privilege.** Exists in the context of laws that protect certain relationships, including attorneys, spouses, and clergy. Privilege is maintained by a provider unless a court orders release or the holder of the privilege (e.g., a client, spouse, parishioner) waives the protections of the privilege. Illinois College treats employees who have the ability to have privileged communications as Confidential Employees.

Illinois College reserves the right to determine which College officials have a legitimate educational interest in being informed about student-related incidents that fall under this Policy, pursuant to FERPA.

Only a small group of officials who need to know will typically be told about the Complaint. Information will be shared as necessary with Investigators, Decision-makers, Appeal Decision-makers, witnesses, the Parties, and the Parties’ Advisors. The circle of people with this knowledge will be kept as tight as possible to preserve the Parties’ rights and privacy, and release is governed by the institution’s unauthorized disclosure policy.

Illinois College may contact students' parents/guardians to inform them of situations in which there is a significant and articulable health and/or safety risk but will usually consult with the student prior to doing so.

Appendix D: Pregnant and Parenting Student Policy

Purpose and Scope

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, § 106.40, it is illegal for schools to exclude students, on the basis of such student's past, potential, or current pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy (abortion, miscarriage, or stillbirth), lactation, recover, and all related medical conditions from participating in any part of an educational program.

Therefore, Illinois College, its faculty, staff, and pregnant students will follow the protocols and procedures set forth in the policy below.

Gender Equity

Illinois College will not tolerate discrimination, harassment, misconduct, or retaliation of any form, including towards pregnant and/or parenting students. Such behavior is in violation of Illinois College's Policy on Sex Discrimination, Sex-Based Harassment, and Retaliation. Please refer to our website at www.ic.edu/sexualmisconduct to view the full policy and/or contact the Title IX Coordinator if concerns arise.

Reporting Requirements

Faculty and staff are not required to report a student's pregnancy to the Title IX Coordinator. Instead, faculty and staff must provide the contact information of the Title IX Coordinator to any student who has disclosed their pregnancy and/or who is seeking modifications due to pregnancy or parenting. If the employee has a reasonable belief that the Title IX Coordinator is already aware of the pregnancy or related condition, the employee is not required to provide the student with the Title IX Coordinator's contact information.

Title IX Coordinator

Angela Valuck

angela.valuck@ic.edu

217.245.3660

Upon notification of a student's pregnancy or related condition, the Title IX Coordinator will contact the student and inform the student of the Illinois College's obligations to:

- Prohibit sex discrimination.
- Provide reasonable modifications.
- Allow access, on a voluntary basis, to any separate and comparable portion of the institution's education program or activity.
- Allow a voluntary leave of absence.
- Ensure lactation space availability.
- Maintain a Resolution Process for alleged discrimination.
- Treat pregnancy as comparable to other temporary medical conditions for medical benefit, service, plan, or policy purposes.

The Title IX Coordinator will also notify the student of the process to file a complaint for alleged discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, as applicable.

Reasonable Modifications

Students who are pregnant or are experiencing related conditions are entitled to Reasonable Modifications to prevent sex discrimination and ensure equal access to the Illinois College's education program and activity. Any student seeking Reasonable Modifications must contact the Title IX Coordinator to discuss appropriate and available Reasonable Modifications based on their individual needs. Students are encouraged to request Reasonable Modifications as promptly as possible, although retroactive modifications may be available in some circumstances. Reasonable Modifications are voluntary, and a student can accept or decline the offered Reasonable Modifications. Not all Reasonable Modifications are appropriate for all contexts.

Reasonable Modifications may include:

- Breaks during class to express breast milk, breastfeed, or attend to health needs associated with pregnancy or related conditions, including eating, drinking, or using the restroom
- Intermittent absences to attend medical appointments
- Access to online or homebound education
- Changes in schedule or course sequence
- Time extensions for coursework and rescheduling of tests and examinations
- Allowing a student to sit or stand, or carry or keep water nearby
- Counseling
- Changes in physical space or supplies (for example, access to a larger desk or a footrest)
- Elevator access
- A larger uniform or other required clothing or equipment
- Other changes to policies, practices, or procedures determined by the Title IX Coordinator

In situations such as clinical rotations, performances, labs, and group work, the College will work with the student to devise an alternative path to completion, if possible. In progressive curricular and/or cohort-model programs, medically necessary leaves are sufficient cause to permit the student to shift course order, substitute similar courses, or join a subsequent cohort when returning from leave. Students are encouraged to work with their faculty members and the Illinois College's support systems to devise a plan for how to best address the conditions as pregnancy progresses, anticipate the need for leaves, minimize the academic impact of their absence, and get back on track as efficiently and comfortably as possible. The Title IX Coordinator will assist with plan development and implementation as needed.

Supporting documentation for Reasonable Modifications will only be required when it is necessary and reasonable under the circumstances to determine which Reasonable Modifications to offer to determine other specific actions to take to ensure equal access.

Information about pregnant students' requests for modifications will be shared with faculty and staff only to the extent necessary to provide the Reasonable Modification.

Students experiencing pregnancy-related conditions that manifest as a temporary disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act are eligible for reasonable accommodations just like any other student with a temporary disability. The Title IX Coordinator will consult with the Coordinator of Disability Resources to ensure the student receives reasonable accommodations for their disability as required by law.

Title IX requires Illinois College to excuse a student's absences due to pregnancy or related conditions, including recovery from childbirth, with medical approval. Illinois College may offer the student alternatives to making up missed work such as retaking a semester, taking a leave of absence, or allowing the student additional time in a program to continue at the same pace, provided the student will be able to graduate in the amount of time directed by the programmatic accreditors. The Dean of Faculty will meet with the student to discuss options available to the student based on the students' current status and program requirements. The Chair of the Nursing Department and the Chair of the Education Department will be involved in outlining options for students on clinical rotation or student teaching, respectively, at the time of their leave. While Illinois College staff will outline options for the student, the student shall decide what option best fits their needs.

Faculty who have their own policies about class attendance and make-up work must make sure their policies do not conflict with Title IX rights. Illinois College must ensure that the policies and practices of individual instructors do not discriminate against pregnant and parenting students. For example, a faculty member may not refuse to allow a student to submit work after a deadline or make up an exam that was missed because of absences due to pregnancy or childbirth. Additionally, if an instructor's grading is based in part on class attendance or participation, the student should be allowed to earn the credits missed so that the student can be reinstated to the status they had before the leave. Faculty and staff must be aware of and follow Title IX requirements for pregnant and parenting students through completion of annual training and are encouraged to work with the Title IX Coordinator to discuss any concerns. The Title IX Coordinator will collaborate with the Chair of the Nursing Department or the Chair of the Education Department when students seeking modifications are entering or currently participating in clinical rotations or student teaching, respectively.

Certificate to Participate

All students should be informed of health and safety risks related to participation in academic and co-curricular activities, regardless of pregnancy status. A student may not be required to provide health care provider or other certification that the student is physically able to participate in the program or activity, unless:

1. The certified level of physical ability or health is necessary for participation;
2. The institution requires such certification of all students participating; and
3. The information obtained is not used as a basis for pregnancy-related discrimination.

Lactation Space Access

The Illinois College provides students and employees with access to lactation spaces that are functional, appropriate, and safe. Such spaces are regularly cleaned, shielded from view, and free from the intrusion of others.

Lactation spaces are located in the following locations:

- Tanner Hall - Basement, East end of hallway
- Lincoln Hall - HUB, Room 1096

Access the EMS reservation system through the College's SSO to reserve a lactation space.

Leaves of Absence

1. Students

Students are permitted to take a voluntary leave of absence for a reasonable time as deemed medically necessary by their health care provider because of pregnancy and/or the birth, adoption, or placement of a child. The leave term may be extended in the case of extenuating circumstances or medical necessity. While registered under that status, students who choose to take a leave of absence under this policy can elect to continue residing in Illinois College housing, subject to the payment of applicable fees.

To the extent possible, Illinois College will take reasonable steps to ensure that students who take a leave of absence or medical leave return to the same position of academic progress that they were in when they took leave, including access to the same or an equivalent course catalog that was in place when the leave began.

Continuation of students' scholarship, fellowship, or similar Illinois College-sponsored funding during the leave term will depend on the students' registration status and the policies of the funding program regarding registration status. Students will not be negatively impacted by or forfeit their future eligibility for their scholarship, fellowship, or similar Illinois College-supported funding by exercising their rights under this policy.

The Office of Student Financial Services can and will advocate for students with respect to financial aid agencies and external scholarship providers in the event that a leave of absence places eligibility into question.

In order to initiate a leave of absence, the student must contact the Title IX Coordinator at least 30 calendar days prior to the initiation of leave, or as soon as practicable. The Coordinator will assist the student in completing any necessary paperwork.

0. Employees

Information on employment leave can be found under the Parental Leave and FMLA policies outlined in the employee handbook on Connect2.

If an employee is not eligible for leave under the aforementioned leave policies because they either (1) do not have enough leave time available under either policy, or (2) have not been employed long enough to qualify for leave under either policy, they are eligible to qualify for

pregnancy or related condition leave under Title IX. Pregnancy and related conditions will be regarded as a justification for a leave of absence without pay for a reasonable period of time. Employees who take leave under Title IX must be reinstated to the status held when leave began or a comparable position without a negative effect on any employment privilege or right.

Revision of Policy

This Policy supersedes any previous policies addressing pregnant and parenting students. The Title IX Coordinator reviews and updates these policies and procedures regularly. Illinois College reserves the right to make changes to this document as necessary and required by law. Once those changes are posted online, they are in effect. All changes made within the last six (6) months are in blue text).

If government laws or regulations change or court decisions alter the requirements in a way that impacts this document, this document will be construed to comply with the most recent government laws, regulations, or court holdings.

This document does not create legally enforceable protections beyond the protections of the background state and federal laws that frame such policies and codes, generally.

Policy last revised August 1, 2024

Appendix E: Policy for Gender Identity and Access

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to assist Illinois College employees regarding issues relating to transgender and gender nonconforming students in order to create and maintain a safe learning environment for all students and to ensure that every student has equal access to the College's educational programs and activities.

This policy sets out guidelines for College staff to address the needs of transgender and gender nonconforming students and explains how Title IX regulations and non-discrimination laws should be implemented in situations where questions may arise about how to protect the legal rights or safety of students. This policy does not anticipate every situation that might occur with respect to transgender and gender nonconforming students, and the needs of each student must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, the goal is to ensure the safety, comfort, and healthy development of all students, including transgender and gender nonconforming students, maximizing inclusion and social integration while minimizing exclusion and stigmatization.

Definitions

These definitions are not meant to label any student, but are intended as functional descriptors. Students may or may not use some of these terms to describe themselves:

Gender: The complex relationship between physical traits and one's internal sense of self as male, female, both, or neither (gender identity), as well as one's outward presentation and behaviors (gender expression).

Gender Expression: A person's gender-related appearance and behavior, whether or not stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth.

Gender Fluid: Persons who do not identify as, or who do not express themselves as, solely male or female.

Gender Identity: A person's internal sense of gender, which may or may not be the same as one's sex assigned at birth. All people have a gender identity, not just transgender people.

Gender Nonconforming: A person who displays gender traits that are not consistent with stereotypical characteristics associated with one's biological sex assigned at birth, or others' perceptions of that sex. This term can be used to describe people whose gender expression differs from stereotypical expectations about how boys and girls are "supposed to" look or act.

LGBTQ: A common acronym that stands for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning."

Sex: The biological condition or quality of being a female or male human being.

Sexual Orientation: A person's romantic or sexual attraction to people of the other and/or same gender. Common terms used to describe sexual orientation include, but are not limited to, heterosexual, lesbian, gay, and bisexual. Sexual orientation and gender identity are different. Transgender students may identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or heterosexual.

Sexualized Bullying: Unwanted or demeaning conduct or comments directed at or about an individual on the basis of actual or perceived gender, gender identity and expression, sex, sexual behavior, sexual orientation, or other related personal characteristics. Anti-gay and sexist epithets are common forms of sexualized bullying.

Transgender: A person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person's biological sex assigned at birth. Transgender is not a sexual orientation; transgender people may have any sexual orientation.

Cisgender: A term for people whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth.

Transition: The process through which people begin to live as the gender with which they identify, rather than the one typically associated with their sex assigned at birth.

Determining a Student's Gender Identity

The responsibility for determining a student's gender identity rests with the student.

The College shall accept a student's asserted gender identity. The College may not question or disregard the student's assertion of their gender identity.

There is no threshold medical or mental health diagnosis or treatment requirement that any student must meet in order to have their gender identity recognized and respected by the College, nor can a student be required to provide any medical documentation. Similarly, a student is not required to have obtained a court-ordered name or gender change in order to have the student's requested name and gender identity recognized and respected by the College.

Privacy

All persons have a right to privacy. This includes the right to control dissemination of highly personal and private information such as one's gender identity.

College employees shall not disclose a student's gender identity to others, including but not limited to, other students, parents, and/or other school employees, unless they are legally required to, the student has authorized such disclosure, or there is a specific and compelling "need to know" reason in order to protect the student's interests. In those rare circumstances

where disclosure is deemed to be absolutely necessary, before making any disclosure, College officials shall inform the student of the need to disclose and provide them with the opportunity and resources they may need to make the disclosure themselves.

College employees may encounter situations where a transgender or gender nonconforming student has not disclosed their gender identity to their parents. Whenever possible, school personnel shall speak with the student to confirm the manner in which the student will be referred to in conversation with the parent/guardian, if a FERPA release is on file granting permission for College employees to speak with the parent/guardian. Generally, when contacting the parent/guardian of a transgender or gender nonconforming student, College employees should use the student's legal name and the gender pronoun that corresponds to their legal sex, unless the student has specified otherwise.

All students, including transgender and gender nonconforming students, have the right to openly discuss and express their gender identity and to decide when, with whom, and how much to share that private information. In sharing this information, a student does not give up the right to privacy and at no time may the College use a student's self-disclosure as grounds for sharing information about the student's gender identity without the student's permission.

Names/Pronouns

Upon the request of a student, the student shall be addressed by the name and pronoun that corresponds to the student's gender identity asserted at College, without obtaining a court order, changing the official records or obtaining parent/legal guardian permission. The requested, or preferred, name shall be included in the College's electronic database in addition to the student's legal name, in order to inform employees of the name and pronoun to use when addressing the student.

Every effort shall be made to use the preferred names and pronouns consistent with a student's gender identity. While inadvertent slips or honest mistakes in the use of names or pronouns may occur, employees or students intentionally and persistently refusing to respect a student's gender identity by using the wrong name and gender pronoun is discriminatory and is a violation of this policy.

School Records

The College is required to maintain official records which includes the legal name of the student, as well as the student's gender. The official records may include but are not limited to: transcripts, assessment data, health records, discipline records, Individualized Education Programs (IEP), Section 504 Plans, standardized testing and the cumulative file. The College shall change a student's official records to reflect a change in legal name or gender upon receipt of documentation that such legal name and/or gender have been changed pursuant to Illinois legal requirements.

The College shall permit a student to use a preferred name and gender on unofficial records. The unofficial records may include but are not limited to: identification badges, classroom

rosters, certificates, programs, announcements, office summons and communications, team and academic rosters, diplomas, newspapers, newsletters, yearbooks, and other site-generated unofficial records. The preferred name shall also appear on the student's cumulative folder (official record) as "Also Known As" (AKA).

Transgender or gender nonconforming students who transition after having graduated may ask the College to amend a transcript that includes the student's birth name and gender. Upon receipt of documentation that the student's legal name and/or gender have been changed pursuant to Illinois legal requirements, the College will reissue a transcript that reflects the student's current name and gender.

Restroom Accessibility

The College will maintain separate restroom facilities for male and female students. However, students shall have access to the restroom that corresponds to their gender identity. Where available, a "gender neutral" restroom may be used by any student who desires increased privacy, regardless of the underlying reason. The use of such a "gender neutral" restroom shall be a matter of choice for a student and no student shall be compelled to use such a restroom.

Locker Room Accessibility

The College will maintain separate locker room facilities for male and female students. However, students shall have access to the locker room facility that corresponds to their gender identity. If any student has a need or desire for increased privacy or safety, regardless of the underlying reason, they will be provided access to a reasonable alternative changing area such as:

1. Use of a private area in the public area of the locker room facility (i.e., a nearby restroom stall with a door or a designated changing area within the locker room)
2. A separate changing schedule (either utilizing the locker room before or after other students)
3. Use of a nearby private area (i.e., a nearby restroom or an office with a door)

However, use of such an alternative changing space shall be a matter of choice for a student and no student shall be compelled to use such an alternative. The College will also work to de-stigmatize the use of such options, as well as to establish clear guidelines and expectations with regard to respecting privacy and boundaries in changing areas and other close quarters.

Dress Codes

All students have the right to dress in accordance with their gender identity and gender expression. Any course-related dress codes shall be gender-neutral, and shall not restrict students' clothing choices on the basis of gender or traditional stereotypes about what males and females "should" wear.

School Activities and Programs

Students have the right to equitable access to activities and programs at the College. Students may not be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to harassment or other forms of discrimination on the basis of gender identity in any program or

activity. These activities and programs may include but are not limited to: homecoming, spirit day, celebrations, assemblies, acknowledgments, clubs, and all extra-curricular activities.

Gender Segregation in Other Areas

As a general rule, in any other circumstances where students are separated by gender in College activities or programs (i.e., class discussions, field trips), students shall be permitted to participate in accordance with their gender identity as expressed by the student and asserted at College. Activities that may involve the need for accommodations to address student privacy concerns will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. In such circumstances, employees shall make a reasonable effort to provide an available accommodation that can address any such concerns.

Harassment and Bullying

Complaints alleging discrimination, harassment, or bullying based on a student's gender identity, gender expression, or gender nonconformity, are to be handled in the same manner as other complaints submitted to the Title IX Coordinator under the Illinois College's Policy on Sex Discrimination, Sex-Based Harassment, and Retaliation. Consistent with the policy and procedures, complaints alleging discrimination or harassment based on a student's gender identity, gender expression, or gender nonconformity shall be given immediate attention, fully and appropriately investigated in a timely manner, and resolved through appropriate corrective action.

Reporting Requirements

Any member of the Illinois College community may report a violation of this policy to any supervisor, manager, or to the Title IX Coordinator. All mandated reporters as defined in the Illinois College's Policy on Sex Discrimination, Sex-Based Harassment, and Retaliation are responsible for promptly forwarding such reports to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for overseeing complaints of discrimination involving pregnant and parenting students.

Reports or Complaints of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation may be made using any of the following options:

1. File a Report with, or give verbal Notice directly to, the Title IX Coordinator. Such a Report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the telephone number, email address, or by mail to the office of the Title IX Coordinator listed in this Policy.

Title IX Coordinator:
Angela Valuck
angela.valuck@ic.edu
217.245.3660

0. Submit online Notice at this [link](#) for sex discrimination and sex-based harassment allegations.

Revision of Policy

This Policy supersedes any previous policies addressing pregnant and parenting students. The Title IX Coordinator reviews and updates these policies and procedures regularly. Illinois College reserves the right to make changes to this document as necessary and required by law. Once those changes are posted online, they are in effect. All changes made within the last six (6) months are in blue text).

If government laws or regulations change or court decisions alter the requirements in a way that impacts this document, this document will be construed to comply with the most recent government laws, regulations, or court holdings.

This document does not create legally enforceable protections beyond the protections of the background state and federal laws that frame such policies and codes, generally.

Policy last revised August 1, 2024.

Appendix F: Policy for Equity in Athletics Compliance

Purpose and Scope

Title IX of the 1972 Education Act states: *"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."*

Educational programs or activities include Intercollegiate Athletics, and Title IX gives colleges and schools options for demonstrating that they provide equitable opportunities to both sexes. Illinois College demonstrates equitable opportunities through intercollegiate level participation through the provision of benefits, opportunities, and treatment of male and female programs overall.

Policy Statement

Title IX within athletics is focused on three criteria: 1) equitable participation opportunities; 2) equitable scholarship opportunities; and 3) equitable benefits, which includes equipment, supplies, facilities, scheduling, and more. According to the NCAA Office of Inclusion, *"Title IX does not require identical athletics programs for males and females. Rather, Title IX requires that the athletics programs meet the interests and abilities of each gender. Under Title IX, one team is not compared to the same team in each sport. OCR examines the total program afforded to male student-athletes and the total program afforded to female student-athletes and whether each program meets the standards of equal treatment. Title IX does not require that each team receive exactly the same services and supplies. Rather, Title IX requires that the men and women's program receive the same level of service, facilities, supplies, and etc. Variations within the men and women's program are allowed, as long as the variations are justified."*

On an annual basis the Title IX Athletics Advisory Committee will complete a comprehensive gender equity review of the provision of benefits, opportunities, and treatment of male and female programs overall using data from a variety of reports, including but not limited to, budget, scheduling, marketing, and salary data, in addition to responses from student-athlete evaluations and an annual student interest survey. If any area reviewed demonstrates inequitable treatment between men's and women's teams overall, the Advisory Committee will make any necessary revisions to Athletic Department policies to immediately address the issue.

Complaint Resolution Process

The College encourages employees and students to address concerns related to gender equity in Athletics. Any employee or student who seeks resolution or clarification of their concerns may use the procedure described below to provide a quick, effective, and consistently applied method for internal resolution.

Step 1: Contact Director of Athletics

Employees or students (Complainant) should bring their concerns or complaints, in writing, to the Director of Athletics. The Director of Athletics should then schedule an appointment with the Complainant to discuss the complaint within five (5) business days of receiving the complaint.

The Director of Athletics will then respond in writing to the complaint, normally within five (5) business days of the meeting held with the Complainant. A copy of the complaint and the Director of Athletics's written response should be forwarded to the Title IX Coordinator for retention.

Step 2: Appeal to Title IX Athletic Advisory Committee (excluding Director of Athletics)

If the procedures of Step 1 do not result in a satisfactory resolution of the complaint, then the Complainant may submit a written complaint to the members of the Title IX Athletic Advisory Committee (Abby Vorreyer, Steve Schweer, Amy Schwiderski, and Angela Valuck), excluding the Director of Athletics since they were involved in Step 1.

The Complainant should submit a written complaint within five (5) business days of receiving a response from the Director of Athletics or, if no response is received, then within five (5) business days of the date on which a written response was due. The complaint should include:

1. The problem or incident giving rise to the complaint and the date(s) it occurred;
2. Suggestions on ways to resolve the complaint; and
3. A copy of the Director of Athletics's written response (or a summary of their verbal response if no written response was provided) and the date when the Complainant met with the Director of Athletics. If the Director of Athletics provided no response, the complaint should indicate this as well.

Upon receipt of the above-described complaint, the Title IX Athletic Advisory Committee must schedule a separate meeting with the Complainant. This meeting should be held within five (5) business days of receiving the complaint. Within five (5) business days of completing the meetings and review of relevant information, the Title IX Athletic Advisory Committee will issue a written decision to the Complainant.

The Title IX Athletic Advisory Committee should forward a copy of the complaint and a copy of their written response to the Title IX Coordinator for retention.

If the Complainant is not comfortable discussing the complaint with the Title IX Athletic Advisory Committee, then the Complainant should proceed with Step 3 and provide a written complaint directly to the Provost and Dean of the College. If this is the case, then any appeal of the decision reached by the Provost and Dean of the College should follow the procedures of Step 3 but be directed to the Office of the President.

Step 3: Appeal of the Decision

If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the decision of the Title IX Athletic Advisory Committee, the Complainant may, within five (5) business days of receiving the Title IX Athletic Advisory Committee's decision, appeal this decision in writing to the Provost and Dean of the College.

The Provost and Dean of the College will call a meeting with the Complainant directly and/or gather further information from involved parties to address the complaint. Meetings and review of information will normally be conducted within five (5) business days of receipt of the written appeal. Upon completion of the review, the Provost and Dean of the College will issue a written response to the Complainant. The appeal decision will be considered final.

The timeline outlined in this procedure will normally be followed. Due to potential absences and/or scheduling conflicts, the five (5) day timeframe at each level may be reasonably extended.

Retaliation

Protected activity under this Policy includes making a complaint under this Policy, participating in the complaint resolution process, supporting any individual involved in the process, providing information relevant to the complaint, and/or acting in good faith to oppose conduct that constitutes a violation of this Policy.

The College is prepared to take appropriate steps to protect individuals who fear that they may be subject to retaliation. It's prohibited for the College or any member of the College's community to take materially adverse action by intimidating, threatening, coercing, harassing, or discriminating against any individuals for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by law or policy, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, participated, or refused to participate in any resolution process under this Policy. Acts of alleged retaliation should be reported immediately to the Title IX Coordinator and will be promptly investigated.

Policy last revised January 5, 2024