

**GENESE0**

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Approved By: Cabinet  
Effective Date: January 2005

Category: Diversity and Equity  
Contact: Chief Diversity Officer  
585.245.5020

### **Sexual Harassment Policy**

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which is unlawful in the workplace under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and the New York State Human Rights Law. Under Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, sexual harassment also is prohibited in the provision of educational services and protects students and employees from sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is prohibited and will not be tolerated at SUNY Geneseo (the College). The College has implemented measures to address and prevent sexual harassment and is taking additional affirmative steps to increase awareness of, and sensitivity to, all forms of sexual harassment in order to maintain a workplace and learning environment free of its harmful effects. SUNY Geneseo will provide annual mandatory training to all employees, in order to provide pertaining to definitions, reporting options, grievance procedures, and strategies for prevention.

Sexual harassment is a form of workplace discrimination and employee misconduct, as well as a form of discrimination in the academic setting, and all employees and students are entitled to work and learn in a campus environment that prevents sexual harassment. All employees and students have a legal right to a workplace and a campus free from sexual harassment, and employees and students can enforce this right by filing a complaint internally with the College, or with a government agency, or in court under federal or state anti-discrimination laws, as detailed in the University's Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure.

In accordance with applicable law, sexual harassment is generally described as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment or academic benefit; or
- Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for an employment or academic decision affecting the person rejecting or submitting to the conduct; or
- The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an affected person's work or academic performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or learning environment.

Sexual harassment can include physical touching, verbal comments, non-verbal conduct such as leering or inappropriate written or electronic communications, or a combination of these things. Examples of sexual harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- Seeking sexual favors or a sexual relationship in return for the promise of a favorable grade or academic opportunity;
- Conditioning an employment-related action (such as hiring, promotion, salary increase, or performance appraisal) on a sexual favor or relationship; or
- Intentional and undesired physical contact, sexually explicit language or writing, lewd pictures or notes, and other forms of sexually offensive conduct by individuals in positions of authority, co-workers or student peers, that unreasonably interferes with the ability of a person to perform their employment or academic responsibilities.
- Physical acts of a sexual nature, such as:
  - Touching, pinching, patting, kissing, hugging, grabbing, brushing against, or poking another person's body;
  - Sexual assault and rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults.
- Unwanted sexual advances or propositions, such as:
  - Requests for sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning a target's job performance evaluation, a promotion or other job benefits or detriments, or an educational benefit or detriment;
  - Subtle or obvious pressure for unwelcome sexual activities.
- Sexually oriented gestures, noises, remarks, jokes or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience, which create a hostile environment.
- Sex stereotyping occurs when conduct or personality traits are considered inappropriate simply because they may not conform to other people's ideas or perceptions about how individuals of a particular sex should act or look.
- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications, such as:
  - Displaying pictures, posters, calendars, graffiti, objects, promotional material, reading materials or other materials that are sexually demeaning or pornographic. This includes such sexual displays on computers or cell phones and sharing such displays while in the workplace or classroom.
- Hostile actions taken against an individual because of that individual's sex, sexual orientation, self-identified or perceived sex, gender expression, and gender identity (including transgender and gender non-binary), such as:
  - Interfering with, destroying or damaging a person's workstation, tools or equipment, or otherwise interfering with the individual's ability to perform their employment or academic duties;
  - Sabotaging an individual's work;
  - Bullying, yelling, name-calling.

Such behavior can constitute sexual harassment regardless of the self-identified or perceived sex, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation of any of the

persons involved. Sexual harassment is considered a form of employee and student misconduct which may lead to disciplinary action. Further, supervisors and managers will be subject to discipline for failing to report suspected sexual harassment or otherwise knowingly allowing sexual harassment to continue. Employees and students who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment may use the [University's Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure](#) for more details on how to have their allegations reviewed, including a link to a [complaint form](#).

Retaliation against a person who files a complaint, serves as a witness, or assists or participates in any manner in this procedure, is unlawful, is strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action. Retaliation is an adverse action taken against an individual as a result of complaining about or provides information regarding unlawful discrimination or harassment, exercising a legal right, and/or participating in a complaint investigation as a third-party witness. Adverse action includes being discharged, disciplined, discriminated against, or otherwise subject to adverse action because the individual reports an incident of sexual harassment, provides information, or otherwise assists in any investigation of a sexual harassment complaint. Participants who experience retaliation should contact the campus Chief Diversity Officer, and may file a complaint pursuant to these procedures.

The College shall take the necessary steps to ensure that this Sexual Harassment Response and Prevention Policy Statement is distributed, implemented, and enforced in accordance with our respective policies.

### **Procedure**

- A. Report of alleged incidents of sexual harassment are appropriately addressed through the SUNY Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure and through the Student Code of Conduct process. Complaints can be submitted to Human Resources, Office of Diversity and Equity, the Dean of Students, and the Title IX Coordinator.
- B. Should disciplinary/conduct action be found necessary, the appropriate procedures in current collective bargaining agreements or student conduct regulations will be followed.
- C. Use of the complaint procedure internally does not deprive any complainant of the right to pursue the complaint with University Police or an outside enforcement agency. See the SUNY Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure for a listing of outside enforcement agencies.
- D. The deadline for filing a complaint is consistent with the timeframes outlined in the SUNY Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure. Employees who wish to discuss the grievance procedure in more detail may contact The Office of Diversity and Equity, Title IX Coordinator, or the Office of Human Resources. Students who wish to discuss the complaint procedure in more detail may contact the Title IX Coordinator or the Dean of Students.
- E. A person who knowingly and/or intentionally files a false complaint under this policy may be subject to disciplinary/conduct action.

February 19,



2019

Signature

Date

of Approval  
robbie routenberg  
Chief Diversity Officer