

Administrative Guideline 906

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINE TYPE: Human Resources

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINE TITLE: Sex/Gender Harassment, Discrimination and Misconduct

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: Human Resources

GUIDELINE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

I. Introduction

Members of the college community, guests and visitors have the right to be free from all forms of sex/gender harassment, discrimination and misconduct, examples of which can include acts of sexual violence, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. All members of the campus community are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights of others. SCC believes in zero tolerance for sex/gender-based misconduct. Zero tolerance means that when an allegation of misconduct is brought to an appropriate administrator's attention, protective and other remedial measures will be used to reasonably ensure that such conduct ends, is not repeated, and the effects on the victim and community are remedied, including serious sanctions when a responding party is found to have violated this policy. This policy has been developed to reaffirm these principles and to provide recourse for those individuals whose rights have been violated. This policy is intended to define community expectations and SCC's procedures to establish a mechanism for determining when those expectations have been violated.

SCC's sex/gender harassment, discrimination and misconduct policies are not meant to inhibit or prohibit educational content or discussions inside or outside of the classroom that include controversial or sensitive subject matters.

SCC uses the preponderance of the evidence (also known as "more likely than not") as a standard for proof of whether a violation occurred. In campus resolution proceedings, legal terms like "guilt," "innocence" and "burdens of proof" are not applicable, but SCC never assumes a responding party is in violation of college policy. Campus resolution proceedings are conducted to take into account the totality of all evidence available, from all relevant sources.

II. Title IX Coordinator

The college's Title IX Coordinator oversees compliance with all aspects of the sex/gender harassment, discrimination and misconduct policy. The Coordinator reports directly to the President of the college, and is housed in the office of Human Resources. Questions about this policy should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator. Anyone wishing to make a report relating to discrimination or harassment may do so by reporting the concern to the Title IX Coordinator:

Tina Young
Supervisor of Campus Safety & Security/Title IX & Equity Coordinator
Health Professions Building Office 104R
West Burlington Campus
319-208-5360
titleix@scciowa.edu

Adopted: 8/25/15

Reviewed:

Revised:

Individuals experiencing harassment or discrimination also always have the right to file a formal grievance with government authorities:

Director of the Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
Citigroup Center
500 W. Madison Suite 1475
Chicago, IL 60661
312-730-1560
Fax 312-730-1576.

U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Educational Opportunities Section, PHB
Washington, D.C. 20530

In the event that an incident involves alleged misconduct by the Title IX Coordinator, reports should be made directly to the SCC President.

III. Expectations

A. With Respect to Physical Sexual Misconduct

The expectations of our community regarding sexual misconduct can be summarized as follows: In order for individuals to engage in sexual activity of any type with each other, there must be clear, knowing and voluntary consent prior to and during sexual activity. Consent is sexual permission. Consent can be given by word or action, but non-verbal consent is not as clear as talking about what you want sexually and what you don't. Consent to some form of sexual activity cannot be automatically taken as consent to any other form of sexual activity. Previous consent does not imply consent to sexual activity in the future. Silence or passivity -- without actions demonstrating permission -- cannot be assumed to show consent. Consent, once given, can be withdrawn at any time. There must be a clear indication that consent is being withdrawn.

Additionally, there is a difference between seduction and coercion. Coercing someone into sexual activity violates this policy in the same way as physically forcing someone into sex. Coercion happens when someone is pressured unreasonably for sex.

Because alcohol or other drug use can place the capacity to consent in question, sober sex is less likely to raise such questions. When alcohol or other drugs are being used, a person will be considered unable to give valid consent if they cannot fully understand the details of a sexual interaction (who, what, when, where, why, or how) because they lack the capacity to reasonably understand the situation. Individuals who consent to sex must be able to understand what they are doing. Under this policy, "No" always means "No," and "Yes" may not always mean "Yes." **Anything but a clear, knowing and voluntary consent to any sexual activity is equivalent to a "no."**

B. With Respect to Consensual Relationships

There are inherent risks in any romantic or sexual relationship between individuals in unequal positions (such as teacher and student, supervisor and employee). These relationships may be less consensual than perceived by the individual whose position confers power. The relationship also may be viewed in different ways by each of the parties, particularly in retrospect. Furthermore,

circumstances may change, and conduct that was previously welcome may become unwelcome. Even when both parties have consented at the outset to a romantic or sexual involvement, this past consent may not remove grounds for a later charge of a violation of applicable sections of the faculty/staff handbooks. SCC does not wish to interfere with private choices regarding personal relationships when these relationships do not interfere with the goals and policies of the college. For the personal protection of members of this community, relationships in which power differentials are inherent (faculty-student, staff-student, administrator-student, supervisor-supervisee) are generally discouraged.

Consensual romantic or sexual relationships in which one party maintains a direct supervisory or evaluative role over the other party are unethical. Therefore, persons with direct supervisory or evaluative responsibilities who are involved in such relationships must bring those relationships to the timely attention of their supervisor, and will likely result in the necessity to remove the employee from the supervisory or evaluative responsibilities, or shift the student out of being supervised or evaluated by someone with whom they have established a consensual relationship. This includes Resident Advisors (RAs) and students over whom they have direct responsibility. While no relationships are prohibited by this policy, failure to self-report such relationships to a supervisor as required can result in disciplinary action for an employee.

IV. Sexual Violence

A. Risk Reduction Tips

Risk reduction tips can often take a victim-blaming tone, even unintentionally. Only those who commit sexual violence are responsible for those actions. We offer the tips below with no intention to victim-blame, with recognition that these suggestions may nevertheless help you to reduce your risk of experiencing a non-consensual sexual act. Below, suggestions to avoid committing a non-consensual sexual act are also offered:

- If you have limits, make them known as early as possible.
- Tell a sexual aggressor “NO” clearly and firmly.
- Try to remove yourself from the physical presence of a sexual aggressor.
- Find someone nearby and ask for help.
- Take affirmative responsibility for your alcohol intake/drug use and acknowledge that alcohol/drugs lower your sexual inhibitions and may make you vulnerable to someone who views a drunk or high person as a sexual opportunity.
- Give thought to sharing your intimate content, pictures, images and videos with others, even those you may trust. If you do choose to share, clarify your expectations as to how or if those images may be used, shared or disseminated.
- Take care of your friends and ask that they take care of you. A real friend will challenge you if you are about to make a mistake. Respect them when they do.

If you find yourself in the position of being the initiator of sexual behavior, you owe sexual respect to your potential partner. These suggestions may help you to reduce your risk for being accused of sexual misconduct:

- Clearly communicate your intentions to your sexual partner and give them a chance to clearly relate their intentions to you.

- Understand and respect personal boundaries.
- **DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS** about consent; about someone's sexual availability; about whether they are attracted to you; about how far you can go or about whether they are physically and/or mentally able to consent. Your partner's consent should be affirmative and continuous. If there are any questions or ambiguity then you **DO NOT** have consent.
- Mixed messages from your partner are a clear indication that you should stop, defuse any sexual tension and communicate better. You may be misreading them. They may not have figured out how far they want to go with you yet. You must respect the timeline for sexual behaviors with which they are comfortable.
- Don't take advantage of someone's drunkenness or altered state, even if they willingly consumed alcohol or substances.
- Realize that your potential partner could feel intimidated or coerced by you. You may have a power advantage simply because of your gender or physical presence. Don't abuse that power.
- Do not share intimate content, pictures, images and videos that are shared with you.
- Understand that consent to some form of sexual behavior does not automatically imply consent to any other forms of sexual behavior.
- Silence, passivity, or non-responsiveness cannot be interpreted as an indication of consent. Read your potential partner carefully, paying attention to verbal and non-verbal communication and body language.

V. Sexual Misconduct Offenses Include (but are not limited to):

A. Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is:

- unwelcome,
- sexual, sex-based and/or gender-based verbal, written, online and/or physical conduct.

Anyone experiencing sexual harassment in any college program is encouraged to report it immediately to the Title IX Coordinator or a deputy. Remedies, education and/or training will be provided in response.

Sexual harassment may be disciplined when it takes the form of quid pro quo harassment, retaliatory harassment and/or creates a hostile environment.

A hostile environment is created when sexual harassment is:

- sufficiently severe, or
- persistent or pervasive, and
- objectively offensive that it:
unreasonably interferes with, denies or limits someone's ability to participate in or benefit from the SCC's educational and/or employment, social and/or residential program.

Quid Pro Quo Harassment is:

- 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.

This includes when submission to such conduct would be a condition for access to receiving the benefits of any educational or employment program.

Examples include: an attempt to coerce an unwilling person into a sexual relationship; to repeatedly subject a person to egregious, unwelcome sexual attention; to punish a refusal to comply with a sexual based request; to condition a benefit on submitting to sexual advances; sexual violence; intimate partner violence, stalking; gender-based bullying.

Some examples of possible Sexual Harassment include:

- A faculty member insists that a student have sex with him/her in exchange for a good grade. This is harassment regardless of whether the student accedes to the request.
- A student repeatedly sends sexually oriented jokes around on an email list s/he created, even when asked to stop, causing one recipient to avoid the sender on campus and in the residence hall in which they both live.
- Explicit sexual pictures are displayed in a faculty member's office or on the exterior of a residence hall door
- Two supervisors frequently 'rate' several employees' bodies and sex appeal, commenting suggestively about their clothing and appearance.
- A faculty member engages students in her class in discussions about their past sexual experiences, yet the conversation is not in any way germane to the subject matter of the class. She probes for explicit details, and demands that students answer her, though they are clearly uncomfortable and hesitant.
- An ex-girlfriend widely spreads false stories about her sex life with her former boyfriend to the clear discomfort of the boyfriend, turning him into a social pariah on campus
- Male students take to calling a particular brunette student "Monica" because of her resemblance to Monica Lewinsky. Soon, everyone adopts this nickname for her, and she is the target of relentless remarks about cigars, the president, "sexual relations" and Weight Watchers.
- A student grabbed another student by the hair, then grabbed her breast and put his mouth on it. While this is sexual harassment, it is also a form of sexual violence.

B. Non-Consensual Sexual Contact

Non-Consensual Sexual Contact is:

- any intentional sexual touching,
- however slight,
- with any object,
- by a person upon another person,
- that is without consent and/or by force.

Sexual Contact includes:

- Intentional contact with the breasts, buttock, groin, or genitals, or touching another with any of these body parts, or making another touch you or themselves with or on any of these body parts;
or
- Any other intentional bodily contact in a sexual manner.

C. Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse

Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse is:

- any sexual intercourse
- however slight,
- with any object,
- by a person upon another person,
- that is without consent and/or by force.

Intercourse includes:

- vaginal or anal penetration by a penis, object, tongue or finger, and oral copulation (mouth to genital contact), no matter how slight the penetration or contact.

D. Sexual Exploitation

Occurs when one person takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for his/her own advantage or benefit, or to benefit or advantage anyone other than the one being exploited, and that behavior does not otherwise constitute one of other sexual misconduct offenses.

Examples of sexual exploitation include, but are not limited to:

- Invasion of sexual privacy;
- Prostituting another person;
- Non-consensual digital, video or audio recording of nudity or sexual activity;
- Unauthorized sharing or distribution of digital, video or audio recording of nudity or sexual activity;
- Engaging in voyeurism;
- Going beyond the boundaries of consent (such as letting your friend hide in the closet to watch you having consensual sex);
- Knowingly exposing someone to or transmitting an STI, STD or HIV to another person;
- Intentionally or recklessly exposing one's genitals in non-consensual circumstances; inducing another to expose their genitals;
- Sexually-based stalking and/or bullying may also be forms of sexual exploitation

E. Additional Applicable Definitions:

1. Consent:

- Consent is
 - clear, and
 - knowing, and
 - voluntary [or affirmative, conscious and voluntary],
 - words or actions,
 - that give permission for specific sexual activity.
 - Consent is active, not passive.
 - Silence, in and of itself, cannot be interpreted as consent.
- Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create mutually understandable permission regarding willingness to engage in (and the conditions of) sexual activity.
- Consent to any one form of sexual activity cannot automatically imply consent to any other forms of sexual activity.
- Previous relationships or prior consent cannot imply consent to future sexual acts.
- Consent can be withdrawn once given, as long as that withdrawal is clearly communicated.
- In order to give consent, one must be of legal age.

2. Incapacitated:

- Sexual activity with someone you know to be or should know to be incapacitated constitutes a violation of this policy.
- Incapacitation can occur mentally or physically, from developmental disability, by alcohol or other drug use, or blackout.
- The question of what the responding party should have known is objectively based on what a reasonable person in the place of the responding party, sober and exercising good judgment, would have known about the condition of the reporting party.
- Incapacitation is a state where someone cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because they lack the capacity to give knowing consent (e.g., to understand the “who, what, when, where, why or how” of their sexual interaction).
- This policy also covers a person whose incapacity results from mental disability, sleep, unconsciousness, involuntary physical restraint, or from the taking of rape drugs. [Possession, use and/or distribution of any of these substances, including Rohypnol, Ketamine, GHB, Burundanga, etc. is prohibited, and administering one of these drugs to another person is a violation of this policy. More information on these drugs can be found at <http://www.911rape.org/>].
- Incapacitation as defined by Iowa Law:
709.1A INCAPACITATION.
As used in this chapter, "incapacitated" means a person is disabled or deprived of ability, as follows:
 - a. "Mentally incapacitated" means that a person is temporarily incapable of apprising or controlling the person's own conduct due to the influence of a narcotic, anesthetic, or intoxicating substance.

- b. "Physically helpless" means that a person is unable to communicate an unwillingness to act because the person is unconscious, asleep, or is otherwise physically limited.
- c. "Physically incapacitated" means that a person has a bodily impairment or handicap that substantially limits the person's ability to resist or flee.

3. Force:

Force is the use of physical violence and/or imposing on someone physically to gain sexual access. Force also includes threats, intimidation (implied threats) and coercion that overcomes free will or resistance or that produces consent (Example: "Have sex with me or I'll hit you. Okay, don't hit me, I'll do what you want.").

4. Coercion:

Coercion is unreasonable pressure for sexual activity. When someone makes clear to you that they do not want sex, 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.

NOTE: There is no requirement for a party to resist the sexual advance or request, but resistance is a clear demonstration of non-consent. The presence of force is not demonstrated by the absence of resistance. Sexual activity that is forced is by definition non-consensual, but non-consensual sexual activity is not by definition forced. Use of alcohol or other drugs will never function to excuse any behavior that violates this policy. This policy is applicable regardless of the sexual orientation and/or gender identity of individuals engaging in sexual activity.

F. Examples

1. Amanda and Bill meet at a party. They spend the evening dancing and getting to know each other. Bill convinces Amanda to come up to his room. From 11:00pm until 3:00am, Bill uses every line he can think of to convince Amanda to have sex with him, but she adamantly refuses. He keeps at her, and begins to question her religious convictions, and accuses her of being "a prude." Finally, it seems to Bill that her resolve is weakening, and he convinces her to give him a "hand job" (hand to genital contact). Amanda would never had done it but for Bill's incessant advances. He feels that he successfully seduced her, and that she wanted to do it all along, but was playing shy and hard to get. Why else would she have come up to his room alone after the party? If she really didn't want it, she could have left. Bill is responsible for violating the Non-Consensual Sexual Contact policy. It is likely that campus decision-makers would find that the degree and duration of the pressure Bill applied to Amanda are unreasonable. Bill coerced Amanda into performing unwanted sexual touching upon him. Where sexual activity is coerced, it is forced. Consent is not valid when forced. Sex without consent is sexual misconduct.

2. Jiang is in his second year at the college. Beth is a first year student. Jiang comes to Beth's residence hall room with some mutual friends to watch a movie. Jiang and Beth, who have never met before, are attracted to each other. After the movie, everyone leaves, and Jiang and Beth are alone. They hit it off, and are soon becoming more intimate. They start to make out. Jiang verbally expresses his desire to have sex with Beth. Beth, who was abused by a baby-sitter when she was five, and has not had any sexual relations since, is shocked at how quickly things are progressing. As Jiang takes her by the wrist over to the bed, lays her down, undresses her, and begins to have intercourse with her, Beth has a severe flashback to her childhood trauma. She wants to tell Jiang to stop, but cannot. Beth is stiff and unresponsive during the intercourse. Is this a policy violation? Jiang would be held responsible in this scenario for Non Consensual Sexual Intercourse. It is the duty of the sexual initiator, Jiang, to make sure that he has mutually understandable consent to engage in sex. Though consent need not be verbal, it is the clearest form of consent. Here, Jiang had no verbal or non-verbal mutually understandable indication from Beth that she consented to sexual intercourse. Of course, wherever possible, it is important to be as clear as possible as to whether or not sexual contact is desired, and to be aware that for psychological reasons, or because of alcohol or drug use, one's partner may not be in a position to provide as clear an indication as the policy requires. As the policy makes clear, consent must be actively, not passively, given.

3. Kevin and John are at a party. Kevin is not sure how much John has been drinking, but he is pretty sure it's a lot. After the party, he walks John to his room, and John comes on to Kevin, initiating sexual activity. Kevin asks him if he is really up to this, and John says yes. Clothes go flying, and they end up in John's bed. Suddenly, John runs for the bathroom. When he returns, his face is pale, and Kevin thinks he may have thrown up. John gets back into bed, and they begin to have sexual intercourse. Kevin is having a good time, though he can't help but notice that John seems pretty groggy and passive, and he thinks John may have even passed out briefly during the sex, but he does not let that stop him. When Kevin runs into John the next day, he thanks him for the wild night. John remembers nothing, and decides to make a report to the Dean. This is a violation of the Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse Policy. Kevin should have known that John was incapable of making a rational, reasonable decision about sex. Even if John seemed to consent, Kevin was well aware that John had consumed a large amount of alcohol, and Kevin thought John was physically ill, and that he passed out during sex. Kevin should be held accountable for taking advantage of John in his condition. This is not the level of respectful conduct SCC expects.

G. Other Misconduct Offenses (will fall under Title IX when sex or gender-based)

1. Threatening or causing physical harm, extreme verbal abuse, or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person;
2. Discrimination, defined as actions that deprive other members of the community of educational or employment access, benefits or opportunities on the basis of sex or gender;
3. Intimidation, defined as implied threats or acts that cause an unreasonable fear of harm in another;
4. Hazing, defined as acts likely to cause physical or psychological harm or social ostracism to any person within the college community, when related to the admission, initiation, pledging, joining, or any other group-affiliation activity
5. Bullying, defined as
 - Repeated and/or severe
 - Aggressive behavior
 - Likely to intimidate or intentionally hurt, control or diminish another person, physically or mentally
 - That is not speech or conduct otherwise protected by the 1st Amendment.
6. Intimate Partner Violence, defined as violence or abuse between those in an intimate relationship to each other;
 - A boyfriend shoves his girlfriend into a wall upon seeing her talking to a male friend. This physical assault based in jealousy is a violation of the Intimate Partner Violence policy.
 - An ex-girlfriend shames her female partner, threatening to out her as a lesbian if she doesn't give the ex another chance. Psychological abuse is a form of Intimate Partner Violence.
 - A graduate student refuses to wear a condom and forces his girlfriend to take hormonal birth control though it makes her ill, in order to prevent pregnancy.
 - Married employees are witnessed in the parking garage, with one partner slapping and scratching the other in the midst of an argument.
7. Stalking
 - a. Stalking 1:
 - A course of conduct
 - Directed at a specific person
 - On the basis of actual or perceived membership in a protected class
 - That is unwelcome, AND
 - Would cause a reasonable person to feel fear
 - b. Stalking 2:
 - Repetitive and Menacing
 - Pursuit, following, harassing and/or interfering with the peace and/or safety of another]
 - c. Examples of Stalking:
 - a. A student repeatedly shows up at another student's on-campus residence, always notifying the front desk attendant that they are there to see the resident. Upon a call to the resident, the student informs residence hall staff that this visitor is uninvited and continuously attempts to see him/her, even so far as waiting for them outside of classes and showing up to their on-campus place of employment requesting that they go out on a date together. Stalking 1.

B. Employee Sanctions (listed below and defined in the Employee/Faculty Handbook)

- Warning – Written or Verbal
- Performance Improvement Plan
- Required Counseling
- Required Training or Education
- Demotion
- Loss of Annual Pay Increase
- Suspension without Pay
- Suspension with Pay
- Termination

C. Sanctioning for Sexual Misconduct

- Any person found responsible for violating the Non-Consensual Sexual Contact policy (where no intercourse has occurred) will likely receive a sanction ranging from probation to expulsion, depending on the severity of the incident, and taking into account any previous disciplinary violations.
- Any person found responsible for violating the Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse policy will likely face a recommended sanction of suspension or expulsion (student) or suspension or termination (employee).
- Any person found responsible for violating the Sexual Exploitation or Sexual Harassment policies will likely receive a recommended sanction ranging from warning to expulsion or termination, depending on the severity of the incident, and taking into account any previous disciplinary violations.

The decision-making body reserves the right to broaden or lessen any range of recommended sanctions in the case of serious mitigating circumstances or egregiously offensive behavior. Neither the initial hearing officers nor any appeals body or officer will deviate from the range of recommended sanctions unless compelling justification exists to do so.

VIII. Confidentiality, Privacy and Reporting

All college employees (faculty, staff, and administrators) are expected to immediately report actual or suspected discrimination or harassment to appropriate officials, though there are some limited exceptions. In order to make informed choices, it is important to be aware of confidentiality and mandatory reporting requirements when consulting campus resources. On campus, some resources may maintain confidentiality – meaning they are not required to report actual or suspected discrimination or harassment to appropriate college officials - thereby offering options and advice without any obligation to inform an outside agency or individual unless a victim has requested information to be shared. Other resources exist for a victim to report crimes and policy violations and these resources will take action when an incident is reported to them. The following describes the two reporting options at SCC:

A. Confidential Reporting

If a reporting party would like the details of an incident to be kept confidential, the reporting party may speak with:

Off-campus:

- Licensed professional counselors
- Local rape crisis counselors
- Domestic violence resources,
- Local or state assistance agencies,
- Clergy/Chaplains
- Athletic Trainers (if licensed, privileged under state statute and/or working under the supervision of a health professional)

All of the above individuals will maintain confidentiality except in extreme cases of immediate threat or danger, or abuse of a minor.

B. Formal Reporting Options

All college employees have a duty to report. Reporting parties may want to consider carefully whether they share personally identifiable details with non-confidential employees, as those details must be shared by the employee with the Title IX Coordinator and/or Deputy Coordinators. **Employees must share all details of the reports they receive.** Generally, climate surveys, classroom writing assignments, human subjects research, or events such as Take Back the Night marches or speak-outs do not provide notice that must be reported to the Coordinator by employees. Remedial actions may result without formal college action.

If a victim does not wish for their name to be shared, does not wish for an investigation to take place, or does not want a formal resolution to be pursued, the victim may make such a request to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinators, who will evaluate that request in light of the duty to ensure the safety of the campus and comply with federal law. In cases indicating pattern, predation, threat, weapons and/or violence, the college will likely be unable to honor a request for confidentiality. In cases where the victim requests confidentiality and the circumstances allow the college to honor that request, the college will offer interim supports and remedies to the victim and the community, but will not otherwise pursue formal action. A reporting party has the right, and can expect, to have reports taken seriously by the college when formally reported, and to have those incidents investigated and properly resolved through these procedures.

Formal reporting still affords privacy to the reporter, and only a small group of officials who need to know will be told. Information will be shared as necessary with investigators, witnesses and the responding party. The circle of people with this knowledge will be kept as tight as possible to preserve a reporting party's rights and privacy.

Reports to the Title IX Coordinator can be made via email, phone or in person at the contact information below:

Tina Young
Health Professions Building Office 104R
West Burlington Campus
319-208-5360
titleix@scciowa.edu

Adopted: 8/25/15

Reviewed:

Revised:

Failure of a non-confidential employee, as described in this section, to report an incident or incidents of sex or gender harassment or discrimination of which they become aware, is a violation of college policy and can be subject to disciplinary action for failure to comply with college policies.

IV. Additional Policy Provisions

A. Attempted violations

In most circumstances, SCC will treat attempts to commit any of the violations listed in the Gender-Misconduct Policy as if those attempts had been completed.

B. False Reports

SCC will not tolerate intentional false reporting of incidents. It is a violation of the Judicial Code of Conduct and Student Rights to make an intentionally false report of any policy violation, and it may also violate state criminal statutes and civil defamation laws.

C. Amnesty for Victims and Witnesses

The college community encourages the reporting of misconduct and crimes by victims and witnesses. Sometimes, victims or witnesses are hesitant to report to college officials or participate in resolution processes because they fear that they themselves may be accused of policy violations, such as underage drinking at the time of the incident. It is in the best interests of this community that as many victims as possible choose to report to college officials, and that witnesses come forward to share what they know. To encourage such reporting, SCC will not pursue disciplinary action of victims of misconduct and witnesses for minor policy violations related to the incident.

Sometimes, students are hesitant to offer assistance to others for fear that they may get themselves in trouble. SCC pursues a policy of amnesty for students who offer help to others in need. [While policy violations cannot be overlooked, SCC will provide educational options, rather than punishment, to those who offer their assistance to others in need.

D. Parental Notification

SCC reserves the right to notify parents/guardians of dependent students regarding any health or safety risk, change in student status or conduct situation, particularly alcohol and other drug violations. SCC may also notify parents/guardians of non-dependent students who are under age 21 of alcohol and/or drug policy violations. Where a student is non-dependent, SCC will contact parents/guardians to inform them of situations in which there is a significant and articulable health and/or safety risk. SCC also reserves the right to designate which college officials have a need to know about individual conduct reports pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Please refer to policies and procedures for reporting crimes in the SCC Student and/or SCC Employee Handbook. For emergencies call 911.