

Ohlone Community College District
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ATTENTION: STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

ANNUAL NOTICE OF OHLONE CCD'S BOARD POLICY (BP 3430) & ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES (AP 3430) REGARDING THE DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING AN ACADEMIC AND WORK ENVIRONMENT FREE OF UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT.

The District is committed to providing an academic and work environment free of unlawful harassment and unlawful discrimination. This procedure defines sexual harassment and other forms of harassment on campus, and sets forth a procedure for the investigation and resolution of complaints of harassment by or against any staff or faculty member or student within the District.

Definitions

General Harassment: Harassment of a student or an employee based on perceived or actual race, religion or religious creed, color, national origin, ethnic group identification, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, sex, gender, age, or sexual orientation of any person, or based on the individual's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics is illegal and violates District policy.

The law also protects employees from discrimination and harassment based on medical condition, marital status, gender (gender identity and gender expression) and genetic information. Gender-based harassment does not necessarily involve conduct that is sexual. Any hostile or offensive conduct based on gender can constitute prohibited harassment. For example, repeated derisive comments about a person's competency to do the job, when based on that person's gender, could constitute gender-based harassment.

Harassment comes in many forms, including but not limited to the following conduct:

Verbal: Inappropriate or offensive remarks, slurs, jokes or innuendoes based on a person's race gender, sexual orientation, or other protected status. This may include, but is not limited to, inappropriate comments regarding an individual's body, physical appearance, attire, sexual prowess, marital status or sexual orientation; unwelcome flirting or propositions; demands for sexual favors; verbal abuse, threats or intimidation; or sexist, patronizing or ridiculing statements that convey derogatory attitudes based on gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation or other protected status.

Physical: Inappropriate or offensive touching, assault, or physical interference with free movement. This may include, but is not limited to, kissing, patting, lingering or intimate touches, grabbing, pinching, leering, staring, unnecessarily brushing against or blocking another person, whistling or sexual gestures. It also includes any physical assault or intimidation directed at an individual due to that person's gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation or other protected status.



Visual or Written: The display or circulation of visual or written material that degrades an individual or group based on gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation or other protected status. This may include, but is not limited to, posters, cartoons, drawings, graffiti, reading materials, computer graphics or electronic media transmissions (including postings on social media).

Environmental: A hostile academic or work environment exists where it is permeated by sexual innuendo; insults or abusive comments directed at an individual or group based on gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation or other protected status; or gratuitous comments regarding gender, race, sexual orientation, or other protected status that are not relevant to the subject matter of the class or activities on the job. A hostile environment can arise from an unwarranted focus on sexual topics or sexually suggestive statements in the classroom or work environment. It can also be created by an unwarranted focus on, or stereotyping of, particular racial or ethnic groups, sexual orientations, genders or other protected statuses. An environment may also be hostile toward anyone who merely witnesses unlawful harassment in his/her immediate surroundings, although the conduct is directed at others. The determination of whether an environment is hostile is based on the totality of the circumstances, including such factors as the frequency of the conduct, the severity of the conduct, whether the conduct is humiliating or physically threatening, and whether the conduct unreasonably interferes with an individual's learning or work.

Sexual Harassment: In addition to the above, sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other conduct of a sexual nature when:

submission to the conduct is made a term or condition of an individual's employment, academic status, or progress;

submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as a basis of employment or academic decisions affecting the individual;

the conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or educational environment; or

submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the community college.



This definition encompasses two kinds of sexual harassment:

“Quid pro quo” sexual harassment occurs when a person in a position of authority makes educational or employment benefits conditional upon an individual’s willingness to engage in or tolerate unwanted sexual conduct.

“Hostile environment” sexual harassment occurs when unwelcome conduct based on a person’s gender is sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to alter the conditions of an individual’s learning or work environment, unreasonably interfere with an individual’s academic or work performance, or create an intimidating, hostile, or abusive learning or work environment. The victim must subjectively perceive the environment as hostile, and the harassment must be such that a reasonable person of the same gender would perceive the environment as hostile.

Sexually harassing conduct can occur between people of the same or different genders. The standard for determining whether conduct constitutes sexual harassment is whether a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim would perceive the conduct as harassment based on sex.

Examples: Harassment includes, but is not limited to the following misconduct:

Verbal: Inappropriate or offensive remarks, slurs, jokes or innuendoes based on a person’s protected status, including but not limited to sex. This may include, but is not limited to, inappropriate comments regarding an individual’s body, physical appearance, attire, sexual prowess, marital status or sexual orientation; unwelcome flirting or propositions; demands for sexual favors; verbal abuse, threats or intimidation of a sexual nature; or sexist, patronizing or ridiculing statements that convey derogatory attitudes about a particular gender.

Physical: Inappropriate or offensive touching, assault, or physical interference with free movement. This may include, but is not limited to, kissing, patting, lingering or intimate touches, grabbing, pinching, leering, staring, unnecessarily brushing against or blocking another person, whistling or sexual gestures.

Visual or Written: The display or circulation of offensive sexually oriented or other discriminatory visual or written material. This may include, but is not limited to, posters, cartoons, drawings, graffiti, reading materials, computer graphics or electronic media transmissions.



Environmental: An academic or work environment that is permeated with racially or sexually-oriented talk, innuendo, insults or abuse not relevant to the subject matter of the class or activities on the job. A hostile environment can arise from an unwarranted focus on sexual topics or sexually suggestive statements in the classroom or work environment. An environment may be hostile if unwelcome sexual behavior or other harassing behavior based on a protected status is directed specifically at an individual or if the individual merely witnesses unlawful harassment in his/her immediate surroundings. The determination of whether an environment is hostile is based on the totality of the circumstances, including such factors as the frequency of the conduct, the severity of the conduct, whether the conduct is humiliating or physically threatening, and whether the conduct unreasonably interferes with an individual's learning or work.

Consensual Relationships

Romantic or sexual relationships between supervisors and employees, or between administrators, faculty or staff members and students are discouraged. There is an inherent imbalance of power and potential for exploitation in such relationships. A conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety may arise if the administrator, faculty or staff member must evaluate the student's or employee's work or make decisions affecting the employee or student. The relationship may create an appearance of impropriety and lead to charges of favoritism by other students or employees. A consensual sexual relationship may change, with the result that sexual conduct that was once welcome becomes unwelcome and harassing. In the event that such relationships do occur, the District has the authority to transfer any involved employee to eliminate or attenuate the supervisory authority of one over the other, or of an instructor over a student. Such action by the District is a proactive and preventive measure to avoid possible charges of harassment and does not constitute discipline against any affected employee.

The District has detailed procedures for filing complaints. If at any time you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against, harassed, or witnessed discrimination or harassment please contact the appropriate district officer/administrator for referral or resolution. The designated district officers are:

1. Dr. Ron Travenick, Vice President of Student Affairs – Student Complaints
2. Shairon Zingsheim, Associate Vice President, Human Resources and Training – Employee complaints
3. Ron Little, Vice President of Administrative Services – Contractors (including vendors), community members, and general public complaints.

Please visit the following link for the complete procedure for filing complaints:

<http://www.ohlone.edu/org/board/policy/ap-chapter3/ap3435.html>