

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICIES

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OVERVIEW

- Discrimination & Equal Opportunity
- Retaliation
- *Reasonable Accommodations:
 - Disabilities
 - Religion
 - Pregnancy
 - Victim of Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Sexual Offense
- Sexual Harassment/Misconduct

Nondiscrimination and Sexual Harassment/Misconduct

- The LAW prohibits discrimination and sexual misconduct
- CUNY POLICIES prohibit discrimination & sexual misconduct
- Respectful, Professional workplace is good for all!
- Diversity is good for BUSINESS!



Kingsborough Community College VALUES

RESPECT Civility, acceptance, appreciation, and support of individual

differences

DIVERSITY The proactive fostering of greater inclusion and ultimately

equity at every level of college life

INTEGRITY Fair and ethical standards in all policies, procedures, and

practices

EXCELLENCE High quality teaching, student services, administration,

and community engagement; and high standards for

student achievement

ACCOUNTABILITY Taking responsibility for our actions and outcomes

INNOVATION Creative thinking and approaches that enhance learning and

support continuous improvement

CUNY Policies

Policy on Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination

"Diversity, inclusion, and an environment free from discrimination are central to the mission of the University."

"It is also the University's policy to provide reasonable accommodations when appropriate to individuals with disabilities, individuals observing religious practices, employees who have pregnancy or childbirth-related medical conditions, or employees who are victims of domestic violence/stalking/sex offenses."

Policy on Sexual Misconduct

"Every member of [CUNY's] community, including students, employees and visitors, deserves the opportunity to live, learn and work free from sexual harassment, gender-based harassment and sexual violence."

Policy on Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination

- EEO Protected Categories
- Laws
- Definitions
- Retaliation
- Reasonable Accommodation
- Confidentiality
- Reporting Requirements

Protected Civil Rights Categories

- Age
- Race
- Color
- Disability
- Sex (including pregnancy)
- Religion/Creed
- Gender/Gender Identity
- Sexual Orientation
- National Origin/Ethnicity
- Military/Veteran Status
- Partnership Status
- Marital Status

- Credit History
- Prior Record Arrest or Conviction
- Victims of Domestic Violence/Sex Offense or Stalking
- Alienage, Immigration or Citizenship Status
- Predisposing Genetic Information
- Unemployment Status
- Familial/Caregiver Status

Federal Laws

Equal Pay Act of 1963

Requires men & women performing substantially equal jobs receive equal pay.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII)

Prohibits discrimination based on race, (USERRA)
 color, religion, sex, and national origin
 Prohib

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA)

Prohibits discrimination against individuals age 40 and older

Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978

Prohibits discrimination on pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions

The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

 Prohibits discrimination against people with physical or mental disabilities

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA)

Prohibits discrimination based on military status

Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993

 Provides eligible employees with unpaid leave and restoration rights

Federal Laws cont'd

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs receiving federal funding.
- Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination based on sex in any education program receiving federal funding.

ADA-Title II - prohibits discrimination based on disability by state and local governments.

- Rehabilitation Act of 1973-Section 504 prohibits discrimination based on disability in programs that receive funding from the U.S. Department of Education. Requires recipients to provide reasonable accommodations for employees or students with disabilities.
- Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCCP) - affirmative action requirements regarding women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and protected veterans.
- At CUNY, Italian Americans are among the protected groups for affirmative action.
 - Invitation to self-identify in CUNYfirst (for statistical purposes).

What Are New York's Laws?

New York State Human Rights Law

Prohibits discrimination based on race, color, creed, age, national origin, military status, sex, sexual orientation, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, arrest or conviction record, marital or familial status, or domestic violence victim status.

New York City Human Rights Law

Prohibits discrimination based on race, color, creed, age, national origin, alienage/citizenship status, gender (gender identity and sexual harassment), sexual orientation, disability, arrest or conviction record, marital status, partnership status, or victim of domestic violence, stalking and sex offenses, credit history, and caregiver status.

NYS Labor Law

 Requires companies to address sexual harassment incidents with policies and annual training (online via ESPARC)

NYC Workplace Religious Freedom Act

Clarifies employer's obligation to provide religious accommodation.

NYC Pregnant Workers Fairness Act & NYS Pregnancy Discrimination Act

Employers obligations to accommodate pregnant workers.

NYS "Enough is Enough" Law

Addresses sexual misconduct on campuses and "affirmative consent" requirement.

***NYS Executive Order and NYC Law seek to increase gender pay equity, by prohibiting inquiries into an applicant's salary history.

Scenario

Ted (Japanese ethnicity) claims that he is being "targeted" by his supervisor, Sam (Chinese ethnicity). Ted alleges that he is given an undesirable lunch schedule, is being denied training opportunities, and that Sam has not promoted him. Ted believes that Sam does not know how to "manage" and that he has poor "people-skills." However, Ted admits that he does not follow Sam's instructions, is often late, and, on occasion, does not submit work on time. Ted files a complaint with the Chief Diversity Officer.

Please discuss and list the pertinent issues with your colleagues.

Scenario



Mary, a 60-year old Higher Education Assistant, has worked at CUNY for 25 years and loves her job. Her supervisor, Alex, recently hired Jane, a 30-year old Higher Ed Assistant who has 5 years of relevant job experience. Jane is energetic and highly motivated. The following year, Alex "promotes" Jane via reclassification. When Mary complains, Alex states that "we need new blood" and asks "don't you want to retire?"

Please take a few minutes to discuss and list all the pertinent issues with your colleagues.

What is Employment Discrimination?

Conduct or action taken against a person <u>because of</u> the person's protected status which adversely affects the terms and conditions of that person's employment.

- Consistency, Uniformity and Fairness
- ***Importance of documentation
- Legitimate Business Reason
- ***Totality of the Circumstances Context Matters



You are Protected from Discrimination in all aspects of Employment

- **RECRUITMENT**
- ***** TESTING
- ***** HIRING
- **WORK ASSIGNMENT**
- **❖** SALARY/BENEFITS
- ❖ PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- **PROMOTIONS**
- TRAINING
 OPPORTUNITIES
- *****TRANSFERS
- **DISCIPLINE**
- **❖** DISCHARGE
- **WORKING CONDITIONS**

Discrimination Examples:

- Hiring a younger employee (age) because we want "new college graduates" and "energized, digital natives" here, even though an older worker has better education and experience.
- Not hiring a veteran (military) because you assume that he or she has post-traumatic stress disorder (disability).
- ❖ Promoting a female (**gender**) because you feel she is "more nurturing" even though a male had better evaluations in patient interaction. E.g. a nurse.
- Ignoring a gay employee (sexual orientation) because you believe homosexuality is "wrong." You never invite the employee to work lunches or outings with co-workers.
- Demoting and relegating a Muslim employee (religion) to the back room because you feel that the employee's hijab (religious head scarf) is inappropriate. The Muslim employee used to work at the front desk.

Actual or Perceived Membership

It is a violation to discriminate/harass someone because of that person's actual or "perceived" membership in a protected category.

Beware of:

- Stereotyping
- Myths
- Biases
- Assumptions

... based on any of the protected categories

Scenario: Rudy The Monster!



Rudy is a manager who is "very tough" on his staff. Some staff members complain that Rudy is abusive, always yelling, and making demeaning and condescending comments. However, Rudy, a huge Yankee fan, has a small "clique" of fellow Yankee fans in the office that he treats well by approving their vacation requests, excusing their lateness, and never yelling at them. Is there a hostile work environment? How to address it?

What is Unlawful Harassment?

Unwelcome conduct with the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment because of the individual's protected status.

Scenario



Supervisor Joe Shmell manages his unit in a "laid back" way. He believes that employees should be able to "joke around" to relieve stress at work. He tells jokes about gay people, calls women "honey," and has nick-named an Italian-American employee "John Gotti." Employees in the unit often send emails to each other with insensitive racial and ethnic jokes. When spoken to by the CDO, Supervisor Shmell responded that people who are offended by these jokes are "oversensitive." He also excused his joking by saying: "I didn't mean to offend anyone." He added that his staff, which is racially and ethnically diverse, "enjoys" working for him.

Examples of a Hostile Environment:

- Calling employees racial or ethnic slurs or epithets even one use is problematic.
- Sending sexual explicit emails to coworkers or subordinates.
- Drawing a swastika on a bathroom wall.
- Making jokes about race, sexual orientation, sex, religion, gender identity, etc.
- Unwelcome touching and sexual advances.
- A supervisor or manager who allows such a hostile environment may be **personally liable and subject to appropriate disciplinary action**.

Retaliation

It is **unlawful** and **a violation** of the EO Policy to retaliate against someone who has:

- Filed an EO complaint
- Participated in an EO investigation
- Opposed discrimination or discriminatory harassment
- Requested a reasonable accommodation

Things to Remember:

- Maintain confidentiality.
- **DO NOT RETALIATE!** Treat the Same as Similarly-Situated persons.

Examples of Retaliation:

- Firing an employee after you find out that he filed a complaint against you.
- Suddenly scrutinizing and "nit-picking" an employee who participated as a witness in an EO investigation.
- Giving a bad evaluation because an employee simply complained about the harassment a co-worker was being subjected to.
- Professional isolation ignoring or keeping someone out of the loop.

Reasonable Accommodation

An **individualized** action taken to adapt or adjust for a person's:

- 1. Disability
- 2. Religious need or practice
- 3. Status as a victim of domestic violence, sex offense or stalking, or
- 4. Pregnancy, child-birth or related medical conditions: done in a way that does not impose an undue hardship.

^{*}Cooperative Dialogue/Interactive, Communicative process: CUNY Procedures for Reasonable Accommodations and Academic Adjustments

Reasonable Accommodation cont'd

If you **need** an accommodation or **become aware of** a request for an accommodation, you should immediately:

- Get Human Resources involved. HR will work with parties to discuss accommodations, essential job functions, employee limitations, and undue hardship
- Matter is to be kept CONFIDENTIAL
- Invite Individuals with Disabilities to Self-Identify in CUNYfirst.
- DO NOT engage in retaliatory conduct
 - DO NOT take adverse action or make negative comments about the employee's approved accommodations/leaves.
 E.g. "He's always out sick."

Examples of reasonable accommodations:

- Modifying work schedules
- Granting breaks or providing leave
- Moving to different office space
- Reconfiguring work spaces/equipment
- Providing assistive technology/equipment

What is NOT a reasonable accommodation?

- Removal of an essential job function
- Hiring someone to do your job
- Undue hardship on employer: financial, administrative
- Lowering performance or conduct standards Instead, UNIFORM, CONSISTENT APPLICATION of STANDARDS!

EO Policy Complaint Procedures

- Contact Chief Diversity Officer Michael J. Valente, Esq.
 - call 718-368-6896, visit Room V231 or email
- Confidential Process Information may be disclosed on a need-to-know basis
- Informal Resolution (30 days) or Investigation (60 days) takes place:
 - Parties and Witnesses interviewed
 - Documents reviewed
- * Reasonable Determination based on evidence presented
- * Review of **findings** by the President
- Appropriate remedial action is taken, if warranted

Remedies

- Immediate Preventive Action to protect University community; separate parties
- Training
- Counseling
- Discipline
 - Up To and Including Termination of Employment

Managers and Supervisors

- ✓ Mandated Reporters must contact CDO
- Maintain Confidentiality
- Cooperate with the Investigation
- ❖ Agents Can be held personally liable
- Model Behavior expected of Employees
- ♦ NO RETALIATION! Hold employee to same standards as similarly-situated persons
- Clearly Communicate work expectations
- Progressive Discipline

Employees

- Reporting Requirements
 - May go directly to the CDO to file internal EEO complaint (need not complain first to supervisor)
- Maintain Confidentiality
- Cooperate Fully with the investigation
- Can file complaints externally with
 - EEOC
 - Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
 - State Division of Human Rights (SDHR), and
 - City Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), or file a lawsuit

Policy on Sexual Misconduct

- Sexual Harassment
- Other Harassment based on Sex
- ❖ Sexual Violence:
 - Sexual Assault
 - Domestic/Intimate Partner/Dating Violence
 - Stalking
 - Voyeurism

Scenario



Don Juan likes to joke around in the office. As such, he is generally well-liked. However, Don Juan likes to talk about his sex life and makes jokes about sexual topics. Also, he has given various "nick names" to his coworkers. For example, he calls Joe "sweet cheeks," Mary "honey pie," and Sue "Big Ho."

Does CUNY Policy prohibit Don Juan's conduct? How would you address this matter, if you were Sue? If you were Don Juan's supervisor?

What Is Sexual Harassment?

Sexual harassment is any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including sexual advances, and requests for sexual favors, that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment because of gender.

The effect of the conduct will be evaluated based on the perspective of a reasonable person in the position of a Complainant.

Sexual harassment is considered a form of employee misconduct and an employee who engages in such conduct, or managerial and supervisory personnel who knowingly allow such behavior to continue, shall be subject to discipline in accordance with applicable rules, policies and collective bargaining agreements.

Examples of Sexual Harassment:

- Sexual comments, teasing, or jokes
- Inappropriate or unwelcome physical contact, such as touching, groping, patting, pinching, hugging, kissing, or brushing up against an individual's body
- Sexual slurs, demeaning words, or other verbal abuse
- Graphic or sexually suggestive comments
- Inquiries or discussions about sexual activities
- Pressure to accept social and/or electronic invitations, to meet privately, to date, or to have sexual relations
- Sexually suggestive letters or other written or visual communication, including email, text, Snapchat, photo and other social media communications

Other Harassment based on Sex

Unwelcome conduct of a nonsexual nature based on an individual's actual or perceived sex or sexual orientation, including conduct based on gender identity, gender expression or non-conformity with gender stereotypes

Examples:

- Intentionally using the wrong pronoun to identify a transgender individual
- Mocking a person's appearance
- Malicious "gossip" about a transgender individual
- Refusing to Allow Individuals to Use Single-Sex
 Facilities Consistent With Their Gender Identity

What is Sexual Violence?

Consists of:

- Sexual assault, such as rape/attempted rape, forcible touching, fondling, groping, grabbing and rubbing
- Dating, intimate partner, domestic violence
- Stalking / Cyberstalking
- Voyeurism (unlawful surveillance, violation of right to privacy in connection with person's body and/or sexual activity)

Sexual Assault

- Sexual assault is a crime.
- Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without consent and/or through the use of force, threat of force, intimidation, or coercion.
- Rape, attempted rape, forcible touching, criminal sexual act, and sexual abuse.
- Sexual assault can be committed when someone has not given or is unable to give consent, for example, because of intoxication.
- Sexual assault can be a form of sexual harassment.

Dating / Intimate Partner / Domestic Violence

- Dating/Intimate Partner/Domestic violence includes:
 - a pattern of coercive conduct that can include physical, psychological, sexual, economic and emotional abuse perpetrated by one person against an intimate partner.
 - a single incident of sexual assault.
 - does not need to be sexual in nature.
 - CUNY Policy On Domestic Violence and Workplace (nondiscrimination, reasonable accommodations for victims)

Stalking

- Stalking is a crime
- Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person with whom the perpetrator currently has, previously had, or desires to have some form of sexual or romantic relationship -- that causes that person reasonable fear or distress
- Stalking includes repeated behaviors that harass or threaten the victim, such as following a person, appearing at a person's home or place of business, or sending harassing calls, messages or photos
- Stalking includes cyberstalking using electronic forms of communication, including social media
- Stalking does not have to be sexual in nature

Incident Reporting

If you experience or observe sexual misconduct/violence, you can contact the Title IX Coordinator, Human Resources Office, or Public Safety Office

or

Call 911 immediately!
Also, PRESERVE evidence!!

ANYONE Can be a Victim of Sexual Misconduct

- Victims include those of any:
 - gender
 - gender identity
 - sexual orientation
 - physical or mental ability
 - religious affiliation
 - citizenship status
 - Race / class, or
 - Educational level
- Sexual misconduct can also occur between members of the same sex/gender.

What Is Affirmative Consent?

Consent is a knowing, voluntary and mutual decision among all participants to engage in agreed upon sexual activity. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as they create clear permission to engage in the sexual activity. Each person must clearly communicate his/her willingness and permission to engage in sexual activity.

- A person who is drunk or high may not be able to consent.
- Having sex with a person who is passed out, or slides in and out of consciousness, is rape.
- Failure to resist or say "no" does not equal consent.
- Silence does not constitute consent.

Regarding Consent:

- Past consent to sexual relations does not constitute consent to subsequent relations
- Consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to other forms
- A person's appearance/dress does not communicate consent
- During an encounter, a person may consent to certain sexual acts and not to others.
- A person under 17 years old cannot consent to sexual intercourse under New York law
- CUNY Policy <u>prohibits</u> faculty members and other employees from engaging in consensual intimate relationships with <u>students</u> for whom they have a professional responsibility
- CUNY Policy <u>strongly discourages</u> consensual intimate relationships between a <u>supervisor and supervisee</u>. Such relationships must be disclosed to the <u>supervisor</u>'s <u>supervisor</u>

Reporting a Sexual Misconduct Complaint

All individuals who believe they have experienced or witnessed sexual misconduct are strongly encouraged to report the incident to campus authorities.

Please view <u>CUNY's Title IX Webpage</u> "Enough is Enough: Combating Sexual Misconduct at http://www1.cuny.edu/sites/title-ix/campus/university/.

Employees can report to:

- Title IX Coordinator
- Director of HR
- Office of Public Safety

Sexual Misconduct Complaints:

- Complaints are promptly investigated by the Title IX Coordinator, or his/her designee, with assistance from Public Safety and Human Resources.
- All students and employees are encouraged, though not required, to report all incidents of sexual violence to the NYPD. Public Safety can help with filing a police complaint. It is the Complainant's choice.
- Parties can receive assistance, interim/supportive measures, and resources from the institution.

Filing an External Complaint

- The following federal, state, and local agencies enforce laws against sexual misconduct or sex discrimination. If you are a victim of sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, you may file an external complaint with these agencies, or you may file litigation in a court of competent jurisdiction. Depending on the forum, the time to file and the available remedies may vary based on the applicable statutes of limitations.
- New York City Commission on Human Rights http://www1.nyc.gov/site/cchr/index.page
- New York State Division on Human Rights http://www.dhr.ny.gov
- US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission http://www.eeoc.gov
- US Department of Justice <u>http://www.justice.gov/</u>
- US Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights http://www2.ed.gov/ocr

Responsible Employees

REQUIRED to report incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator

- Title IX Coordinator and staff
- Office of Public Safety employees
- Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students and all staff in those offices (except Confidential employees)
- Residence Life staff in CUNY owned or operated housing, including Resident Assistants
- College President, Vice Presidents and Deans
- Athletics Staff, Faculty Athletics Representatives
- Department Chairpersons/Executive officers
- International Education Liaisons/Study Abroad Directors

Responsible Employees, cont'd

REQUIRED to report incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator

- Human Resources Director and Deputy Director
- College/Unit attorney and staff
- College/Unit labor designee
- Faculty/staff members when leading off-campus trips
- Employees who are managers or supervisors
- College Childcare Center staff

Managers and Supervisors

As Responsible Employees, managers and supervisors are <u>mandated</u> to report complaints or incidents of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator

- As Agents of institution Can be held personally liable
- Sanctions will be enforced against Managers and Supervisors who knowingly allow sexual misconduct or sexual harassment to continue
- Model Behavior expected of Employees
- **NO RETALIATION!**

All Other Employees

- Employees who are not designated "Responsible Employees" are <u>strongly encouraged</u> to report any possible sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator.
- Only certain employees (designated "Confidential Employees" such as mental health counselors) can promise that an allegation of sexual misconduct will remain confidential.

Confidentiality - Employees

- Employees who wish to report an incident confidentially should contact support services available through CUNY's Work/Life Program (EAP), that is administered by an independent company.
- Employees can report misconduct, confidentially if they choose, to the Office of General Counsel at: http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/lablereportmissconduct.pdf

SAFETY FIRST!

Where appropriate, CUNY will provide assistance and implement security/interim measures to keep employees, students and the campus community Safe. Can seek review of interim measures.

For employees

- Security escort
- Office relocation
- Free confidential support services through CUNY's Work/Life Program
- No Contact Order between Complainant and Respondent
- Honor Orders of Protection

For students

- Security escort
- Class or dorm reassignment
- On campus counseling
- Academic assistance
- No Contact Order between Complainant and Respondent
- Honor Orders of Protection

What Is Retaliation?

- Retaliation is adverse treatment of an individual because he/she made a sexual misconduct complaint, opposed sexual misconduct, or cooperated with an investigation
- Retaliation is illegal
- No individual, including the respondent, may directly, or through a third-party, intimidate, threaten or coerce the complainant or any other participant in the investigation/disciplinary process including witnesses, panel members, and investigators
- CUNY will seek to discipline anyone found to have engaged in retaliation

Employee Discipline

- The procedures for imposing discipline on many CUNY employees are governed by collective bargaining agreements.
- In many instances, discipline cannot be imposed without a hearing before a neutral fact-finder.
- The complainant and respondent will be informed in writing of the outcome when the disciplinary procedure is complete.
- While these proceedings are pending, CUNY may separate parties, as necessary.

Possible Disciplinary Penalties

Employees

(based on collective bargaining agreements)

- Reprimand, suspension or termination of employment
- Demotion
- Fine or restitution
- Campus ban
- No contact order
- CUNY may also take other measures not governed by CBAs, such as removal from discretionary positions

Students

- Probation, suspension, expulsion
- Removal from dorm and/or extracurricular activities including athletics
- Campus ban

IMPORTANT "TAKEAWAYS":

1.	Employees have R, but also R, under the
	EO/Nondiscrimination/Sexual Misconduct Policies.
2.	S FIRST, Get Assistance!!
3.	If you something, something, especially if you are a M Reporter!!
4.	If you have a Discrimination or Sexual Misconduct concern or complaint, <i>Who you gonna call?</i> G B or the CDO/Title IX Coordinator ?

IMPORTANT "TAKEAWAYS":

- 1. Employees have <u>rights</u>, but also <u>responsibilities</u>, under the EO/Nondiscrimination/Sexual Misconduct Policies.
- 2. Safety FIRST, Get Assistance!!
- 3. If you see something, say something, especially if you are a Mandated Reporter!!
- 4. If you have a Discrimination or Sexual Misconduct concern or complaint, Who you gonna call? Ghostbusters or the CDO/Title IX Coordinator, Michael J. Valente, Esq.?



Thank you!