

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST  
POLICY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT,  
AND RELATED INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

*Including Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment, Sexual  
Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Intimate Partner Violence,  
Stalking, Complicity, and Retaliation*

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## **I. STATEMENT OF POLICY**

This Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence, Including Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, Complicity, and Retaliation (“Policy”) prohibits all forms of Discrimination and Harassment based on Protected Status<sup>1</sup>. It covers nondiscrimination in employment and in access to educational opportunities. Any member of the campus community, guest, or visitor who acts to deny, deprive or limit the educational, employment, residential and/or social access, benefits, and/or opportunities of any member of the campus community on the basis of their actual or perceived membership in the protected classes listed above will be in violation of this policy. This policy expressly, therefore, also prohibits Sexual Violence and Sexual Exploitation, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking. Finally, this Policy prohibits Complicity for knowingly assisting in an act that violates this Policy and Retaliation against an individual because of their good faith participation in the reporting, investigation, or adjudication of violations of this Policy. University students and employees who violate this Policy may face discipline up to and including expulsion or termination. When brought to the attention of the University, the University will take actions appropriately to respond to, stop, remedy, and prevent the reoccurrence of any such discrimination.

Discrimination, Harassment (including Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence), Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, Complicity, and Retaliation (collectively hereafter referred to as "Prohibited Conduct") are defined in Section VII of this Policy.

In accordance with this Policy, the University will maintain Procedures which detail the complaint procedures and appeal rights associated with violations of this Policy.

### **Notice of Non-Discrimination Based on Protected Status**

The University of Massachusetts Amherst (the “University”) is committed in policy, principle, and practice to maintaining an environment which prohibits discriminatory behavior and provides equal opportunity for all persons. The University affirms its commitment to provide a welcoming and respectful work and educational environment, in which all individuals within the University community may benefit from each other’s experiences and foster mutual respect and appreciation of divergent views. The University will not be tolerant of conduct which violates rights guaranteed by the law or University policies. Accordingly, and pursuant to the Affirmative Action and Non-Discrimination Policy, the University prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon protected characteristics, and retaliatory conduct, in accordance with state and federal non-discrimination laws, including but not limited to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and the Massachusetts anti-discrimination laws.

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<sup>1</sup>The University of Massachusetts Amherst prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, marital status, national origin, mental or physical disability, political belief or affiliation, pregnancy and pregnancy related condition(s), veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information and any other class of individuals protected from discrimination under state or federal law in any aspect of the access to, admission, or treatment of students in its programs and activities, or in employment and application for employment.

## **Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking Are Prohibited Forms of Conduct**

Just as the University's prohibition of discrimination based on Protected Status (including Sexual Assault as a form of Sexual Harassment) is grounded in federal law, so is its prohibition against Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking. The University's response to Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking is governed by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f) (the Clery Act) and Section 304 of the 2013 Amendments to the Violence Against Women Act. The University is committed to taking all appropriate steps to eliminate Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence, Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking; prevent the recurrence of such acts; and address their effects, both for the Reporting Party and the broader community. The University recognizes that Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence, Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking encompass a broad spectrum of conduct and will respond according to both the severity of the allegation and the threat it poses to the campus community.

### **II. TO WHOM THIS POLICY APPLIES**

This Policy and associated procedures apply to the conduct of, and protect, University students and employees, including faculty and staff, Five College Interchange Students, graduate, professional and doctoral students, post-doctoral scholars, Five College Shared Employees and student employees. The non-discrimination provisions also apply to contractors and other third parties under circumstances within the University's control. This Policy pertains to acts of Prohibited Conduct committed by or against Students, Employees and Third Parties when:

1. the conduct occurs on campus or other property owned or controlled by the University;
2. the conduct occurs in the context of a University employment or education program or activity, including, but not limited to, University-sponsored study abroad, research, on-line, or internship programs; or
3. the conduct occurs outside the context of a University employment or education program or activity, but has continuing adverse effects on or creates a hostile environment for Students, Employees or Third Parties while on campus or other property owned or controlled by the University or in any University employment or education program or activity.

### **III. REPORTING OPTIONS**

The Title IX Coordinator is charged with monitoring the University's compliance with Title IX, ensuring appropriate education and training, coordinating the University's investigation, response, and resolution of all reports under this Policy and ensuring appropriate actions to eliminate Prohibited Conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.

Reports of Prohibited Conduct where the Responding Party is faculty or staff should be promptly reported to the Equal Opportunity Office (EO). Reports of Prohibited Conduct where the Responding Party is a graduate or undergraduate student should be promptly reported to the Dean of Students Office.

Complaints to Executive Director EO/Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinators who are responders can be made via email, phone, or in person at the contact information below:

Déborá D. Ferreira  
Executive Director, Equal Opportunity Office /Title IX Coordinator  
Office of Equal Opportunity  
225 Bartlett Hall  
130 Hicks Way  
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003  
Phone: (413) 545-3464  
Email: [equalopportunity@admin.umass.edu](mailto:equalopportunity@admin.umass.edu)  
Web: <https://www.umass.edu/equalopportunity/>

Or Deputy Title IX Coordinators:

Kelly A. Burgess  
Assistant Director, Equal Opportunity Office  
Office of Equal Opportunity  
225 Bartlett Hall  
130 Hicks Way  
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003  
Phone: (413) 545-3464  
Email: [kellyb@admin.umass.edu](mailto:kellyb@admin.umass.edu)  
Web: <https://www.umass.edu/equalopportunity/>

Patricia Cardoso-Erase  
Associate Dean of Students for Student Conduct and Compliance  
Dean of Students Office  
227 Whitmore Administration Building  
181 Presidents Drive  
Amherst, MA 01003  
Phone: (413) 545-2684  
Email: [doso@umass.edu](mailto:doso@umass.edu)  
Web: [www.umass.edu/dean\\_students](http://www.umass.edu/dean_students)

Brian Henault  
Lieutenant  
UMass Amherst Police Department  
585 East Pleasant Street  
Amherst, MA 01003  
Non-emergency phone: (413) 545-2121  
Email: [brianh@admin.umass.edu](mailto:brianh@admin.umass.edu)  
Web: [www.umass.edu/umpd](http://www.umass.edu/umpd)

Reports of discrimination by the Executive Director EO/Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinators should be reported to the Chancellor at the following address:

Office of the Chancellor  
UMass Amherst

374 Whitmore Building  
181 Presidents Drive  
Amherst, MA 01003  
Phone: 413-545-2211  
Email: [chancellor@umass.edu](mailto:chancellor@umass.edu)

#### **IV. PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

For any report under this Policy, every effort will be made to respect and safeguard the privacy interests of all individuals involved in a manner consistent with the need for a careful assessment of the allegation and any necessary steps to eliminate the conduct, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects.

#### **V. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES**

All members of the university community are *encouraged* to report instances of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation as described in this Policy. Reports should be directed to the Equal Opportunity Office. Additional reporting obligations specifically under Title IX, the Clery Act, and when child abuse is suspected, are detailed below.

High-level and supervisory employees, including Vice Chancellors, Vice Provosts, Deans, Department Heads, and Directors (including Directors of Centers and Institutes and Graduate and Undergraduate program directors) *must* report any information related to possible violations of this Policy.

##### **A. TITLE IX REPORTING OBLIGATIONS**

An Employee's responsibility to report information about certain types of Prohibited Conduct to the Equal Opportunity Office (EO) under this Policy is governed by their role at the University. The University designates Confidential Employees and Responsible Employees.

**Confidential Employee:** An employee who, because of their position, may not reveal an individual's identity or other information without permission, even to the Title IX Coordinator(s).

The following categories of employees are confidential employees:

- Licensed sexual assault counselors, physicians, psychologists, psychotherapists, social workers, clergy, and attorneys, and those persons working under the supervision of such individuals, when acting in their professional role providing services to a patient or client;
- University employees bound by statutory privilege obligations under Massachusetts law; and
- University employees providing administrative, operational and/or related support for a confidential employee in the performance of such services.

**Responsible Employee:** an employee (a) who, because of their position, must report known or possible incidents of sexual violence or any other sexual misconduct by students or employees, including the known details of the incident and the name(s) of alleged victim(s) and respondent(s), to the Title IX Coordinator(s) or other appropriate school designee; or (b) who has the authority to take action to redress sexual harassment/misconduct; or (c) whom a student reasonably believes has this authority or duty. Campus police officers are Responsible Employees; but, see exception for public safety personnel.

At UMass Amherst, it has been determined that “responsible employees” include:

- faculty with administrative or supervisory responsibilities (deans and associate deans, heads and chairs, graduate and undergraduate program directors, faculty athletic representatives and directors of centers and institutes);
- Campus police officers (but, see exception noted below);
- all staff that are academic advisors;
- all coaches and trainers;
- all advisors to Registered Student Organizations, intramural sports and other student groups;
- all supervising travel external to the university and any contractors doing the same;
- all personnel in Student Affairs with the exception of confidential employees; and
- staff in managerial and supervisory roles.

All University employees are strongly encouraged to report to law enforcement any conduct that could potentially present a danger to the community or may be a crime under Massachusetts law.

*Exception for public safety personnel: Although campus police officers are designated as Responsible Employees, if a student or employee reporting sexual assault or domestic violence requests confidentiality, the campus police officer must not disclose the name of the reporting party to the Title IX Coordinator(s).*

## B. CLERY REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Under the Clery Act, certain University employees are designated as Campus Security Authorities. CSAs include: student/conduct affairs, campus law enforcement, local police, coaches, athletic directors, residence life staff, student activities staff, human resources staff, advisors to student organizations, and any other official with significant responsibility for student and campus activities. Based on information reported to CSAs, the University includes statistics about certain criminal offenses in its annual security report and provides those statistics to the United States Department of Education in a manner that does not include any personally identifying information about individuals involved in an incident. The Clery Act also requires the University to

issue timely warnings to the University community about certain reported crimes that may pose a serious or continuing threat to Students and Employees. Consistent with the Clery Act, the University withholds the names and other personally identifying information of the Complaining Party when issuing timely warnings to the University community.

#### C. CHILD ABUSE REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Certain University employees may be mandated reporters of child abuse or neglect as defined by Massachusetts G.L. c. 119, § 21 and must comply with Massachusetts' mandated reporting laws.

### VI. **PROHIBITED CONDUCT UNDER THIS POLICY**<sup>2</sup>

Prohibited conduct under this Policy is prohibited regardless of the sex, sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression of the Complaining Party<sup>3</sup> or Responding Party. Prohibited Conduct includes the following specifically defined forms of behavior: Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, Complicity, and Retaliation.

#### A. UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION

**Unlawful discrimination** is conduct that is directed at a specific person or persons that subjects them to treatment that adversely affects their employment, application for employment, education, admissions, University benefits, programs, or activities, because of their religion or religious belief, color, race, marital status, veteran or military status, age, sex (including sexual harassment), gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, disability, genetic information, or any other legally protected class.

#### B. HARASSMENT

**Harassment** is conduct by a person or persons against another person or persons based upon their legally protected class that adversely has the effect of:

- i. unreasonably interfering with a person or person's employment, educational benefits, academic grades or opportunities, or participation in University programs or activities; or
- ii. unreasonably interfering with a person or person's work or academic

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<sup>2</sup> These definitions are primarily from the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees Administrative Standards for the Nondiscrimination and Harassment Policy (Doc. T16-040) and may overlap with Massachusetts criminal statutes in some cases, and provide greater protection in other instances. For the purposes of this Policy, UMass Amherst has defined categories of sexual misconduct, as stated below, for which action under this policy may be imposed. Any person upon any other person, regardless of the sex, gender, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity of those involved, may commit acts of sexual misconduct.

<sup>3</sup>UMass recognizes that an individual may choose to self-identify as a victim or a survivor. For consistency in this Policy, the University uses the term Complaining Party to maintain the neutrality of the Policy and procedures.



- performance; or
- iii. creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment.

#### C. SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**Sexual Harassment** is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature when:

- i. submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, education, or participation in University programs or activities; or
- ii. submission to or rejection of such conduct by a person or persons is used as a basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such person or persons, or participation in University programs or activities; or
- iii. such conduct unreasonably interferes with a person or person's work or academic performance; interferes with or limits a person or person's ability to participate in or benefit from a work or academic program or activity; or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment.

#### D. SEXUAL ASSAULT

**Sexual Assault** is broadly defined as any sexual activity that is forced, coerced, or unwanted.

**Consent** is permission to engage in communication and/or a specific, mutually-agreed upon sexual activity that is given freely, actively, and knowingly, using mutually understandable and unambiguous words or actions, or—in plain language—to agree to do the same thing, at the same time, in the same way, with each other.

- Consent cannot be inferred by silence, passivity, or not resisting;
- Consent cannot be implied by a current or previous dating or sexual relationship;
- Consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to other forms of sexual activity;
- Consent is not indefinite; it is revocable and may be withdrawn at any time, using words or actions such that a reasonable person would understand a lack of continued consent;
- Consent cannot be given by person who is
  - Asleep;
  - Incapacitated by drugs or alcohol;
  - Unconscious;
  - Mentally or physically incapacitated; or
  - Under duress, intimidation, threat, coercion, or force.
- Consent cannot be given by a person under the age of 16.

It is the responsibility of the person seeking to initiate the sexual activity or conduct to affirmatively obtain consent, not the intended recipient of such conduct to deny such consent.

**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/or coercion that overcome resistance.

**Coercion** is the use of an unreasonable amount of pressure to engage in sexual activity. Coercion does not begin when the initiator makes an initial sexual advance. Coercion begins when the initiator continues to pressure another, through the use of psychological/emotional pressure, alcohol, drugs, threat, intimidation, or force, to engage in sexual behavior, when a reasonable person would realize that the other does not want to engage in sexual activity.

**Incapacitation** is the physical and/or mental inability, whether temporary or permanent, of an individual to make rational, reasonable decisions or judgments regarding one's well-being or welfare. States of incapacitation include, but are not limited to, unconsciousness, sleep, and blackouts. Incapacitation may result from the voluntary or involuntary consumption of alcohol and/or other drugs. Where alcohol or other substances are involved, incapacitation is determined by how the substance impacts a person's decision-making capacity, awareness of consequences, and ability to make informed judgments. For purposes of this Policy a person is not incapacitated merely because the person has been drinking or using drugs. The question of incapacitation is determined on a case-by-case basis using both objective and subjective standards. In evaluating whether a person was incapacitated for purposes of evaluating effective consent, the University will consider: (1) whether the person initiating the sexual activity knew that their partner was incapacitated; and if not (2) whether a reasonable person in the same situation would have known that their partner was incapacitated; and (3) whether the person initiating the sexual activity played a role in creating the circumstances of incapacity.

#### E. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

**Sexual Exploitation** is taking sexual advantage of another person without his or her consent. Sexual exploitation includes, without limitation, causing or attempting to cause the incapacitation of another person in order to gain a sexual advantage over such other person; causing the prostitution of another person; recording, photographing or transmitting identifiable images of private sexual activity and/or the intimate parts of another person; allowing third parties to observe private sexual acts; and engaging in voyeurism.

#### F. SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**Sexual Violence** is any physical sexual act or activity engaged in without the consent of the other individual, including when the other individual is unable to consent to the act or activity (See also, definition for *Consent*).

G. INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

**Intimate Partner Violence** is Dating Violence or Domestic Violence as defined below.

H. DATING VIOLENCE

**Dating Violence** is abusive behavior (including, but not limited to, physical, emotional, and/or sexual acts or conduct) committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship will be determined by factors such as the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved.

I. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Domestic Violence** is any abusive behavior (including, but not limited to, physical, emotional, and/or sexual acts or conduct) committed:

- a. against a person who is a current or former spouse;
- b. against a person with whom the abuser shares a child in common;
- c. against a person who is or has cohabitated with the abuser as a spouse;
- d. against a person similarly situated to a spouse;
- e. between a parent and child;
- f. between members of the same household in an intimate relationship; or
- g. against any other person similarly situated.

J. GENDER EXPRESSION

**Gender expression** refers to the external characteristics and behaviors that relate to a perception of gender, including but not limited to dress, mannerisms, speech patterns, social interactions, and body characteristics.

K. GENDER IDENTITY

**Gender identity** refers to an individual's internal sense of gender, which may be male or female, man or woman, or not conforming to those binary genders. A person's gender identity may be different or the same as the person's sex assigned at birth.

L. STALKING

**Stalking** is any course of conduct (more than one act) directed at a specific person (directly, indirectly, through a third party or other means) that places that person in reasonable fear for their safety or the safety of others.

M. RETALIATION

**Retaliation** is the interference through intimidation, including threats, coercion, or unlawful discrimination, with an individual's right or privilege secured under the law [Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, the Massachusetts antidiscrimination laws, or other laws] or interfering with an individual's right to make a complaint, testify, assist, or participate in any

manner in an investigation, proceeding or hearing, or to intervene to prevent a violation of this policy.

N. **COMPLICITY**

**Complicity** is any act taken with the purpose of aiding, facilitating, promoting or encouraging the commission of an act of Prohibited Conduct by another person.

**VII. PREVENTION, AWARENESS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS**

The University is committed to the prevention of Prohibited Conduct through regular and ongoing education and awareness programs. Incoming students and new employees receive primary prevention and awareness programming as part of their orientation, and returning students and current employees receive ongoing training and related education and awareness programs. The University provides training, education and awareness programs to students and employees to ensure broad understanding of this Policy and the topics and issues related to maintaining an education and employment environment free from harassment and discrimination.

For a description of the University's Prohibited Conduct prevention and awareness programs, including programs on minimizing the risk of incidents of Prohibited Conduct and bystander intervention, see the University's annual Clery reports (found online at: <https://www.umass.edu/umpd/clery-act>).

**VIII. OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE TRUTHEFUL INFORMATION**

All University community members are expected to provide truthful information in any report, investigation, or proceeding under this Policy. Submitting or providing false or misleading information in bad faith or with a view to personal gain or intentional harm to another in connection with an incident of Prohibited Conduct is prohibited and subject to disciplinary sanctions under The Student Code (for Students), Principles of Employee Conduct (for Employees), and any other applicable and appropriate University policy or policies. This provision does not apply to reports made or information provided in good faith, even if the facts alleged in the report are not later substantiated.

**IX. RELATED POLICIES**

A. **STUDENTS**

University of Massachusetts Amherst Code of Student Conduct:  
[https://www.umass.edu/dean\\_students/sites/default/files/documents/2016-2019%20Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf](https://www.umass.edu/dean_students/sites/default/files/documents/2016-2019%20Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf)

## B. EMPLOYEES AND THIRD PARTIES

- Policy Statement: Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Statement: <https://www.umass.edu/eod/aa.html>
- Code of Conduct (employees):  
[https://www.umassp.edu/sites/umassp.edu/files/content/policies/board/personnel/Principles\\_of\\_Employee\\_%20Conduct.pdf](https://www.umassp.edu/sites/umassp.edu/files/content/policies/board/personnel/Principles_of_Employee_%20Conduct.pdf)
- Code of Conduct for University of Massachusetts Vendors:  
[https://www.umassp.edu/sites/umassp.edu/files/content/policies/board/fiscal-admin/Vendor\\_Relationship\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct.pdf](https://www.umassp.edu/sites/umassp.edu/files/content/policies/board/fiscal-admin/Vendor_Relationship_Code_of_Conduct.pdf)
- Policy on Consensual Relationships Between Faculty and Students:  
<https://www.umass.edu/provost/sites/default/files/uploads/Policy%20on%20consensual%20relationships%20between%20faculty%20and%20students.pdf>
- Policy on Employment and Contracting for Service of Relatives:  
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/self-dealing-and-nepotism-conflict-of-interest-law-restrictions-gl-c-268a-sections>

## X. **POLICY REVIEW**

This Policy is maintained by the Equal Opportunity Office (EO). The University will periodically review and update this Policy and will evaluate, among other things, any changes in legal requirements, existing University resources, and the resolution of cases from the preceding year (including, but not limited to, timeframes for completion and sanctions and remedies imposed).