**College Student Guide to Title IX**

**What is Title IX?**

A federal civil right that prohibits sex-based discrimination in an educational setting. It includes sexual harassment, gender-based discrimination, and sexual violence.

**Things to know**

* Title IX protects any student, faculty, or staff member regardless of their real or perceived sex, gender identity, or gender expression.
* Schools must be proactive in ensuring campuses are free of sex discrimination. Your school must take immediate steps to address any sexual harassment, discrimination, or violence, remedy the harm caused, and prevent future occurrences.
* Schools are required to have, and follow, an established procedure for handling complaints of sexual harassment, discrimination, or violence. Every school must have a Title IX Coordinator who manages complaints, and their contact information should be easily accessible.

**How can Title IX help me?**

If you are a victim of sexual harassment, discrimination, or violence, **you are entitled to a number of rights** under Title IX. If you decide to file a complaint, your school must promptly investigate it regardless of whether you report to the police.

**You have a right to seek a formal disciplinary hearing.** In cases of sexual violence, schools are prohibited from encouraging or allowing mediation, rather than a formal hearing, of the complaint. They may still offer an alternative process, but you have a right to request a disciplinary hearing if you choose. Schools are discouraged from allowing the accused to question you during a hearing. If your school allows that, consider getting a nonprofit attorney or other legal advocate to help you through the process. Or file a Title IX complaint with the U.S. Department of Education about that schools hearing process.

**You have a right to feel safe on campus.** Schools should ensure that a victim does not have to share spaces—such as dorms, classes, or campus jobs—with their assailant. Schools can issue a no-contact directive to prevent the accused student from approaching or interacting with you. Campus security and police should enforce such directives. This is not a court-ordered restraining order, but your school should provide you with information on how to obtain a restraining order and assist with the process if you choose to pursue it.

**You have a right to remain on campus** and have every educational program and opportunity available to you. Schools may not retaliate against someone filing a complaint and must keep victims safe from other retaliatory harassment or behavior. Schools cannot discourage you from continuing your education, such as telling you to “take time off” or forcing you to quit a class, club, or team.

**Your college should not make you pay** the costs of certain accommodations that you require in order to continue your education after experiencing violence, such as counseling, tutoring, or changes to your campus housing. If your school fails to take prompt and effective steps to eliminate the violence and prevent its recurrence, your school may be required to reimburse lost tuition and related expenses.

**Where can I get more information?**

Title IX Info
<http://www.titleix.info/>

Know Your IX
<http://knowyourix.org/>

Title IX and Sex Discrimination—US Department of Education
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/tix_dis.html>