

consent to any sexual contact. Children who are between 13 and 16 may consent to a sexual act when their partner is less than four years older than they are.

- (2) *Forcible Sex Offenses*: Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is in a state of incapacitation. Such sexual acts include:
- Forcible rape: sexual intercourse with a person, forcibly and/or without that person's consent, or in instances where the victim is in a state of incapacitation.
 - Forcible oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, forcibly or without consent, or because of incapacitation.
 - Sexual assault with an object: use of an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however, slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, forcibly, or without consent or because of incapacitation.
 - Forcible fondling: the touching of the private body parts (genitals, buttocks or breasts) of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, forcibly, or without consent, or because of incapacitation.
- (3) *Consent*, for purposes of this policy, means: an affirmative decision to engage in mutually acceptable sexual activity given by clear actions or words. It is an informed decision made freely, willingly, and actively by all parties. Consent is knowing and voluntary. Consent is active, not passive. Accordingly, silence or absence of resistance cannot be interpreted as consent. Consent can be given by words or actions so long as those words or actions may be reasonably

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for decisions regarding employment affecting such individual; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

IV.

Campus Safety 94.740 (a) (5) (C) (6) (2) (E) (8) (2) (9) (2) (1) (7) (S) (D) (T) (J) (3) (9) (D) (2) (7) (L) (a) (9) (4) (US)

Formal complaints of allegations involving Title IX sexual misconduct will be addressed in accordance with Section VI below.

Reports of sexual misconduct by employees that do not constitute sexual harassment under Title IX will be addressed under CCS Policy 323.01 (Workplace Conduct).

VI. The Title IX Grievance Procedure

The following grievance process shall be followed when there is a formal report of alleged conduct by employees that meets the definition of sexual harassment under the Title IX regulations (as defined in Section II.A above).

A. How to Make a Formal Complaint

No investigation will occur unless a formal complaint is filed with the Title IX Coordinator by the complainant, or the Title IX Coordinator decides to file a formal complaint. The formal complaint must be in writing using the Title IX Reporting Form [here](#) and include the following:

1. Basic information about the possible violation(s) of sexual harassment (such as date, time, location, type of incident, name(s) of individuals involved).
2. A request that CCSNH/College investigate the allegation(s).

The Title IX Coordinator may determine that specific circumstances warrant pursuing a formal complaint (such as when the alleged respondent has previously been found responsible for serious sexual misconduct or there may be a safety threat to the CCSNH/College community), even when the complainant does not file a formal complaint. In such cases, the complainant will receive advance notice as well as notices of activities at various points in the procedure, but is not a party to the case. Likewise, the Title IX Coordinator is not a party, for purposes of this procedure, if they file a formal complaint on behalf of CCSNH/College.

The Title IX Coordinator may consolidate formal complaints where circumstances warrant.

B. Dismissal of Formal Complaints

Under the Title IX regulations, the Title IX Coordinator must dismiss a formal complaint:

1. If the conduct alleged in the formal complaint does not constitute sexual harassment under the Title IX regulations (and as defined in Section II.A of this policy); or
2. If the conduct alleged did not occur within the scope of the College's education programs and activities or did not occur in the United States.

However, if the conduct alleged is otherwise covered by another CCSNH/College policy, the conduct may be addressed under the applicable policy, depending on the circumstances.

The Title IX Coordinator may also dismiss a formal complaint if a complainant withdraws the formal complaint or withdraws particular allegations within the complaint; if the respondent is no longer employed by CCSNH/College; or if there are specific circumstances that prevent CCSNH/College from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding the formal complaint.

If a formal complaint is dismissed for any reason, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly and simultaneously send written notice to the parties explaining the reasons. Parties have the opportunity to appeal dismissals in accordance with Section

C. Steps in the Process

- Notice regarding the procedure and the availability of an informal resolution process;
 - Sufficient details known at the time (including identities of parties, if known; the conduct alleged; and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known), with sufficient time to prepare before any initial interview (no less than five calendar days).
 - As required by the Title IX regulations, a statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination of responsibility will be made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
 - Notice that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney;
 - Notice that the parties may inspect and review evidence;
 - Notice of provisions in the conduct processes applicable to students, faculty or staff that prohibits making false reports or providing materially false information in bad faith during the grievance process;
 - Notice that the parties may discuss their case. However, parties should avoid statements that are defamatory; or that disclose other conduct which could be viewed objectively as constituting intimidation or retaliation; or that may impair the integrity of the investigation or procedure;
 - Notice that CCSNH/College, not either party, has the burden of proof;
 - Notice of the name of the investigator, with sufficient time (no less than five calendar days) to raise then-known reasonable concerns of conflict of interest or bias, and the basis for those concerns, to the Title IX Coordinator; and
 - Notice that the parties can raise reasonable concerns regarding the Title IX Coordinator to the **College President, Lucille Jordan** ljordan@ccsnh.edu.
- ii. If additional allegations become known at a later time, the original notice to the parties will be supplemented. Misconduct which subsequently becomes known but is not covered by this policy may be addressed pursuant to other applicable CCSNH/College policies, as appropriate.
 - iii. The Title IX Coordinator will discuss supportive measures with each party and implement such measures as appropriate.
 - iv. Prior to a hearing, claims of conflicts of interest, bias or other concerns regarding CCSNH/College officials involved in the procedure will be resolved by the Title IX Coordinator. At the hearing, such claims may be raised with the decision maker.

3. Informal Resolution Process

After a formal complaint has been filed, and if the Title IX Coordinator believes the circumstances are appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator may offer the parties the opportunity to participate in an informal resolution process to resolve the complaint without completing the investigation and hearing process. An informal resolution process can be started at any time during the grievance procedure. However, an informal resolution process cannot be used to resolve a formal complaint when a student is the complainant and the respondent is an employee.

Informal resolutions can take many forms, depending on the particular case. Examples include, but are not limited to, facilitated discussions between the parties; restorative justice; acknowledgment of responsibility by a respondent; apologies; agreed upon sanctions against a respondent or requirements to engage in specific services; or supportive measures. Parties must voluntarily agree in writing to participate in an informal resolution process, and either party can withdraw from the process at any time.

Any terms in an informal resolution that include involvement by CCSNH/College must be approved by the Title IX Coordinator. If an informal resolution agreement is reached, it must be signed by the parties and CCSNH/College. Once signed, the agreement is final and binding according to its terms.

If an informal resolution process does not resolve the formal complaint, nothing from the informal resolution process may be considered as evidence in the procedure.

4. Administrative Leave

- xi. A video or audio recording or transcript shall be made of the hearing, and made available to the parties for inspection and review.

7. Standard of Proof and Determination of Responsibility

CCSNH/College uses a preponderance of the evidence standard (“more likely than not”) in making determinations of responsibility.

The decision maker shall issue a written determination, which shall include the following:

- i. Identification of all the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in the Title IX regulations and this policy.
- ii. A description of the procedural steps taken from receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held.
- iii. Findings of fact supporting the determination.
- iv. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a

iii. Sanctions

Sanctions against employee respondents, who are found to have committed the alleged conduct and thereby violated this policy, will be based on the circumstances and seriousness of the offense. Sanctions against CCSNH faculty and staff will be handled in accordance with employment policies or collective bargaining agreements governing discipline and dismissal. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, mandated training, position reassignment, imposed workplace conditions, written warning, disciplinary suspension without pay, demotion, or dismissal.

9. Appeals

Parties have the opportunity to appeal a determination regarding responsibility, and from dismissals of formal complaints. Appeals are allowed on the following grounds:

- i. Procedural errors that affected the outcome of the matter;
- ii. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter;
- iii. The Title IX Coordinator wrongfully concluded that the formal complaint did not constitute sexual harassment under this procedure and dismissed the formal complaint;
- iv. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator or decision maker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally, or the individual complainant or respondent, that affected the outcome of the matter; or
- v. A sanction imposed was improper in light of mitigating or extenuating circumstances not known at the time that a party was provided an opportunity to comment on sanctions, if any, or was not properly considered by the decision maker.

An appeal must be filed in writing within 10 calendar days of receiving the determination, stating the grounds for the appeal and including any relevant documentation in support of the appeal. Unless granted an extension for good cause by the Title IX Coordinator before the expiration of the appeal period, appeals submitted after this deadline are not timely and shall not be considered.

- i. Appeals must be filed by email with the Title IX Coordinator, who shall refer it to the appropriate appeals officer.
- ii. The Title IX Coordinator shall provide a copy of the appeal to all other parties.
- iii. The other parties shall have seven calendar days to submit a written statement addressing the appeal.
- iv. The officer considering the appeal shall conduct an impartial review of the appeal, including consideration of the record of the matter, and may consult with other CCSNH/College officials and/or CCSNH counsel in making their decision.
- v. The appeals officer shall issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and rationale for the result, and provide it simultaneously to the parties. The officer may: 1) deny the appeal; 2) grant the appeal and send back the matter to the decision maker for further consideration; 3) grant the appeal and send back the matter for a new live hearing before a new decision maker; 4) grant the appeal by revising the sanction; or 5) grant the appeal of a dismissal of a formal complaint and order that an investigation be conducted.