



Lincoln University – Title IX Policy

Title IX Policy Prohibiting Sex Discrimination

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A. INTRODUCTION

Statement Of Nondiscrimination

Lincoln University does not discriminate and prohibits discrimination against any individual based on any category protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

Accordingly, Lincoln University does not discriminate, and strictly prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of race (including traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions), gender, gender identity or expression, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, citizenship, genetic information or predisposing genetic characteristics, marital status, familial status, domestic violence victim status, caregiver status, military status, including past, current, or prospective service in the uniformed services, or any other category or characteristic protected by applicable law. When brought to the attention of the Lincoln University, sex discrimination will be appropriately addressed by Lincoln University according to the procedures below, and discrimination on the basis of any other protected category will be addressed in accordance with [Title IX Sex Discrimination in Education](#) collective bargaining agreement.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Lincoln University does not discriminate in its admissions practices except as permitted by law, in its employment practices, or in its educational programs or activities on the basis of sex. As a recipient of federal financial assistance for education activities, Lincoln University required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to ensure that all of its education programs and activities do not discriminate on the basis of sex. Discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy or related conditions.

Lincoln University has obligations under Title IX to provide certain supports and modifications to people experiencing pregnancy or related conditions to ensure their equal access to Lincoln University's program or activity. For example, Lincoln University must treat pregnancy or related conditions in the same manner and under the same policies as any other temporary medical conditions and must allow voluntary leaves of absence. Students, employees, or applicants should contact the Title IX Coordinator for more information. Employees or



applicants may also contact [HR office of other] for more information, because additional workplace laws and policies apply.

Pregnancy or related conditions include pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation; medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation; and recovery from pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, or related medical conditions.

Lincoln University also prohibits retaliation against any person opposing sex discrimination or participating in any sex discrimination investigation or complaint process, whether internal or external to the institution. Sex-based harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking are forms of sex discrimination, which are prohibited under Title IX and by Lincoln University policy.

Application of Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act to this Policy

In both practice and policy, Lincoln University adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended 2008 (ADAAA); Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and all other federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability. Lincoln University is committed to providing individuals with disabilities equal access and opportunity and strives in its policies and practices to provide for the full participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of the University life.

Parties may request reasonable accommodations for disclosed disabilities to the Title IX Coordinator at any point relating to the implementation of this policy, including making a disclosure or report, and initiating a grievance procedure. Accommodations will be granted if they are appropriate and do not fundamentally alter the process. The Title IX Coordinator will not affirmatively provide disability accommodations that have not been specifically requested by the parties, even where the parties may be receiving accommodations in other Lincoln University programs and activities. With the consent of the impacted student or employee, the Title IX Coordinator will work collaboratively with the [appropriate offices/roles for students and/or employee accommodations] to ensure that approved reasonable accommodations (disability-related) are honored as applicable throughout any process related to this policy.

Purpose of this Policy

This policy identifies and defines conduct prohibited under this policy and the process that will be used to respond to allegations of Prohibited Conduct.

Lincoln University will act on all notices of allegations of sex discrimination or retaliation. It will take necessary measures to end conduct that is in violation of this policy, prevent its



recurrence, and remedy its effect on individuals and the community. Within any process related to this policy, Lincoln University provides reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities and reasonable religious accommodations, when that accommodation is consistent with Pennsylvania and federal law.

Situations involving other conduct that may be in violation of other Lincoln University student or employee conduct policies should be reported to Office of Equity and Inclusion for matters involving students, or [HR] or the Faculty Affairs/Office of President for matters involving faculty or staff. Situations involving other conduct relating to nonaffiliates should be reported to Office of Student Affairs.

Jurisdiction

This policy applies to the entire Lincoln University community, including, but not limited to, students, student organizations, faculty, administrators, and staff, whether on or off campus, and third parties such as guests, visitors, volunteers, invitees, and alumni when they are on campus or participating in Lincoln University sponsored activities. This policy may also pertain to instances in which the conduct occurred outside of the campus or Lincoln University sponsored activity if the Lincoln University determines that the off-campus conduct affects a substantial University interest, including access to the educational program or activity, safety and security, compliance with applicable law, and meeting its educational mission. Any member of the campus community, guest, or visitor who acts to deny, deprive, or limit the educational or employment opportunities and/or benefits of any member of the [Lincoln University community on the basis of sex is in violation of this policy.

Members of the Lincoln University community are expected to provide truthful information in any report, meeting, or proceeding under this policy.

Any respondent who is not a Lincoln University student, faculty member, or staff member is generally considered a third party. Lincoln University's ability to take appropriate corrective action against a third party may be limited and will depend on the nature of the third party's relationship, if any, to the University. When appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator will refer such allegations against third-party respondents to the appropriate office.

The status of a party may impact which resources and remedies are available to them, as described in this policy.



What is Prohibited by This Policy?

This policy prohibits sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, and retaliation as defined below. These acts shall also be referred to as Prohibited Conduct under this policy:

Discrimination on the Basis of Sex:

Discrimination is defined as treating members of a protected category less favorably because of their actual or perceived membership in that category or as having a policy or practice that adversely impacts the members of one protected category more than others.

Discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Sex-Based Harassment:

Sex-based harassment is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, including on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Sex-Based Harassment includes the following:

- a. Quid pro quo harassment: An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the Lincoln University to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the Lincoln University's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.
- b. Hostile environment harassment: Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from Lincoln University's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:
 - The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the Lincoln University's education program or activity;
 - The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;
 - The parties' ages, roles within Lincoln University's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about a party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;
 - The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and
 - Other sex-based harassment in Lincoln University's education program or activity.



- c. Sexual assault: an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Specifically, this includes:

Rape—The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with anybody part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

Fondling—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of their age or because of their temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

Incest—Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape—Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

- d. Dating violence: violence committed by a person:
- Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
 - Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - o The length of the relationship;
 - o The type of relationship; and
 - o The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Emotional and psychological abuse do not constitute violence for the purposes of this definition.

- e. Domestic violence: felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a person who:

- o Is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction of Lincoln University, or a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim;
- o Is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
- o Shares a child in common with the victim; or
- o Commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction.

Emotional and psychological abuse do not constitute violence for the purposes of this definition.



- f. Stalking: Engaging in a course of conduct, on the basis of sex, directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.
- g. Sexual coercion: The application of unreasonable pressure, including emotionally or physically manipulative actions or statements, or direct or implied threats, in order to compel the person to engage in sexual activity.
- h. Sexual exploitation is the abuse or exploitation of another person's sexuality without consent, for the perpetrators own advantage or benefit, or for the benefit or advantage of anyone other than the one being exploited. Sexual Exploitation includes, without limitation, causing or attempting to cause the incapacitation of another person in order to gain a sexual advantage over that person; causing the prostitution of another person; electronically recording, photographing, or transmitting intimate or sexual utterances, sounds or images of another person; allowing third parties to observe sexual acts; engaging in voyeurism; distributing intimate or sexual information about another person; and/or knowingly transmitting a sexually transmitted infection, including HIV, to another person.]

Retaliation:

Retaliation is any materially adverse action taken against an individual because they were involved in the disclosure, reporting, investigation, or resolution of a report of Prohibited Conduct. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion, discrimination, violence, or any other conduct against any person by a Lincoln University a student, or an employee or other person authorized by Lincoln University to provide aid, benefit, or service under Lincoln University's education program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by this policy or by law, including Title IX or its regulations. Adverse action does not include perceived or petty slights, or trivial annoyances.

The prohibition against retaliation applies to any individuals who participate (or refuse to participate) in any manner in an investigation and to any student who refuses to participate in an investigation or proceeding.

Retaliation may occur even where there is a finding of "not responsible" under this policy. Good faith actions lawfully pursued in response to a report of Prohibited Conduct are not Retaliation.

Delegation of Duties Under This policy

Obligations in this policy assigned to a particular title, such as the Title IX Coordinator, may be designated as appropriate by Lincoln University including to external professionals.



Academic Freedom

Lincoln University is dedicated to an uncompromising standard of academic excellence and an unwavering commitment to academic freedom, freedom of inquiry, and freedom of expression in the search for truth. This policy and procedures are not intended to inhibit or restrict free expression or exchange of ideas, abridge academic freedom, or prohibit educational content or discussions inside or outside of the classroom that includes germane, but controversial or sensitive subject matters protected by academic freedom.

Members of the Lincoln University community are free to express their views on any academic subject — regardless of whether those viewpoints are provocative or controversial. Before proceeding with or continuing an investigation of any report of harassment or retaliation that involves an individual’s speech or other communication, Lincoln University will take care to distinguish between protected speech and hostile environment harassment. The Title IX Coordinator will take action as needed to restore or preserve a person’s access to the Lincoln University’s education program or activity.

Title IX Coordinator of the Office of Institutional Equity

Lincoln University is committed to promoting a diverse, equitable, and inclusive working and learning environment free from sex discrimination. The Title IX Coordinator is charged with monitoring compliance with Title IX; providing education and training; and coordinating the Lincoln University’s investigation, response, and resolution of all reports of Prohibited Conduct under this policy. The Title IX Coordinator acts with independence and authority and oversees all resolutions under this policy free from bias and conflicts of interest. The Title IX Coordinator is available to meet with any Student, Employee, or other individual to discuss this policy or the accompanying procedures and can be contacted at: titleix@lincoln.edu.

Conflicts of Interest or Bias

Any individual carrying out any part of this policy shall be free from any actual conflict of interest or demonstrated bias that would impact the handling of a matter. Should the Title IX Coordinator have a conflict of interest, the Title IX Coordinator is to immediately notify the Vice-President, General Counsel and Secretary who will either take, or reassign, the role of Title IX Coordinator for purposes of carrying out the handling and finalization of the matter at issue. Should any investigator, Decisionmaker, or Appeals Officer have a conflict of interest, the investigator, Decisionmaker, or Appeals Officer is to notify the Title IX Coordinator upon discovery of the conflict so that the Title IX Coordinator may reassign the role as appropriate. This policy will note where parties have the opportunity to challenge the participation of any individual implementing this policy based on actual conflict of interest or demonstrated bias.



Crime and Incident Disclosure Obligations

The Clery Act is a federal crime and incident disclosure law. It requires, among other things, that Lincoln University report the number of incidents of certain crimes, including some of the Prohibited Conduct in this policy, that occur in particular campus-related locations. The Clery Act also requires Lincoln University to issue a warning to the community in certain circumstances.

In the statistical disclosures and warnings to the community, Lincoln University will ensure that a complainant's name and other identifying information is not disclosed. The Coordinator will refer information to the Clery Officer when appropriate for a determination about Clery-related actions, such as disclosing crime statistics or sending campus notifications.

B. REPORTING SEX DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING SEX-BASED HARASSMENT

Employee Reporting Obligations

Lincoln University believes it is important to be proactive in taking reasonable steps to identify and prevent incidents of sex discrimination. All employees, with limited exceptions as identified by Lincoln University are required to promptly provide to the Title IX Coordinator all complaints or reports of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator and share all information reported or made available to the employee. If an employee in a supervisory capacity has direct knowledge of an incident of harassment or discrimination on the part of, or directed toward, any employee of the Title IX Coordinator community, that supervisor is required to bring the matter to the attention of the Title IX Coordinator.

Researchers conducting an IRB-approved human subjects research study designed to gather information about sex discrimination are not required to report to the Title IX Coordinator disclosures made during that study to the Title IX Coordinator.

Lincoln University also encourages employees who themselves experience sex discrimination to bring their concerns to the Title IX Coordinator, though they are not required to do so.

When providing this information to the Title IX Coordinator, the employee must include their own name and contact information, and all known details about an incident, which may include, if known, the dates, times, locations, names of involved individuals and the nature of the incident.

Aside from this reporting obligation, employees will, to the fullest extent possible, maintain the privacy of an individual's information, consistent with FERPA.



In addition, certain employees of Lincoln University are considered by law to be mandatory reporters of child abuse, elder abuse or abuse of persons with disabilities. These Lincoln University employees are required by law to report incidents of abuse to the Pennsylvania Department Human Services. A fuller description of the mandatory child abuse reporting obligation and those covered by that obligation can be found at: [mandatory reporting, protection of minors policies if applicable]

Public Awareness Events

Employees are required to report to the Title IX Coordinator information about sex discrimination they learn about at public awareness events. The Title IX Coordinator is not obligated to respond directly to any identified complainant in a report of sex-based harassment disclosed at a public awareness event that takes place on-campus or in a school-sponsored online platform unless there is an imminent and serious threat to someone's health or safety. The Title IX Coordinator must respond to reports of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination other than sex-based harassment if disclosed at public awareness events, wherever they occur. In all cases Lincoln University must use the information to inform its efforts to prevent sex-based harassment, including by providing tailored training to address alleged sex-based harassment in a particular part of its education program or activity or at a specific location when information indicates there may be multiple incidents of sex-based harassment.

How to Make a Report to Lincoln University

All complaints of violations of this policy will be taken seriously and in good faith. The Title IX Coordinator will provide information and guidance regarding how to file a complaint with Lincoln University and/or local law enforcement, as well as information and assistance about what course of action may best support the individual(s) involved and how best to address the complaint.

Every reasonable effort will be made to maintain the privacy of those making a report to the extent possible. In all cases, Lincoln University will give consideration to the party bringing forward a report with respect to how the matter is pursued. Lincoln University may, when necessary to protect the community, initiate an investigation or take other responsive actions to a report, even when the person identifying a concern chooses not to participate in a resolution process and/or requests that Lincoln University not initiate an investigation.

Employees, students, guests, or visitors who believe that this policy has been violated should promptly contact the Coordinator or another member of the Title IX Office as follows:



In-Person	By Electronic Mail	By Telephone	Maxient Lincoln's Case Management System
Wright Hall, 1st Floor	titleix@lincoln.edu	484-746-0000	<u>Submit a Incident Report</u>

There is no timeline for making a report of sex discrimination, however, Lincoln University encourages the prompt reporting of a complaint as the ability of Lincoln University to pursue the complaint to conclusion may be hindered by the passage of time.

Privacy and Confidentiality

Lincoln University values the privacy of its students, employees, and other community members. Community members should be able to seek the assistance they need and access this policy without fear that the information they provide will be shared more broadly.

References made to privacy mean Lincoln University offices and employees who cannot guarantee confidentiality, but will maintain privacy to the greatest extent possible, relaying information as necessary to investigate or seek a resolution and to notify the Title IX Coordinator or designee, who is responsible for tracking patterns and spotting systemic issues. Lincoln University will limit the disclosure as much as practicable.

All activities under these procedures shall be conducted with the privacy interests of those involved. While Lincoln University will take all reasonable steps to protect the privacy of individuals involved in a complaint, it may be necessary to disclose some information to individuals or offices on campus in order to address a complaint or provide for the physical safety of an individual or the campus. Thus, Lincoln University cannot, and does not, guarantee that all information related to complaints will be kept confidential.

In order to maintain the privacy of evidence gathered as part of any resolution process, access to materials under the procedures in this policy will be provided only by a secure method and parties and advisors are not permitted to make copies of any documents shared or make use of the documents outside of the processes described in this policy. Parties may request to review a hard



copy of materials, and Lincoln University will make that available in a supervised or monitored setting. Inappropriately sharing materials provided during this process may constitute retaliation under this policy.

Individuals may speak confidentially with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources (e.g., licensed mental health care providers, physicians, clergy) may not report to Title IX Coordinator any identifying information about conduct that may violate Lincoln University's policies against sex discrimination without the written consent of the individual who supplied the information, unless required by law. Such disclosures will not be reported to the Title IX Coordinator or initiate any process under this policy.

Lincoln University employs two types of employees who are not required to report information about sex discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator:

- Privileged and confidential employees whose communications are privileged or confidential under Federal or State law. The employee must be hired for and functioning within the scope of their duties to which the privilege or confidentiality applies. For example, physicians, clergy, and mental health counselors are all confidential employees. Disclosures made to these employees means that information cannot be disclosed to anyone internal or external to the university without the expressed permission from the individual disclosing the information.

State law requires professional counselors to report: (i) when a patient is likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm to the patient or others; (ii) if there is reasonable cause to suspect that a minor has been sexually abused. These reports must be made to Pennsylvania Child Protective Services. These reports must also be made to the Lincoln University Public Safety.

- Employees designated by the institution as exempt from reporting known sex discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator, and designated as such for the purpose of providing services to the campus community related to sex discrimination. Such employees must be acting in the scope of that role when they learn of the information about sex discrimination for this exemption to apply. For example, the ombudsperson and sexual violence response counselors may be designated as exempt from internal reporting. Disclosures made to these employees means that information will not be shared with the Title IX Coordinator or anyone within Lincoln University but may be released under legal action or court order without the permission of the individual disclosing the information.



Reporting to the Police

Some Prohibited Conduct may constitute a violation of both the law and Lincoln University policy. Lincoln University encourages students to report alleged crimes promptly to local law enforcement agencies. All persons have the right to file with law enforcement, as well as the right to decline to file with law enforcement. The decision not to file shall not be considered as evidence that there was not a violation of Lincoln University policy.

Criminal investigations may be useful in the gathering of relevant evidence, particularly forensic evidence. The standards for finding a violation of criminal law are different from the standards for finding a violation of this policy. Conduct may constitute Prohibited Conduct under this policy even if law enforcement agencies lack sufficient evidence of a crime and decline to prosecute.

Proceedings under this policy may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings off campus. However, when a complaint is made to Lincoln University as well as to law enforcement, Lincoln University may delay its process if a law enforcement agency requests that Lincoln University delay its process for a reasonable amount of time to allow law enforcement to gather evidence of criminal misconduct. Criminal or legal proceedings are separate from the processes in this policy and do not determine whether this policy has been violated.

All investigations and determinations under this policy will be thorough, reliable and impartial, and will seek to collect evidence and names of witnesses to gather information that is directly or substantially relevant to whether the alleged policy violation occurred, and will not be based on the grounds that civil or criminal charges involving the same incident have been filed or that charges have been dismissed or reduced.

In the case of an emergency, where the physical well-being of a member of Lincoln University community or the safety of Lincoln University as an institution is threatened, any individual with such knowledge should promptly inform the Director of Campus Safety. Lincoln University may take any immediate steps as may be necessary and appropriate under the circumstances to ensure the well-being of Lincoln University community and Lincoln University as an institution.

C. RESPONDING TO A REPORT

The following process will be used following the receipt of a report of sex discrimination.

Initial Contact

Following receipt of a report alleging a potential violation of this policy, the Title IX Coordinator will contact the complainant to meet with the Title IX Coordinator for an initial intake and assessment meeting, and will provide the following:



- An invitation to meet to offer assistance and explain their rights, resources, and options under this policy;
- Access to this policy;
- Information regarding available campus and community resources for counseling, health care, mental health, or victim advocacy. Upon request, information regarding legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid and other available services may be provided;
- The availability of Supportive Measures regardless of whether a complaint is filed and/or any resolution is initiated;
- The options for resolution (no action, prevention, agreement, investigation) and how to initiate such resolution processes;
- The right to notify law enforcement as well as the right not to notify law enforcement;
- The importance of preserving evidence and, in the case of potential criminal misconduct, how to get assistance from Campus Safety or local law enforcement in preserving evidence;
- The right to an advisor of choice, if applicable, during Lincoln University proceedings under this policy including the initial meeting with the Title IX Coordinator
- A statement that retaliation for filing a complaint, or participating in the complaint process, is prohibited.
- Information on how to initiate the Investigation or Resolution-Based Agreement process.

Initial Intake & Assessment

The Initial Assessment process seeks to gather information about the nature and circumstances of the report to determine whether this policy applies to the report and, if so, which resolution process may be appropriate, as well as which section of the grievance procedures apply based on the conduct and the status of the parties. The Title IX Coordinator may also determine that the provision of supportive measures only is the appropriate response under the policy. The initial assessment is not a finding of fact or responsibility. If the individual bringing forward the complaint is not the actual complainant, the Title IX Coordinator will limit communication to general information on policies and processes.

Should the complainant wish to initiate a resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether this policy applies and, if so, the appropriate process under this policy. The Title IX Coordinator will communicate to the complainant this determination.

If the information provided does not suggest a potential violation of this policy, the Title IX Coordinator will provide the complainant written notice that the matter is being referred for handling under a different policy, and/or to another appropriate office for handling.



Requests for Confidentiality or No Further Action

When a complainant requests that Lincoln University not use their name as part of any resolution process, or that Lincoln University not take any further action, Lincoln University will generally try to honor those requests. However, there are certain instances in which Lincoln University has a broader obligation to the community and may need to act against the wishes of the complainant. In such circumstances, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the complainant in writing of the need to take action. The factors the Title IX Coordinator will consider when determining whether to act against the wishes of a complainant include:

1. The complainant's request not to proceed with initiation of a complaint;
2. The complainant's reasonable safety concerns regarding initiation of a complaint;
3. The risk that additional acts of Prohibited Conduct would occur if a complaint is not initiated;
4. The severity of the alleged Prohibited Conduct, including whether the discrimination, if established, would require the removal of a respondent from campus or imposition of another disciplinary sanction to end the discrimination and prevent its recurrence;
5. The age and relationship of the parties, including whether the respondent is an employee of Lincoln University;
6. The scope of the alleged discrimination, including information suggesting a pattern, ongoing sex discrimination, or sex discrimination alleged to have impacted multiple individuals;
7. The availability of evidence to assist a Decisionmaker in determining whether sex discrimination occurred; and
8. Whether Lincoln University could end the alleged sex discrimination and prevent its recurrence without initiating its grievance procedures under this policy.
9. Whether the conduct as alleged presents an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of the complainant or other persons, or that the conduct as alleged prevents Lincoln University from ensuring equal access on the basis of sex to its education program or activity.

Emergency Removal

For sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, Lincoln University retains the authority to remove a respondent from Lincoln University's program or activity on an emergency basis, where Lincoln University (1) undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, (2) determines that an immediate and serious threat to the health or safety of a complainant or any student, employee, or other individual arising from the allegations of sex discrimination justifies a removal, and (3) Lincoln University provides the respondent with notice of and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.



The respondent may challenge the decision immediately following the removal, by notifying the Title IX Coordinator in writing. Lincoln University will designate an impartial individual, not otherwise involved in the case, to consider the challenge to the removal and determine if the emergency removal was reasonable.

For all other Prohibited Conduct, Lincoln University may defer to its interim suspension policies for students and administrative leave for employees.

Administrative Leave

Lincoln University retains the authority to place an employee respondent on administrative leave during a pending complaint process under this policy, with or without pay as appropriate. Administrative leave may be a supportive measure, emergency removal, or consistent with Pennsylvania laws. Administrative leave implemented as a supportive measure or as emergency removal is subject to the procedural provisions above, including the right to challenge the decision to implement that measure.

Dismissal of a Complaint

Before dismissing a complaint, Lincoln University will make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

Lincoln University may dismiss a complaint if:

- Lincoln University is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;
- The respondent is not participating in Lincoln University's education program or activity and is not employed by Lincoln University;
- The complainant voluntarily withdraws their complaint in writing and the Title IX Coordinator declines to initiate a complaint.
- The complainant voluntarily withdraws some but not all allegations in a complaint in writing, and the Lincoln University determines that the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint would not constitute Prohibited Conduct under this policy; or
- Lincoln University determines the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute Prohibited Conduct under this policy.

Upon dismissal, Lincoln University will promptly notify the complainant in writing of the basis for the dismissal. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then Lincoln University will notify the parties simultaneously in writing. If a dismissal of one or more allegations changes the appropriate decision-making process under these procedures, the Title IX Coordinator will include that information in the notification.



Lincoln University will notify the complainant that a dismissal may be appealed on the basis outlined in the Appeals section. If dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then Lincoln University will also notify the respondent that the dismissal may be appealed on the same bases. If a dismissal is appealed, Lincoln University will follow the procedures outlined in the Appeals section of these procedures.

When a complaint is dismissed, Lincoln University will, at a minimum:

- Offer supportive measures to the complainant as appropriate;
- If the respondent has been notified of the allegations, offer supportive measures to the respondent as appropriate; and,
- Take other prompt and effective steps, as appropriate, through the Title IX Coordinator to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within Lincoln University's education program or activity.

A complainant who decides to withdraw a complaint or any portion of it may later request to reinstate it or refile it.

Referrals for Other Misconduct

Lincoln University has the discretion to refer complaints of misconduct not covered by this policy for handling under any other applicable Lincoln University policy or code. As part of any such referral for further handling, Lincoln University may use evidence already gathered through any process covered by this policy.

Should there be a conflict between the provision of this policy and other Lincoln University policies, procedures, rules, regulations, or terms or conditions of employment, the provisions of this policy will govern unless specifically stated otherwise.

This policy and these procedures are separate from Lincoln University's student disciplinary processes, by which Lincoln University may bring a discipline charge against a student for violating Lincoln University policy according to the provisions found in Lincoln University code of conduct.

Consolidation of Cases

Lincoln University may consolidate complaints under this policy as appropriate: for example, if there are multiple complaints where the allegations of Prohibited Conduct arise out of the same facts or circumstances, or there are multiple complaints with overlapping parties.

Lincoln University also reserves the right to use this policy to adjudicate other allegations and conduct charges as defined by policies outside of the scope of this policy in instances when the conduct is associated with an alleged issue of Prohibited Conduct under this policy. The



Title IX Coordinator will address these consolidated complaints in collaboration and coordination with other appropriate offices, such as Student Services and Human Resources. Allegations of a violation of a separate policy are not required to be handled using the procedural requirements set forth in this policy.

Student Withdrawal or Employee Resignation while Matters are Pending

If a student or employee respondent permanently withdraws or resigns from Lincoln University with unresolved allegations pending, Lincoln University will consider whether and how to proceed with the resolution process. Lincoln University will continue to address and remedy any systemic issues or concerns that may have contributed to the alleged violation(s) and any ongoing effects of the alleged Prohibited Conduct

A student respondent who withdraws or leaves while the process is pending may not return to Lincoln University without first resolving any pending matters. Such exclusion applies to all Lincoln University campuses and programs. Admissions will be notified that the student cannot be readmitted. They may also be barred from Lincoln University property or events. If a student respondent withdraws or takes a leave for a specified period of time (e.g., one semester or term), the resolution process may continue remotely, and that student is not permitted to return to Lincoln University unless and until the matter is fully resolved.

An employee respondent who resigns with unresolved allegations pending is not eligible for rehire with Lincoln University and the records retained by the Title IX Coordinator will reflect that status. All Lincoln University responses to future inquiries regarding employment references for that individual will include that the former employee resigned during a pending disciplinary matter.

D. OPTIONS FOR RESOLUTION

There are multiple ways to resolve a complaint or report of sex discrimination. Whenever possible, Lincoln University will utilize the resolution method chosen by the complainant. During the resolution of a complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether to implement reasonable supportive measures designed to assist all parties (complainants and respondents) and community members in maintaining access to and participation in Lincoln University programs, services and activities during the resolution of the complaint.

This section includes information on support-based Resolution, agreement-based resolution, and investigation and decision-making procedures.

Support- Based Resolution

A support-based resolution is an option for a complainant who does not wish Lincoln University to take any further steps to address their concern, and when the Title IX Coordinator determines that another form of resolution, or further action, is not required.



Some types of support that may be appropriate include: adjustments or changes to class schedules; moving from one residence hall room to another; adjusted deadlines for projects or assignments; adjustments to work schedule or arrangements; escorts to and around campus; or counseling.

A support-based resolution does not preclude later use of another form of resolution, for example if new information becomes available to Lincoln University and the Title IX Coordinator determines there is need for additional steps to be taken, or the complainant later decides to pursue a Resolution Agreement or investigation and decision-making.

Agreement-Based Resolution

Agreement-Based Resolution is an alternative to the investigation and decision-making procedures where the Parties each voluntarily agree to resolve the complaint in a way that does not include an investigation and does not include any finding of responsibility. Agreement-Based Resolution is a voluntary, structured interaction between or among affected parties that balances support and accountability. If Lincoln University offers Agreement-Based Resolution to the parties, and they voluntarily consent to engage in that process, the Title IX Coordinator must still take other prompt and effective steps as needed to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the education program or activity.

Any party may design the proposed agreement between the parties. The Title IX Coordinator must approve of the use of the Agreement-Based Resolution process and approve the final agreement between the parties. Agreement-Based Resolution may be initiated at any time prior to the release of the final determination. Because Agreement-Based Resolution does not involve an investigation, there is not any determination made as to whether a respondent violated this policy.

The Title IX Coordinator has the discretion to determine that Agreement-Based Resolution is not an appropriate way to address the reported conduct, and that the matter must instead be resolved through an investigation and decision-making process.

Initiating the Agreement-Based Resolution Process

Prior to the initiation of Agreement-Based Resolution, the Title IX Coordinator will provide the Parties written notice that includes:

- The specific allegation and the specific conduct that is alleged to have occurred;
- The requirements of the Agreement-Based Resolution process;
- Any consequences resulting from participating in the Agreement-Based Resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared, and whether Lincoln University could disclose such information for use in a future Lincoln University grievance process, including an investigation and resolution process arising from the same or different allegations, as may be appropriate.



- Notice that an agreement resulting from the Agreement-Based Resolution process is binding only on the parties and is not subject to appeal.
- Notice that once the Agreement is finalized and signed by the Parties, they cannot initiate or continue an investigation procedure arising from the same allegations.
- A statement indicating that the decision to participate in the Agreement-Based Resolution process does not presume that the conduct at issue has occurred.
- A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for violating this policy, unless respondent admits to violations of this policy;
- An explanation that all parties may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice, who may be a parent, colleague, friend, or attorney;
- A statement that any party has the right to withdraw from the Agreement-Based Resolution process and initiate or resume grievance procedures at any time before agreeing to a resolution;
- The date and time of the initial meeting with staff or the Title IX Coordinator, with a minimum of 3 days' notice;
- Information regarding Supportive Measures, which are available equally to the parties; and
- The potential terms that may be requested or offered in an Agreement-Based Resolution agreement.

Facilitating an Agreement

If all Parties are willing to explore Agreement-Based Resolution, the Title IX Coordinator will then meet separately with each party to discuss the Agreement-Based Resolution process and facilitate an agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached, either because the Parties do not agree, determine they no longer wish to participate in the Agreement-Based Resolution process, or the Title IX Coordinator does not believe that the terms of the agreement or continuing the Agreement-Based Resolution process is appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator may decide that the reported conduct will instead be addressed through the investigation and decision-making process. The Title IX Coordinator will inform the parties of such decision, in writing.

Agreement-Based Resolution processes are managed by facilitators who do not have a conflict of interest or bias in favor of or against complainants or respondents generally or regarding the specific parties in the matter. The Title IX Coordinator may serve as the facilitator, subject to these restrictions. The investigator or Decisionmaker for the matter may not facilitate an Agreement-Based Resolution in that same matter.

Any party may craft or create the terms of their agreement and will be asked for their suggestions or ideas. Examples of agreements may include but are not limited to:



- an agreement that the respondent will change classes or housing assignments;
- an agreement that the Parties will not communicate or otherwise engage with one another;
- an agreement that the Parties will not contact one another;
- completion of a training or educational project by the respondent;
- completion of a community service project by the respondent;
- an agreement to engage in a restorative justice process or facilitated dialogue; and/or
- discipline agreed upon by all parties.

In order to facilitate Agreement-Based Resolution, information shared by any party will not be used in any related resolution process of the same complaint under this policy. No evidence concerning the allegations obtained within the Agreement-Based Resolution process may be disseminated to any outside person, provided that any party to the Agreement-Based Resolution process may generally discuss the allegations under investigation with a parent, advisor, or other source of emotional support, or with an advocacy organization. An admission of responsibility made during an Agreement-Based Resolution process, however, may not be incorporated into the investigation and adjudication proceeding.

Finalizing the Resolution Agreement

Once the final terms of the Resolution Agreement have been agreed upon by all parties, in writing, and approved by the Title IX Coordinator, the matter will be considered closed, and no further action will be taken. Once signed, no appeal is permitted. The Agreement-Based Resolution process is generally expected to be completed within thirty (30) days and may be extended by the Title IX Coordinator as appropriate. All parties will be notified, in writing, of any extension and the reason for the extension.

Records of an Agreement-Based Resolution process can be shared with other offices as appropriate.

Any violations of the terms of the Resolution Agreement may result in disciplinary action.

Investigation & Decision-making Resolution

This policy includes two types of investigation and decision-making procedures.

- All prohibited conduct matters except for sex-based harassment involving a student as a party,
- Sex-based harassment involving a student as a party.

The following information applies to both types of the investigation and decision-making procedures.



Acceptance of Responsibility

If a respondent accepts responsibility for all or part of the Prohibited Conduct alleged, the Coordinator or designated sanctioning officer will issue an appropriate sanction or responsive action as to those violation(s) and continue processing any remaining allegations of Prohibited Conduct, if any.

Assignment of the Investigator and/or Decisionmaker

Lincoln University will assign a trained investigator and/or Decisionmaker to conduct an adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation and determination, as applicable, in a reasonably prompt timeframe. Lincoln University reserves the right to utilize internal or external investigators and Decisionmakers.

All parties have the option to participate in the investigation, and each have the same rights during the resolution process including the right to an advisor, to submit relevant witness names and evidence, and to review the evidence gathered by the investigator prior to the investigator providing the final report to the Decisionmaker.

The investigator will establish deadlines for submission of names of relevant witnesses and submission of evidence and communicate those deadlines to the parties in writing.

Conflict of Interest or Bias

After a Notice of Investigation is issued to all parties, any party may object to the participation of the Title IX Coordinator or designated investigator on the grounds of a demonstrated bias or actual conflict of interest. All parties will have three (3) days from the date of the Notice of Investigation to object to the selection of the investigator or the Title IX Coordinator.

Objections to the Title IX Coordinator are to be made, in writing, to the [APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL]. Objections to the appointment of the investigator are to be made in writing, to the Title IX Coordinator. All objections will be considered, and changes made as appropriate. If the objection is substantiated as to either the Title IX Coordinator or the Investigator, that individual shall be replaced. Any change will be communicated in writing.

Timeline

Lincoln University strives to complete the investigation process within ninety (90) days from the date of the Notice of Investigation.

The timeline for any part of the resolution process may be extended for good cause by the Title IX Coordinator. All parties shall be notified, in writing, of any extension to the timeline that is granted, the reason for the extension, and the new anticipated date of conclusion of the investigation and/or hearing. Good cause reasons for extension may include ensuring



availability of witnesses and other participants and ensuring participants have sufficient time to review materials.

Lincoln University shall not unreasonably deny a student party's request for an extension of a deadline related to a complaint during periods of examinations or school closures.

The investigator and/or Title IX Coordinator shall provide the Parties with periodic status updates, in writing.

Burden and Standard of Review

Lincoln University has the burden of conducting an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether Prohibited Conduct occurred. This burden does not rest with any party, and any party may decide to limit their participation in part or all of the process, or to decline to participate. This does not shift the burden of proof away from Lincoln University and does not indicate responsibility. The standard of proof used in any investigation and decision-making process is the preponderance of the evidence standard, which means more likely than not.

Written Notice of Meetings

Lincoln University will provide to a party or witness whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all meetings or proceedings with sufficient time to prepare to participate.

Evidence Gathering

Interviews

The investigator will interview all parties and relevant witnesses and gather relevant documentary evidence provided by the parties and any identified witnesses. Interviews may be conducted in person, or via video conference. When a party meets with an investigator, the investigator will ask questions related to the allegations in the complaint and a party is given the opportunity speak to the allegations and related events. Parties may identify fact witnesses and provide evidence that is relevant to the allegations and not otherwise impermissible. This will include inculpatory evidence (that tends to show it more likely that someone committed a violation) and exculpatory evidence (that tends to show it less likely that someone committed a violation). The investigator ultimately determines whom to interview to determine the facts relevant to the complaint.

Impermissible Evidence

The following types of evidence, and questions seeking that evidence, are impermissible. This means this information will not be accessed or considered, except by Lincoln University to



determine whether one of the exceptions listed below applies. This information will not be disclosed or otherwise used, regardless of relevance:

- Evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by Federal or State law, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality;
- Evidence provided to an employee designated by Lincoln University as exempt from internal reporting under this policy, unless the person who made the disclosure or otherwise provided evidence to that employee has voluntarily consented to re-disclosure;
- A party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless Lincoln University obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures; and
- Evidence that relates to the complainant's sexual interests or prior sexual conduct, unless evidence about the complainant's prior sexual conduct is offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the alleged conduct or is evidence about specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual conduct with the respondent that is offered to prove consent to alleged sex-based harassment. The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the parties does not by itself demonstrate or imply the complainant's consent to other sexual activity or preclude a determination that Prohibited Conduct occurred.

Investigation & Decision-making Procedures for All Prohibited Conduct Except Sex-Based Harassment Involving a Student Party

This procedure is for all matters of Prohibited Conduct being investigated and determined under this policy except for sex-based harassment involving a student as a party.

Lincoln University will assign a trained investigator and Decisionmaker to conduct an adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation and determination in a reasonably prompt timeframe. Lincoln University reserves the right to utilize internal or external investigators and decisionmakers.

All parties have the option to participate in the investigation, and each have the same rights during the resolution process including the right to an advisor, to submit relevant witness names and evidence, and to review the evidence gathered by the investigator prior to the investigator's making any findings.

Notice of Investigation

Prior to the start of an investigation, the Parties will be provided a written Notice of Investigation communicating the initiation of an investigation. Should additional allegations



be brought forward, or information regarding location or date of the incident(s), a revised written Notice of Investigation shall be provided to all parties.

The Notice shall include, at a minimum:

- Lincoln University's resolution procedures, including the applicable determination procedure, and any alternative resolution process, with a link to the full procedures;
- The specific allegations, including the identity of the parties, and dates and location if known;
- Sufficient information available at the time to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), a description of the facts alleged to constitute Prohibited Conduct, the type of Prohibited Conduct, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident(s);
- A statement that Retaliation is prohibited;
- Contact information for the assigned investigator and Decisionmaker, as well as the process for raising a challenge to the appointed investigator, Decisionmaker, or Title IX Coordinator, and the deadline for doing so.
- Expected length of the major stages of the resolution process, as well as any applicable deadlines.
- Whether the Investigator, or another individual, shall serve as the Decisionmaker.
- A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for Prohibited Conduct until a determination is made at the conclusion of the investigation and decision-making procedures. Prior to such a determination, the parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial Decisionmaker.
- The parties may have an advisor (this is optional for non-student SBH federally unless VAWA crimes) of their choice who may be a friend, colleague, therapist, or attorney;
- The parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, and to provide a response;
- A statement that Lincoln University prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during grievance procedures, with a link to the relevant policy(ies).
- The date and time of the initial interview with the investigator, with a minimum of five (5) days' notice.

Individual Interviews

The investigator will hold individual interviews with parties and witnesses to ask relevant and not otherwise impermissible questions and follow-up questions, including questions exploring credibility. Only the investigator and the party or witness may attend each individual interview. A party's advisor may attend these meetings, subject to the rules described above in this policy. Additional attendees may be permitted at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator in connection



with an approved disability-related accommodation. All persons present at any time during any part of the investigation or resolution process are expected to maintain the privacy of the proceedings and not discuss or otherwise share any information learned as part of those proceedings, and may be subject to further Lincoln University discipline for failure to do so.

Lincoln University may also adopt and apply other reasonable rules regarding decorum, provided they apply equally to the parties.

The individual interviews may be conducted with all participants physically present in the same geographic location, or, at Lincoln University's discretion, with all participants joining virtually through a video conferencing option.

Lincoln University will share expectations of decorum to be observed at all times in any meeting or proceeding under this policy. These expectations are applied equally to all parties and advisors. Lincoln University has the discretion to remove, with or without prior warning, from any meeting or proceeding an involved party, witness, or advisor who does not comply with these expectations and any other applicable Lincoln University rules.

Evidence Review

At the conclusion of all fact-gathering, the investigator will provide each party and their advisor, if any, the opportunity to review all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence gathered.

The purpose of the inspection and review process is to allow each party the equal opportunity to meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation, to submit any additional relevant evidence, and the names of any additional witnesses with relevant information. This is the final opportunity to offer evidence, or names of witnesses. Given the sensitive nature of the information provided, Lincoln University will facilitate this review in a secure manner. None of the parties nor their advisors may copy, remove, photograph, print, image, videotape, record, or in any manner otherwise duplicate or remove the information provided. Any student or employee who fails to abide by this may be subject to discipline. Any advisor who fails to abide by this may be subject to discipline and/or may be excluded from further participation in the process.

The parties will have a minimum of 5 days to inspect and review the evidence and submit a written response in writing to the investigator. Lincoln University will provide access to copies of the parties' written responses to the investigator to all parties and their advisors, if any. The Title IX Coordinator shall have the discretion to extend the evidence review period based on the volume and nature of the evidence. At the conclusion of the evidence review, when deemed appropriate by the investigator, the investigator shall then conduct any additional fact-gathering



as may be necessary. If new, relevant evidence is gathered during this second fact-gathering period, the new evidence will be made available for review by the parties and their advisors. The parties shall have 5 days to provide a response to the newly-gathered evidence. No new evidence will be accepted as part of any response, except that the investigator shall have the discretion to accept relevant evidence that was not previously available or known to exist, and that was not previously discoverable with the exercise of reasonable diligence.

The investigator will consider the parties' written responses before finalizing the investigation report.

The parties may each submit a written impact statement prior to the conclusion of the resolution process. The impact statement is not evidence and will be reviewed only after a determination of responsibility is reached.

Investigation Report

The investigator, who may also serve as the Decisionmaker, shall evaluate the relevant and not impermissible evidence and make a factual determination regarding each allegation, and also determine whether a violation of the policy occurred. The investigator may choose to place less or no weight upon statements by a party or witness who refused to respond to questions deemed relevant and not impermissible or declined to participate. The investigator will not draw an inference about whether sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to questions.

The investigator shall prepare a report which shall include:

- A description of the allegations of Prohibited Conduct;
- Information about the policies and procedures used to evaluate the allegations;
- A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, and methods used to gather other evidence;
- An evaluation of the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and the rationale for that evaluation;
- Findings of fact for each allegation, with rationale;
- Conclusions regarding which section of this policy or other Lincoln University policy, if any, the respondent has or has not violated, with rationale.

This report shall be provided to the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that the Decisionmaker has determined that a violation of university policy has occurred, the Title IX Coordinator shall then provide the report to the appropriate Sanctioning Officer to determine the sanction, and the Title



IX Coordinator shall then determine the appropriate remedy(ies) for the complainant and any impacted parties.

The Title IX Coordinator shall then provide the parties and their advisors, if any, with a written Notice of Outcome and a copy of the investigation report. The Notice of Outcome shall include:

- A statement of, and rationale for, any disciplinary sanctions Lincoln University imposed on the respondent
- A statement as to whether remedies will be provided to the Complainant
- For the complainant, a description of any remedies that apply to the complainant
- Lincoln University's procedures and the permitted reasons for the parties to appeal, including identifying the Appeals Officer.
- How to challenge participation by the Appeals Officer for bias or conflict of interest, which the Title IX Coordinator will resolve in their sole discretion.

The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that Lincoln University provides the parties with the written determination of the result of any appeal, or, if no party appeals, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

Investigation & Decision-making Procedures in Cases of Sex-Based Harassment Involving a Student

The following describes the next steps in investigation and decision making for matters of sex-based harassment in which a student is either a complainant or respondent, regardless of the status of the other party. The investigator may serve as the Decisionmaker.

An investigation process consists of five stages: written notice of investigation; evidence gathering; evidence review; final written determination; option to appeal.

Notice of Investigation

Prior to the start of an investigation, the Parties will be provided a written Notice of Investigation communicating the initiation of an investigation. Should additional allegations be brought forward, or information regarding location or date of the incident(s), a revised written Notice of Investigation shall be provided to all parties.

The Notice shall include, at a minimum:

1. Lincoln University's investigation procedures, including the applicable determination procedure that will be used in this investigation and resolution, and a link to the relevant policies;



2. Information about the agreement-based, with a link to the full procedures.
3. Sufficient information available at the time to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), a description of the facts alleged to constitute Prohibited Conduct, the type of Prohibited Conduct, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident(s);
4. A statement that retaliation is prohibited;
5. Whether the investigator, or another individual, shall serve as the Decisionmaker.
7. Expected length of the major stages of the resolution process, as well as any applicable deadlines.
8. The Notice will inform the parties that the investigator will establish and communicate, in writing, all investigation deadlines, including the final deadlines for submitting names of witnesses, evidence, and relevant questions to ask a party or witness. These deadlines may be extended by the Title IX Coordinator for good cause, and any changes will be provided, in writing, to the parties, along with the rationale for the revised deadline(s).
9. The process for raising a challenge to the appointed resolution officer or Title IX Coordinator, and the deadline for doing so.
10. A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for Prohibited Conduct until a determination is made at the conclusion of the resolution process. Prior to such a determination, the parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial Decisionmaker.
11. A statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice who may be a friend, parent, therapist, colleague, or attorney;
12. The parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an investigation report that accurately summarizes this evidence. [If Lincoln University provides access to an investigation report: The parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not impermissible evidence upon the request of any party]; and
13. [if Lincoln University's Code of Conduct prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during grievance procedures, include the following:] Section [XX] of Lincoln University's Code of Conduct prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance procedures.
14. The Decisionmaker will be identified. If Lincoln University assigns a different Decisionmaker, an updated notice will be provided to the parties.
15. The date and time of the initial interview with the Investigator, with a minimum of five (5) days' notice.

Individual Interviews

The investigator will hold individual interviews with parties and witnesses to ask relevant and not otherwise impermissible questions and follow-up questions, including questions exploring credibility, and to request of the parties the names of relevant witnesses and relevant evidence.



Only the investigator and the party or witness may attend each individual interview. A party's advisor may attend these meetings, subject to the rules described above. Additional attendees may be permitted at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator in connection with an approved disability-related accommodation. All persons present at any time during any part of the investigation or resolution process are expected to maintain the privacy of the proceedings and not discuss or otherwise share any information learned as part of the grievance process and may be subject to further University discipline for failure to do so.

The investigator will then gather from parties, witnesses, and other sources, all relevant evidence.

At the initial interview with each party, the investigator will invite the parties to provide, in writing and in advance of the individual interviews, questions to ask of the parties and witnesses that are relevant and not otherwise permissible, including questions exploring credibility. Upon receiving the question list, the investigator will determine whether a proposed question is relevant and not otherwise impermissible and will explain, in writing in advance of the individual interview, any decision to exclude a question as not relevant or otherwise impermissible. Questions that are unclear or harassing of the party or witness being questioned will not be permitted. The investigator must give a party an opportunity to clarify or revise any question that the investigator has determined is unclear or harassing and, if the party sufficiently clarifies or revises a question, the question will be asked.

An investigator will not permit questions that are unclear or harassing of any party or witness being questioned.

The University will share expectations of decorum to be always observed in any meeting or proceeding under this policy. These expectations are applied equally to all parties and advisors. The University has the discretion to remove, with or without prior warning, from any meeting or proceeding an involved party, witness, or advisor who does not comply with these expectations and any other applicable University rules.

The individual interviews may be conducted with all participants physically present in the same geographic location, or, at the University's discretion, with all participants joining virtually through a video conferencing option. All interviews will be recorded.

The investigator will determine, in their sole discretion, whether parties and witnesses are likely to provide relevant information about the allegations and has the sole discretion to determine which parties and witnesses to call to an interview. The investigator may conduct follow-up interviews as they deem appropriate.



Investigator Determination of Relevance

The investigator will determine whether parties and witnesses are likely to provide relevant information about the allegations, and has the sole discretion to determine which parties and witnesses to call to individual follow-up meetings.

The investigator will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant and what evidence is impermissible regardless of relevance. Character evidence that is not relevant will not be considered. If the Decisionmaker is not the investigator, the Decisionmaker is not bound by the investigator's determinations about relevance.

Evidence Review

At the conclusion of all fact-gathering, the investigator will provide each party and their advisor the opportunity to review all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence gathered. In the event that an audio or audiovisual recording is shared, the recording will only be made available at an in-person and monitored meeting on campus, and will not otherwise be transmitted for review, so as to maintain the privacy of those participating in the process.

The purpose of the inspection and review process is to allow each party the equal opportunity to meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation, to submit any additional relevant evidence, and the names of any additional witnesses with relevant information. This is the final opportunity to offer evidence or names of witnesses. Evidence not provided during the investigation process will not be considered by the Decisionmaker. Given the sensitive nature of the information provided, Lincoln University will facilitate this review in a secure manner. None of the parties nor their advisors may copy, remove, photograph, print, image, videotape, record, or in any manner otherwise duplicate or remove the information provided. Any student or employee who fails to abide by this may be subject to discipline. Any advisor who fails to abide by this may be subject to discipline and/or may be excluded from further participation in the process.

The parties will have a minimum of 5 days to inspect and review the evidence and submit a written response in writing to the investigator. The Title IX Coordinator shall have the discretion to extend the evidence review period based on the volume and nature of the evidence.

When deemed appropriate by the investigator, the investigator shall then conduct any additional fact-gathering as may be necessary. If new, relevant evidence was submitted as part of evidence review, or is gathered during this second fact-gathering period, the new relevant evidence will be made available for review by the parties and their advisors. The parties shall have 5 days to provide a response to the newly-gathered evidence. No new evidence will be accepted as part of any response, except that the investigator shall have the discretion to accept relevant evidence that was not previously available or known to exist, and that was not previously discoverable with the exercise of reasonable diligence.



The investigator will consider the parties' written responses before finalizing the investigation report.

Determination and Investigation Report

The investigator may serve as the Decisionmaker. The Decisionmaker shall evaluate the relevant and not impermissible evidence and make a factual determination regarding each allegation.

The Decisionmaker may choose to place less or no weight upon statements by a party or witness who refused to respond to questions deemed relevant and not otherwise impermissible, or who was not available, despite reasonable diligence, for a follow-up interview. The Decisionmaker will not draw an inference about whether sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to questions.

The Decisionmaker shall then determine, based upon the factual findings, whether a violation of university policy occurred. The Decisionmaker shall prepare a report which shall include:

- A description of the sex-based harassment;
- A reference to the policies and procedures used to evaluate the allegations;
- Description of all procedural steps taken to date;
- The Decisionmaker's evaluation of the relevant evidence along with the finding of facts;
- Determinations for each allegation, with the rationale;
- Sanction determination (if applicable);
- Whether remedies will be provided;
- The procedures for an appeal.

This report shall be provided to the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that the Decisionmaker has determined that a violation of university policy has occurred, the Title IX Coordinator shall then provide the report to the appropriate Sanctioning Officer to determine the sanction, and the Title IX Coordinator shall then determine the appropriate remedy(ies) for the Complainant and any impacted parties.

- *Sanctioning Officer or Designee for Student Respondents:* Brian Dubenion, Associate Vice-President, Dean of Students, Student Success.
- *Sanctioning Officer or Designee for Staff Respondents:* Jake Tanksley, Vice President, Human Resources.
- *Sanctioning Officer or Designee for Faculty:* Dr. Patricia Joseph, Provost, Dean of the Faculty.



The Title IX Coordinator shall then provide the parties and their advisors, if any, with a written Notice of Outcome and a copy of the Decisionmaker's report. The Notice of Outcome shall include any disciplinary sanctions for the respondent, whether remedies will be provided, and the procedures for appeal. In addition, the complainant shall be informed of any remedies that apply to the complainant.

The Title IX Coordinator will provide each party, and their advisor, written communication regarding the decision, the sanction determination, and the procedures for appeal, along with a copy of the Investigation Report. The Title IX Coordinator will also provide written communication to the Complainant regarding any appropriate remedies.

APPEALS

Determinations may be appealed in writing by either party. Appeals will be sent to the Title IX Coordinator, who will then send the appeal to the Appeals Officer assigned to conduct a written review of the appeal(s) and to make a final determination. Appeals must be in writing and filed within ten (10) days following the issuance of the outcome letter.

When an appeal is filed, the other party shall be notified and provided with a copy of the filed appeal within one (1) day, and have five (5) days to respond to the appeal in writing. Any party's decision not to submit a reply to an appeal is not evidence that the non-appealing party agreed with the appeal.

Within three (3) days of an Appeal Officer being assigned, either party may provide written objection to the Appeal Officer on the basis of an actual bias or conflict of interest. Any objection is to be sent to the Title IX Coordinator. Should the Title IX Coordinator determine that there is an actual bias or conflict of interest, the Title IX Coordinator will appoint another Appeal Officer.

Appeals may be filed only on the following three grounds:

1. Procedural Error: A procedural error occurred would change the outcome. A description of the error and its impact on the outcome of the case must be included in the written appeal; or,
2. New Evidence: New evidence or information has arisen that was not available or known to the party during the investigation or hearing, that would change the outcome. Information that was known to the party during the resolution process but which they chose not to present is not considered new



information. The new evidence, an explanation as to why the evidence was not previously available or known, and an explanation of its potential impact on the investigation findings must be included in the written appeal; or

3. Actual Conflict of Interest or Demonstrated Bias: The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or others with a role in the process with an actual conflict of interest or demonstrated bias for or against complainants or respondents generally, or the individual complainant or respondent, that would change the outcome. Any evidence supporting the alleged conflict of interest or demonstrated bias must be included in the written appeal.

The Appeal Officer will make a determination regarding the appeal and communicate that decision, along with a rationale for the decision to the Title IX Coordinator who will communicate the Appeal Officer's decision to the parties. The decision of the Appeals Officer is final.

Failure to Complete Sanctions/Comply with Responsive Actions

All responding parties are expected to comply with conduct sanctions/responsive actions/corrective actions within the timeframe specified by Lincoln University. Responding parties needing an extension to comply with their sanctions must submit a written request to the Title IX Coordinator stating the reasons for needing additional time.

Failure to follow through on conduct sanctions/responsive actions/corrective actions by the date specified, whether by refusal, neglect or any other reason, may result in additional sanctions/responsive actions/corrective actions, such as suspension, expulsion, termination, or a transcript notation. Students who fail to comply will be referred to the Dean of Students in accordance with Lincoln University's code of conduct].

E. RECORD RETENTION

In implementing this policy, records of all reports and resolutions will be kept by the Coordinator in accordance with the applicable Lincoln University records retention schedule. All records will be afforded the confidentiality protections required by law, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act governing confidentiality of student information.

F. ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) investigates reports of unlawful harassment and discrimination, including sex-based harassment, in employment.



The U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) investigates complaints of unlawful discrimination and harassment of students and employees in education programs or activities.

For more information, contact the nearest office of the EEOC or OCR.

US Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
[Office for Civil Rights | U.S. Department of Education](https://www.ed.gov/office-for-civil-rights)

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
<https://www.eeoc.gov/contact-eeoc>

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
[Pennsylvania Human Relations
Commission |](https://www.phrc.pa.gov/)

G. POLICY REVIEW & REVISION

These policies and procedures will be reviewed and updated regularly by the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will submit modifications to this policy in a manner consistent with institutional policy upon determining those changes to law, regulation or best practices require policy or procedural alterations not reflected in this policy and procedure. Procedures in effect at the time of its implementation will apply. The policy definitions in effect at the time of the conduct will apply even if the policy is changed subsequently, unless the parties consent to be bound by the current policy.

This policy may be revised at any time without notice. All revisions supersede prior policy and are effective immediately upon posting to Lincoln University website.

H. KEY DEFINITIONS

Advisor: Each party has the right to choose and consult with an advisor of their choice at their own expense. The advisor may be any person, including a friend, family member, therapist, union representative, or an attorney. Lincoln University will not limit their choice of advisor. Parties in this process may be accompanied by an advisor of choice to any meeting or proceeding to which they are required or are eligible to attend.



Except where explicitly stated by this policy, advisors shall not participate directly in the process. Lincoln University will provide the parties equal access to advisors; any restrictions on advisor participation will be applied equally.

The advisor may not represent, advocate, or speak on behalf of a complainant or respondent. An advisor may not disrupt or impede any resolution proceeding.

Amnesty: a provision whereby a student who makes a report or assists another in making a report to Lincoln University or who participates in the resolution of a complaint under this policy will not be subject to Lincoln University's policy concerning alcohol or drug use for actions that may have occurred at or near the time of the Prohibited Conduct defined within this policy, unless the alcohol or drug-related misconduct threatens the health or safety of another.

Coercion/Force: Consent cannot be procured by the use of physical force, compulsion, threats, intimidating behavior, or coercion. Sexual activity accompanied by coercion or force is not consensual.

- Coercion refers to unreasonable pressure for sexual activity. When someone makes it clear that they do not want to engage in sexual activity or do not want to go beyond a certain point of sexual interaction, continued pressure beyond that point can be considered coercive. The use of coercion can involve the use of pressure, manipulation, substances, or force. Ignoring objections of another person is a form of coercion.
- Force refers to the use of physical violence or imposing on someone physically to engage in sexual contact or intercourse. Force can also include threats, intimidation (implied threats), or coercion used to overcome resistance.

Complaint: A complaint means an oral or written request to Title IX Coordinator that objectively can be understood as a request for Lincoln University to investigate and make a determination about alleged sex discrimination under this policy. A complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail (email), by using the contact information listed on the Title IX/Equal Opportunity website (LINK), or as described in this policy. Individuals who would like more information about filing a complaint are invited to contact the Title IX Coordinator for additional information.

Complainant: Any individual who has reported being or is alleged to be impacted by Prohibited Conduct as defined by this policy, and who was participating in a Lincoln University program or activity at the time of the alleged misconduct.

Confidential Resources: any individual identified by the university who receives information about conduct prohibited under this policy in their confidential capacity and who are



privileged under state law will not report prohibited conduct disclosed to them without written consent. Designation as a confidential resource under this policy only exempts such individuals from disclosure to the Title IX Coordinator. It does not affect other mandatory reporting obligations under state child abuse reporting laws, the Clery Act as a campus security authority, or other laws that require reporting to campus or local law enforcement.

Consent is knowing, voluntary and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity, expressed in words or actions. For consent to be valid, there must be a clear expression in words or actions that the other individual consented to that specific sexual conduct with that particular person or people.

Individuals may experience the same interaction in different ways. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each party to determine that the other has consented before engaging in the activity. If consent is not clearly provided prior to engaging in the activity, consent may be ratified by word or action at some point during the interaction or thereafter, but clear communication from the outset is strongly encouraged.

Consent to some sexual contact (such as kissing or fondling) cannot be presumed to be consent for other sexual activity (such as intercourse). Past consent does not imply future consent. A current or previous dating relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent. The existence of consent is based on the totality of the circumstances, evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable person in the same or similar circumstances, including the context in which the alleged incident occurred. Silence or the absence of resistance alone is not consent. In Pennsylvania a minor (meaning a person under the age of 16 years) cannot consent to sexual activity except in limited circumstances dictated by law.

Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity through reasonable and clear communications through words or actions. When consent is withdrawn, sexual activity must stop.

Consent cannot be given if any of the following are present: Incapacitation, Force, or Coercion.

Days: any reference to days refers to business days when Lincoln University is in normal operation.

Decisionmaker: Trained professional designated by Lincoln University to decide responsibility, sanction, or appeals. A Decisionmaker may be one person or a panel of multiple people as determined by Lincoln University. When there is no hearing, the investigator may be appointed as the Decisionmaker.

Disclosure or Report: A disclosure or report may be made by anyone, whether they learned about conduct potentially constituting sex discrimination under this policy, or whether they personally



experienced such conduct. A person making a disclosure or report may or may not be seeking to initiate an investigation.

Education Program or Activity: Lincoln University's "education program or activity" includes all campus operations, including off-campus settings that are operated or overseen by Lincoln University, including, for example, field trips, online classes, and athletic programs; conduct subject to Lincoln University's disciplinary authority that occurs off-campus; conduct that takes place via Lincoln University-sponsored electronic devices, computer and internet networks and digital platforms operated by, or used in the operations of, Lincoln University. Conduct that occurs outside of the education program or activity may contribute to a hostile environment within the program or activity.

Finding: a written conclusion by a preponderance of the evidence, issued by an Investigator, that the conduct did or did not occur as alleged.

Incapacitation occurs when someone cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because they lack the capacity to give knowing and informed consent (e.g., to understand the "who, what, when, where, why, and how" of their sexual interaction). Incapacitation is determined through consideration of all relevant indicators of a person's state and is not synonymous with intoxication, impairment, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. This policy also covers a person whose incapacity results from temporary or permanent physical or mental health condition, involuntary physical restraint, and/or the consumption of incapacitating drugs, or who are sleeping.

Under this policy, Lincoln University will consider whether a respondent knew or should have known the complainant to be incapacitated, based on an objective, reasonable person standard that assumes the reasonable person is both sober and exercising sound judgment. The fact that the respondent was unaware of the complainant's incapacity due to the respondent's own drug or alcohol use shall not be considered as an excuse.

No-Contact Directive: A No Contact Directive is a document issued by a Lincoln University administrator that is designed to limit or prohibit contact or communications between the parties. A No-Contact Directive may be mutual or unilateral, with the exception that a No-Contact Directive issued as either a sanction or remedy shall be unilateral, directing that the respondent not contact the complainant.

Notice: All notices under this policy are written and sent to the student or employee's assigned Lincoln University email address or delivered via Certified Mail to the local or



permanent address(es) of the parties as indicated in official Lincoln University records, or personally delivered to the intended recipient.

Party/parties: Referring to complainant(s), respondent(s), or both/all complainant(s) and respondent(s).

Remedies: Remedies means measures provided, as appropriate, to a complainant or any other person Lincoln University identifies as having had their equal access to Lincoln University's education program or activity limited or denied by sex discrimination or other prohibited conduct covered by this policy. These measures are provided to restore or preserve that person's access to the education program or activity after a Lincoln University determines that sex discrimination occurred. Only the complainant will be informed of any remedies pertaining to them. Some examples are academic support and/or opportunity to retake a class or resubmit work or time extensions on course or degree completion, or non-academic support such as counseling, or changes to work assignments or locations. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for implementation of remedies.

Respondent: an individual, or group of individuals such as a student organization, who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct under this policy; or retaliation for engaging in a protected activity.

Sanctions: One or more of the sanctions or disciplinary steps listed here may be imposed on a respondent who is found responsible for a violation of Lincoln University's policies. Sanctions or disciplinary steps not listed here may be imposed in consultation with the Title IX Coordinator.

The form of sanction or discipline used will depend on the nature of the offense, as well as any prior disciplinary history. Such discipline or sanction will be imposed pursuant to and in accordance with any and all applicable Lincoln University rules, policies, and procedures. Factors considered when determining a sanction/responsive action may include:

- The nature, severity of, and circumstances surrounding the violation.
- An individual's disciplinary history.
- Previous grievances or allegations involving similar conduct.
- The need for sanctions/responsive actions to bring an end to the sex discrimination or retaliation.
- The need for sanctions/responsive actions to prevent the future recurrence of sex discrimination or retaliation.
- The need to remedy the effects of the sex discrimination or retaliation on the victim and the campus community.



Student sanctions imposed are implemented when the decision is final (after an appeal, or, if there was no appeal, after the appeals period expires).

Faculty found responsible for violating this policy may be referred to the appropriate academic official for any other applicable processes.

Possible sanctions and disciplinary steps for student respondents include, but are not limited to the following:

- Probation
- Suspension
- Expulsion

Possible sanctions and disciplinary steps for staff and faculty respondents include, but are not limited to:

- Probation
- Termination

Student: Any person who has (or will have) attained student status by way of:

1. Admission, housing or other service that requires student status.
2. Registration for one or more credit hours.
3. Enrollment in any non-credit, certificate or other program offered by the university.

Supportive Measures: Individualized measures offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, without unreasonably burdening a complainant or respondent, not for punitive or disciplinary reasons, and without fee or charge to the complainant or respondent to:

- Restore or preserve that party's access to Lincoln University's education program or activity, including measures that are designed to protect the safety of the parties or Lincoln University's educational environment; or
- Provide support during Lincoln University's grievance procedures or during an alternative resolution process.

Supportive measures may include but are not limited to: counseling; extensions of deadlines and other course-related adjustments; campus escort services; increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus; restrictions on contact applied to one or more parties; leaves of



absence; changes in class, work, housing, or extracurricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; no-contact directives (which may be mutual or unilateral at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator); and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment. Supportive measures are non-disciplinary and non-punitive. Supportive Measures will also be offered to respondents when they are notified of the allegations.

Any Supportive Measures put in place will be kept confidential, except when doing so impairs the ability of the institution to provide the Supportive Measures.

Lincoln University will offer and coordinate supportive measures as appropriate for the parties as applicable to restore or preserve their access to Lincoln University’s program or activity or provide support during Lincoln University’s alternative resolution process or grievance procedures. Prohibited Conduct under this policy have the right to request supportive measures from Lincoln University regardless of whether they desire to make a complaint or seek alternative resolution.

A party may challenge Lincoln University’s decision to provide, deny, modify, or terminate supportive measures when such measures are applicable to them. An impartial employee will be designated to consider modification or reversal of Lincoln University’s decision to provide, deny, modify, or terminate supportive measures. When the individual providing Supportive Measures is a Deputy Title IX Coordinator or other individual identified by the Title IX Coordinator to provide Supportive Measures, the Title IX Coordinator will be designated to consider the challenge regarding supportive measures. The impartial employee will typically respond to the challenge within five (5) days.

The Title IX Coordinator has the discretion to implement or modify supportive measures. Violation of the parameters of supportive measures may violate existing codes or handbooks.

I. RESOURCES

<p>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY International Cultural Center (ICC), 24 hours a day/7 days per week</p>	<p>484-365-7211</p>
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TITLE IX COORDINATOR Wright Hall 107, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	484-746-0000
<u>UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES*</u> Wellness Center, Suite 100, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	484-365-7338
<u>THE WOMEN'S CENTER</u> Hansberry Hall, Basement Level, by appointment	484-365-7244
<u>DEAN OF STUDENTS_</u> Student Union Bldg. 136 - Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	484-365-7705
<u>RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES (CHAPEL)*</u> Mary Dod Brown Memorial Chapel - by appointment	484-365-8075
<u>COUNSELING SERVICES *</u> Wellness Center, Room 221 - Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	484-365-7244

OFF-CAMPUS RESOURCES

Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (HTTP://WWW.DVCCC.COM/) 24 Hour Hotline; Providing counseling services, support groups and legal advocacy
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Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline, Crime Victims' Center of Chester County

([HTTPS://WWW.SAFEHELPLINE.ORG/?Gclid=CMUIGPM6LMYCFQKUHwODOR8ARA](https://www.safehelpline.org/?Gclid=CMUIGPM6LMYCFQKUHwODOR8ARA))

Provides victim services and resources

Domestic Violence Hotline, Philadelphia

([HTTP://WWW.THEHOTLINE.ORG/?Gclid=CPHM5007LMYCFUIRHWODVQIFRG](http://www.thehotline.org/?Gclid=CPHM5007LMYCFUIRHWODVQIFRG))

24-hour resource anonymous and confidential resource for individuals with questions or concerns about domestic violence

Women Against Abuse, Philadelphia

([HTTP://WWW.WOMENAGAINSTABUSE.ORG/](http://www.womenagainstabuse.org/))

Provides domestic violence services in Philadelphia, including emergency shelters and legal representation for protection from abuse orders.

Women Organized Against Rape (WOAR), Philadelphia

([HTTP://WWW.WOAR.ORG/](http://www.woar.org/))

Provides counseling services, resources and court & legal information

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR)

([HTTP://WWW.PCAR.ORG/](http://www.pcar.org/))

Works to raise awareness about rape and sexual assault and advocates for the rights and needs of victims of sexual assault.

Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN)

([HTTPS://WWW.RAINN.ORG](https://www.rainn.org))

24 Hour Hotline providing support to sexual assault victims and their loved ones.



Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender National Hotline

([HTTP://WWW.GLBTHOTLINE.ORG/](http://www.glbthotline.org/))

M - F, 4pm - 12am; Sat. 12pm - 5pm. Hotline provides free and confidential peer-support, as well as factual information and local resources, on relationship concerns, bullying

Legal Assistance – The University does not recommend private attorneys, but you may wish to use the referral services of the **Chester County Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service**, ([HTTP://WWW.CHECOBAR.ORG/?PAGE=LAWYERREFERRALSERV](http://www.chesobar.org/?PAGE=LAWYERREFERRALSERV)), 610-429-1500, which also can provide referrals to att



Title IX Pregnant and Parenting Procedure for Students & Employees

PREGNANCY & PARENTING RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS

Summary

Lincoln University is committed to creating and maintaining a community where all individuals enjoy freedom from discrimination, including discrimination or harassment, on the basis of sex, as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Harassment or discrimination based on pregnancy or related conditions, familial status, marital status, or parental status is prohibited in the University's education programs and activities, including, but not limited to admissions, hiring, leave policies, employment policies, and health insurance coverage. The University establishes this procedure to ensure the protection and equal treatment of individuals who are pregnant, and/or experiencing conditions related to pregnancy, including lactation. Rights for employees are located in the employment sections of this procedure.

For the purposes of this procedure, the legal definitions of reasonable modifications, undue hardship, and other definitions and legal standards pertinent to the provision of reasonable accommodations for an individual's pregnancy or related conditions apply.

Freedom from Discrimination and Exclusion

Lincoln University prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of a student's current, potential, or past pregnancy or related conditions including childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, and all related medical conditions and recovery.

You will not be excluded from your education program or activity based on pregnancy or related conditions, and you may participate in classes and extracurricular activities, including honors classes, clubs, and sports.

Sex-based harassment in this context is a form of sex discrimination and is unwelcome conduct, that creates a hostile environment including comments, on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived pregnancy that has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the individual's access to education programs and activities, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive living, learning or working environment.

Scope and Definitions

This procedure applies to all aspects of the University's education program and activities, including students and employees. The following relevant concepts apply to students and employees and defined below:

- a. Medical necessity is a determination made by a health care provider of a student's or employee's choosing.



- b. Medically Necessary Leave of Absence refers to an absence from the classroom, extracurricular activities, or work because of pregnancy or related conditions and considered necessary by a health care professional of a student's or employee's choosing.
- c. Pregnancy or related conditions includes pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, and lactation, and all related medical conditions and recovery. .
- d. Reasonable Modifications refers to changes to the academic or work environment. Such accommodations for pregnancy or related conditions might include the ability to sit or drink water; receive closer parking; have flexible hours; receive appropriately sized uniforms and safety apparel; receive additional break time to use the bathroom, eat, and rest; take leave or time off to recover from childbirth; and be excused from strenuous activities and/or activities that involve exposure to compounds not safe for pregnancy.
- e. Sex-based harassment refers to a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, including on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity that is: 1) quid pro quo harassment, 2) hostile environment harassment, and 3) specific offenses (See Lincoln University Title IX policy).
- f. The Title IX Coordinator is the person designated with the authority to manage Title IX compliance for the University. The Title IX Coordinator or their designee determines that such modifications are reasonable and will inform faculty or appropriate managers of the need to adjust learning, living, or working parameters accordingly.

Right to Privacy

Information regarding pregnancy or related conditions will be shared on a need-to-know basis or if there is a legitimate business need to know. Information about pregnant students' requests for modifications will be shared with faculty and staff only to the extent necessary to provide the reasonable modifications. Information about pregnant employees' requests for accommodations will be shared with supervisors only to the extent necessary to provide reasonable modifications. Faculty and staff will regard all information associated with such requests as private and will not disclose this information unless necessary.

Parenting Status

Lincoln University will not adopt a policy, practice, or procedure, or take any employment action concerning the current, potential, or past parental, family, or marital status of the student, employee, or applicant that treats persons differently on the basis of sex or is based upon whether an employee or applicant is the head of the household or principal wage earner in their family unit. Lincoln University prohibits treating parenting students, employees, or applicants differently based on sex and from discriminating against them based on sex stereotypes, including about the proper roles of mothers and fathers or the proper gender of caretakers. This procedure does not provide parenting modifications for students, employees, or applicants.

Reasonable Modifications for Students



Lincoln University provides reasonable modifications to students who need them due to pregnancy or related conditions for as long as it is medically necessary by the student's doctor. Some examples of reasonable modification are providing a larger desk, ensuring elevator access, providing a parking permit, or allowing frequent restroom trips. Documentation is not required unless necessary and reasonable to determine reasonable modifications to offer or other specific actions to take.

You will be provided the same services that are provided to students with temporary medical conditions, including online instruction, tutoring, and independent study.

Excused Absences and Voluntary Leave of Absence

- Lincoln University allows students intermittent absences to attend medical appointments. Lincoln University also allows students to voluntarily take a leave of absence from their educational program or activity to cover, at a minimum, the period of time deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed healthcare provider. You are permitted to make up any missed work due to doctor's appointments, medical conditions, and childbirth. Course objectives of the class will influence the ability to make up work. Labs & clinicals are often significantly impacted. Reasonable modification may include shifting assignment and exams dates, excusing absences for medical appointments, in some cases a medical leave of absence or taking an incomplete in a class and making up the work missed at a later date.
- Pregnancy or related conditions absences must be excused for as long as a doctor deems it medically necessary.
- When you return from medical leave, you will return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before the leave began.
- If your grade is based partly on class participation or attendance, you should be allowed to make up the participation or attendance credits.

Lactation

Lincoln University adopts this procedure to support the health and well-being of students and employees and their infant children by providing a workplace environment that accommodates the needs of lactating persons.

Lactation Space and Modifications Requirements

Lincoln University must adhere to several key requirements regarding lactation spaces and modifications outlined in the Title IX regulations (April 19, 2024). First, Lincoln University must provide a designated lactation space that is clean, not a bathroom, and ensures privacy from intrusion or view, and may be used by students for expressing milk or breastfeeding. Second, the Lincoln University, through the Title IX Coordinator or designee, is required to make reasonable modifications modification to a lactating student's educational program, ensuring equal access to education. These modifications may include lactation breaks, permission to carry coolers, or access refrigeration, and modification to testing to accommodate lactation needs. Additionally, Lincoln University must inform employees of their duty to report instances of sex discrimination, including



failure to provide lactation space or harassment based on lactation status. Reports of sex-discrimination will adhere to Lincoln University's Nondiscrimination, Sexual Misconduct, and Title IX Policy (2024).

This procedure is applicable to all Lincoln University students who need to breastfeed and/or express milk during the course of their studies, including virtual and on campus classes, institutionally operated or overseen externships and clinical experiences, as well as exams. This procedure is intended only to apply to students while they are not performing paid work for the university. Employees, including student employees, should consult the Title IX Pregnant Accommodations Procedure and Lactations in the Workplace policy or information on lactation accommodations during their work hours.

Designated Lactation Spaces for Students and Employees

Lincoln University will provide clean spaces across campus that are free from view and intrusion and are easily accessible to students for the purposes of expressing milk. Restrooms may not be classified as designated lactation spaces.

All designated lactation spaces will be equipped with, at minimum:

a table or other flat surface suitable to hold a breast pump; ii) a chair; iii) an electrical outlet; iv) access to running water in the room or nearby.

To ensure privacy within the lactation space, designated spaces will be equipped with a door lock and window coverings to block sight from the outside (if needed). For large lactation spaces intended to be shared by multiple lactating students or workers, privacy screens will be provided.

Lincoln University encourages departments/facilities managers to make available lockers or another space in or nearby lactation spaces where students and employees can elect to store their pumps or expressed milk.

Lincoln University will make a list of available lactation rooms accessible online. For each room, the list should provide the location, hours of operation, information on how to access the space, and information on available amenities such as refrigeration. The list should be regularly updated by the designated office/appointee under the guidance of the Title IX Coordinator. Currently, the following spaces on campus have been designated: **Wright Hall, Room 106.**

Establishing new lactation spaces

When existing locations are not accessible from a lactating student's class/study area, or the demand for existing spaces makes it challenging for students to access lactation space as often as needed, students may contact the Office of Title IX to identify a new space. The Office of Title IX will work with departments and building managers to ensure the appropriate space is identified.

The new space need not be a permanent location and may revert to old usage if/when the demand subsides.

The Office of Title IX will regularly survey lactation room sign in sheets and/or poll users to assess the adequacy of existing locations.

Notwithstanding other institutional procedure, nothing in this procedure restricts a students' right to pump or nurse in areas not designated as a lactation space. In accordance with state law, breastfeeding is permitted at any campus location that the lactating student and infant/child are otherwise permitted to be present.



Lactation Breaks for Students

Students will be provided with class breaks/excused absences and exam modifications to permit them to meet their lactation-related needs. Instructors are prohibited from penalizing lactating students for their absence needed to express breast milk or breastfeed.

Lactating students who must pump during a portion their class period will inform the faculty of their need and estimated time away from class as soon as possible. Faculty who receives requests will provide students with the contact information of the Title IX Coordinator and inform them that Title IX Coordinator is able to assist, if needed.

With the support of the Title IX Coordinator, instructors and students will work together to identify solutions for making up in-class work, participation credits, and instruction missed.

Other Lactation Modifications for Students

Students who need changes related to their lactation other than reasonable time and a clean and private place to express milk may request reasonable modifications by contacting the Title IX Coordinator or designee.

Reasonable modifications may include avoiding certain chemicals or exposures, permission to eat or drink, uniform changes, postponement or modifications to fieldwork or travel, permission to bring their baby to campus (if prohibited under existing procedure), or time off as medically necessary.

Exam accommodations will be provided as necessary. Common exam accommodations include extending the available time period for an exam to allow for milk expression or situating the exam room closer to a lactation space to minimize disruption.

The Title IX Coordinator will engage in a prompt interactive process with the student and any involved faculty to ensure the student's educational opportunities are not diminished as a result of their lactation needs.

Title IX Pregnant and Parenting Procedure for Students & Employees

Compliance

Reporting Sex Discrimination

Any member of Lincoln University community may report a concern of sex discrimination to any supervisor, instructor, or Title IX Officer. Supervisors and instructors are responsible for promptly forwarding such reports to the Title IX office. The University of Delaware receives notice of sex discrimination when such conduct is reported to a Responsible Employee or where such Responsible Employee, in the exercise of reasonable care, knew or should have known about the sex discrimination prohibited by this procedure. All employees of Lincoln University are required to promptly report sexual discrimination, as defined and prohibited by Lincoln University's Non-Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, and Title IX Policy (2024), to the Title IX Coordinator.

Contact Information:

Anthony D. Cox, Jr., J.D. (Point of Contact)

Associate Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Lincoln University
1570 Baltimore Pike, Wright Hall, # 102
Lincoln University, PA 19352
(484) 365-7755
Email: titleix@lincoln.edu

Providing Information to Students who are Pregnant or have related conditions

When a student informs any employee of the student's pregnancy or related condition, the employee must promptly provide the following information to the student:

- The Title IX Coordinator's contact information;
- That the Title IX Coordinator can coordinate reasonable modifications;
- That the Title IX Coordinator can take specific actions to prevent sex discrimination and ensure the student's equal access to education;
- That the Title IX Coordinator may assist in other ways as required by the 2024 Title IX Regulations.

However, a student or employee who is pregnant reserves the right to privacy. Therefore, this procedure does not require employees to inform the Title IX Coordinator that a student is pregnant or has a related condition. The duty is to provide the Title IX Coordinator's information to the student when a student directly tells a Lincoln University employee that they are pregnant or have a related condition. For example, if a student tells a faculty member, "I am pregnant and will be late to class on Wednesday due to a doctor's appointment," the student has informed the faculty member of the pregnancy and the employees' is required under this procedure to provide contact information for the Title IX Coordinator to the student.

Contact Information:

Anthony D. Cox, Jr., J.D. (Point of Contact)

Associate Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
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1570 Baltimore Pike, Wright Hall, # 102

Title IX Pregnant and Parenting Procedure for Students & Employees

Lincoln University, PA 19352

(484) 365-7755

Email: titleix@lincoln.edu

Please refer to Lincoln's Non-Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct and Title IX Policy for reporting, processing and responding to Title IX complaints of sex-discrimination.

Dissemination

Lincoln University will make this procedure available to all University faculty, staff, and students and include it in relevant handbooks and onboarding materials. All employees are responsible for being aware of this procedure and working with students experiencing pregnancy or related conditions to inform the student that the Title IX Coordinator will help arrange reasonable modifications. The Title IX Coordinator will be responsible for distributing this procedure to the University community and responding to any questions concerning the procedure.

Office of Disability Support Services

Pregnancy itself is not considered a disability. However, some pregnancy-related medical conditions that result from pregnancy may meet the definition of a temporary medical disability (e.g., gestational diabetes and preeclampsia) and may result in a short-term disability. If the student develops a medical condition, the student should contact Office of Accessibility Services to determine any appropriate academic accommodations. Additional information can be found on the <https://www.lincoln.edu/accessibility-services/index.html>

External Resources

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-pregnancy-resource.pdf>

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>

<https://thepregnantscholar.org/accommodating-pregnancy-related-conditions/>

Title IX Pregnant and Parenting Procedure for Students & Employees

PREGNANCY & PARENTING RIGHTS FOR EMPLOYEES

Freedom from Discrimination

The University of Delaware prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of pregnancy or related conditions, including childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom. Harassment means any unwelcome conduct on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived pregnancy that has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive living, learning or working environment.

The University of Delaware also prohibits discrimination based on past pregnancy, potential pregnancy, a medical condition related to pregnancy (including lactation), birth control, and having or choosing not to have an abortion. Discrimination is prohibited in the hiring process; pay, assignments, or promotions; training, employee benefits, or any other term or condition of employment; and in reduction of hours, layoff, or termination of employment.

Scope and Definitions

This procedure applies to all aspects of the University's education program and activities, including students and employees. The following relevant concepts apply to students and employees and defined below:

- g. Medical necessity is a determination made by a health care provider of a student's or employee's choosing.
- h. Medically Necessary Leave of Absence refers to an absence from the classroom, extracurricular activities, or work because of pregnancy or related conditions and considered necessary by a health care professional of a student's or employee's choosing.
- i. Pregnancy or related conditions includes pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, and lactation, and all related medical conditions and recovery. .
- j. Reasonable Modifications refers to changes to the academic or work environment. Such accommodations for pregnancy or related conditions might include the ability to sit or drink water; receive closer parking; have flexible hours; receive appropriately sized uniforms and safety apparel; receive additional break time to use the bathroom, eat, and rest; take leave or time off to recover from childbirth; and be excused from strenuous activities and/or activities that involve exposure to compounds not safe for pregnancy.
- k. Sex-based harassment refers to a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, including on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity that is: 1) quid pro quo harassment, 2) hostile environment harassment, and 3) specific offenses (See UD's Non-Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, and Title IX Policy2024).
- l. The Title IX Coordinator is the person designated with the authority to manage Title IX compliance for the University. The Title IX Coordinator or their designee determines that such modifications are reasonable and will inform faculty or appropriate managers of the need to adjust learning, living, or working parameters accordingly.

Right to Privacy

Title IX Pregnant and Parenting Procedure for Students & Employees

Information regarding pregnancy or related conditions will be shared on a need-to-know basis or if there is a legitimate business need to know. Information about pregnant students' requests for modifications will be shared with faculty and staff only to the extent necessary to provide the reasonable modifications. Information about pregnant employees' requests for accommodations will be shared with supervisors only to the extent necessary to provide reasonable modifications. Faculty and staff will regard all information associated with such requests as private and will not disclose this information unless necessary.

Reasonable Modifications

The University of Delaware will provide reasonable accommodations to an employee's known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, and also reasonable accommodations if the pregnancy causes or contributes to a disability. The reasonable accommodations must not

impose an undue hardship on your employer. Some potential accommodations are:

- Flexible hours
- Allowing Telework
- Modifying work schedule to allow shorter hours or later start time. Appropriately sized uniforms and safety apparel
- Additional break time to use the bathroom, eat, and rest
- Make exceptions to food and drink policies
- Altering how job functions are performed
- Temporary assignment to a light duty position

Every situation is different and requires an interactive conversation with your supervisor and Disability Support Services the [applicable office, such as Human Resources] to decide what accommodation best suits your needs.

Leave, Extension of Benefits

[describe leave procedure or direct to applicable policies.]

[If a school does not have a leave procedure for employees, or if an employee has insufficient leave or accrued employment time to qualify for leave under the school's procedure:] Pregnancy or related conditions are treated as a justification for a leave of absence without pay for a reasonable period of time. After that time, the employee will be reinstated to their pre-leave status or to a comparable position without reduction of compensation or loss of promotional opportunities or any other employment rights or privileges.

Pregnancy or related conditions and any temporary disability resulting therefrom will be treated the same as any other temporary disability for commencement, duration, and extensions of leave, payment of disability income, accrual of seniority and any other benefit or service, and reinstatement, along with other employment-based benefits.

Student Employee Leave

Pregnancy or related conditions will be regarded as a justification for a leave of absence without pay for a reasonable period of time, at the conclusion of which the student-employee will be reinstated to the status that they held when the leave began or to a comparable position, without decrease in rate of compensation or loss of promotional opportunities, or any other right or privilege of employment.



Lactating Person in the Workplace Procedures for Employees

This section applies only to employees. University employees who are lactating persons will be entitled to reasonable break periods during normal business hours to express milk. The University of Delaware adopts this procedure to support the health and well-being of students and employees and their infant children by providing a workplace environment that accommodates the needs of lactating persons.

Each employee who is a lactating person will have access to a suitable, private location, other than a bathroom, located in close proximity to their work area in which to take a break period under this procedure. The location will be shielded from view and free from intrusion from coworkers and the public. The following spaces on campus have been designated as Lactation Rooms: 346 Hullihen Hall, 128 Perkins Student Center, 214A McDowell Hall, 207E Morris Library, and The Tower at STAR, Room 354. All rooms operate in a first-come, first-serve manner and are available when the buildings are open. Room 128 Perkins Student Center is wheelchair/scooter accessible.

The employee will determine for themselves how long and how frequent reasonable break periods should be. Generally, a maximum of thirty minutes three times a day should be sufficient. However, depending upon where the pumping space is located, some time may be needed to travel to and from the space.

When an employee makes an initial request for an accommodation under this procedure, it will be the employee's responsibility to engage in a dialogue with their supervisor about the duration and frequency of leave required. A request for accommodation under this procedure will be treated as a request for a flexible work schedule. An employee will be entitled either to request reasonable unpaid break time or to use paid breaks or mealtimes for this purpose. Leave time granted under this procedure may be made up at the beginning or end of the day on which leave is taken.

The entitlement to reasonable break periods will last until a nursing child reaches the age of twenty-four months.

Lactation Procedure

Lactation Spaces & Breaks

Private lactation spaces are provided for students and employees, as well as reasonable break time.

External Resources

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-pregnancy-resource.pdf>

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>

<https://thepregnantscholar.org/accommodating-pregnancy-related-conditions/>