



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

Title IX FAQs



Why does UA care about Title IX compliance?

The UA system takes the safety and security of our students, faculty, staff and visitors seriously. Title IX compliance is an important part of ensuring a safe and secure environment, optimum for learning, research and creative work.

What is Title IX?

Title IX is a section of the federal law under the Higher Education Act that prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions. Many people have known it as a law requiring equal male-female representation in sports teams at U.S. colleges and universities, but it actually demands gender equity in all areas of colleges and universities that receive federal assistance.

The law states that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” Therefore, Title IX forbids sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and violence, in all university student services and academic programs.

What is the University of Alaska doing to comply with this law?

Since spring 2014, UA has trained almost 90 percent of its faculty and staff system wide, through in-person and online opportunities. More than 4,000 staff and faculty members have received the training, which continues. Training also includes students. The outreach effort directed at students includes training in what bystanders can do; definitions of “consent,” “sexual harassment” and “assault;” and guidance about where to report problems and find more information.

How well-trained are UA staff members?

UA has trained 30 sexual assault and harassment investigators throughout the system so that every campus has at least one trained investigator and Title IX coordinator.

Title IX Coordinators

Statewide/UA Fairbanks
Mae Marsh
907-474-7599
mmarsh36@alaska.edu
<http://www.uaf.edu/titleix/>

UA Anchorage
Bridget Dooley
907-786-1424
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<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/equity-and-compliance/>

UA Southeast
Lori Klein
907-796-6529
laklein@uas.alaska.edu
<http://www.uas.alaska.edu/policies/titleix.html>

What’s the burden of proof for a person bringing forward a Title IX complaint?

Complaints under Title IX do not have to be proved “beyond a reasonable doubt,” as in the criminal justice system, before action can be taken to protect and respond to the victim. The standard used is known as “preponderance of evidence,” which means that the incident occurred more likely than not. Remedies are made available to the victim (such as switching housing or class schedules to avoid regular contact with an alleged aggressor, safety escorts, university no-contact orders, etc.) prior to an investigation’s conclusion.

Why is UA making such a big deal out of this issue?

Safety on America's colleges and universities, specifically regarding sexual assault and harassment, has become a national issue. In Alaska, domestic violence and intimate partner violence is higher than the national average. These are serious issues for all Alaskans.

Former UA President Pat Gamble was notified May 5, 2014, of the U.S. Department of Education/Office for Civil Rights decision to conduct a compliance review examining the university's handling of complaints and reports of sexual harassment, including sexual violence, to determine if the university has responded promptly and effectively, with particular emphasis on complaints of sexual assault (www.alaska.edu/files/opa/5.5.14-OCR-letter.pdf).

The university fully cooperated with this review. By the end of July, some 11,500 pages of information were provided to the OCR as part of an information request sent to UA on May 12 (www.alaska.edu/files/opa/2014.05.12-OCR-Title-IX-review---Data-Request.pdf). We do not know why UA was chosen for a compliance review, but the OCR has told us it was not due to specific complaints.

The University of Alaska supports the growth of awareness and prevention programs at campuses across the state, as well as proper reporting, protocol and procedures in providing care to victims of sexual violence. The review by OCR will point out areas where we can improve, and UA is committed to making those improvements.

I've heard Alaska has a significant problem with rape and domestic violence. Is that true?

Alaska's overall domestic violence and abuse, including sexual and intimate partner violence, is a significant problem. In addition to the proactive efforts UA has taken to deal with the issue on our campuses, UAA's Justice Center annually conducts the Alaska Victimization Survey in partnership with the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault through the governor's Choose Respect initiative and the Alaska State Legislature.

The results of these surveys are chilling, showing that out of every 100 women in Alaska, 59 experience intimate partner violence, sexual violence or both. The governor's Choose Respect campaign is helping increase awareness of the issue, the first step toward eradicating sexual assault and violence.

What are UA's rates of sexual harassment and assault?

From 2011-2014:

UAF: 103 sexual harassment (including sexual assault) complaints

UAA: 139 sexual harassment (including sexual assault) complaints

UAS: 8 sexual harassment (including sexual assault) complaints

UA publishes crime statistics, including allegations of rape and sexual assault, on the following sites:

UAF: www.uaf.edu/police/clery-act/uaf-crime-statistics/

UAS: www.uas.alaska.edu/policies/safety/crime-stats.html

UAA: www.uaa.alaska.edu/safety/upload/2013_CampusSecurity-FireSafetyReport.pdf

