

# North Dakota State University

## Policy Manual

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### SECTION 156

### DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

SOURCE: NDSU President

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 North Dakota State University (NDSU) prohibits discrimination in its employment decisions and educational programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, status as a U.S. veteran, or participation in lawful activity off NDSU's premises during nonworking hours which is not in direct conflict with the essential business-related interests of NDSU, or other protected classes as defined by federal, state, or local law. (See [NDSU Section 100, Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy](#)).
- 1.2 NDSU is committed to providing a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environment for all members of its university community. Specifically, NDSU is committed to taking action to:
  - 1) Stop discrimination;
  - 2) Remedy the effects of discrimination;
  - 3) Prevent the recurrence of discrimination; and
  - 4) Educate the university community about their rights and responsibilities regarding discrimination.
- 1.3 NDSU has committed itself to the establishment and adoption of procedures to resolve complaints of discrimination in violation of NDSU's Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy, including complaints of harassment or retaliation. A central purpose of these complaint procedures is to provide a system at NDSU to conduct adequate, reliable, and impartial investigations of complaints of discrimination. NDSU's primary concern is to enact and implement complaint procedures that encourage reporting of discrimination and that ensure the rights of NDSU students, employees, and all other participants in its educational programs and activities are protected.

#### 2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Discrimination** – Different or unequal treatment of an individual (or group), based on one or more of the protected classes of the individual (or group), except as where permitted or required by law, that negatively affects their education, employment, or other participation in educational programs or activities.
  - 2.1.1 Protected classes for purposes of these procedures are: age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, status as a U.S.

veteran, or participation in lawful activity off NDSU's premises during nonworking hours, which is not in direct conflict with the essential business-related interests of NDSU. (See [NDSU Section 100, Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy](#)).

- 2.2 **Discrimination complaint** – A complaint alleging discrimination in violation of NDSU's Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy, including complaints of harassment or retaliation.
- 2.3 **Equity Director** – For purposes of these procedures, the Equity Director is NDSU's Vice Provost and Title IX/ADA Coordinator.
- 2.4 **Equity Office** – For purposes of these procedures, the Equity Office is NDSU's Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Equity.
- 2.5 **Harassment** - A form of discrimination; unwelcome oral, written, graphic, or physical conduct, based on one or more of the protected classes (see 2.1.1) of an individual (or group), that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to unreasonably interfere with their education, employment, or other participation in educational programs or activities or that creates a working, learning, or educational program or activity environment that a reasonable person would find hostile, intimidating, or abusive. Harassment may include, but is not limited to, threats, physical contact or violence, offensive jokes, insults or put-downs, slurs or name calling, vandalism/graffiti, or offensive objects or pictures. Petty slights, annoyances, and isolated incidents (unless very serious) typically do not rise to the level of harassment.

### 3. FILING A DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

- 3.1 Current or former NDSU students or employees, applicants for admission or employment, or any other participants in NDSU's educational programs or activities, or any group thereof, are encouraged to file a complaint if they believe they have been discriminated against in violation of NDSU's Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy, which may include a complaint of harassment or retaliation. A complaint may be filed concerning alleged discriminatory conduct that occurred on NDSU's premises or off campus.

- 3.1.1 **How to file a discrimination complaint** - A discrimination complaint is initiated by completing a NDSU Discrimination/Harassment/Retaliation Complaint Form (Complaint Form) and filing it with the Equity Director. The Complaint Form is available online at <https://www.ndsu.edu/equity/forms/> or by contacting the Equity Office in Suite 201, Old Main, NDSU Main Campus, 701-231-7708, [ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu). The Complaint Form is also available in the Student Affairs Office, Memorial Union 250, NDSU Main Campus, 701-231-8240. The Complaint Form can be submitted via email at [ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu) or by bringing it to the Equity Office. The Equity Office is available to assist with completing the Complaint Form as needed.

The Equity Office will investigate all discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and sexual misconduct complaints involving employees utilizing the procedures set forth in this policy and will coordinate the resolution of those complaints.

The Equity Office will investigate all discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and sexual misconduct complaints utilizing Sections 1 through 8.8 of this policy if the complaint identifies an alleged violation by a student. The resolution of the

complaint, including pre-hearing, hearing and appeals, will be conducted by the Student Affairs Office, in coordination with the Equity Office, pursuant to NDSU Policy 601.

- 3.1.2 **Deadline for filing a discrimination complaint** - NDSU encourages those who believe they have been discriminated against to file a discrimination complaint as soon as possible. Unless the Equity Director agrees otherwise in writing, the Complaint Form must be submitted within 180 calendar days of the most recent incident of discrimination.
- 3.1.3 **Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed** - Depending on the nature of the discrimination complaint, NDSU will keep the complaint and its investigation confidential to the extent that it is possible. However, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed under these procedures as NDSU may have an obligation to take specific actions once aware of alleged discriminatory conduct.
- 3.1.4 **Confidential support resources** - If seeking a confidential resource, NDSU students may contact the NDSU Counseling Center at 212 Ceres Hall, NDSU Main Campus, 701-231-7671 and the Student Health Service (Wallman Wellness Center, NDSU Main Campus, 701-231-7331). The Faculty/Staff Assistance Program, as described in [NDSU Section 134](#), is a confidential resource for NDSU employees.
- 3.1.5 **Anonymous reporting** - NDSU students, faculty, and staff may submit an anonymous form to report acts of bias, bigotry, or hate at NDSU. NDSU may be limited in its ability to respond to a report if it is submitted anonymously. Additionally, in very limited circumstances, NDSU may need to take action to learn the identity of an individual who submitted an anonymous report. For more information, see <https://www.ndsu.edu/biasreport/>.

#### 4. RETALIATION PROHIBITED

- 4.1 NDSU encourages reporting of discrimination and will not discipline any individual (or group) who makes a good faith report of discrimination. Any individual (or group) reporting discrimination or otherwise participating in these procedures is entitled to protection from retaliation as a result of their activity under these procedures. Retaliation may include, but is not limited to, intimidation, harassment, reprisal, or other negative changes in education or employment. Anyone who believes they have been retaliated against for their participation under these procedures is encouraged to file a Complaint Form, which will be processed under these procedures as a separate matter from the originally filed discrimination complaint, if any. Anyone found responsible for retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination or expulsion.

#### 5. REMEDIAL MEASURES

- 5.1 Upon receipt of a discrimination complaint or as otherwise informed of alleged discrimination under these procedures, NDSU will, where appropriate, take reasonable steps to remedy the harm to those affected by discriminatory conduct. Remedial measures may include, but are not limited to, a no contact directive, a safety plan, residence modifications, academic modifications and support, work schedule and/or location modifications, parking modifications, referral to counseling or other health services, administrative leave, temporary suspension, or any other measure deemed appropriate by NDSU.

## 6. PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

- 6.1 **Preliminary evaluation determination** - The Equity Director will evaluate the discrimination complaint and decide to either: (1) pursue further action; or (2) dismiss the discrimination complaint. A discrimination complaint may be dismissed if: (1) it fails to allege any facts that suggest discrimination, harassment, or retaliation; or (2) an appropriate resolution or remedy has already been achieved. NDSU will not dismiss a complaint because it alleges discriminatory conduct that took place off campus. Rather, in the course of its investigation of the complaint, NDSU will determine whether the alleged off-campus conduct: (1) occurred within the context of an educational program or activity; and/or (2) has created or reasonably may create a hostile educational or work environment.

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the preliminary evaluation will be completed within 3 business days of receipt of the discrimination complaint and the decision will be provided in writing to the individual (or group) who filed the complaint. If the Equity Director requires further information from the individual (or group) who filed the discrimination complaint before making a decision, the decision will be made within 3 business days of receipt of the additional information requested. In the case of a dismissal, the Equity Director may provide information or guidance regarding other avenues for support or resolution of the complaint, if appropriate and available.

If the complaint is dismissed, the Reporting Party may submit a request for reconsideration of the complaint within 3 business days of receipt of the preliminary evaluation determination. The Reporting Party may submit additional documentation or information that supplements the original complaint. This may include, but is not limited to, additional evidence or names of witnesses. Complaints resubmitted with no additional information will not be reviewed for reconsideration. Submit all reconsiderations to the Equity Director or by contacting the Equity Office in Suite 201, Old Main, NDSU Main Campus, 701-231-7708, [ndsuoaa@ndsuoaa.edu](mailto:ndsuoaa@ndsuoaa.edu). As needed, the Equity Office is available to facilitate finding a resource to assist the party with completing a request for reconsideration.

- 6.2 **Notice of action** – If the Equity Director determines that further action on a discrimination complaint is warranted, the Equity Office will provide written notice to the individual (or group) who filed the discrimination complaint and the individual (or group) against whom the complaint was filed (collectively, the Parties) within 3 business days of the determination made pursuant to 6.1 unless there are extenuating circumstances that delay the proposed timeline. The written notice will include, at a minimum: (1) the names of the Parties; (2) the basis for the discrimination complaint; (3) a statement that retaliation is prohibited; (4) a statement that requested responses or documentation must be provided in a timely manner; and (5) a description of the resolution process, including a copy of the relevant procedures. A modified notice of action may also be provided to an administrator, supervisor, or the Student Affairs Office who has control over the environment in which the alleged discriminatory conduct took place. The intent of the modified notice of action is to preserve confidentiality to the extent possible while also putting the administrator, supervisor, or Student Affairs Office on notice of their responsibility to monitor for retaliation or further discrimination.

## 7. INFORMAL RESOLUTION

- 7.1 **Informal resolution defined** - Informal resolution is a process in which the Parties attempt to agree upon the resolution of a discrimination complaint without a comprehensive

investigatory and determination process. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the entire informal resolution process will be completed within 30 calendar days of its initiation.

- 7.2 **Informal resolution is optional** - When providing the notice of action to the Parties, the Equity Office may inquire if the Parties are interested in attempting to resolve the discrimination complaint through informal resolution. The Parties will have 3 business days to individually decide if they would like to use informal resolution and should inform the Equity Office of their decisions in writing. The informal resolution process will only be used upon mutual agreement of the Parties. Either party may inform the Equity Office at any time that they want to discontinue their participation in the informal resolution process and the formal resolution process will commence. The Equity Director reserves the right to deny the Parties the option of using the informal resolution process if it is deemed to be inappropriate or inadequate as applied to a particular discrimination complaint.
- 7.3 **Informal resolution process** - Informal resolution may involve the Equity Office, the Student Affairs Office, administrators, supervisors, and/or external moderators working with the Parties to arrive at an appropriate and mutually agreeable resolution of the discrimination complaint. The informal resolution process will not require that the Parties meet face-to-face to resolve the discrimination complaint but may allow it, depending on the nature of the complaint and the power differential between the Parties.
- 7.4 **Informal resolution agreement** - If the Parties resolve the discrimination complaint through the informal resolution process, the Equity Office will draft an informal resolution agreement, which the Parties will sign. A signed copy of the informal resolution agreement will be provided to the Parties, as well as to any administrator, supervisor, or Student Affairs Office provided with a modified notice of action as described in 6.2. There is no available appeal of a signed informal resolution agreement.

## 8. FORMAL RESOLUTION

- 8.1 **Formal resolution applicability** - The formal resolution process will commence if: (1) either party elects to use the formal resolution process instead of the informal resolution process; (2) the Parties are unable to mutually agree upon a resolution under the informal resolution process; or (3) the Equity Director determines the informal resolution process is inappropriate or inadequate as applied to a particular discrimination complaint.
- 8.2 **Comprehensive investigation** – A properly trained investigator(s) will conduct a comprehensive investigation under the formal resolution process in an adequate, reliable, and impartial manner. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, including when the Parties are unable to mutually agree upon a resolution under the informal resolution process, a comprehensive investigation will commence within 5 business days of providing the notice of action to the Parties as described in 6.2. A comprehensive investigation will include the following steps, as relevant and available:
- (1) An interview with each of the Parties;
  - (2) Interviews with witnesses identified by the Parties or determined otherwise;
  - (3) A review of evidence provided by the Parties or collected otherwise; and
  - (4) An opportunity for the parties to submit questions of each other and/or the witnesses. Upon receipt of any such questions, the investigators will determine which questions, if any are relevant, and present them to the intended recipient for a response.

Equal opportunity will be given to the Parties to access and present evidence during the investigation. The Parties will be provided with periodic status updates throughout the course of the investigation.

- 8.3 **Investigator(s)** - A staff member(s) in the Equity Office may conduct the comprehensive investigation of the discrimination complaint or the Equity Director may delegate investigative duties to another properly trained investigator(s). Within 3 business days of notice of the identity of an investigator(s), either party may provide the Equity Director with a written request asking that another investigator(s) be assigned if the party believes there is a conflict of interest with the investigator(s). Where appropriate, a new investigator(s) will be assigned and the Equity Director will provide the Parties with written notice of the newly assigned investigator(s).
- 8.4 **Responsibilities of the Parties** – Deadlines for completing actions under these procedures will be communicated in writing to the Parties, who must make every effort to comply with the deadlines communicated to them. Timeliness is particularly important under the formal resolution process as determinations may be made based on available information if a party fails to respond in a timely manner to action requested by an investigator(s). In extenuating circumstances, an extension to a deadline may be granted by the Equity Director and will be communicated in writing to the Parties.
- 8.5 **Standard of proof** – In all cases, the applicable standard of proof for determining responsibility for an alleged violation is “preponderance of the evidence” – meaning, in order for an individual (or group) against whom a discrimination complaint was filed to be held responsible for discrimination, it must be determined that it is *more likely than not* that the individual (or group) violated NDSU’s Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy, which may include harassment or retaliation.

In cases involving an alleged violation by an employee, the determination of responsibility shall be made by the investigator(s).

In cases involving an alleged violation by a student, the determination of responsibility shall be made by the Hearing Officer, consistent with the procedures detailed in NDSU Policy 601.

- 8.6 **Preliminary investigative report** – After an investigator(s) has finished the comprehensive investigation of a discrimination complaint, the investigator(s) will draft a preliminary investigative report.

For complaints involving an alleged violation by a student, the report shall include the findings of the investigation along with a recommendation for dismissal of the complaint or a recommendation of pursuing charges. If there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation has occurred, the recommendation shall be to pursue charges; if such reasonable cause is not present, the complaint shall be dismissed. Reasonable cause is a lower standard than preponderance of the evidence, and shall mean that there are just or legitimate grounds to believe that a violation has occurred.

For all other complaints, the report shall include the findings of the investigation along with a determination whether the individual (or group) against whom the discrimination complaint was filed is responsible for discrimination, including harassment or retaliation.

The report will also include, at a minimum, a summary of the relevant information gathered during interviews and otherwise that informed the preliminary investigation. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the report will be drafted within 30 calendar days of initiation of the comprehensive investigation. The report will be provided to the Parties and, if applicable, a Review Committee as determined by the Equity Office (see 8.7). The Parties will have 5 business days from receipt of the report to respond to the preliminary investigative report and/or any information found in the report in writing. As needed, the Equity Office is available to facilitate finding a resource to assist a party with putting its response in writing.

- 8.7 **Review Committee** – A Review Committee, at the discretion of the Equity Office, may be utilized to provide feedback on the preliminary investigative report. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, a Review Committee will meet within 10 calendar days of issuance of the preliminary investigative report in order to finalize the investigative report. The Review Committee will be comprised of no fewer than 3 properly trained NDSU faculty or staff members that do not have a conflict of interest with the Parties. If a party believes there is a conflict of interest with a member(s) of the Review Committee, the party should follow the procedures and deadline established in 8.3 to dispute the member(s). Prior to meeting, Review Committee members will review the preliminary investigative report and any written response to the report made by the Parties. The Review Committee may ask the investigator(s) who issued the preliminary investigative report to be available during their meeting in order to answer questions related to the investigation and to provide access to documentation in the investigative file as needed. In limited circumstances, the Review Committee may request that the investigator(s) gather additional information if the committee decides it cannot make a recommendation without the additional information. In that case, each party will be provided with the additional information gathered and will have the opportunity to respond to it in writing.
- 8.8 **Final investigative report** – Upon completion of any feedback provided by a Review Committee, the preliminary investigation report will become the final investigative report. For complaints involving an alleged violation by a student, the final report shall be provided to the Student Affairs Office along with a recommendation for dismissal of the complaint or a recommendation of pursuing charges. If there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation has occurred, the recommendation shall be to pursue charges; if such reasonable cause is not present, the complaint shall be dismissed.

The final investigative report for employees will include recommended disciplinary action, if any, in addition to a finding as to whether, discriminatory conduct, including harassment or retaliation, occurred. The final investigative report as well as notice of the right to appeal for employees as afforded in 8.12, will be provided in writing to the Parties.

- 8.9 **Disciplinary action for discriminatory conduct** – NDSU does not tolerate discrimination, including harassment or retaliation, and will take appropriate disciplinary action against anyone found responsible for discrimination. Students found responsible for discrimination under the procedures in Rights and Responsibilities of Community: A Code of Student Conduct (Section 601) will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. Employees found responsible for discrimination under these procedures will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. The disciplinary action recommended by the Review Committee will depend on the severity of the discriminatory conduct and whether the individual (or group) was previously found responsible for discrimination.

- 8.10 **Imposition of disciplinary action** – If neither party exercises the right to appeal as afforded in 8.12, the Equity Director will either: (1) notify any administrator or supervisor provided with a modified notice of action as described in 6.2 that the matter has been resolved without recommended disciplinary action; or (2) provide the final investigative report to the appropriate administrator, supervisor, whether previously provided a modified notice of action as described in 6.2 or otherwise, and consult with the administrator or, supervisor regarding imposition of the recommended disciplinary action. If either party exercises the right to appeal, (1) or (2) will be conducted by the Equity Director once the appeal process has concluded.

Disciplinary action will be imposed for employees by the appropriate administrator or supervisor on behalf of NDSU. If the administrator or supervisor disagrees with the recommended disciplinary action, the administrator or supervisor must provide a basis for disagreement in writing to the Equity Director within 3 business days of receipt of the final investigative report.

- 8.11 **Conclusion of formal resolution** – Excluding any appeal, the formal resolution process will be completed within 60 calendar days of the date the discrimination complaint was filed unless there are extenuating circumstances. Any reason for an extension to the 60 calendar day deadline will be communicated in writing to the Parties.

- 8.12 **Appeal of investigative report** – Within 5 business days of receipt of the investigative report either party may appeal the report by completing a NDSU Discrimination Appeal Form (Appeal Form) and filing it with the Equity Director. The Appeal Form is available online at <https://www.ndsu.edu/equity/forms/> or by contacting the Equity Office in Suite 201, Old Main, NDSU Main Campus, 701-231-7708, [ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu). The Appeal Form can be submitted via email at [ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu) or by bringing it to the Equity Office. As needed, the Equity Office is available to facilitate finding a resource to assist a party with completing the Appeal Form.

The grounds upon which a party can request an appeal are: (1) the recommended disciplinary action is substantially disproportionate to the findings; (2) procedural error led to an improper investigative report; and/or (3) new evidence that was previously unavailable should be considered as it could have had a significant impact on the investigative report. If an appeal is granted under (3), the Equity Director will require that the Review Committee meet again to determine if the investigative report should be altered in light of the new evidence. The party who did not provide the new evidence will have the opportunity to respond to the evidence in writing. If the investigative report is altered under (3), the Parties will be afforded the opportunity to appeal again under (1) and/or (2) within 5 business days of receipt of the altered investigative report. If an appeal is granted under (1) or (2), the Equity Director will evaluate the investigative report in an impartial manner in light of the information found in the Appeal Form and will alter or reaffirm the investigative report accordingly. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the appeal process will be completed within 10 business days of submission of the Appeal Form and the results will be provided in writing to the Parties. In cases in which there is a conflict of interest, such as when the grounds for appeal involve action taken by the Equity Director, the Provost will conduct the appeal process.

## 9. INTERSECTION WITH OTHER RELEVANT NDSU POLICIES



- 9.1 The procedures described above do not eliminate the rights of a party to participate subsequently in pre-disciplinary action review and/or an appeal as afforded elsewhere under NDSU policy. Furthermore, for purposes of these procedures, an appeal process available to the individual (or group) against whom a discrimination complaint was filed must be available to the individual (or group) who filed the discrimination complaint.
- 9.2 **Nonbanded, nonacademic staff** – The applicable policy for nonbanded, nonacademic staff regarding subsequent pre-disciplinary action review and/or an appeal is NDSU [Section 183, Nonrenewal and Dismissal of Nonbanded, Nonacademic Staff](#).
- 9.3 **Regular staff employees** – The applicable policies for regular staff employees regarding subsequent pre-disciplinary action review and/or an appeal are NDSU [Section 220, Staff Job Discipline/Dismissal](#) and NDSU [Section 231, Appeal Procedure for Disciplinary and Reduction in Force Actions](#).
- 9.4 **Faculty** – The applicable policies for faculty regarding subsequent pre-disciplinary action review and/or an appeal are NDSU [Section 350.3, Board Regulations on Nonrenewal, Termination or Dismissal of Faculty](#) and NDSU [Section 350.4, Board Regulations on Hearings and Appeals](#).

## 10. NOTICE OF MANDATORY REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES AND TRAINING

- 10.1 It is the responsibility of the entire university community to foster a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environment. NDSU employees have specific responsibilities when they observe discrimination or receive a report of discrimination. NDSU employees must not dissuade an individual (or group) from providing them with a report of discrimination but should inform the individual (or group) of their mandatory reporting responsibilities as described below.
  - 10.1.1 **Observance of discrimination** – All NDSU employees who observe discrimination, including harassment or retaliation, must document the discrimination and contact the Equity Office in accordance with 10.2.
  - 10.1.2 **Report of discrimination** – All NDSU employees who receive a report of discrimination *involving a student*, including harassment or retaliation, must document the report and contact the Equity Office in accordance with 10.2. NDSU supervisors, managers, department heads, deans, directors, or administrators who receive a report of discrimination *involving employees*, including harassment or retaliation, must document the report and contact the Equity Office in accordance with 10.2. The provisions of 10.1.2 do not apply to confidential support resources providing services as described in 3.1.4.
- 10.2 To comply with 10.1.1 or 10.1.2, NDSU employees must promptly complete and submit an NDSU Discrimination/Harassment/Retaliation Report Form (Report Form) to the Equity Director. The Report Form is available online at <https://www.ndsu.edu/equity/forms/> or by contacting the Equity Office in Suite 201, Old Main, NDSU Main Campus, 701-231-7708, [ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu). The Report Form can be submitted via email at [ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu) or by bringing it to the Equity Office. The Equity Office can assist with completing the Report Form as needed. The Equity Office is the official university record holder for documentation under these procedures.
- 10.3 Upon receipt of a Report Form, NDSU will initiate its discrimination complaint procedures.

- 10.4 **Mandatory training** - All NDSU employees must complete equal opportunity and non-discrimination training on an annual basis. In addition to mandatory training, employees are encouraged to contact the Equity Office with any questions they may have related to equal opportunity and non-discrimination at NDSU, including inquiries regarding their responsibilities as mandatory reporters.

## 11. DISCRETIONARY INVESTIGATION

- 11.1 The Equity Office reserves the right to initiate an investigation under these procedures at its discretion in the absence of a discrimination complaint or report of discrimination in order to fulfill NDSU's commitment to taking action to stop discrimination, remedy its effects, and prevent its recurrence.

## 12. FILING WITH AN EXTERNAL AGENCY

- 12.1 An individual (or group) also has the right to file a discrimination complaint with one or more of the following external agencies. Please note that these agencies have their own deadlines for filing a discrimination complaint. Please contact the agencies directly for more information about applicable deadlines.

North Dakota Department of Labor and Human Rights

Phone: 1-800-582-8032

TTY: 1-800-366-6888

[humanrights@nd.gov](mailto:humanrights@nd.gov)

[www.nd.gov/labor](http://www.nd.gov/labor)

U.S. Department of Education

Office for Civil Rights

Phone: 1-800-421-3481

TDD: 1-800-877-8339

[OCR@ed.gov](mailto:OCR@ed.gov)

[www2.ed.gov/ocr](http://www2.ed.gov/ocr)

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Phone: 1-800-669-4000

TTY: 1-800-669-6820

[info@eeoc.gov](mailto:info@eeoc.gov)

[www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov)

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### HISTORY:

New	December 20, 1977
Amended	September 1993
Amended	January 1996
Amended	June 2000
Amended	October 2007
Housekeeping	September 2009
Amended	March 16, 2010
Housekeeping	February 14, 2011
Amended	April 25, 2016
Housekeeping	May 20, 2016
Amended	August 22, 2017