

North Dakota State University

Policy Manual

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 <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/100.pdf>).
- 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 <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/100.pdf> 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 (1) 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 <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/100.pdf>).

- 2.2 **Discrimination/harassment/retaliation complaint** – A complaint alleging discrimination in violation of <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/100.pdf>, including complaints of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.
- 2.3 **Harassment** - A form of discrimination; unwelcome oral, written, graphic, or physical conduct, based on one (1) 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 the following, when a part of conduct that meets the standard set forth above: 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/HARASSMENT/RETALIATION 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 there has been a violation of <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/100.pdf>, which may include a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. A complaint may be filed concerning alleged discriminatory, harassing, or retaliatory conduct that occurred on NDSU's premises or off campus.

- 3.1.1 **How to file a discrimination/harassment/retaliation complaint** - A complaint is initiated by completing a NDSU Discrimination/Harassment/Retaliation Complaint Form (Complaint Form) and filing it with the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director. The Complaint Form is available online at https://www.ndsu.edu/equity/filing_a_report_or_complaint/ and then by clicking on File a Complaint or by contacting the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office in Old Main 201, NDSU Main Campus, Fargo, ND 58108, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu. The Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office is available to assist with completing the Complaint Form as needed.

The Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office will investigate all discrimination, harassment, and retaliation complaints involving employees utilizing the procedures set forth in this policy and will coordinate the resolution of those complaints.

The Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office may delegate discrimination, harassment, and retaliation complaints to another appropriately trained individual or office as needed 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 Dean of Students Office, in coordination with the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office, pursuant to <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/601.pdf>. Additionally, the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office may delegate discrimination,

harassment, and retaliation complaints to Human Resources if the complaint identifies an alleged violation by a staff member.

- 3.1.2 **Deadline for filing a discrimination/harassment/retaliation complaint** - NDSU encourages those who believe there has been a policy violation to file a complaint as soon as possible.
- 3.1.3 **Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed** - Depending on the nature of the 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 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; Student Health Service, Wallman Wellness Center, NDSU Main Campus, 701-231-7331; or Case Management, Putnam Hall 102, 701-231-1809. NDSU employees may contact the Faculty/Staff Assistance Program, as described in <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/134.pdf>. Additionally, the Ombudsperson is a confidential resource for NDSU faculty and NDSU graduate students. The Ombudsperson may be contacted at the NDSU Main Library, NDSU Main Campus, Lower Level, Room 20C, 701-231-5114.
- 3.1.5 **Anonymous reporting** - NDSU students and employees may submit an anonymous complaint for incidents that they have experienced. NDSU may be limited in its ability to respond to a complaint 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 complaint. For more information, see https://www.ndsu.edu/equity/filing_a_report_or_complaint/ Mandatory reporters may not submit anonymous reports.

4. RETALIATION PROHIBITED

- 4.1 NDSU encourages reporting of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and will not discipline any individual (or group) who makes a good faith report. Any individual (or group) reporting discrimination or harassment, 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 complaint, if any. Anyone found responsible for retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination or expulsion.

5. SUPPORTIVE MEASURES

- 5.1 Upon receipt of a complaint or as otherwise informed of allegations under these procedures, NDSU will, where appropriate, take reasonable steps to remedy the harm to those affected by discriminatory, harassing, or retaliatory conduct. Supportive 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/HARASSMENT/RETALIATION COMPLAINT

- 6.1 **Preliminary evaluation determination** - The Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director will evaluate the complaint and decide to either: (1) pursue further action; or (2) dismiss the complaint. A 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 the 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 three (3) business days of receipt of the complaint and the decision will be provided in writing to the individual (or group) who filed the complaint. If the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director requires further information regarding the complaint before making a decision, the decision will be made within three (3) business days of receipt of the additional information requested. In the case of a dismissal, the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance 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 three (3) business days of receipt of the Preliminary Evaluation Determination. The Reconsideration Form is available upon request from the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office. 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 Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director or by contacting the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office in Old Main 201, NDSU Main Campus, Fargo, ND 58108, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu. As needed, the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office is available to facilitate finding a resource to assist the party with completing a request for reconsideration.

- 6.2 **Notice of Investigation and Allegations (NOIA)** - If the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director determines that further action on a complaint is warranted, the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office will provide written notice to the individual (or group) who filed the complaint and the individual (or group) against whom the complaint was filed (collectively, the Parties) within three (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 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 NOIA may also be provided to an administrator, supervisor, or the Dean of Students Office who has control over the environment in which the alleged conduct took place. The intent of the modified NOIA is to preserve confidentiality to the extent possible while also putting the administrator, supervisor, or Dean of Students Office on notice of their responsibility to monitor for retaliation or further discrimination or harassment.

In situations where additional information, which was not available at the time the NOIA was issued, the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director may dismiss the complaint if the additional information indicates the complaint (1) fails to allege any facts that suggest discrimination, harassment, or retaliation; or (2) an appropriate resolution or remedy has already been achieved. Additionally, the complaint may only be dismissed if an informal or formal resolution has not commenced. If the complaint is dismissed, the Reporting Party may submit a request for reconsideration of the complaint within three (3) business days of receipt of the NOIA. 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.

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 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 NOIA to the Parties, the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office may inquire if the Parties are interested in attempting to resolve the complaint through informal resolution. The Parties will have three (3) business days to individually decide if they would like to use informal resolution and should inform the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance 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 Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office at any time that they want to discontinue their participation in the informal resolution process and the formal resolution process will commence. The Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance 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 complaint.
- 7.3 **Informal resolution process** - Informal resolution may involve the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office, the Dean of Students Office, HR, administrators, supervisors, and/or external moderators working with the Parties to arrive at an appropriate and mutually agreeable resolution of the complaint. The informal resolution process will not require that the Parties meet face-to-face to resolve the 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 complaint through the informal resolution process, the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office or designee 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 or supervisor provided with a modified NOIA 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 Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director determines the informal resolution process is inappropriate or inadequate as applied to a particular 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 five (5) business days of providing the NOIA 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 Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office may conduct the comprehensive investigation of the complaint or the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director may delegate investigative duties to another properly trained Investigator(s). Within three (3) business days of notice of the identity of an Investigator(s), either party may provide the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance 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 Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance 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 Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance 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 complaint was filed to be held responsible for discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, it must be determined that it is *more likely than not* that the individual (or group) violated <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/100.pdf>, which may include discrimination, 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 <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/601.pdf>.

8.6 Preliminary Investigative Report – After an Investigator(s) has finished the comprehensive investigation of a 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 action. If there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation has occurred, the recommendation shall be to pursue action; 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 complaint was filed is responsible for discrimination, 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 90 calendar days or a reasonable amount of time after initiation of the comprehensive investigation. If the report is not completed within 90 days, the Investigator will notify Parties and communicate the reason for the delay. The completed report will be provided to the Parties. The Parties will have five (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. Parties may request an extension, which may or may not be granted. As needed, the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office is available to facilitate finding a resource to assist a party with putting its response in writing.

8.7 Final Investigative Report – Upon completion of any requested feedback provided by offices including but not limited to the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance, Dean of Students, Human Resources, Legal Counsel, or Compliance, the Preliminary Investigative Report will become the Final Investigative Report.

For complaints involving an alleged violation by a student, the Final Investigative Report shall be provided to the Dean of Students Office along with a recommendation for dismissal of the complaint or a recommendation of pursuing action. If there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation has occurred, the recommendation shall be to pursue action; 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, harassing, or retaliatory conduct occurred. The Final Investigative Report as well as notice of the right to appeal for employees as afforded in 8.11, will be provided in writing to the Parties.

8.8 **Disciplinary action for discriminatory conduct** – NDSU does not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, and will take appropriate disciplinary action against anyone found responsible for discrimination. Students found responsible under the procedures in <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/601.pdf> will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. Employees found responsible under these procedures will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. The disciplinary action recommended by the Investigator will depend on the severity of the conduct and whether the individual (or group) was previously found responsible for discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.

8.9 **Imposition of disciplinary action** – If neither party exercises the right to appeal as afforded in 8.11, the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director will either: (1) notify any administrator or supervisor provided with a modified NOIA 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 or supervisor, whether previously provided a modified NOIA 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 Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance 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 Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director within three (3) business days of receipt of the Final Investigative Report.

8.10 **Conclusion of formal resolution** – The formal resolution process shall be carried out using reasonably prompt time frames and without deliberate indifference pursuant to these procedures and any applicable NDSU policies.

8.11 **Appeal of investigative report** – Within five (5) business days of receipt of the investigative report either party may appeal the report by completing a NDSU Appeal Form (Appeal Form) and filing it with the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director. The Appeal Form is available by contacting the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office in Old Main 201, NDSU Main Campus, Fargo, ND 58108, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu. The Appeal Form can be submitted via email at ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu or by bringing it to the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office. As needed, the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance 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 by the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director under (3), the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director will require that the Investigator review the investigative report 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 five (5) business days of receipt of the altered investigative report.

If an appeal is granted under (1) or (2), the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance 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 ten (10) business days of submission of the Appeal Form. Regardless if an appeal is granted or not, 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 Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director, the Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Institutional Equity 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 complaint was filed must be available to the individual (or group) who filed the complaint.
- 9.2 **Nonbanded, nonacademic staff** – The applicable policy for nonbanded, nonacademic staff regarding subsequent pre-disciplinary action review and/or an appeal is <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/183.pdf>.
- 9.3 **Regular staff employees** – The applicable policies for regular staff employees regarding subsequent pre-disciplinary action review and/or an appeal are <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/220.pdf> and <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/231.pdf>.
- 9.4 **Faculty** – The applicable policies for faculty regarding subsequent pre-disciplinary action review and/or an appeal are https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/350_3.pdf and https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/350_4.pdf.

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, harassment, or retaliation or receive a report of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. NDSU employees must not dissuade an individual (or group) from providing them with a report but should inform the individual (or group) of their mandatory reporting responsibilities as described below.

10.1.1 Observance of discrimination/harassment/retaliation – All NDSU employees who observe discrimination, including harassment or retaliation, must document the discrimination and contact the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office in accordance with 10.2.

10.1.2 Report of discrimination/harassment/retaliation – All NDSU employees who receive a report *involving a student*, including harassment or retaliation, must document the report and contact the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office in accordance with 10.2. NDSU supervisors, managers, department heads, deans, directors, or administrators who receive a report *involving employees*, including harassment or retaliation, must document the report and contact the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance 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.

10.1.3 All academic research studies approved by the Institutional Research Board (IRB) **are not** subject to mandatory reporting requirements under this policy. Information provided in these research studies **will not** be considered a form of notice and will not be acted upon by NDSU. Please visit https://www.ndsu.edu/equity/filing_a_report_or_complaint/reporting_responsibilities_for_mandatory_reporters/mandatory_reporting_involving_research/ for additional information.

- 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 to the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Director. The Report Form is available online at https://www.ndsu.edu/equity/filing_a_report_or_complaint/ and by clicking on File a Report or by contacting the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office in Old Main 201, NDSU Main Campus, Fargo, ND 58108, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu. The Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office can assist with completing the Report Form as needed. The Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office is the official university record holder for documentation under these procedures.
- 10.3 Upon receipt of a Report Form, NDSU will initiate its procedures to determine if the affected Parties wish to pursue a formal complaint.
- 10.4 **Mandatory training** - All NDSU employees must complete Equal Opportunity/Title IX training as delineated below:
- 1) All new NDSU employees (including part-time and full-time) must complete in-person (which includes Zoom) Equal Opportunity/Title IX training within 60 days of their employment start date;
 - 2) All employees must complete Equal Opportunity/Title IX training every year in Vector Solutions;
 - 3) All employees must **also** complete other mandatory training tailored to your unit/department/College that will be required at regular intervals. All information regarding all Equal Opportunity/Title IX required training is available by visiting https://www.ndsu.edu/equity/prevention_education/.

In addition to mandatory training, employees are encouraged to contact the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office with any questions they may have related to equal opportunity and non-discrimination at NDSU, including inquiries regarding their responsibilities as mandatory reporters. If a new or fulltime employee does not complete this required training, the employee will not be eligible for salary adjustments until this required training is completed per <https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/129.pdf> Training compliance is tracked by the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office. For questions regarding training compliance, please call 701-231-7088 or email ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu.

11. DISCRETIONARY INVESTIGATION

- 11.1 The Equal Opportunity and Title IX Compliance Office reserves the right to initiate an investigation under these procedures at its discretion in the absence of a complaint or report in order to fulfill NDSU's commitment to taking action to stop discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, 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 complaint with one or more of the following external agencies. Please note that these agencies have their own deadlines for filing a complaint. Please contact the agencies directly for more information about applicable deadlines.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Phone: 703-292-8020

TTD: 800-281-8749

programcomplaints@nsf.gov

https://nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg20_1/pappg_11.jsp#XIA

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Phone: 301-480-6701

TTY: 301-402-9612

granteeharassment@nih.gov

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/harassment/actions-oversight/allegation-process.htm>

North Dakota Department of Labor and Human Rights

Phone: 1-800-582-8032

TTY: 1-800-366-6888

humanrights@nd.gov

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

www2.ed.gov/ocr

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Phone: 1-800-669-4000

TTY: 1-800-669-6820

info@eeoc.gov

www.eeoc.gov

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
Housekeeping	February 6, 2019
Amended	March 15, 2021

Amended March 29, 2022
Amended January 4, 2023
Amended September 13, 2023
Amended December 19, 2024
Amended August 22, 2025 (Interim); Approved 9/16/2025