

Title IX Regulations Task Force Community Release

On July 14, 2022, the Title IX Office convened the Title IX Regulations Task Force in response to the Department of Education's proposed changes to regulations that govern institutional response to Title IX. The purpose of the Task Force is to engage a cross section of community members to inform the university's development of policies that comply with Title IX regulations, ensure fair and equitable processes, and take into account the unique experiences and needs of those impacted by sex-based discrimination and harassment in order to maintain a safe, respectful, and inclusive GW community. This task force is comprised of students, faculty, and staff representing 21 departments and student organizations including: Campus Living and Residential Education (CLRE), Colonial Health Center (CHC), Department of Athletics, Disability Support Services (DSS), Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL), George Washington Police Department (GWPD), Global Women's Institute (GWI), Graduate School of Education and Human Development (GSEHD), GW Law School, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Access (EEOA), Office for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement (ODECE), Faculty Affairs, Office of Communications & Marketing, Office of Ethics, Compliance, and Risk, Office of the General Counsel (OGC), School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS), Student Association (SA), Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR), Student Support, Students Against Sexual Assault (SASA), and the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Program.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance and is enforced by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR). On May 6, 2020, the Department of Education ("ED") published new regulations that outlined how institutions must respond to allegations of Sexual Harassment. Consequently, The George Washington University revised its [Title IX Sexual Harassment and Related Conduct Policy](#) effective August 14, 2020, to ensure compliance with the new regulations. Over the summer, on June 23, 2022, the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, the ED released proposed changes to the Title IX Regulations. You can read the Department of Education's press release [here](#) and review the proposed changes [here](#).

Over the next few months, the Title IX Office will host a series of webinars designed to educate the GW community on the proposed changes. Please visit our Fall 2022 Prevention calendar website to [register](#) if you would like to attend. Following our webinar series, we will actively seek feedback and comments on the proposed regulations through various channels, including engaging with the task force, hosting one or more community forums, offering extended Title IX office hours dedicated to the proposed regulations, and developing an online submission form to accept feedback from the campus community. The Title IX Regulations Task Force will then synthesize feedback from the GW community to provide guidance on the discretionary decision points made available under the proposed regulations and develop ways to communicate changes to the campus community effectively.

The Title IX Office understands the GW community may have questions about the proposed regulations and the rulemaking process. Below you will find some additional information to help explain the process.

How long does the rulemaking process take?

The ED's proposed regulations are currently open for public comment. This public comment period is open for 60 days until September 14, 2022, but could be extended. Once the public comment period is complete, the ED will then need to review and respond to all comments that are submitted. This may be a lengthy process because the ED uses the public comments to help refine the final regulations. While there has not been a timeline indicated, it may take up to a year for final regulations to be released.

When will there be changes to GW's policy?

When the ED issues the final regulations, the ED will set an institutional compliance deadline. The university will notify the campus community of any updated policies and educate the community on any new requirements or procedures.

What policy is in place during the Department of Education's rulemaking process?

GW's Title IX Sexual Harassment and Related Conduct Policy remains in effect. The proposed changes to the Title IX regulations are not final and the university is still required to comply with the Title IX regulations that went into effect in May 2020.

How can I provide the university my input on the proposed changes to the Title IX regulations?

The university is eager to receive your input on this important issue. Please attend a Title IX webinar to learn more about the proposed regulations. Following the webinar series, the Title IX Office plans to host one or more community forum(s) to hear feedback from the university community. Updates on the community forum(s) will be posted on the Title IX Office website (titleix.gwu.edu) as well as the Title IX instagram account (@gwttitleix).

The Title IX Office is dedicated to improving our policies and processes and we look forward to engaging in this process to best serve the GW community.