

Chapter 132T-105 WAC
SUPPLEMENTAL TITLE IX STUDENT CONDUCT RULES

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WAC

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WAC 132T-105-010 Order of precedence. This supplemental chapter applies to allegations of sexual harassment subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education. See 34 C.F.R. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with Walla Walla Community College District 20's standard disciplinary procedures, WAC 132T-100-200 through 132T-100-350, the supplemental procedures in this chapter shall take precedence. Walla Walla Community College District 20 may, at its discretion, contract with an administrative law judge or other person to act as presiding officer and assign such presiding officer to exercise any or all of the duties in lieu of the student conduct committee and committee chair.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140; 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 22-18-052, § 132T-105-010, filed 8/30/22, effective 9/30/22.]

WAC 132T-105-015 Student conduct committee. The student conduct committee is a three-member panel designated by the college to preside over cases involving Title IX allegations. The student conduct committee will serve as a standing committee until a final decision is made regarding the student conduct matter for which it was convened. Any student conduct committee member who has a personal relationship with either party or any personal or other interest which could prevent a fair and impartial review and decision, will be recused from the proceedings.

(1) One member, acting as the chair, will preside at the disciplinary hearing and will provide administrative oversight throughout the hearing process.

(2) Any three members constitute a quorum of the student conduct committee and may act accordingly. The college may retain an advisor to the student conduct committee, including an assistant attorney general.

(3) The student conduct officer will convene the members of the student conduct committee when necessary to adjudicate Title IX conduct decisions.

(4) All student conduct committee members will receive annual training in investigating and adjudicating student conduct matters in a manner that protects the safety and due process rights of the parties.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140; 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 22-18-052, § 132T-105-015, filed 8/30/22, effective 9/30/22.]

WAC 132T-105-020 Prohibited conduct under Title IX. Pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(13) and Title IX of the Education Act Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681, the college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student who commits, attempts to commit, or aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit an act(s) of sexual harassment.

For purposes of this supplemental chapter, sexual harassment encompasses the following conduct:

(1) Quid pro quo harassment. A college employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of Walla Walla Community College District 20 on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(2) Hostile environment. Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the college's educational programs or activities, or employment.

(3) Sexual assault. Sexual assault includes the following conduct:

(a) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse. Any actual or attempted sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object or body part, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual intercourse includes anal or vaginal penetration by a penis, tongue, finger, or object, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact.

(b) Nonconsensual sexual contact. Any actual or attempted sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object, by a person upon another person that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual touching includes any bodily contact with the breasts, groin, mouth, or other bodily orifice of another individual, or any other bodily contact in a sexual manner.

(c) Incest. Sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person known to be related to them, either legitimately or illegitimately, as an ancestor, descendant, brother, or sister of either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren and adopted children under the age of 18.

(d) Statutory rape. Consensual intercourse between a person who is 18 years of age or older and a person who is under the age of 16.

(4) Domestic violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, RCW 26.50.010.

(5) Dating violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person:

- (a) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
- (b) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - (i) The length of the relationship;
 - (ii) The type of relationship; and
 - (iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
- (6) Stalking. Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140; 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 22-18-052, § 132T-105-020, filed 8/30/22, effective 9/30/22.]

WAC 132T-105-030 Title IX jurisdiction. (1) This supplemental chapter applies only if the alleged misconduct:

- (a) Occurred in the United States;
 - (b) Occurred during a college educational program or activity;
- and
- (c) Meets the definition of sexual harassment as that term is defined in this supplemental chapter.

(2) For purposes of this supplemental chapter, an educational program or activity is defined as locations, events, or circumstances over which the college exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the alleged sexual harassment occurred. This definition includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the college.

(3) Proceedings under this supplemental chapter must be dismissed if the Title IX coordinator determines that one or all of the requirements under subsection (1) of this section have not been met. Dismissal under this supplemental chapter does not prohibit the college from pursuing other disciplinary action based on allegations that the respondent violated other provisions of the college's student code of conduct, chapter 132T-100 WAC.

(4) If the Title IX coordinator determines the facts in the investigation report are not sufficient to support Title IX jurisdiction and/or pursuit of a Title IX violation, the student conduct officer will issue a notice of dismissal in whole or part to both parties explaining why some or all of the Title IX claims have been dismissed.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140; 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 22-18-052, § 132T-105-030, filed 8/30/22, effective 9/30/22.]

WAC 132T-105-040 Initiation of discipline. (1) Upon receiving the Title IX investigation report from a Title IX investigator, the Title IX coordinator will independently review the report to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to pursue a disciplinary action against the respondent for engaging in prohibited conduct under Title IX.

(2) If the Title IX coordinator determines that there are sufficient grounds to proceed under the supplemental procedures of this chapter, the student conduct officer will initiate a Title IX disciplinary proceeding by filing a written disciplinary notice with the chair of the student conduct committee and serving the notice on the respondent and the complainant, and their respective advisors. The notice must:

- (a) Set forth the basis for the Title IX jurisdiction;
 - (b) Identify the alleged Title IX violation(s);
 - (c) Set forth the facts underlying the allegation(s);
 - (d) Identify the range of possible sanctions that may be imposed if the respondent is found responsible for the alleged violation(s);
 - (e) Explain that the parties are entitled to be accompanied by their chosen advisors during the hearing and that:
 - (i) The advisors will be responsible for questioning all witnesses on the party's behalf;
 - (ii) An advisor may be an attorney; and
 - (iii) The college will appoint the party an advisor of the college's choosing at no cost to the party if the party fails to do so.
- (3) Explain that if a party fails to appear at the hearing, a decision of responsibility may be made in their absence.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140; 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 22-18-052, § 132T-105-040, filed 8/30/22, effective 9/30/22.]

WAC 132T-105-050 Prehearing procedure. (1) Upon receiving the disciplinary notice, the chair of the student conduct committee will send a hearing notice to all parties, in compliance with WAC 10-08-040. In no event will the hearing date be set less than 10 business days after the Title IX coordinator provided the final investigation report to the parties.

(2) A party may choose to have an attorney serve as their advisor at the party's own expense. This right will be waived unless, at least five business days before the hearing, the attorney files a notice of appearance with the student conduct committee chair with copies to all parties and the student conduct officer.

(3) In preparation for the hearing, the parties will have equal access to all evidence gathered by the investigator during the investigation, regardless of whether the college intends to offer the evidence at the hearing.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140; 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 22-18-052, § 132T-105-050, filed 8/30/22, effective 9/30/22.]

WAC 132T-105-060 Rights of parties. (1) The college's student code of conduct, chapter 132T-100 WAC, and this supplemental chapter shall apply equally to all parties.

(2) The college bears the burden of offering and presenting sufficient testimony and evidence to establish that the respondent is responsible for a Title IX violation by a preponderance of the evidence.

(3) The respondent will be presumed not responsible until such time as the disciplinary process has been finally resolved.

(4) During the hearing, each party shall be represented by an advisor. These parties are entitled to an advisor of their own choosing, and the advisor may be an attorney. If a party does not choose an advisor, then the Title IX coordinator will appoint an advisor of the college's choosing on the party's behalf at no expense to the party.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140; 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 22-18-052, § 132T-105-060, filed 8/30/22, effective 9/30/22.]

WAC 132T-105-070 Evidence. The introduction and consideration of evidence during the hearing is subject to the following procedures and restrictions:

(1) Relevance. The student conduct committee chair shall review all questions for relevance and shall explain on the record their reasons for excluding any question based on lack of relevance.

(2) Relevance means that information elicited by the question makes facts in dispute more or less likely to be true.

(3) Questions or evidence about a complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant and must be excluded, unless such question or evidence:

(a) Is asked or offered to prove someone other than the respondent committed the alleged misconduct; or

(b) Concerns specific incidents of prior sexual behavior between the complainant and the respondent, which are asked or offered on the issue of consent.

(4) Cross-examination required. If a party or witness does not submit to cross-examination during the live hearing, the student conduct committee must not rely on any statement by that party or witness in reaching a determination of responsibility.

(5) No negative inference. The student conduct committee may not make an inference regarding responsibility solely on a witness' or party's absence from the hearing or refusal to answer questions.

(6) Privileged evidence. The student conduct committee shall not consider legally privileged information unless the holder has effectively waived the privilege. Privileged information includes, but is not limited to, information protected by the following:

(a) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(b) Attorney-client and attorney work product privileges;

(c) Privileges applicable to members of the clergy and priests;

(d) Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;

(e) Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; and

(f) Other legal privileges identified in RCW 5.60.060.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140; 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 22-18-052, § 132T-105-070, filed 8/30/22, effective 9/30/22.]

WAC 132T-105-080 Initial order. (1) In addition to complying with WAC 132T-100-070 and 132T-100-210, the student conduct committee will be responsible for conferring and drafting an initial order that:

(a) Identifies the allegations of sexual harassment;

(b) Describes the grievance and disciplinary procedures, starting with filing of the formal complaint through the determination of responsibility, including notices to parties, interviews with witnesses and parties, site visits, methods used to gather evidence, and hearings held;

(c) Makes findings of fact supporting the determination of responsibility;

(d) Reaches conclusions as to whether the facts establish whether the respondent is responsible for engaging in sexual harassment in violation of Title IX;

(e) Contains a statement of, and rationale for, the student conduct committee's determination of responsibility for each allegation;

(f) Describes any disciplinary sanction(s) or condition(s) imposed against the respondent, if any;

(g) Describes to what extent, if any, complainant is entitled to remedies designed to restore or preserve complainant's equal access to the college's education programs or activities; and

(h) Describes the process for appealing the initial order to the college president.

(2) The student conduct committee chair will serve the initial order on the parties simultaneously.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140; 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 22-18-052, § 132T-105-080, filed 8/30/22, effective 9/30/22.]

WAC 132T-105-090 Appeals. (1) The parties shall have the right to appeal from the initial order's determination of responsibility and/or dismissal of an allegation(s) of sexual harassment in a formal complaint. The right to appeal will be subject to the same procedures and time frames set forth in WAC 132T-100-070 and 132T-100-220.

(2) The president or designee will determine whether the grounds for appeal have merit, provide the rationale for this conclusion, and state whether the disciplinary sanction(s) and condition(s) imposed in the initial order are affirmed, vacated, or amended, and if amended, set forth any new disciplinary sanction(s) and/or condition(s).

(3) The president's decision is final. The office of the president shall serve the final decision on the parties simultaneously.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 28B.50.140; 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 22-18-052, § 132T-105-090, filed 8/30/22, effective 9/30/22.]