

Consumer Information Notices

October 1, 2011



Consumer Information

CONSUMER INFORMATION NOTICES

1. The university policies concerning privacy explain the rights of students with respect to the release of education records maintained by the university and outline the university's procedures for complying with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The policy is published in the General Information Catalog. Additionally, assistance in obtaining information about the university, including costs, refund policies, withdrawal, academic programs, the faculty, accreditation, facilities and services for persons with disabilities is available from Shelby Stanfield, University Registrar, at 512-475-7510 and by mail at The University of Texas at Austin, Office of the Registrar, P.O. Box 7216, Austin, Texas 78713-7216.

Copies of FERPA, the federal regulations adopted pursuant to its creation, and this notice are available for review in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Main 121, Phone: 512-471-1133. These policies can also be accessed online at: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/docs/catalogs/gi/ut-catalog-gi-11-12.pdf>.

2. Information for students with disabilities may be obtained from Services for Students with Disabilities Office, 100-B West Dean Keeton Street, Student Services Building, Room 4.104, Phone: 512-471-6259 or by Video Phone at 1-866-327-8877 then 512-232-2937 or online at: <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>
3. In compliance with Constitution Day requirements, you can obtain voter registration information online at: <http://www.votexas.org/>

A voter registration form is available at:
<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/vr17.pdf>

4. State and federal law require that the university be informed when registered sex offenders indicate that they are employed, carry on a vocation, or are a student on campus. To learn whether information of this nature has been provided to the university, contact the University Police Department, 2201 Robert Dedman Drive, Austin, TX 78713, Phone: 512-471-4441. You may also obtain this information online at: http://www.utexas.edu/police/alerts/sex_offenders.html

You may search for information regarding registered sex offenders on the Texas Department of Public Safety Web site at:
https://records.txdps.state.tx.us/DPS_WEB/SorNew/index.aspx

5. Information regarding current university tuition and required fees including, but not limited to, estimated transportation costs, refund policies, withdrawal procedures, and related information is contained in the General Information Catalog, 2008-2010. This information is also available from the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1, Phone: 512-475-7575 or online at: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/docs/catalogs/gi/ut-catalog-gi-11-12.pdf>
6. Information regarding student-related data including graduation rates, student characteristics, enrollment data, international students, and typical campus budgets is available from the Office of Information Management and Analysis, Main Building, Room

202, Phone: 512-471-3833, and the Office of Admissions, Main Building, Room 7, Phone: 512-475-7399. This information is also available online at:
http://www.utexas.edu/academic/ima/stat_handbook

7. Information regarding accreditation of the university and its curriculum, faculty and academic program is contained in The Undergraduate Catalog, The Graduate Catalog and The Law School Catalog. This information may be accessed at:
<http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs>
8. The university provides a report on athletic program participation rates, financial support data, and graduation rates for student athletes. Information may be obtained from the Athletics Director, Intercollegiate Athletics, P.O. Box 7399, Austin, TX 78713. (Please designate either men's or women's athletics in your request.) This information is available online at: <http://texassports.com/school-bio/tex-equity-reports.html>
9. A student enrolled in a study abroad program may apply for financial assistance under Federal Title IV student financial aid programs if the study abroad program is approved for credit purposes by the student's home institution. Information about study abroad, including programs, costs and financing may be obtained from the Study Abroad Office, International Office, 2222 Rio Grande St., Ste. 2.201C, Austin, TX 78713, Phone: 512-471-6490. This information is also available online at: <http://world.utexas.edu/abroad>
10. The university provides extensive financial aid information, including associated costs, types available for students, the application process and forms, eligibility requirement, criteria for making awards and the amount of awards, satisfactory academic progress, the methods and frequency of disbursements, repayment requirements of loans, deferment of loans, student employment, the Bevonomics personal money management education program, advice on how to minimize borrowing while enrolled, and more. More information may be obtained from the Office of Student Financial Services, Student Services Building, Room 3.200, Phone: 512-475-6203. This information is also available online at: <http://finaid.utexas.edu/>
11. Information from the federal government regarding rights and responsibilities of borrowers, loan deferment, and discharge information is available at:
<https://www.dl.ed.gov/borrower/BorrowerWelcomePage.jsp>
12. Information regarding residence halls, including costs, application process, a description of the halls, floor plans, and residence hall programming is available from Housing and Food Service, 200 W. Dean Keeton Street, Austin, TX 78713, Phone: 512-471-3136 or online at: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/housing>
13. Illegal File Sharing of Copyrighted Materials
 - a. The university provides information for students and employees regarding acceptable use of information technology, resources for obtaining copyrighted material legally, and training resources online at:
<http://www.utexas.edu/cio/policies/pdfs/Copyright%20Violations.pdf>
 - b. If you copy and distribute copyrighted material without legal permission, you may be found liable for civil or criminal copyright infringement. Civil penalties for Federal Copyright infringement range from \$750 per song to \$150,000 in damages for each willful act. Criminal penalties can run up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines. Student Judicial Services administers penalties

and sanctions in accordance with Chapter 11 of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Rule 50101 of the Board of Regents Rules and Regulations.

14. Title IX/ADA/504/Title VI and 1975 Age Discrimination Coordinators – As a federal funding recipient, The University of Texas at Austin does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities.

Any student who believes they have received treatment which violates Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act of 2008 should contact:

Jennifer Maedgen, Ph. D.
Senior Associate Vice President
Division of Diversity and Community Engagement
FAC 402, 1 University Station G6400
Austin, Texas 78712
(512) 232-2910
maedgen@austin.utexas.edu

Any student who believes they have received treatment which violates Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 should contact:

Jennifer Hammat, Ed. D.
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs
Main Building 121, PO Box 7699 G5000
Austin, Texas 78713
(512) 471-1133
j.hammat@austin.utexas.edu

15. Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis on Gender

UT Austin's Commitment

The University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from inappropriate conduct based on gender. As required by Title IX, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities, and it encourages any student who thinks that he or she has been subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence) or sexual misconduct by another student, member of the faculty or staff, campus visitor or contractor, to report that action immediately to any of the persons or offices listed below.

Where to Report

The University's Title IX Coordinator is Dr. Jennifer R. Hammat, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Main Building 121, 512-471-1133, j.hammat@austin.utexas.edu. The University encourages students to immediately consult with or report incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, or sexual misconduct to Dr. Hammat, or to its Deputy Title IX coordinators:

- Dr. Latoya C. Hill, Ph.D., Assistant Dean of Students, Office of the Dean of Students, 4.104 Student Services Building, 512-471-5017, latoya.hill@austin.utexas.edu; and
- Ms. Katherine Antwi Green, J.D., Assistant Vice President, Office of Institutional Equity, 4.302 North Office Building, 512-471-1849, katherine.antwi.green@austin.utexas.edu.

Students may also report incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence) or sexual misconduct to any University Administrator, Official or Unit Supervisor, who is then responsible to promptly notify any of the above Title IX coordinators of the reported incident.

Complaints or allegations of student-to-student sex discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence) or sexual misconduct will be handled by the Office of the Dean of Students. Students may also contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights to complain of sex discrimination or sexual harassment including sexual violence); see: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html>;

Cases of sexual violence may also be reported to the University or city police departments; the Title IX Coordinators can assist individuals with contacting The University of Texas at Austin Police Department or the City of Austin Police Department.

Complaints of sex discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence) or sexual misconduct by non-students will be handled by the University’s Office of Institutional Equity, Ms. Katherine Antwi Green, J.D., Assistant Vice President, 4.302 North Office Building, 512-471-1849.

For more detailed information regarding the procedures for reporting a grievance, see Appendix D (Policy on Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment), Appendix E (Policy on Sexual Misconduct), Appendix H (Prohibition of Sexual Assault), and Appendix I (Nondiscrimination Policy) as contained in the *Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities* ([Issue Number 2011/4](#)).

DEFINITIONS

SEX DISCRIMINATION -----

Sex discrimination can occur when conduct is directed at a specific individual or a group of identifiable individuals that adversely affects the education or employment of the individual or group because of gender. Behaviors that may be sex discrimination include, but are not limited to:

- Exclusion from educational resources or activities because of one’s gender;
- Subjection to jokes or derogatory comments about one’s gender; or
- Being held to different standards or requirements on the basis of one’s gender.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT -----

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that can occur when:

- the submission to unwelcome physical conduct of a sexual nature, or unwelcome requests for sexual favors or other verbal conduct of a sexual nature is made an explicit or implicit term or condition of education or employment; or

- the submission to or rejection of unwelcome physical conduct of a sexual nature, or to unwelcome requests for sexual favors or other verbal conduct of a sexual nature, is used as a basis for academic or employment decisions or evaluations; or
- unwelcome physical acts of a sexual nature, or unwelcome requests for sexual favors or other verbal conduct of a sexual nature, have the effect of creating an objectively hostile environment that interferes with education or employment; or
- an individual engages in acts of sexual violence - sexual violence is defined as acts of a physical or threatening nature, intended to coerce sexual behavior by another, that are perpetrated against the other person's will or in situations where a person does not give consent or is unable to give consent.

Examples of physical conduct that might constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- unwelcome intentional touching;
- deliberate physical interference with or restriction of movement; or
- violent conduct of a sexual nature is any sexual act in which force, express or implied, or coercion is used upon the victim. Such conduct can include rape or attempted rape or the intentional and unwelcome touching of an intimate area of the body; or the involvement in any sexual act where the victim does not consent or is unable to give consent.

Verbal conduct is defined as oral, written, or symbolic expressions that:

- Personally describe or are personally directed at a specific individual or group of identifiable individuals; and
- Are not necessary to an argument for or against the substance of any political, religious, philosophical, ideological, or academic ideas.

Examples of verbal conduct that might constitute sexual harassment include but are not limited to:

- Explicit or implicit propositions to engage in sexual activity;
- Gratuitous comments, jokes, questions, anecdotes or remarks of a sexual nature about clothing or bodies;
- Gratuitous remarks about sexual activities or speculation about sexual experiences;
- Subtle or overt pressure for sexual favors;
- Exposure to sexually suggestive visual displays such as photographs, graffiti, posters, calendars or other materials;
- Repeated humiliation or intimidation based upon sex; or
- Threats made with the intent of coercing sexual acts.

The examples of verbal conduct on the above list will rarely, if ever, be considered constitutionally protected expression.

Conduct that may not rise to the level of sexual harassment or sexual violence may be covered by the Sexual Misconduct policy. <http://www.utexas.edu/policies/hoppm/04.A.03.html>.

CONSENSUAL RELATIONSHIPS -----

The University strongly discourages any of its employees who have direct teaching, supervisory, advising or evaluation responsibilities from engaging in consensual romantic or sexual relationships with persons they teach, supervise, advise or evaluate. Such relationships create conflicts of interest and appearances of impropriety that impair the integrity of academic or

employment decisions. Should such a relationship develop the individual with the responsibility for the subordinate party is required to disclose its existence to an immediate supervisor and cooperate in making alternative arrangements for the supervision, evaluation, instruction, grading or advising of that person. For more information on the Consensual Relationships Policy, please refer to <http://www.utexas.edu/policies/hopppm/04.A.02.html>.

CONFIDENTIALITY-----

The confidentiality of a complaint of sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct, and all documents, correspondence, and notes of interviews and discussions related to the investigation of a complaint will be maintained, on a need-to-know basis, to the extent permitted by law. Documentation related to the resolution of complaints or incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct will be maintained by the Office of the Dean of Students, and the Office of Institutional Equity as appropriate.

PROHIBITION OF RETALIATION-----

Students, faculty and staff members are prohibited from retaliating in any way against an individual who has brought a complaint of sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct; or who has participated in an investigation of such a complaint.

FILING OF FALSE COMPLAINTS -----

Any person who knowingly and intentionally files a false complaint of sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University.

For more information about sex discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence) or sexual misconduct, please contact Dr. Jennifer R. Hammat, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Main Building 121, 471-1133, j.hammat@austin.utexas.edu; Dr. LaToya Hill, Assistant Dean of Students, Student Services Building 4.104, 512-471-5017, Latoya.hill@austin.utexas.edu; or Ms. Katherine Antwi-Green J.D, Assistant Vice President , Office of Institutional Equity, 4.302 North Office Building , 512-471-1849, Katherine.antwi.green@austin.utexas.edu.