

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

STUDENT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

POLICY

AND

PROCEDURES

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**RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
STUDENT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Statement of Intent

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning, living, and working environment in which no member of the Rensselaer community is, on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in any Institute program or activity. Sexual Misconduct, including but not limited to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking, are forms of illegal discrimination in that they deny or limit an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from the Institute's programs or activities.

In support of the overall goals of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the purpose of the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy is to maintain a campus living, learning and working environment that supports the Institute's educational mission, maintains respect and dignity for members of the Rensselaer community, and protects the rights of all members of the campus community. The Sexual Misconduct Policy is intended to foster personal responsibility, high ethical values, individual accountability and civility toward others.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's actions and practices will not be based on stereotypical characterizations of sex or gender. Rensselaer prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender/sex in the working, living and learning environments. Discrimination on the basis of gender includes sexual harassment and sexual violence. Sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking, is prohibited by federal and state law and Institute policy. The policy applies to all members of the Rensselaer community.

The Policy embraces several core philosophies: respect for freedom of inquiry and constructive feedback; a conviction that honesty and integrity are key values to the campus community; and the belief that all members of the Rensselaer community should be part of a campus environment that is inclusive, respects differences and embraces diversity of culture, gender, religion, race, ethnicity, socio-economic background, nationality, age, lifestyle and ability.

Rensselaer is also committed to fostering a community that promotes prompt reporting of all types of Sexual Misconduct and timely and fair resolution of Complaints of Sexual Misconduct. In furtherance of this commitment, this Policy sets forth the available resources, describes prohibited conduct, and establishes procedures for responding to Complaints of Sexual Misconduct.

B. Jurisdiction

This Policy applies to allegations of Sexual Misconduct involving a Rensselaer student, regardless of where the alleged Sexual Misconduct occurred.

If you are a **student** of the Institute and a Complaint has been filed against you, or a student filing a Complaint against another student, the investigation and adjudication processes set forth in this Policy will apply. In the event that a Rensselaer student files a complaint involving a student of another university or school, the matter will be investigated pursuant to this policy and Title IX, and the other university or school shall be notified of the Complaint and any finding of a violation of Title IX by their student.

If you are a student of the Institute filing a complaint against an **employee** of the Institute or against a non-student third-party, please refer to Human Resources Policy Section 600, Non-Discrimination, Non-Retaliation, and Equal Employment Opportunity.

The Complaint procedures set forth in this Policy, as well as in Human Resources Policy Section 600, Non-Discrimination, Non-Retaliation, and Equal Employment Opportunity, are administrative in nature and are separate and distinct from the criminal and civil legal systems. The Institute encourages Complainants to pursue all remedies available to them, including reporting incidents of potential criminal conduct to law enforcement. If the conduct in question is alleged to be a violation of both Institute policy and the law, the Institute will proceed with its normal process, regardless of action or inaction by outside authorities. Decisions made or sanctions imposed through these or other Institute procedures are not subject to change because criminal or civil charges arising from the same conduct are dismissed, reduced, or rejected in favor of or against the Respondent.

C. Period of Limitations

A Complaint of Sexual Misconduct may be filed at any time, regardless of the length of time between the alleged Sexual Misconduct and the filing of the Complaint. However, Rensselaer strongly encourages individuals to file Complaints promptly in order to preserve evidence for a potential legal or disciplinary proceeding. A delay in filing a Complaint may compromise the subsequent investigation.

D. Student Sexual Misconduct Bill of Rights

All students have the right to:

1. Make a report to local law enforcement and/or state police;
2. Have disclosures of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault treated seriously;
3. Make a decision about whether or not to disclose a crime or violation and participate in the judicial or conduct process and/or criminal justice process free from pressure by the institution;

4. Participate in a process that is fair, impartial, and provides adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard;
5. Be treated with dignity and to receive from the institution courteous, fair, and respectful health care and counseling services, where available;
6. Be free from any suggestion that the reporting individual is at fault when these crimes and violations are committed, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid such crimes or violations;
7. Describe the incident to as few institution representatives as practicable and not be required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident;
8. Be protected from retaliation by the institution, any student, the accused and/or the respondent, and/or their friends, family and acquaintances within the jurisdiction of the institution;
9. Access to at least one level of appeal of a determination;
10. Be accompanied by an advisor of choice who may assist and advise a reporting individual, accused, or respondent throughout the judicial or conduct process including during all meetings and hearings related to such process; and
11. Exercise civil rights and practice of religion without interference by the investigative, criminal justice, or judicial or conduct process of the institution.

Individuals may file a report, including an anonymous report, of Sexual Misconduct by visiting <https://sexualviolence.rpi.edu>.

E. Title IX

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)

The Title IX Coordinators are responsible for the Institute’s compliance with Title IX including the review, investigation, and resolution of reports of discrimination and Sexual Misconduct. The Title IX Coordinators are assisted and supported by several Title IX Liaisons who are accessible to members of the Institute community for consultation and guidance.

1. Title IX Coordinators

Name	Larry Hardy	Jacquelyn Turner	Elizabeth Brown-Goyette
Title	Director of Employee Relations and Professional Development	Deputy to the Vice President for Human Resources	Sr. HR Specialist / Title IX Coordinator
Mailing Address	21 Union Street, 2 nd Floor Troy, NY 12180-3352	21 Union Street, 2 nd Floor Troy, NY 12180-3352	21 Union Street, 2 nd Floor Troy, NY 12180-3352
Telephone	(518) 276-3065	(518) 276-3980	(518) 276-4093
Email	HardyL2@rpi.edu	creecj@rpi.edu	BrownE8@rpi.edu

2. Title IX Liaisons

Rensselaer, in its commitment to support non-discrimination and equal opportunity, will appoint Title IX Liaisons for each academic and administrative Portfolio. The Title IX Liaison responsibilities include:

- a. Advising individuals, including a Complainant, a Respondent or a third party, about the courses of action available for responding to discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct at the Institute, both informally and formally, and in the community; and
- b. Providing information to Complainants, Respondents, third-party individuals, and the campus community about internal and external care and support services.

3. The Title IX Coordinators' responsibilities include:

- a. Coordinating the Institute's compliance with Title IX;
- b. Overseeing the Institute's response to and resolution of reports of alleged violations of Rensselaer's policies regarding discrimination and Sexual Misconduct by students, staff, faculty, and third parties;
- c. Coordinating training, prevention and education efforts with regard to discrimination and Sexual Misconduct;
- d. Coordinating periodic reviews of climate and culture with regard to discrimination and Sexual Misconduct;
- e. Identifying and addressing any patterns or systemic problems;
- f. Being knowledgeable of and trained in Institute policies and procedures and relevant state and federal laws regarding discrimination and Sexual Misconduct; and
- g. Advising individuals, including a Complainant, a Respondent, a witness, or a third party reporter, about the courses of action available for reporting and responding to discrimination and/or Sexual Misconduct at the Institute, both informally and formally, and in the community.

4. The Title IX Coordinators, Investigators, Case Management Team, Liaisons, Confidential Advisors provided by Rensselaer, and other individuals involved in the investigation and adjudication of alleged violations of this Policy will receive annual training in conducting investigations of sexual violence, the effects of trauma, impartiality, and other issues related to Sexual Misconduct, including Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking.

5. Inquiries or Complaints concerning the application of Title IX may be referred to Rensselaer's Title IX Coordinators, Title IX Liaisons, and/or to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights:

**Office for Civil Rights
New York Office
U.S. Department of Education
32 Old Slip, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10005-2500
Telephone: 646-428-3800
FAX: 646-428-3843; TDD: 800-877-8339
Email: OCR.NewYork@ed.gov**

F. General Policy Statements

1. Non-Discrimination

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute complies with all federal, state and local non-discrimination laws and is committed to providing a working, living and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, gender, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, national origin, citizenship status, disability, military status, veteran status, genetic information, genetic predisposition, domestic violence victim status, or any other basis prohibited by law.

2. Equal Opportunity

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is also committed to providing equal opportunities for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, national origin, citizenship status, disability, military status, veteran status, genetic information, genetic predisposition, domestic violence victim status, or any other basis prohibited by law. Equal opportunity extends to all aspects of the academic and student life relationship.

3. Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is committed to providing a working, living and learning environment free of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct. Rensselaer prohibits Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct in all of its working, living and learning environments. Sexual harassment and Sexual Misconduct violate an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Rensselaer considers Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Harassment in all its forms to be a serious offense.

The expectations of the Rensselaer community regarding sexual conduct can be summarized as follows: **In order for individuals to engage in sexual activity of any type with another person or persons, there must be clear, knowing and voluntary consent prior to and during sexual activity.** Consent is permission to engage in sexual activity. Individuals who engage in Sexual Misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or termination.

Employees, including faculty, contingent faculty, research professionals, staff and members of the President's Cabinet, are prohibited from having sexual or romantic relationships with students.

4. Retaliation

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute strictly prohibits retaliation against any person for reporting an allegation of discrimination or Sexual Misconduct, or for filing, testifying, assisting or participating in any manner in any investigation or proceeding involving allegations of discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, or an unethical action. Any person who violates this non-retaliation policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

G. Responsible Employees

All members of the Rensselaer community are strongly encouraged to report information regarding any incident of discrimination, hazing, and Sexual Misconduct, which includes but is not limited to Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment, and Stalking directly to a Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Liaison. The Institute cannot take appropriate action unless incidents are reported to a Responsible Employee of the Institute. In general, most Rensselaer employees do not have legally protected confidentiality. Under Title IX, the Institute is required to take immediate and corrective action if a Responsible Employee knew or, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known about sexual or gender-based harassment that creates a hostile environment.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights instructs that a Responsible Employee is any employee who has the authority to take action to redress sexual harassment/misconduct; who has been given the duty of reporting incidents of sexual harassment/misconduct or any other misconduct by students to the Title IX Coordinator or other appropriate designee; or who a student reasonably believes has this authority or duty.

Rensselaer's Responsible Employees include all faculty members, advisors to student organizations, coaches, administrators, resident assistants, and other employees with a responsibility for the welfare of students. The Institute requires that all Responsible Employees share a report of alleged violations of this Policy and other Institute policies that are intended to protect the rights and dignity of the members of the Rensselaer community, including but not limited to discrimination, hazing, and Sexual Misconduct, which includes, but is not limited to Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment, and Stalking, with a Title IX Coordinator or a Title IX Liaison so that the Institute can respond appropriately to end the conduct, prevent its recurrence and remedy its effects.

H. Definitions

1. Accused. An accused is an individual accused of a violation of this Policy who has not yet entered into the complaint investigation and resolution process.

2. Complainant. A Complainant or Reporting Individual is an individual who reports or files a Complaint. A Complainant may be someone other than the person who may have been subjected to Sexual Misconduct, such as a witness.

3. Complaint. A Complaint is an allegation of Sexual Misconduct reported to or filed with the Institute.

4. Consent. Affirmative consent is a knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create clear permission regarding willingness to engage in the sexual activity. Silence or lack of resistance, in and of itself, does not demonstrate consent. The definition of consent does not vary based upon a participant's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

The following principles are reflected in the Policy definition of Affirmative Consent:

- Consent to any sexual act or prior consensual sexual activity between or with any party does not necessarily constitute consent to any other sexual act.
- Consent is required regardless of whether the person initiating the act is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
- Consent may be initially given but withdrawn at any time.
- Consent cannot be given when a person is incapacitated, which occurs when an individual lacks the ability to knowingly choose to participate in sexual activity. Incapacitation may be caused by the lack of consciousness or being asleep, being involuntarily restrained, or if an individual otherwise cannot consent. Depending on the degree of intoxication, someone who is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicants may be incapacitated and therefore unable to consent.
- Consent cannot be given when it is the result of any coercion, intimidation, force, or threat of harm.
- When consent is withdrawn or can no longer be given, sexual activity must stop.

6. FERPA. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA grants to students or eligible parents the right to access, inspect, and review education records, the right to challenge the content of education records, and the right to consent to the disclosure of otherwise private education records.

7. Incapacitation. Incapacitation refers to the physical and/or mental inability to make informed, rational judgments. States of incapacitation include, but are not limited to, sleep, blackouts, and flashbacks. Where alcohol (or another drug) is involved, incapacitation is determined by how the alcohol (or other drug) consumed impacts a person’s decision making capacity, awareness of consequences, and ability to make informed judgments. An individual violates this Policy when they engage in sexual activity with another person when they knew, or reasonably should have known, that the other person was incapacitated.

8. Intimate Partner Violence. Intimate partner violence, which may also be referred to as dating, domestic, or relationship violence, is the use of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or threats towards another who is or has been involved in a sexual, dating,

domestic or other intimate relationship with the Respondent. Intimate partner violence may encompass a broad range of behaviors including, but not limited to, threats of and actual physical violence, Sexual Misconduct, emotional violence, attempts to control another, and economic abuse. Such conduct may be intentional or the result of a reckless disregard for the safety, health or welfare of another person. Such behavior can be directed to one's self, one's sexual or romantic partner, or to the family members or friends of the sexual or romantic partner.

9. Investigation Record. The Investigation Record includes the Investigation Report prepared by the Investigator(s), documents relied upon by the Investigator(s), the Incident Report (if any), interview transcripts of the Complainant, Respondent and witnesses as redacted by the Case Management Team for compliance with this policy and applicable law, and (if applicable) the Hearing Board transcripts.

10. Investigator. Investigator is a neutral fact-finder who is designated by the Case Management Team to investigate a Complaint.

11. Non-Consensual Sexual Contact. Non-consensual Sexual Contact is defined as any sexual touching, however slight, by a person(s) upon someone else (other person(s)), regardless of gender, that is without their consent, and/or by force. Non-consensual sexual contact can include sexual intercourse.

12. Personally Identifiable Information. Personally Identifiable Information, as defined by FERPA, includes but is not limited to: (i) a Student's name; (ii) the name of a Student's parent/s or other family members; (iii) the address of a Student or a Student's family; (iv) a personal identifier, such as a Student's social security number, student number, or biometric record; (v) photograph; (vi) telephone number; (vii) other indirect identifiers, such as a Student's date of birth, place of birth, or mother's maiden name; (viii) other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific Student and that would allow a reasonable person in the Rensselaer community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the Student with reasonable certainty; and (ix) information requested by a person whom the Institute reasonably believes knows the identity of the Student to whom the education record relates.

13. Preponderance of Evidence Standard. The Preponderance of Evidence Standard is a burden of proof that means that the evidence, considered in its entirety, indicates that it is more likely than not the accused has committed the alleged behavior and violated Institute policy.

14. Respondent. A Respondent is an individual who has been accused in a Complaint of committing Sexual Misconduct.

15. Retaliation. Retaliation means any attempt by any member of the Rensselaer community to penalize, intimidate, or retaliate in any way against a person who makes a Complaint of or who participates or cooperates in an investigation or a hearing for alleged violations of the Sexual Misconduct policies of Rensselaer or Title IX.

16. Sexual Assault. Sexual Assault means any actual, attempted or threatened sexual contact with another person without that person's Consent. Sexual Assault includes but is not limited to: (i) rape and attempted rape; (ii) intentional and unwelcome sexual touching, however slight, using any body part or any object, by a person(s) upon another person(s), of a person's breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals (with or without clothing), or coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force another to touch you, themselves, or a third party on any of these body parts or areas when such touching would be reasonably and objectively offensive; (iii) non-consensual sexual contact; (iv) any sexual act in which there is force, violence, or use of duress or deception upon the victim; (v) any sexual act perpetrated when the victim is unable to give Consent; (vi) sexual intimidation which includes, but is not limited to, threatening (expressly or impliedly) to commit a sexual act upon another person without his or her consent, stalking or cyber-stalking, and engaging in indecent exposure.

17. Sexual Exploitation. Sexual Exploitation is defined as behavior that is designed to take advantage of another individual in a sexual way without their consent. Examples of sexual exploitation include, but are not limited to:

- Invasion of sexual privacy;
- Non-consensual video- or audio-taping of a sexual nature;
- Engaging in voyeurism;
- Exposing one's genitals, or inducing someone to expose their genitals in non-consensual circumstances; or
- Posting or distributing, physically or by electronic means, sexually explicit materials including but not limited to photos or videos of another person(s) without that person's consent.

18. Sexual Harassment. Sexual Harassment is defined as unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or visual, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to such conduct is made a term or condition of employment or participation in an academic, educational, extra-curricular, athletic or other program of the Institute;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for employment or academic decisions affecting the employee or student; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with work performance or participation in an academic program, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work, living or learning environment.

Sexual Harassment can occur in person, by phone, text message, e-mail or other electronic or written or social medium. Sexual Harassment can be physical, verbal and/or psychological in nature. An aggregation of a series of incidents can constitute Sexual Harassment even if one of the incidents considered on its own would not be considered harassing conduct. Sexual Harassment includes conduct that may also be criminal in nature such as rape, sexual assault, stalking, and other similar offenses. Sexual

Harassment also includes Sexual Exploitation, as well as harassing conduct based on a person's sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

19. Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct means any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including any conduct or act of a sexual nature perpetrated against an individual without their Consent. Sexual Misconduct can occur between strangers or acquaintances, as well as people involved in an intimate or sexual relationship. Sexual Misconduct can be committed by any person (i.e., male, female, transgender), and it can occur between people of the same or different gender. Rensselaer encourages reporting of all Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct includes but is not limited to:

- Intimate Partner Violence,
- Sexual Violence,
- Sexual Harassment, and
- Stalking.

Intentionally aiding or assisting another person(s) in the commission of Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment, Stalking, or other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature also constitutes Sexual Misconduct.

20. Sexual Violence. Sexual Violence refers to conduct that involves physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will forcibly or not forcibly, or where a person has not, or is incapable of, giving consent. Examples of Sexual violence include, but are not limited to sexual assault, rape, intimate partner violence, dating violence, relationship violence or domestic violence.

21. Stalking. Stalking means 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 to suffer substantial emotional distress. Stalking activity may be perpetrated through physical, electronic or digital communications or conduct.

II. REPORTING AND RESOURCES

This policy is intended to make students aware of the various reporting and confidential disclosure options available to them – so they can make informed choices about where to turn should they become a victim of, or witness to, Sexual Misconduct. Rensselaer encourages victims to talk to someone identified in one or more of these groups and to report their concerns so that the community has the opportunity to respond effectively to concerns of Sexual Misconduct.

A. How and Where to File a Complaint of Sexual Misconduct

Because Sexual Misconduct may in some instances constitute both a violation of Institute policy and a crime, and because Rensselaer's Complaint process is not a substitute for initiating legal action, Rensselaer encourages individuals to report alleged Sexual Misconduct promptly to campus officials as well as to law enforcement authorities, where appropriate.

Individuals may, however, choose not to report alleged Sexual Misconduct to such campus officials and/or law enforcement authorities. Rensselaer respects and supports the individual's decision with respect to reporting; nevertheless, the Institute may itself notify appropriate law enforcement authorities if required or warranted by the nature of the allegations at issue.

If Rensselaer determines that the alleged perpetrator(s) poses a serious and immediate threat to the campus community, the Rensselaer Department of Public Safety, pursuant to the Clery Act may be called upon to issue a timely warning to the community. Any such warning should not include any Personally Identifiable Information about the victim.

1. Filing a Complaint with Law Enforcement.

Individuals may file a Complaint directly with local law enforcement agencies by dialing 911.

Individuals who want to report a Complaint of sexual assault on a New York college campus to the New York State Police may call the dedicated 24-hour hotline at (844) 845-7269. In an emergency, call 911 and ask for the New York State Police. For confidential support resources, call the New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline at (800) 942-6906; in New York City, call (800) 621-HOPE (4673) or dial 311.

Individuals may also contact any of the following for assistance in filing a complaint with law enforcement:

- Rensselaer's Department of Public Safety may be contacted at (518) 276-6611. The Department of Public Safety is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Rensselaer's Title IX Coordinators, Larry Hardy, Jacquelyn Turner and Elizabeth Brown-Goyette (518-276-3065, 518-276-3980, or 518-276-4093) or any of the Title IX Liaisons.

It is important to note that filing a report or otherwise contacting Rensselaer's Department of Public Safety does not require the filing of criminal charges nor does it constitute the filing of criminal charges.

Individuals may inform law enforcement authorities about Sexual Misconduct and discuss the matter with a law enforcement officer without making a formal complaint (or filing a Complaint with Rensselaer). Individuals who make a criminal complaint may also choose to pursue a Complaint with the Institute simultaneously.

A criminal investigation into the matter does not preclude the Institute from conducting its own investigation (nor are the facts or results of a criminal investigation determinative of whether the alleged conduct violates this Policy or any other Rensselaer policy). However, the Institute’s investigation may be delayed temporarily while the criminal investigators are gathering evidence. In the event of such a delay, Rensselaer may take interim measures and accommodations it deems necessary to protect the alleged victim and/or the Rensselaer community.

2. Filing a Complaint with Rensselaer’s Administration

Individuals may choose not to report Sexual Misconduct to campus officials. Rensselaer respects and supports the individual’s decision with regard to reporting; however, if information about Sexual Misconduct comes to the attention of the Institute, the Institute may (1) start an investigation even in the absence of a Complaint; and (2) notify appropriate law enforcement authorities if required or warranted by the nature of the information of which it becomes aware.

Anyone wishing to report a Complaint under this Policy should contact one of the following individuals or offices:

Office	Location	Contact Information	Service Availability
Department of Public Safety	Public Safety Building, Visitor Information Center, 15 th Street Footbridge	(518) 276-6611 Blue Emergency Phone Towers on campus	24 hours a day 7 days a week
Dean of Students Office	Academy Hall 4 th Floor, Suite 4600	(518) 276-6266	Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Title IX Coordinators	Division of HR Gurley Building, 2 nd Fl. 21 Union Street Troy, NY 12180	(518) 276-3065 (518) 276-4093 (518) 276-3980	Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Vice Provost and Dean, Office of Graduate Education	1516 Peoples Avenue Troy, NY 12180	(518) 276-8433	Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Vice Provost and Dean, Office of Undergraduate Education	Walker Laboratory Bldg. Suite 4010 Troy Campus	(518) 276-2244	Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Or contact any one of the Title IX liaisons			

If an employee of the Department of Public Safety or any other Responsible Employee of the Institute receives a report of alleged Sexual Misconduct, that employee must and will notify Rensselaer’s Title IX Coordinators.

Individuals may also file an anonymous report of Sexual Misconduct by visiting <https://sexualviolence.rpi.edu>. Individuals who choose to file anonymous reports are advised that it may be very difficult for the Institute to follow up or take action based on anonymous reports, especially where corroborating information is not available or is limited. Anonymous reports, however, may be used for purposes of compliance with Rensselaer’s obligations under the Clery Act.

B. Care and Support Services

Rensselaer is committed to treating all members of the community with dignity, care and respect. Any individual who experiences or is affected by Sexual Misconduct, whether as a Complainant, a Respondent, or a third party, will have equal access to care and support through the Institute. Interim measures and accommodations are also available to all parties (see Section III (D), below). Rensselaer recognizes that deciding how to respond to discrimination, harassment, and/or Sexual Misconduct can be difficult.

Rensselaer encourages all individuals to seek the support of and use all available resources on- and off-campus, regardless of when or where the incident occurred. There are both confidential and non-confidential care and support resources available.

C. Confidential Resources

Confidential care and support resources are individuals, who by the nature of their work, are required by law to keep information shared with them confidential and who cannot share information revealed to them to another person without the express permission of the individual sharing the information. These campus and community professionals include medical providers, mental health providers, ordained clergy, rape crisis counselors, and attorneys representing a Complainant or Respondent. These individuals are prohibited by law from breaking confidentiality unless there is an imminent threat of harm to self or others. However, when a report involves suspected abuse of a minor under the age of 18, some of these confidential resources may be required by state law to notify child protective services and/or local law enforcement.

1. On-Campus Confidential Resources:

The medical/counseling services listed below are available on campus and will provide total confidentiality if requested.

Office	Location	Contact Information
Student Health and Wellness	Academy Hall	Portal: https://rpi.studenthealthportal.com/
Medical and Health Education	Academy Hall Suite 3200	(518) 276-6287
Mental Health and Counseling Services	Academy Hall Suite 4100	(518) 276-6479.
After normal business hours, holidays and weekends, to request confidential counseling:	Public Safety Building, Visitor Information Center, 15 th Street Footbridge	(518) 276-6611
Religious Affairs Chaplains Office	Rensselaer Union 3 rd Floor	(518) 276-6518

2. Off-Campus Confidential Resources:

There are many confidential resources available to individuals in the local community. These organizations can provide crisis intervention services, counseling,

medical attention, and assistance in dealing with the criminal justice system. All individuals are encouraged to use the resources that are best suited to their needs, whether on or off campus.

Organization	Location	Contact Information	Services: 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week
St. Peter's Health Partners' Samaritan Hospital Emergency Department	2215 Burdett Ave. Troy, NY, 12180	(518) 271-3424	<u>Faculty, Staff and Students</u> <i>Sexual Assault Forensic Exams are performed free of charge and without contacting the victim's health insurance plan.</i>
Or go to the nearest hospital emergency department.			
Sexual Assault and Crime Victims Assistance Program for Rensselaer County (SACVAP)	Samaritan Hospital 2200 Burdett Ave. Suite 109 Troy, NY 12180	24-hour Sexual Assault Hotline: (518) 271-3257	<u>Faculty, Staff and Students</u> Counseling, Support, Information and Referral Services (This is a Free service)
Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center, Albany County	Albany County Office Building 112 State Street Room 1010 Albany, NY 12207	24-Hour Sexual Assault Hotline: (518) 447-7716 cvsvc@albanycounty.com	<u>Faculty, Staff and Students</u> Counseling, Support, Information and Referral Services (This is a Free service)
Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut, Inc. (SACCEC),	78 Howard Street Suite C1 New London, CT 06320	24 Hour Hotline: (860) 456-2789	<u>Rensselaer at Hartford</u> <u>Faculty, Staff and Students</u> Counseling, Support, Information and Referral Services (This is a Free service.)
Connecticut Coalition against Domestic Violence (CCADV)	912 Silas Deane Hwy, Lower Level, Wethersfield, CT 06109	24 Hours Hotline: (888) 774-2900 someone@somewhere.com	<u>Rensselaer at Hartford</u> <u>Faculty, Staff and Students</u> Counseling, Support, Information and Referral Services (This is a Free service.)
Capital Employee Assistance Program (EAP)	<u>Main Office</u> 650 Warren Street Albany, NY 12208 (Call for other locations)	(800) 777-6531 24 Hours Hotline: (518) 465-3813 questions@capitaleap.org	<u>Faculty, Staff and their Dependents</u> Counseling, Support, Information and Referral Services (This is a Free service.)

D. Medical Assistance and Evidence Collection

An individual is encouraged to seek medical attention immediately following an incident of Sexual Misconduct, and particularly Sexual Violence, to assess and treat any injuries, screen for pregnancy (if appropriate) and sexually transmitted infections, and to properly collect and preserve evidence, if the individual consents to do so. Collecting evidence does not obligate an individual to any particular course of action but can assist the authorities should the individual

decide to pursue criminal charges now or in the future. Rensselaer will assist any community member in seeking medical services.

Physical evidence of Sexual Misconduct or Sexual Violence must be collected from the victim’s person within hours of the incident, although it may be possible to obtain evidence from towels, sheets, clothes, etc. for much longer periods of time. An individual who believes they have been subject to Sexual Misconduct and particularly Sexual Violence should go to an emergency room before washing their body or changing clothing. Hospitals have personnel who are specially trained to collect evidence in such cases. They will properly collect and preserve any evidence as well as document any injuries. It is best not to change clothes. However, if clothes have been changed, the clothes worn at the time of the incident should be brought to the emergency room in a clean, sanitary container such as a paper grocery bag or wrapped in a clean sheet (plastic containers do not breathe, and may render evidence useless). Bring a change of clothing to the hospital as the clothes worn at the time of the incident will likely be kept as evidence.

Student Health Service can provide after-incident and follow-up medical care; however, it is not equipped to collect forensic evidence.

E. Other Resources

In addition to the confidential care and support resources listed above, individuals have access to a variety of other resources available through the Institute.

Office	Location	Contact Information	Service Availability
Department of Public Safety	Public Safety Building, Visitor Information Center, 15 th Street Footbridge	(518) 276-6611 Blue Emergency Phone Towers on campus	24 hours a day 7 days a week
Dean of Students Office	Academy Hall 4 th Floor, Suite 4600	(518) 276-6266	Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Title IX Office	Division of HR Gurley Building, 2 nd Fl. 21 Union Street Troy, NY 12180	(518) 276-6302	Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Vice Provost and Dean, Office of Graduate Education	1516 Peoples Avenue Troy, NY 12180	(518) 276-8433	Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Vice Provost and Dean, Office of Undergraduate Education	Walker Laboratory Bldg. Suite 4010 Troy Campus	(518) 276-2244	Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
You can contact any one of the Title IX liaisons as identified in Section I (D) (2) of this Policy.			
You can contact any Responsible Employee, which includes all faculty members, advisors to student organizations, coaches, administrators, resident assistants, and other employees with a responsibility for student welfare.			

III. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

A. Introduction

These Complaint and Investigation procedures have been adopted by Rensselaer to provide a prompt and equitable method for reporting, investigating, and resolving Complaints of alleged violations of the Institute's Sexual Misconduct Policy. If a Complaint involving an alleged Sexual Misconduct Policy violation includes alleged violations by faculty or staff of Rensselaer, the procedures set forth in Human Resources Policy #600.3, Sexual Harassment, will apply as to that (non-student) employee.

Regardless of the outcome of the informal and/or formal Complaint process, the Case Management Team (comprised of the Title IX Coordinators, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education, and Dean of Students) will consider and implement any appropriate non-disciplinary, administrative measures in response to the alleged conduct. Such measures may include a mutual no-contact letter or other forms of remedial, community-based responses, such as educational initiatives and/or trainings.

B. The Complaint Process

1. A Complaint of Sexual Misconduct can be filed with a Title IX Coordinator or any Title IX Liaison, the Dean of Students Office, RPI Public Safety, or any Responsible Employee as set forth above. All members of Student Life, Dean of Students Office and the Department of Public Safety are equipped to assist and connect the student (Complainant, Respondent or witnesses) with obtaining the emergency and support services that may be needed.

2. All reports to Rensselaer will be investigated and resolved in a fair and impartial manner. The Institute will review all reports and make an immediate assessment of any risk of harm to the Complainant or to the broader campus community and will take steps necessary to address those risks. These steps may include interim measures and accommodations (as set forth in Section III.D, below) to provide for the safety of the Complainant and the campus community. As set forth above, Rensselaer's ability to investigate anonymous complaints may be limited.

3. Whenever possible, Rensselaer seeks to complete the investigation of complaints within approximately 60 days from receipt of the initial report, not including the time for any appeal(s). All time frames expressed in the Complaint procedures outlined in this Policy are meant as guidelines rather than rigid requirements. Circumstances may arise that require the extension of time frames, including extensions beyond such sixty (60) days. Such circumstances may include the complexity and scope of the allegations, the number of witnesses involved, the availability of the parties or witnesses, the effect of a concurrent criminal investigation, any intervening Institute break or holiday, or other unforeseen circumstances. In the event that the process exceeds these time frames, Rensselaer will notify the Complainant and Respondent of the reason(s) for the delay and the expected adjustment in time frames. Best efforts will be

made to complete the process in a timely manner by balancing principles of thoroughness and fundamental fairness with promptness.

4. It is a violation of Rensselaer policy to file a knowingly false or malicious Complaint of an alleged Sexual Misconduct policy violation. Action against such conduct may be pursued using the procedure set forth in this Sexual Misconduct Policy. A Complaint filed in good faith under this provision shall not constitute retaliation.

5. The Respondent is presumed not to have violated the Policy unless and until there is a final determination of a Policy violation.

C. Privacy of the Complaint Process

1. Rensselaer will make every reasonable effort to protect and maintain the privacy of those individuals involved in the complaint, investigation, and resolution process; and the disclosure of any sanctions imposed, except where such efforts are permitted by law. Even Rensselaer offices and employees who cannot guarantee confidentiality will maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible. The information you provide to a non-confidential resource will be relayed only as necessary for the Title IX Coordinators to investigate and/or seek a resolution. The investigation process, however, often necessitates the disclosure of the identity of parties and witnesses, and the content of the information they have provided as part of the investigation and resolution processes.

2. **Privacy:** Privacy is defined as precluding the sharing of information relative to a Sexual Misconduct complaint investigation with any persons who **do not** have a legitimate interest in the investigation or resolution.

3. The complaint process demands the highest level of discretion. Therefore, the Institute will advise all parties (Complainant, Respondent, any advisors, any support persons, and witnesses) involved in an investigation or subsequent proceedings of the need for discretion; the need to exercise integrity; and the need to respect the privacy of those involved in the process.

4. The Institute recognizes that persons involved in the complaint process, including the Respondent and Complainant, may need support, advice and counsel. Therefore, the Respondent and Complainant involved in the complaint process are permitted to discuss and share information relative to the investigation with family, counselors, advisors or support persons throughout the process.

D. Complainant Request for Confidentiality or No Action

If at any point the Complainant requests that their name or other Personally Identifiable Information be held confidential with respect to the Respondent or decides not to pursue action by Rensselaer, the Institute will make all reasonable attempts to respond to the Complaint in a manner consistent with the Complainant's request. However, Rensselaer's ability to investigate and respond to the conduct may be limited. Recognizing that Rensselaer has a legal obligation to review all reports, the Institute will weigh the Complainant's request against such factors as the

seriousness of the alleged conduct, whether there have been other Complaints of a similar nature against the same Respondent, the Institute's commitment to provide a reasonably safe and non-discriminatory environment, and the rights of the Respondent to receive notice and relevant information before disciplinary action is taken. If Rensselaer determines that it is necessary to proceed with the Complaint process or implement other appropriate remedies, the Complainant will be notified by a Title IX Coordinator of the Institute's chosen course of action.

E. Interim Measures and Accommodations

1. In response to a report of an alleged Sexual Misconduct policy violation, the Institute will impose reasonable and appropriate interim measures and accommodations deemed necessary to protect the Complainant's personal safety and the safety of the Institute community. Interim measures and accommodations may be imposed at the discretion of the Institute regardless of whether formal action is sought by the Complainant or the Institute. Interim measures and accommodations may be imposed or extended at the discretion of a Title IX Coordinator, the Case Management Team, or designee. Interim measures are not punitive in nature, and are intended to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of involved students and the campus community. Potential measures and accommodations, which may be applied to the Complainant and/or the Respondent, include but are not limited to:

- a. Assistance in accessing counseling services;
- b. Issuance of mutual no contact letters to ensure the safety of all parties and the integrity of the process;
- c. Rescheduling of exams and assignments (in conjunction with appropriate faculty); Academic assistance such as: providing alternative course completion options, dropping a course without penalty, or transferring to a different class Section (with the agreement of the appropriate faculty);
- d. Appropriate changes in work or class schedules;
- e. Housing assistance, such as: changes to on-campus housing, on-campus relocation, assistance with dissolving a housing contract in accordance with housing policies;
- f. Limiting an individual or organization's access to certain Institute facilities or activities pending resolution of the matter;
- g. Facilitating a voluntary leave of absence;
- h. Providing an escort to ensure safe movement on campus;
- i. Implementing an interim suspension; and
- j. Placing a hold on a Respondent's degree pending the final adjudication of an allegation of a violation of this Policy.

2. **Interim Suspension:** When deemed appropriate, Rensselaer may place a student or student organization on interim suspension. An interim suspension is the immediate but temporary, non-disciplinary separation of the student or student organization.

a. A Respondent who has been put on an interim suspension has the right to a meeting with the Case Management Team to appeal only the interim suspension, not any other investigation or process that may be underway concerning the Complaint.

b. During an interim suspension, the Student or organization may be denied access to campus, campus facilities and/or all other Institute activities or privileges for which the Respondent might otherwise be eligible, as Rensselaer determines appropriate. When an interim suspension is imposed, the Institute will make reasonable efforts to complete the investigation and resolution within an expedited time frame.

F. Advisors and Support Persons

1. **Advisors:** The Complainant and Respondent may be assisted by an advisor of their choice in any Sexual Misconduct investigation and/or Complaint proceeding. If requested, Rensselaer will appoint a staff person trained in Rensselaer's policies and procedures as a student's advisor. The advisor is present in an advisory capacity only to their respective party and may attend, but shall not participate or intervene in meetings, the investigation, or any proceeding related to the Complaint. This same standard applies in cases in which the advisor is an attorney retained by the Complainant or Respondent. NOTE: Advisors appointed by Rensselaer are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice. While Complainants' and Respondents' conversations with advisors appointed by Rensselaer are confidential and will not be disclosed to a Title IX Coordinator or investigator without the student's consent or the existence of an immediate threat to someone's safety, those conversations are not privileged by law and may be revealed by court order in criminal or other legal proceedings. Students with concerns about this topic may wish to consult an attorney.

2. **Support Persons:** The Complainant and Respondent may each have an emotional support person of their choice present with them at all meetings and any proceeding associated with a Complaint and in which the respective individual is participating. The support person must be a member of the Rensselaer community or a member of the Complainant's/Respondent's immediate family, and should not have involvement in the underlying case.

To serve as a support person, the individual may be required to meet with the Case Management Team prior to participating in meetings associated with the Complaint. The support person is a silent and non-participating presence who is there solely to observe and provide emotional support.

G. Statement Against Retaliation

Any attempt by any member of the Rensselaer community to penalize, intimidate, or retaliate in any way against a person who makes a Complaint of or who participates in an investigation or a hearing for alleged violations of the Sexual Misconduct policies of Rensselaer or Title IX is prohibited. Any person who believes that they have been retaliated against for making a Complaint or for cooperating in an investigation or hearing should immediately contact a Title IX Coordinator. Any person who retaliates against a person who has made a Complaint/report or who has cooperated in an investigation and/or hearing is in violation of Rensselaer policy and will be subject to disciplinary action. An allegation of retaliation will be investigated and adjudicated as an additional complaint.

H. Fair and Equitable Process

Rensselaer provides a fair and equitable process for responding to and resolving Complaints of Discrimination or Sexual Misconduct. The Institute will make reasonable efforts to ensure that both parties are treated with respect, dignity and sensitivity throughout the process, including as applicable:

1. Providing the Complainant and the Respondent access to care and support services from the Institute and from the community, as set forth in Sections II.B and II.C, above.
2. Facilitating privacy and protection under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
3. Informing both parties of the Institute's policies and Complaint procedures.
4. Providing both parties the opportunity to challenge the appointment of the Investigator if a conflict of interest is demonstrated.
5. Allowing the Complainant and Respondent to choose to participate or decline to participate in the investigatory process related to a Complaint, with the understanding that the process will continue without their involvement and that the Investigator will determine an outcome with the information available.
6. Notifying both parties, in writing, of the Complaint resolution – including the outcome of any appeal.
7. Notifying both parties of the option to have an advisor and/or a support person.
8. Understanding that information collected through an investigation and/or Complaint proceeding may be subpoenaed in a criminal and/or civil proceeding.
9. During the investigation and adjudication process, the Respondent is presumed not to have violated the Policy unless and until there is a final determination of a Policy violation.

I. Intake and Preliminary Assessment

Upon receipt of a report or Complaint, the Case Management Team (comprised of the Title IX Coordinators, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, Vice Provost and Graduate Education, and Dean of Students) or its designee will conduct an assessment of the Complaint, taking into consideration the nature of the conduct, the Complainant's expressed preferences, if any, as to course of action, and the necessity for any interim measures and accommodations to protect the safety of the Complainant and/or the Institute community. The Institute expects that all reports received by a Responsible Employee be immediately referred to a Title IX Coordinator for assessment to ensure prompt and equitable response to the conduct.

The Case Management Team or its designee will determine next steps including whether there is sufficient information to conduct an investigation and whether the Complaint could be resolved through the informal process (Complaint Procedures, Section J). If the informal or formal process moves forward, the Case Management Team or its designee will meet with the Respondent to review the Complaint, the related policies, and these Complaint procedures. They will also discuss Care and Support resources and any interim measures and accommodations.

The Complainant and the Respondent must confirm receipt of the Notice of Complaint and meet with a representative of the Case Management Team within five (5) business days of receiving this notice. Requests to postpone the initial meeting may be granted, provided that the request is based on a compelling reason. When possible, Complainants and Respondents should request a postponement no less than 24 hours before the scheduled meeting and/or interview.

The Complainant and Respondent should inform the Case Management Team and/or the Investigators whether they wish to participate in the investigative process within five (5) business days of their meeting with the Case Management Team representative. The Complainant or Respondent may request additional time to make that decision and/or to schedule an investigative interview. However, in the event that the Case Management Team finds that the Complainant or Respondent has engaged in unreasonable delay, the Case Management Team may move forward with the investigation and resolution process without that individual's participation after providing the individual with written notice and an opportunity to respond.

J. Informal Process

NOTE: Informal Resolution, including but not limited to mediation, is not an option for cases involving sexual assault or physical violence.

If it is determined to be possible and safe, the Institute may choose to recommend resolving a Complaint through informal means. If informal resolution is appropriate, the Case Management Team or its designee will speak with the Complainant about this option. If the Complainant agrees, the Case Management Team or its designee will speak with the Respondent about the Complaint and the possibility of informal resolution. Informal resolution will be pursued only with the consent of both parties.

1. The Case Management Team or its designee will then meet separately with both parties to present and discuss an informal resolution based on the information available. In the informal resolution process the Case Management Team does not serve

in the role of fact finder but rather identifies possible resolution(s) to the Complaint. If they are able to reach an agreed upon resolution by both parties, then the matter will be closed and no further action will be taken. If the parties are unable to reach an agreed upon informal resolution, the Case Management Team will begin the formal Complaint process by initiating an investigation (Complaint Procedures, Section K, below).

2. In addition to the other informal resolution processes discussed here, the Institute may choose to offer an alternative form of resolution, such as mediation, for some types of Complaints, when appropriate and feasible. This alternative process will adhere to Title IX standards. In cases where mediation is deemed to be an option, the Case Management Team will contact both parties to discuss the option. Mediation will be pursued only with the consent of both parties. The parties should not contact each other to discuss mediation. If the mediation results in a resolution, the matter will be closed and no further action will be taken. If the parties are unable to reach a resolution through mediation, the Case Management Team will begin the formal Complaint process by initiating an Investigation (Complaint Procedures, Section K, below).

3. The Case Management Team will maintain records of all reports and conduct referred for informal resolution. Informal resolution will typically be completed within thirty (30) days of the initial report as is reasonable and practicable. In circumstances when it is not reasonable and practicable to complete the informal process in this time frame, both parties will be notified in writing regarding the delay and anticipated completion.

K. Investigation

1. If an informal resolution does not resolve or is not appropriate for resolving the Complaint, the Case Management Team will appoint a trained internal or external investigator or investigative team (hereafter “Investigator”) to conduct a reasonable, impartial, and prompt investigation of the Complaint. The Case Management Team will appoint an Investigator based on several factors, including the parties involved and the need to avoid any potential conflict of interest. The Investigator, in consultation with the Case Management Team, will establish a timeline and process for conducting the investigation. In cases of Sexual Assault, the investigation will always be conducted by an investigative team. The Investigator(s), selected by the Case Management Team, will be trained faculty or staff, or an external investigator.

2. The Investigator will conduct the investigation based upon the facts and circumstances reported to the Institute and developed through the course of the investigation, including interviews as feasible and appropriate with the Complainant, the Respondent, and any witnesses, and gathering other pertinent evidentiary materials to the extent reasonable and appropriate. Whenever feasible, investigative interviews will be recorded and transcribed. The Investigator has the discretion to determine the relevance of any proffered evidence and may determine that certain types of evidence should be included or excluded.

3. Upon completion of the investigation, the Investigator will prepare a preliminary report outlining the investigation and the facts and circumstances that were found during the course of the investigation. The Investigator will review the preliminary report and factual findings with the Case Management Team. Based on this review, the Case Management Team will determine whether the preliminary report is reasonably complete, whether the preliminary report complies with the terms of this policy or whether further review or investigation is appropriate.

4. The Investigators will consider any additional allegations that may come to light during the investigation. The Policy provision(s) initially alleged to have been violated may not be the only provisions submitted to the Case Management Team for review. When additional allegations arise and/or additional Policy provisions are considered, written notice will be provided to the Complainant and Respondent.

5. When multiple complaints are received that arise out of the same incident or closely related facts, those complaints will generally be joined in one investigation, at the discretion of the Case Management Team.

6. Once the investigation and review processes are complete, the Investigator will provide the Case Management Team with a fact-finding report with a recommendation of whether, based on a preponderance of evidence standard, it is more likely that not that a policy violation occurred. The Case Management Team will make the final determination of whether it is more likely than not that a policy violation occurred. If the Case Management Team determines that a policy violation does not exist, the process will follow the administrative resolution procedure set forth in Section III (L). If the Case Management Team determines that a policy violation does exist, the process will follow the administrative resolution procedure set forth in Section III (M).

L. Administrative Resolution Where Investigation Does Not Find A Policy Violation

1. If the Case Management Team determines that it is more likely that not that a policy violation did not occur, the Complainant and Respondent will be notified in writing of the investigation's findings and will then be provided an opportunity to review the Investigation Record with a representative of the Case Management Team. Portions of the record may be redacted to protect the privacy of individuals involved. Neither the Complainant nor the Respondent will be permitted to copy any of the documents or other evidence contained in the Investigation Record.

2. Complainant will then have five (5) business days to submit a Request for Hearing for review by the Case Management Team. The opportunity to submit a Request for Hearing is not provided to refute or express dissatisfaction with the outcome of the investigation. Instead, the Complainant's Request for Hearing should address the following specific potential areas for consideration:

a. **Clear Factual Error:** The Case Management Team made a clear factual error in concluding that it is more likely than not that a policy violation did not exist. A description of the factual error(s) and its impact on the investigation findings must be included in the Request for Hearing;

b. **Procedural Error:** A procedural error occurred that significantly impacted the outcome of the investigation as it applies to the Complainant (e.g. substantiated bias, material deviation from established procedures, etc.). A description of the error and its impact on the outcome of the case must be included in the Request for Hearing; or

c. **New Information:** New information has arisen which was not available or known to the Complainant during the investigation and that could substantially impact the findings. Information that was known to the Complainant during the investigation but which they chose not to present is not new information. A summary of this new evidence and its potential impact on the investigation findings must be included in the Request for Hearing.

3. If the Complainant submits a Request for Hearing, the Case Management Team will review the request and determine if the request complies with the requirements set forth in Section III (L) 2. above. If the Complainant Request for a Hearing adheres to the Policy requirements, and reasonable cause for a hearing is found, the process will then follow the administrative resolution process set forth in Section N, below, and Appendix A. If reasonable cause for a hearing does not exist, the Complainant and Respondent will be notified in writing of this outcome. This decision is final.

M. Administrative Resolution Where the Investigation Does Find A Policy Violation

1. If the Case Management Team determines that it is more likely than not that a policy violation did occur, the Complainant and Respondent will be notified in writing of the investigation's findings and will then be provided an opportunity to review the Investigation Record with a representative of the Case Management Team. Portions of the record may be redacted to protect the privacy of individuals involved. The Complainant and the Respondent will not be permitted to copy any of the documents contained in the Investigation Record.

2. The Respondent will be given five (5) business days to respond to the alleged violation(s) and Investigation's findings in the following ways: 1) Agree; or 2) Disagree. If Respondent fails to respond, or voluntarily elects not to respond, such response will be considered as Disagree. That response should be made in writing to the Case Management Team or its designee.

a. **If Respondent Agrees:** The Respondent's written notice of Agreement may, if the Respondent wishes, indicate whether Respondent accepts responsibility for violating this Policy, or whether they have chosen for any other reason not to contest the Case Management Team's determination.

Complainant and Respondent will each then have five (5) business days to submit a statement for review by the Vice President for Student Life or designee. The statement should outline the impact of the misconduct on the Complainant or any mitigating factors the Respondent believes should be considered by the Vice President for Student Life or designee when imposing sanctions. If they wish, the Complainant or Respondent may include a suggestion of sanctions with an explanation of why they believe that sanction(s) is reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances. The Case Management Team will forward the Investigation Record and any statements received from the Complainant or Respondent to the Vice President for Student Life or designee, who in consultation with the Case Management Team will determine sanctions as appropriate.

The following will be considered in determining sanction(s): the nature of and the circumstances surrounding the violation, the Respondent's prior disciplinary record, precedent cases, Institute safety concerns, and any other information deemed relevant. The sanction(s) will be structured to end the conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects on the Complainant and the Institute community. Not all violations will be deemed equally serious offenses, and the Institute reserves the right to impose different sanctions, ranging from warning to expulsion, depending on the severity of the offense. Possible sanctions for students include suspension or expulsion. A more detailed list of possible sanctions is provided in Appendix C. The concerns and rights of both the Complainant and the Respondent will be considered in determining sanctions.

The Case Management Team will provide written notice of the outcome of the administrative resolution and any sanctions, if applicable, within five (5) business days whenever possible. This decision is not subject to appeal.

b. **If Respondent Disagrees:** If the student Respondent has submitted no response or does not agree with the findings, both parties will be notified in writing by the Case Management Team that the matter has been referred to a hearing pursuant to Section III (N). A representative of the Case Management Team will schedule a meeting with each party to explain the hearing process and give the parties an opportunity to ask questions.

N. Hearing Board Procedure

1. The Hearing Board (hereafter "Board") is charged with conducting a prompt, thorough, and unbiased hearing to determine, based on a **preponderance of the evidence** standard, whether or not the Respondent violated the Sexual Misconduct Policy specific to the alleged conduct. If a violation is found, the Board will recommend sanctions to the Vice President for Student Life or designee, who will make a determination, and who shall have final responsibility for implementing appropriate sanction(s).

2. The Sexual Misconduct Hearing Board consists of three (3) members selected by the Case Management Team from among:

a. members of the Investigator pool who were not involved in the original investigation; and

b. faculty or staff who have been trained to review Sexual Misconduct Complaints.

3. The Case Management Team will designate one of these individuals to serve as the Chair. The Board is supported by the Case Management Team, who are present at the hearing and any meetings of the Board related to the hearing, but are not voting members of the Board. Their role is to present the matter and serve as a resource for the Board regarding any procedural or other questions and to ensure the procedures are followed appropriately. They will also attend but not participate in the deliberations except as requested by the Chair.

4. In most circumstances, the Board will submit to the Case Management Team a written report of its findings along with a statement of its final finding within seven (7) business days of the receipt of the Hearing transcript from the Case Management Team. If the Board finds the Respondent responsible for any policy violation(s), the Board will recommend sanctions to the Vice President for Student Life or designee, who will make a determination, and who shall have final responsibility for implementing appropriate sanction(s).

5. The Case Management Team will report the hearing outcome including the Board findings and any sanctions to the Complainant and the Respondent in writing. Both parties may appeal the outcome of the hearing as outlined in Section III (P).

6. Except in circumstances posing danger to either party, the sanction(s) imposed will be suspended pending the outcome of any appeal. Such determination will be made by the Case Management Team.

O. Sanctions

Any one or more sanctions may be issued to a Respondent who is found responsible for any Sexual Misconduct Policy violation(s). Sanctions not listed here may be imposed in consultation with and approval by the Case Management Team. Sanctions are assessed in response to the specific violation(s) and any prior disciplinary history of the Respondent. Possible sanctions include but are not limited to those shown on Appendix C. In connection with his/her deliberations regarding appropriate sanctions, the Vice President for Student Life or designee will be entitled to receive copies of the Investigation Record and any written report prepared by the Hearing Board.

P. Hearing Appeal Procedures

1. Both the Complainant and the Respondent may appeal in writing the outcome of a hearing. The written Request for Appeal should be submitted to the Case Management Team within two (2) business days following the date of the hearing outcome letter. The only grounds upon which an appeal may be based are:

a. **Procedural Error:** A procedural error occurred that significantly impacted the outcome of the hearing as it applies to the appealing party (e.g. substantiated bias, material deviation from established procedures, etc.). A description of the error and its impact on the outcome of the case as it applies to the appealing party must be included in the Request for Appeal; or

b. **New Information:** New information has arisen which was not available or known to the appealing party during the hearing and that could have substantially impacted the original finding or sanction(s) had it been available at that time. Information that was known to the appealing party at the time of the hearing but which they chose not to present is not new information. A summary of this new evidence and its potential impact on the findings and/or sanctions must be included in the Request for Appeal.

c. Dissatisfaction with the outcome of the proceeding is not grounds for an appeal.

2. The Case Management Team will notify the non-appealing party that a Request for Appeal has been submitted.

3. The Case Management Team will consider if the Request for Appeal was submitted in a timely manner and if so, whether the Request for Appeal is properly framed based on one or more of the grounds for appeal. If the Case Management Team determines that the Request for Appeal was not submitted in a timely manner or is not properly framed, the Request for Appeal will be denied. If the Request for Appeal is submitted in a timely manner and is properly framed it will be referred to the Vice President for Student Life or designee for review. The Vice President for Student Life or designee will endeavor to make a final determination for the Institute within seven (7) business days.

4. Appeals are not intended to be a full rehearing of the Complaint (de novo). In most cases, appeals are confined to a review of the written documentation supporting the Request for Appeal and the record of the original hearing. In any Request for Appeal the burden of proof lies with the party requesting the appeal, as the original determination and any sanctions are presumed to have been decided reasonably and appropriately.

a. **Procedural Error:** If it is determined that a procedural error occurred which was substantially prejudicial to the outcome of the hearing, the Complaint may be remanded to the original Board with instructions to reconvene to cure the error. In rare cases, where the procedural error cannot be cured by the original Board (as in cases of bias), a new hearing with a new Board may be the

appropriate remedy. The results of a reconvened hearing process cannot be appealed.

b. **New Information:** If it is determined that new information should be considered, the Complaint may be returned to the original Board to reconsider the Complaint in light of the new information only. In such a case, the findings of the Board based on consideration of the new information are not appealable.

Q. Notification

Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that the Complainant and the Respondent are kept apprised of the status of the investigation and/or Complaint proceeding throughout the process. Both will be notified as follows:

1. Conclusion of the Investigation

a. Both parties will be allowed to review the Investigative Record.

b. Both parties will receive written notifications of whether the matter has concluded and there is no reasonable cause to believe a violation occurred or whether there is reasonable cause and next steps.

2. Administrative Resolution or Hearing

a. Both parties will be notified of the outcome of any administrative resolution in writing.

b. If the matter goes to a hearing, both parties will be notified in writing of the outcome of the hearing.

3. Appeal

a. If an Appeal has been filed, a response to such request shall be submitted to the Complainant and Respondent in writing.

b. A decision regarding the appeal shall be submitted to the Complainant and Respondent in writing.

R. Record Retention

1. Records of investigations and hearings are maintained by the Institute for seven (7) years from the student's graduation date or if the student leaves the Institute before graduation, for seven (7) years after leaving.

2. The hearing recording or transcript, if applicable, will be maintained as part of the case record as indicated above. The Complainant and the Respondent may listen to the recording or review the transcript during normal business hours by contacting the Case Management Team.

S. Special Provisions

1. The Institute reserves the right to modify or adapt these procedures as needed to allow for the fair and prompt resolution of a Complaint, such as when it is received at the end of a term or during a break in the Institute's academic schedule.

2. Institute as Complainant:

a. As necessary, the Institute reserves the right to initiate a Complaint, to serve as Complainant, and to initiate Complaint proceedings without a formal Complaint initiated by the party allegedly subjected to Sexual Misconduct.

b. In such cases, the Institute reserves the right to terminate the Complaint process in circumstances in which it is able to reach a resolution with Respondent that satisfies the Institute's obligations under Title IX and other relevant discrimination laws to end the alleged conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects on Complainant and the Institute Community.

3. Alcohol and Drug Use Amnesty: The health and safety of every student at Rensselaer is of utmost importance. Rensselaer recognizes that students who have been drinking and/or using drugs (whether such use is voluntary or involuntary) at the time that Sexual Misconduct occurs may be hesitant to report such incidents due to fear of potential consequences for their own conduct. Rensselaer strongly encourages students to report Sexual Misconduct to Institution officials. A bystander acting in good faith, a reporting individual acting in good faith, or an investigation witness acting in good faith that discloses any incident of Sexual Misconduct to Rensselaer officials or law enforcement will not be subject to the Rensselaer policies relating to alcohol and/or drug use policies occurring at or near the time of the commission of the Sexual Misconduct. However, the use of alcohol or drugs will never function as a defense for any behavior that violates the Rensselaer Student Sexual Misconduct Policy.

4. Past Sexual History: The past sexual history of a Complainant or Respondent with persons other than the other party in an investigation or Complaint proceeding generally will not be considered. If the party believes the past sexual history of the other party is relevant to the investigation and/or Complaint proceeding they must submit a written request to the Case Management Team explaining the nature of the information and why the information is relevant to the investigation and/or Complaint proceeding. In most circumstances, the Case Management Team will review the request and render a decision within two (2) business days.

5. Respondent's Prior Conduct History: When determining what sanction(s) to recommend or impose, the Vice President for Student Life or designee (or the Hearing Board when applicable) may consider past findings of Sexual Misconduct, information about previous behavior and/or Complaints regarding the Respondent if the Respondent was previously found to be responsible for a similar violation at the disciplinary/sanctions stage of the process.

6. Failure to Comply with Complaint Procedures: If a party or other participant in the process (e.g., a support person) fails to comply with the procedures set forth herein, the Institute reserves the right to terminate the investigation or Complaint proceeding and/or to exclude a participant from further participation in the process. Examples include: material breaches of confidentiality and material breach of appropriate role as a support person. The Case Management Team shall be responsible for interpreting and applying this provision, and shall not terminate a process or exclude a participant from further participation without providing advance written notice and an opportunity for the affected party to respond in writing. In such circumstances, the Case Management Team shall implement alternative resolution options as may be appropriate under the circumstances to ensure that, notwithstanding any misconduct during the Complaint proceeding, the Institute has taken reasonable steps to determine whether a violation of the Institute's Sexual Misconduct policies occurred and, if so, to take prompt and appropriate remedial actions in response to such conduct.

Appendix A – Sexual Misconduct Policy Hearing Process

1. Both parties have five (5) business days from notice that the matter is proceeding to a hearing to submit to the Case Management Team a written statement and a list of any proposed witnesses that they suggest be called by the Board to the Case Management Team. The written statement can include any information the Complainant or Respondent wishes to have the Hearing Board consider in advance of the hearing, including but not limited to requests for additional evidence. The witness list should include the following information regarding each proposed witness:

- The names of any witnesses that either party intends to call;
- A description of what each witness observed, if not already provided during the investigation;
- A summary of why the witness's presence is relevant to making a decision at the hearing; and
- An explanation of why the witness was not interviewed by the investigator, if applicable.

2. Any statements and witness lists submitted along with the Investigation Record and the Investigation Report with the conclusion and determination redacted ("Record for Hearing") will be shared with the Board for review prior to the hearing. The Complainant and Respondent will also have an opportunity to review those items prior to the beginning of the hearing.

3. Prior to the hearing, the Board will thoroughly review the Record for Hearing and any other information it determines necessary to assist it in reaching a determination. The Board has the discretion to determine the relevance of any proffered evidence and may determine that certain types of evidence should be included or excluded. From this review, the Board will identify witnesses they would like to have appear. Witnesses must have observed the conduct in question or have information relevant to the incident. The Board will not hear from individuals whose sole purpose is to provide character information. Both parties will be notified in advance of the hearing of any witnesses who will be appearing at the hearing.

4. Both parties have the right to not participate in the hearing if they so choose. In cases where the Respondent and/or Complainant have chosen not to participate in the hearing, the hearing will commence and the Board will hear from the party (if one exists) who has chosen to participate in the hearing.

5. The Board will, in its sole discretion, accommodate requests for alternative participation options (such as by Skype or other video conferencing formats) for the Complainant, the Respondent, and witnesses when appropriate.

6. The hearing will be scheduled to allow reasonably sufficient time for the Complainant and the Respondent to prepare for the hearing and to allow for the participation of all material witnesses, provided, however, that the hearing will generally be scheduled to occur

within fourteen (14) business days. That deadline may be extended by the Case Management Team or its designee only for good cause.

7. Board hearings are closed. The hearing itself will be recorded or transcribed but the deliberations will not.

8. The Complainant and Respondent may each be accompanied by an advisor and/or support person as outlined in Section III (F), above. The advisor is present in an advisory capacity only to their respective party and may attend, but shall not participate or intervene in the hearing. The Complainant and Respondent may remain at the hearing until the Board begins to deliberate.

9. **Hearing Outline:** The general course of the hearing will be as follows, whenever possible:

- a. The Chair will convene the hearing.
- b. The Complainant will be asked to make an opening statement if he/she chooses to do so.
- c. The Respondent will be asked to make an opening statement if he/she chooses to do so.
- d. The Complainant will respond to questions posed by members of the Board.
- e. The Respondent will respond to questions posed by members of the Board.
- f. The Chair will call any witnesses to provide information and respond to questions as the Board determines necessary.
- g. The Board will ask further questions of the parties as it deems appropriate.
- h. The Complainant will make a closing statement if he/she chooses to do so.
- i. The Respondent will make a closing statement if he/she chooses to do so.
- j. The Board will conclude the hearing and meet in private to deliberate.

10. **Questioning.** Only the Board members may ask questions directly of the parties and any witnesses. Both parties have the opportunity to put forth questions of the other party and of witnesses by submitting questions to the Chair in written format. The Chair shall determine which submitted questions will be asked based upon whether they are relevant, proper or are duplicative in nature. The Chair reserves the right to revise submitted questions.

11. **Board Findings:** Upon completion of the hearing, the Board will meet in private to deliberate and determine whether any policy violation(s) occurred. The Board will use the **preponderance of evidence standard of proof** to determine whether a policy violation occurred. **Preponderance of evidence means that the Board must be convinced based on the information provided that a violation of this policy or Title IX was more likely to have occurred than to not have occurred in order to find the Respondent responsible for violating this policy or Title IX.** Based on this standard, the Board may find a Respondent responsible for an alleged violation of policy based on a majority vote. The Board may also vote by majority to dismiss the Complaint based on the same evidentiary standard. Only the Hearing Board's final finding will be shared with the parties.

Appendix B - The Institute's External Reporting Obligations for Sexual Misconduct

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (the "Clery Act")

- A. Statistical Reporting:** The Clery Act is a federal law requiring institutions of higher education to collect and report statistics on certain crimes in an annual Security Report. Certain Institute officials have a duty to provide the Department of Public Safety information regarding crimes when they are reported to them. All personally Identifiable Information is kept confidential, but statistical information regarding Clery reportable crimes must be shared, including the date and location of the incident (but not the specific address) and information about the reported crime to allow for proper classification. This report provides the community with information about the extent and nature of campus crimes, to ensure greater community safety.

Campus Security Authorities are required to inform the Department of Public Safety of crimes reported to them. The following individuals and organizations within Rensselaer are designated as Campus Security Authorities in accordance with the guideline set forth by the Clery Act: members of the Department of Public Safety; local law enforcement, Dean of Students and Dean of Students Office professional staff; Residence Life professional staff and Residence Directors/Assistants; Rensselaer Union Administration professional staff and student activities staff; Director of Athletics, Athletic Administration and full/part-time Coaches; First Year Experience professional staff; Human Resources staff; Office of the Provost professional staff; advisors to student organizations; and any other official with significant responsibility for student and campus activities.

- B. Timely Warning:** Complainants should also be aware that Institute administrators must issue immediate timely warnings for incidents reported to them that are confirmed to pose a substantial threat of bodily harm or danger to members of the campus community. A Complainant's name and other Personally Identifying Information will not be disclosed. The reporters for timely warning purposes are exactly the same as detailed in the paragraph above.

C. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The outcome of a campus hearing is part of the educational record of an involved Rensselaer student. Generally speaking, the educational records of students are protected from release under a federal law, FERPA (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99). The Institute complies with FERPA regulations regarding the privacy of student records and observes the following exceptions to FERPA as mandated by the Clery Act:

- The Complainant(s) in a non-consensual sexual contact/intercourse incident has the right to be informed of the finding, and sanction(s) of the investigation or hearing, in writing, without condition or limitation.
- The Complainant(s) in a Sexual Misconduct or any other gender-based offense has the right to be informed of the finding, in writing, and to be informed of any sanction(s) that directly relate to them, and to essential facts supporting the outcome when the outcome is “responsible” (and the underlying offense is a crime of violence as defined below and in 34 C.F.R. 99.39) and/or it is equitable to share the essential findings with all parties.

The Clery Act permits the Institute to release publicly the name, nature of the violation and the sanction(s) for any student who is found in violation of a Institute policy that is also a "crime of violence," including: arson, burglary, robbery, criminal homicide, sex offenses, assault, intimidation (which may encompass stalking and/or bullying), hazing, destruction/damage/vandalism of property and kidnapping/abduction. The Institute will release this information to the Complainant regarding any of these offenses.

FERPA allows for the release of student records beyond the Clery exceptions listed above. Some of those situations are listed below. For a full understanding of student rights and FERPA, please see the Institute’s FERPA policy <http://registrar.rpi.edu/setup.do>.

Student education records, including student conduct records, can be subpoenaed by a court of law. Information from a student’s education record may be released to a third party with the student’s permission. Pursuant to a signed release, third parties (including but not limited to, graduate schools, potential employers, parents of non-minors, etc.) may request information from a student’s education record.

Appendix C – Examples of Sanctions Pursuant to the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy

The list of sanctions provided are guidelines and may be implemented for violations of the Policy. Any one or more sanctions may be imposed upon a Respondent who is found responsible for any Sexual Misconduct policy violation(s). Sanctions are assessed in response to specific violation(s) and any prior disciplinary history of the Respondent and are determined on a case by case basis. The fact that a Respondent has completed all academic requirements for his/her academic degree does not preclude the imposition of any sanctions under this policy, including suspension or expulsion. The list of sanctions includes but is not limited to those stated below.

Section 1

For conduct including but not limited to: unwelcome religious, race, gender, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression slurs; unwelcome jokes with sexual content; sexually-based gestures; unwelcome text messages with sexual content; “sexting;” sexual innuendo; suggestive comments; insults; humor and jokes about sex or gender specific traits; sexual propositions; suggestive or insulting sounds; leering/staring; whistling; and obscene gestures.

- a. **Service Hours:** A set number of work hours the Respondent must complete. The Case Management Team will determine the nature of the work to be performed. Generally, service hours are conducted on campus.
- b. **Educational Program/Project:** Programs and activities designed to help the Respondent become more aware of Institute policies and prohibited behavior in an attempt to help the Respondent understand the inappropriateness of their conduct, including, but not limited to, participation in an educational program or completion of an online program.
- c. **Referral for Counseling:** A referral for an assessment with an appropriately trained therapist and a mandate to follow any recommendations resulting from the counseling.
- d. **Loss of Privileges:** Denial of specific privilege(s) as defined by the Case Management Team for a defined period of time. Privileges include, but are not limited to, participation in extra-curricular activities and events such as social events, intercollegiate athletics, intramural programs, student organizations, and student government.
- e. **Restricted Access:** Conditions which specifically dictate and limit the Respondent’s presence on campus and/or participation in Institute-sponsored activities. The restrictions will be clearly defined and may include, but are not limited to, student housing and presence in certain buildings or locations on campus.
- f. **Removal of Offending Cause:** Requirement to remove the item which was the subject of the Complaint.

Section 2

For conduct including but not limited to: Sexual Harassment; emotional abuse; threats; stalking, including cyber stalking; and retaliation. Any of the aforementioned sanctions may be imposed, as well as:

- g. Relocation:** Requirement that the Respondent relocate to another residence hall, or off-campus, by a specified date.
- h. Warning:** Written notice that the Respondent's behavior was in violation of the Institute's Sexual Misconduct Policy and that future violations will result in more severe sanctions.
- i. Fine:** A monetary penalty assessed as appropriate to the violation.
- j. Conduct Probation:** Formal, written notice that the Respondent's behavior is in violation of the Institute's Sexual Misconduct policy and an expectation that the Respondent exhibit good behavior for a defined period of time. Any violation during the probationary period may result in suspension from the Institute if it is determined that the nature and circumstances of the subsequent violation warrants such action.
- k. Disciplinary Probation:** Formal and final notice compelling the Respondent to exhibit good behavior for a defined period of time. Any violation during the probationary period will generally result in suspension or expulsion from the Institute.

Section 3

For conduct including but not limited to: intentional grabbing and fondling, forcible touching, forcible kissing, unwelcome sexual touching, non-consensual video or audio taping of a sexual activity, stalking (including cyber stalking), and repeated violations of incidents in Sections 1 and/or 2. Any of the aforementioned sanctions may be imposed, as well as:

- l. Suspension:** Separation from the Institute for a defined period of time. During the suspension period the Respondent is not permitted on campus and is not permitted to participate in any Institute-sponsored or affiliated program or activity. The terms of the suspension may include the designation of special conditions affecting eligibility for readmission or special conditions to be in effect upon readmission.

Section 4

For conduct including but not limited to: sexual violence; sexual assault; rape; stalking, including cyber stalking of a threatening and/or violent nature; indecent exposure; intimate partner violence; domestic abuse, and repeated violations of incidents in Sections 1, 2 and/or 3. Any of the aforementioned sanctions may be imposed, as well as:

- m. Expulsion:** Permanent separation from the Institute without possibility of re-admission. A Respondent who has been expelled is not permitted on campus and is not permitted to participate in any Institute-sponsored or affiliated program or activity.