

Oregon's Public Universities



Addressing Sexual Misconduct

What is Title IX and the Clery Act?

In 1972, **Title IX of the Education Amendments** was established as law, becoming a key component of federal civil rights through its prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program/activity that receives federal funding. Title IX addresses areas such as discrimination against pregnant and parenting students; women in STEM programs; sexual harassment; gender-based discrimination; and sexual violence.

Title IX does not just apply to women; it protects all persons from sex-based discrimination, whether male, female or non-gender conforming individuals. In May 2014, the U.S. Dept. of Education released a list of higher education institutions with open Title IX sexual violence investigations. None of Oregon's public universities were on that list.

The **1990 Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act** or **Clery Act** is a federal [statute](#) that requires all colleges and universities that participate in federal financial aid programs to keep and disclose information about crime on and near their respective campuses. The USDOE can impose civil penalties against institutions for any infraction and can suspend institutions from participating in federal student financial aid programs.

How are Universities Responding to Sexual Assault?

Oregon's public universities each have established policies and procedures and many forms of outreach and training that go beyond compliance with Title IX. Here are a few examples of what is **happening now** at each university. The campuses are working individually and collectively to expand these efforts, and share best practices.

Eastern Oregon University uses a Title IX Team to assess and evaluate its campus response to sexual misconduct, domestic violence and stalking and ensure compliance with Title IX, Clery, and SaVE Act requirements. The Sexual Assault Prevention Programming Committee ensures that comprehensive awareness and education addressing rape culture, bystander intervention, and reporting resources and options are widely available. All freshmen receive education on the reality of campus sexual assault in their First Year Experience course, and student leaders and employees are taught to recognize and report incidents through our Sexual Assault Response Campus Advocate Training, Sexual Harassment training, Safe Zone diversity awareness training, and through our Residence Life student/staff training. Incidents and/or concerns regarding sexual misconduct cases are discussed at our weekly Behavioral Assessment Team meetings. An MOU with our county SART ensures easy access and collaborative assistance for our students, and both online and paper versions of our Anonymous Report form are available. Our policies, procedures, and programming are regularly reviewed and materials, resources and reporting information are available online at www.eou.edu/sse/sex-matters/.

Oregon Institute of Technology has intensified its focus in several areas to proactively address sexual misconduct: (1) providing education, prevention, survivor support and option awareness; (2) revising the Student Conduct Code provisions for resolution of allegations and formal adjudication; and (3) increasing internal and external collaboration to ensure comprehensive, wrap-around services, support, and appropriate tracking and reporting. Oregon Tech maintains a Sexual Assault Hotline, providing 24-hour contact with professional counselors and trained university staff, all of whom have expertise in crisis response, resource connections and advocacy. An online anonymous report form was added to the existing "Bias Incident Reporting" capability, specifically designed to secure as much information as possible about a sexual- or relationship-violence event. The brochure *Sexual Assault: Getting Help* was published by Oregon Tech and distributed across campus and online.

Oregon State University has created a single policy and process for responding to all reports of sexual harassment, including sexual violence. This has been identified as a best practice because it establishes one, clear process regardless of the status of the perpetrator. It removed sexual assault reports from the peer hearing structure and instead directs them through an Office of Equity and Inclusion. Campus first-responders have participated in day-long Title IX training, and

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hearing officers have participated in additional training on various aspects of both response and prevention as part of our annual training efforts. OSU partners with its community resources, such as the Corvallis Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence. It has implemented a policy on employee responsibilities to respond to disclosures of sexual harassment, including sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. It has confidential sexual assault counselors and sexual assault nurse examiners. It implemented online prevention education on sexual assault and alcohol for all incoming students, and is providing sexual harassment and assault education to all new employees. It has also created a Center on Alcohol, Other Drug, and Violence Prevention. It currently is participating in the national *It's On Us* Campaign.

Portland State University has developed a mandatory student module entitled: [Creating a Safe Campus: Preventing Gender Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Assault](#), which provides students with resources, reporting options and prohibited behaviors. Interpersonal Violence Advocacy services are provided by the Women's Resource Center/Queer Resource Center, and after-hour services by the Portland Women's Crisis Line. Emergency counseling services are provided, and PSU offers a comprehensive Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program to support student survivors of sexual assault. The campus has a dedicated and trained Sexual Assault Detective and an MOU with the Portland Police Bureau. The [Student Code of Conduct](#) is being amended to include Domestic Violence and Dating Violence as violations. Many types of training are provided, including PSU's Title IX Coordinator and staff, Student Code of Conduct Review Committee members, Housing and Residence Life Staff and PSU student athletes, coaches, trainers and administrators.

Southern Oregon University has a Violence Prevention and Response Advocates Team to review the systematic response to sexual assault and domestic violence in order to increase efficacy, partnership, and Title IX compliance. Confidential Advisors have been among the most successful preventions of sexual violence, and since instituting this, SOU has seen reports double. SOU has partnered with the Ashland Police Department and their nationally recognized "You Have Options" program. First-year students take a seminar as part of their general education requirement, including sexual assault, prevention and bystander intervention. Title IX-specific training is offered regularly to individual departments and university administration. SOU is promoting the Circle of 6 app and is offering programs to students. Its Queer Resource Center and Women's Resource Center offer ongoing programming throughout the year; and its Sexual Misconduct Review Board members are trained internally as well as externally in the discharge of their duties. The campus is finalizing a "one policy" approach to addressing sexual violence and misconduct that will cover all instances including students, faculty or staff.

University of Oregon has added, or expanded and modified multiple positions to enhance prevention, support and response, including a Sexual Violence Response and Support Services Coordinator, added 2 Title IX Investigators, a Detective Sergeant in UO's Police Department, a Director of Sexual Violence Prevention and Education with a specific focus on educational interventions; and a second Sexual Violence Response and Support Services Coordinator, Sexual Assault Prevention and Education Coordinator; Assistant Director of Student Conduct; and Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life were added. Response protocols continue to be refined. The UO has expanded the number of confidential reporters on campus. The UO Counseling and Testing Center created an Interpersonal Violence Response Team. New resources have been made available, including a website www.safe.uoregon.edu; a 24/7 hotline staffed by confidential, trained counselors; "Help For Students" has been widely distributed; a mandatory online course for all incoming and transfer students; "Red Zone" and Red Flag Display campaigns to educate students about sexual violence on campuses; and "Be That Guy" Bystander Intervention Training. The University Student Conduct Code has been updated to reflect and represent national best practices.

Western Oregon University received a Violence Against Women CASA grant to expand victim assistance resources for students. WOU created the Sexual Misconduct Education Program, a series of vignettes depicting sexual harassment scenarios in order to help increase understanding of sexual misconduct. Since 2011, WOU has provided Green Dot Training aimed to reduce power-based personal violence and increase bystander intervention. A mandatory online course for all incoming first year and transfer students has been implemented. The Student Conduct Committee, responsible for sexual misconduct adjudication, is trained on sexual assault response protocol and Title IX best practices. Key administrators have attended a two-day sexual assault training provided by ATIXA. Policy Resources to WOU students reporting sexual misconduct are available online and include [Sexual Misconduct, Harassment, Discrimination, Bullying or Stalking Policy](#), [Anonymous Report Form](#), and [Mandatory Reporting FAQs](#). Campus resources include: [Abby's House](#), [Student Health and Counseling Center](#), [Campus Public Safety](#), [Office of Student Conduct](#), and others. Community resources include [Center for Hope and Safety \(Salem\)](#), [SABLE House \(Dallas\)](#), and [Polk County Victim's Assistance](#).