



Frequently Asked Questions – Respondents

WPI Sexual Misconduct Policy

Who is the Title IX Coordinator at WPI?

Melissa Pierce, mapierce@wpi.edu, 1-508-831-6514

What's the connection between Title IX and the Sexual Misconduct Policy?

The WPI Sexual Misconduct Policy incorporates Title IX, as well as other federal and state laws regarding sexual harassment, including sexual assault, gender-based stalking, and relationship violence.

Does a Title IX/Sexual Misconduct complaint always start a criminal/legal process?

Reporting an incident to the police and/or pursuing criminal charges are always available to a student and we will help in accessing those resources, but it is separate and different from WPI's Sexual Misconduct Policy procedures. A community member can pursue both the criminal and WPI's process at the same time.

Will I be treated differently by the Title IX team because I have been accused?

No. Both parties in the process will be treated with sensitivity and respect. The procedures recognize that being accused of sexual misconduct can be stressful and offer accommodations, interim measures, and support services as necessary to decrease the impact on both parties. All procedures used to adjudicate complaints of Sexual Misconduct Policy violations offer an unbiased and transparent system for gathering facts.

Someone filed a sexual harassment complaint against me, what should I do?

It may be helpful to speak with one or more of the resources listed in **Confidential Resources for Respondents**. Speak with the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator when they contact you. They can answer any questions you have about the procedures and your rights. Find out who has reported the concern and get a description of the behavior. If you realize you may have behaved inappropriately, it may be appropriate to apologize for your actions. Cooperate fully with any investigation and provide the investigator with any information that you believe is relevant to a determination and/or resolution of the complaint.

If there is a sexual history between the complainant and the respondent, can it still be sexual assault?

Yes. A previous sexual history may be relevant to determining whether the encounter in question was consensual, but a history does not automatically mean there was consent during the time of the alleged event.

I have received accommodations for academics through the Office for Disability Services. Can I get the same accommodations as I do for class?

Maybe. Getting accommodations for classes or housing is different than being involved in an adjudication process. The first step is to register with the Office for Disability Services (located in Daniels Hall). The staff there will verify your disability and assist you in determining what accommodations to request in the process.

What if I cannot find an answer to my question on this page or the Title IX website?

You can direct any additional questions to Melissa Pierce, Title IX Coordinator, mapierce@wpi.edu, 1-508-831-6514, or to one of the following deputies:

Deputy Title IX Coordinators

For students Emily Perlow, Assistant Dean of Students
1-508-831-5201, eperlow@wpi.edu

For Global Projects Anne Ogilvie, Executive Director, Global Projects Program
1-508-831-4944, atogilvie@wpi.edu

For staff Kristan Coffey, Associate Director of Talent and Human Resources
1-508-831-4680, kecoffey@wpi.edu

For faculty Arthur Heinricher, Dean of Undergraduate Studies
1-508-831-5397, heinricher@wpi.edu

Updated: October 10, 2018