

CHANGES TO TITLE IX AT HSU

These changes address issues of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and gender-based harassment.

New federal guidelines issued by the Department of Education in the summer of 2020 have resulted in changes to Title IX. HSU remains committed to providing support and resources to survivors of sexual violence, including campus accommodations and maintaining options for accountability. This guide serves to provide more information about the federal changes, how this impacts us, support resources available, and ways to report sexual violence at HSU.



What is Title IX?

Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education. It provides students with rights and options if they experience sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and/or gender-based harassment during their college years.

Title IX requires universities to provide students reporting sexual misconduct with information about and options for campus accommodations, academic support, reporting and confidential support services.

Title IX requires universities to respond in a timely manner to any reported acts of harm and investigate fully (if this is what the reporter wants). Every campus is required to have a Title IX coordinator responsible for addressing and responding to Title IX cases.



What are the Federal changes to Title IX?

Some key changes to Title IX include:

- The narrowing of the definition of sexual harassment. The new guidelines state that in order for a case to fall under Title IX, the harm must be “so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to education.”
- Limiting Title IX to apply only to acts of harm that take place on campus or within an education program or activity. This means if an assault takes place off campus, the school is not required to investigate under Title IX.
- Changing the hearing process. If a case proceeds to a formal hearing, a live hearing that allows for cross examinations is now required.



How do these changes impact Title IX at HSU?

HSU is committed to providing resources to students reporting sexual misconduct and investigating any reports of sexual violence. If a sexual violence case does not fall under the new Title IX executive order due to the location of where the alleged harm occurred or due to the type of harm, it will still be investigated under the Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (DHR) executive order.

The hearing process may be different depending on if the case is considered Title IX or DHR. Under both Title IX and DHR, an informal resolution without a live hearing is an option.

We know this is a lot of information and may be confusing! Our Campus Advocate Team can help people understand their reporting options and the hearing processes. Whether or not a case falls under Title IX, survivors will still have access to receiving campus accommodations and other survivor support resources.



Who can I go to for support if I've experienced sexual violence?

Our HSU Campus Advocate Team (which is made up of counselors from North Coast Rape Crisis Team) is there to listen, believe and support you. They offer free and confidential support resources including their 24 hour hotline (707-455-2881) and one-on-one counseling.

During this Covid time, they are offering socially distanced in person sessions at their HSU campus office and phone sessions. They can assist you in accessing campus accommodations and exploring your options for support and accountability.

The Campus Advocate Team (CAT) works with the University, not for the University. Who CAT works for is survivors. The details you share with CAT will remain confidential and will not be reported to the university. CAT is there for you whether or not you decide to report. If you experienced harm before coming to HSU, the Campus Advocate Team is still a resource for you and can provide ongoing counseling and other support resources to you.



How can I report sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence and/or stalking?

There are a couple ways you can report:

- You can contact the Title IX coordinator directly via phone or email. Our Title IX Coordinator is David Hickcox. His email is David.hickcox@humboldt.edu and his phone number is 707-826-5177.
- You can submit a report via the Title IX office at titleix.humboldt.edu. Click on the “report sexual misconduct” button on the right side of the page.

If you aren't sure about reporting or want someone to talk to about the process confidentially, our Campus Advocate Team is available to you. They can also accompany you throughout the Title IX or DHR process. You can contact them via their hotline number at 707-445-2881.

