Sexual Harassment Policy

Any questions about this policy can be referred to:
Office of Civil Rights & Diversity/
Title IX Coordinator
1011 Old Main
(217) 581-5020
civil@eiu.edu
http://castle.eiu.edu/civil/

Complaints may also be filed with the Illinois
Department of Human Rights and may be reviewed by the Illinois Human Rights Commission. Complainants are protected from retaliation as outlined in the Illinois Human Rights Act.
(217) 785-5100.

Eastern Illinois University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer - minority/female/disability/veteran - committed to achieving a diverse community.
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Illinois Human Rights Act prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment. **It is the policy of Eastern Illinois University that sexual harassment of one member of the campus community by another will not be tolerated.** The university’s **sexual harassment policy is IGP#175.**

### What is Sexual Harassment?
Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, which encompasses a wide range of conduct including but not limited to:

- subtle pressures for sexual activity
- inappropriate touching or gestures
- offensive or inappropriate language or jokes (including electronic content)
- demands for sexual favors
- sexual violence (rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual coercion) *
- other forms of sexual misconduct including domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking *

*All such acts fit under the umbrella of sexual harassment, but these acts are also crimes. Victims of any form of sexual violence are strongly encouraged to report these serious crimes to the police.*

Any such conduct directed at someone of the same or opposite sex, including conduct based on sexual orientation or gender identity, is prohibited by this policy.

Unwelcome sexual conduct becomes a form of illegal sex discrimination when it is so severe or pervasive that it affects an individual's employment or student’s academic status; unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance or student’s academic experience; or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment. Please review the university’s sexual harassment policy at [www.eiu.edu/auditing/175](http://www.eiu.edu/auditing/175) for controlling legal definitions of sexual harassment.

All employees and students are encouraged to come forward with any concerns regarding sexual harassment. The university can and will address inappropriate behaviors even if those behaviors are not yet severe or pervasive. The university’s **Title IX Coordinator** is Dr. Shawn D. Peoples and her office is located in 1011 Old Main. **No retaliation** may be taken against any university employee or student who seeks redress under this policy.

### What should I do if I feel I have been sexually harassed?

1. **Take direct action** — If you feel able to do so, inform the harasser that you disapprove of this type of inappropriate conduct and that you will not tolerate any further advances, suggestions, or any form of harassment.
2. **Document incidents** — It is important to record the time, date, place, names, witnesses and a description of the event(s), as well as what transpired when you confronted the harasser.
3. **Seek assistance**—If you cannot confront the harasser or the harassment continues, you may seek informal assistance from or file a formal complaint with the Office of Civil Rights and Diversity. If you have questions, informal discussions may help resolve your concerns. Such inquiries can also serve as an appropriate first step in filing a written complaint.

### Complaint Procedure

If you feel that you have been sexually harassed or discriminated against on the basis of sex, you may file a discrimination complaint with the:

**Office of Civil Rights and Diversity**
Old Main, Room 1011
(217) 581-5020
civil@eiu.edu
http://castle.eiu.edu/civil/

Complaints of sexual harassment will follow the university’s **discrimination complaint policy is IGP #173**. Please review this policy at [www.eiu.edu/auditing/173](http://www.eiu.edu/auditing/173) for information about the complaint process and your options as a complainant.

The confidentiality of information presented by all parties will be observed except in those instances when it interferes with the ability of the university to investigate allegations and take necessary corrective actions.

We encourage you to come forward as soon as possible. The university will make every effort to provide assistance to you, will implement interim remedies when necessary to address the safety and well-being of both parties prior to the outcome of an investigation, and will investigate complaints in a timely manner. We will take immediate and corrective actions to eliminate the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects.

Sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence fit under the umbrella of sexual harassment, but these acts are also crimes. The student complainant controls when and where to file a complaint. The confidentiality of information presented