

TITLE IX FAQs

Notes: These FAQs represent a joint effort between ASSU and the Title IX Office, part of Institutional Equity & Access. The material in these FAQs may be difficult to read and triggering, please take care of yourself and reach out to the [Confidential Support Team](#) if you need assistance. If your question was not answered or if you would like to see additional questions added please contact the Title IX Office, titleix@stanford.edu or (650) 497-4955.

If I don't want a formal investigation into my sexual violence/sexual harassment concern are there other things that Stanford can do to help me, such as speak with the responding student or providing me accommodations?

Yes. Although it is not appropriate for all cases, the Title IX Office, or the Residence/GLO Deans often respond to reports of sexual harassment and unwanted sexual activity as a “university intervention.” A university intervention involves speaking to the subject of the report (respondent) and providing directed counseling appropriate and customized for the situation. These conversations often include advisements that the respondent stay away from another Stanford student; while these advisements are not binding, they are most often effective. If an intervention is not effective, the university still has the ability to conduct a formal investigation. Contact the Title IX Office for more information about an intervention at titleix.stanford.edu or (650) 497-4955.

Additionally, even without direct contact with a respondent, Stanford's Title IX Office can help with other accommodations and/or safety measures for students such as academic and housing accommodations. For more information about accommodations and safety measures, see the Safety Measures/University Accommodations tab at <https://sexualviolencesupport.stanford.edu>

In what situations does the Title IX Office proceed with an investigation against the wishes of the Complainant?

The manner in which the Complainant would like the Title IX Office to handle a matter is always a key consideration in determining next steps. Generally, when the respondent is an active student, the Title IX Office will attempt to do an investigation when it receives a report of a possible repeat offender, or when there is an allegation involving weapons (including date rape drugs), or use of forcible violence (such as choking, smothering, or hitting). As required by law, when the respondent is a faculty or staff member, the Title IX Office will take steps to redress concerns of sexual harassment either directly or indirectly. In all instances, the Title IX Office works with complainants to give agency and to provide notice of what steps the university is taking.

When the university moves to an investigation without the support of the complainant, the university does not compel student complainants to cooperate. In matters in which the complainant(s) choose not to cooperate, the Title IX Office is often unable to bring a matter to a hearing, or make findings against a respondent. In many cases, the Complainant's statement (evidence) and/or participation in a hearing is necessary to establish the policy violation. The university is unable to take disciplinary measures against an individual in situations in which

something is suspected to have occurred, but which cannot be tested in a fair investigation or hearing. Principles of fairness as supported by both California and federal case law require that all respondents be provided notice of the allegations against them and an opportunity to respond to the allegations before disciplinary actions are imposed. Individuals in the Stanford community sometimes question why a person suspected to be problematic is able to continue in the Stanford community without apparent consequence; the reality is that there are limited actions a university can take when it is unable to move forward with an investigation and/or hearing.

If I tell my friend -- who happens to be an RA – about my assault will they report to the Title IX Office?

By university policy, RAs are required to share reports of sexual assault with the Title IX Office. There are confidential resources at the university who do not report to the Title IX Office, and these offices can help you review your options. Please see the [Review my Options](https://sexualviolencesupport.stanford.edu) section of <https://sexualviolencesupport.stanford.edu>.

Additionally, if your matter does get reported to the Title IX Office you should expect to receive an email from the office providing you with resources, options, and a request to come in and meet. To the extent appropriate and feasible, the Title IX Office works with complainants to redress their matters in ways that make sense to the individual complainants as the Title IX Office respects students' agency.

Are there fees associated with moving housing within the university because of Title IX?

No. You can work with the Title IX Office about housing accommodations that might be appropriate in your case. A housing accommodation is not appropriate for every case.

What happens when I file a Callisto report?

Callisto is a third-party reporting service that stores Title IX reports. Callisto is optimized to accept reports about sexual violence, but it can be adapted to accept any type of Title IX report including sexual harassment and relationship violence. Callisto gives you choices about whether to store the report in Callisto or to send it to the Title IX Office at Stanford. One option is to send a report if/when another report in Callisto identifies your same respondent. If you select that option, Stanford will only receive your name and the respondent's name if Callisto is already holding a report about that individual or if a report is later filed about the individual. Stanford does not know about or have access to a Callisto report until it is received by the Title IX Office.

When the Title IX Office receives a report from Callisto it is treated the same way as any other report to the Title IX Office. After Title IX receives the report, it will contact you to discuss your options of moving forward with an investigation, intervention, and/or obtaining supportive measures. More information about Callisto is available [here](#).

If I report to the Title IX Office, who else will my report be shared with? (i.e. residential staff, professors, etc.)

Without permission from the Complainant, the Title IX Office considers reports private and generally does not share reports with others in the Stanford community, such as professors, RAs, or coaches. Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Stanford from time to time shares information with others within Stanford who have a need to know the information in order to provide an accommodation, to provide for the well-being or safety of a party or the community, or for similar important purposes.

Under California law, Stanford is required to report matters that could be a crime to our local police jurisdiction, the Stanford Department of Public Safety. The Title IX Office does not disclose the names of parties to the police without the permission of the Complainant unless there is an immediate risk to the safety of the campus community.

If my case is investigated through the Student Title IX Process, but the decision is not to move forward with a charge, do I still have a right to the hearing file?

Yes, you will have access to the hearing file and you will be given an opportunity to appeal the no charge decision.

What is the general practice of the Title IX Office when considering past conduct? What conduct is “similar enough” to be relevant in an investigation, charge decision, or hearing?

The investigator assigned to a Title IX investigation will try to track down all information that might be relevant to a case. The Student Title IX Process uses the following guideline for determining relevance:

In general, evidence may be presented during a hearing if it is relevant, not unduly repetitious, and the sort of information a reasonable person would find reliable. Evidence is relevant if (1) it makes a fact that is of consequence in determining the action more or less likely than it would be without the evidence; or (2) it reflects on the credibility of a testifying party or witness in a material way and the value of this evidence is not outweighed by its prejudicial effect.

After an investigation is complete, the Student Title IX Process uses an outside [Evidentiary Specialist](#) – a person not connected to Stanford – to serve as the ultimate decision-maker about whether a panel should consider information. Both parties are able to put forward requests to the Evidentiary Specialist that information be included or excluded from a hearing.

What should I do if I experience prohibited conduct while abroad on a Stanford program? Will I be sent home if I report? If the perpetrator is a fellow student, will they be sent home?

You should report prohibited conduct when it occurs, especially if you need help. The Title IX Office is not an emergency/immediate response office. If you need immediate help, contact the director of your program, your RA, or the on-call Residence Dean.

There is no “one size fits all” answer to what happens in these circumstances. Stanford’s actions, and whether immediate action is taken to separate the parties, or even send a party home, will depend on the seriousness of the allegations, the amount of time left in the program, the ability to oversee the parties remotely, the well-being of the complainant, the complainant’s ability to access educational programs, the well-being of the respondent, the respondent’s ability to access educational programs, and other considerations unique to a situation.

If the Responding Student and/or I are studying abroad for a quarter or more, what will happen with the investigation or a potential hearing? (i.e. Will there be a postponement?)

If both parties are on the same program studying abroad, the Title IX Office will likely put measures in place for the parties to stay away from each other, or to otherwise engage in the program with limited interaction.

The Title IX Office tries to move forward with an investigation and a hearing process in a timely manner regardless of where the parties are in the world. That said, it can be the case that a party’s or key witness’s lack of access to technology or availability to participate may cause delays in an investigation or hearing process. When the university is closed for breaks, there might also be a need for a delay. The Title IX Office keeps parties informed about the progress of matters, including unavoidable delays.

Are Hillel staff and other staff who are not employed by the University, but who work with students, mandatory reporters to Title IX?

Generally, individuals who are not employed by Stanford University are not mandatory reporters. That said, volunteers and those who work at Stanford with students often consult with the Title IX Office and may share information if they believe it is in a student’s best interest to do so. So, while such individuals are not mandatory reporters, sometimes these individuals will make voluntary reports to the Title IX Office. Additionally, for the avoidance of doubt, Resident Fellows are mandatory reporters.

If I talk about my Title IX case with my friends or other students, can that be considered retaliation?

While you are not prohibited from discussing your case, you should be thoughtful about your actions and statements. Acting in a malicious manner or inviting others to bully the other party or witnesses could be viewed as retaliation and could result in a referral for disciplinary review.

What are resources for queer and trans students offered by Title IX?

In addition to the resources provided to all students referenced at <https://sexualviolencesupport.stanford.edu>, queer and trans students may also find support through the Weiland Health Initiative at Stanford, <https://weiland.stanford.edu> and QSpot, the community center for queer and trans students on campus: <https://queer.stanford.edu/center/qspot>.

The Title IX team has partnered with queer and trans students on campus to have an open dialogue about barriers that might make coming forward to report a matter difficult for those in our queer and trans community. As with every case for every student, the Title IX team works to provide a respectful, professional, and welcoming environment for queer and trans students.

Can a report be made against someone who is not Stanford-affiliated?

Stanford's Title IX Office is limited in the actions it can take against non-Stanford individuals. The best place to report criminal concerns is to the police. For harassment matters, the SARA Office can work with students to provide information about obtaining a civil restraining order: <https://sexualviolencesupport.stanford.edu/safety-accommodations/civil-restraining-order>. Additionally, Stanford has a Threat Assessment Team with guidance for safety on campus: <http://safety.stanford.edu>.

Can a Title IX report be made against a Stanford alum or volunteer?

Once an individual receives a degree from Stanford, Stanford is no longer able to bring disciplinary charges against that individual. When an individual has an ongoing connection to Stanford and is frequently on campus and/or frequently interacts with students, Stanford's Title IX Office or another office may conduct an investigation to make factual findings to determine whether the person should be directed to stay away from Stanford, or if other actions are appropriate to provide for the safety of the campus community.

My question isn't on this list, where do I go for more information?

Resources at Stanford can be found at <https://sexualviolencesupport.stanford.edu>. For confidential support, contact the Confidential Support Team at 24-hour hotline: (650) 725-9955 or <http://vaden.stanford.edu/people/confidential-support-team>.

To find out more about reporting, contact the Title IX Office at titleix.stanford.edu or (650) 497-4955.