

LACKAWANNA COLLEGE

Title IX

VAWA BROCHURE

## INTRODUCTION

If you've tried to read Lackawanna College's procedures for addressing sexual offenses <https://www.lackawanna.edu/offices-and-departments/campus-life/title-ix/> it can be a challenge to understand some of their complexity. This guide is intended to help explain Lackawanna College responsibility under Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Additionally, this guide will:

- provide you with specific resources available both on and off campus
- provide you with details on available supportive measures
- educate you on your right to an Advisor and how they can assist you throughout the process
- inform you of policy definitions that describe prohibited conduct
- inform you of possible pathways for policy violations
- provide you with common questions and answers asked by parties (Complainants and Respondents)

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## IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

**If you are off campus and experiencing an emergency, you can call local police by dialing 911. You may also call the local police department's non-emergency line at:**

Scranton (Main Campus)	Scranton PD	570-348-4134
Lake Region Campus	State Police	570-465-3154 or
	Hawley PD	570-226-4868
Tunkhannock Campus	Tunkhannock PD	570-836-3369
Towanda Campus	State Police	570-265-2186
Hazleton Campus	Hazleton PD	570-459-4940
Sunbury Campus	Sunbury PD	570-286-4584

1. Go to a safe location as soon as you are able.
2. Seek immediate medical attention if you are injured, believe you may have been exposed to the risk of an STI/STD, or pregnancy.
3. Contact any of the following for immediate assistance on campus:
  - a. Title IX Coordinator, Kelly Schneider, Esq. at 570-961-7890, [schneiderk@lackawanna.edu](mailto:schneiderk@lackawanna.edu)  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Brian Costanzo at 570-961-7841, [costanzob@lackawanna.edu](mailto:costanzob@lackawanna.edu)  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Abbey Judge, Ed.D. at 570-955-1516, [judegea@lackawanna.edu](mailto:judegea@lackawanna.edu)  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Danelle McClanahan, Ed.D. at 570-961-7869  
[mcclanahand@lackawanna.edu](mailto:mcclanahand@lackawanna.edu)  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Tanya Morgan at 570-955-1522, [morgant@lackawanna.edu](mailto:morgant@lackawanna.edu)

[TitleIX@lackawanna.edu](mailto:TitleIX@lackawanna.edu)

- b. Public Safety at 570-241-2022. 24 hours/7 days a week, [PublicSafety@lackawanna.edu](mailto:PublicSafety@lackawanna.edu)
- c. Campus Health Services – Scranton Primary Healthcare, at 570-344-9684 or 570-969-9662. Various hours, M-F in Seeley Hall. Also available at 959 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, by appointment.
- d. Student Wellness – Rachel Drosdick-Sigafoos, Program Director, at 570-955-1478, [drosdickr@lackawanna.edu](mailto:drosdickr@lackawanna.edu), 8am to 4pm, M-F  
Student Wellness – Paloma DeMonte, Program Coordinator at 570-955-1466 or 272-800-8159, [demontep@lackawanna.edu](mailto:demontep@lackawanna.edu)

[Studentwellness@lackawanna.edu](mailto:Studentwellness@lackawanna.edu)

- e. Women’s Resource Center, at 570-346-4671. 24 hours / 7 days a week
- f. On-Campus Victim Advocate – Nuris Perdomon at 570-346-4460 or [nurisp@wrcnepa.org](mailto:nurisp@wrcnepa.org). Wednesdays 12:30 – 4pm, Seeley Hall – Room 118

Note that campus officials may contact on-call staff from other departments when their offices are closed or they are otherwise unavailable to assist immediately. If you are off-campus and experiencing an emergency situation, you can call local police by dialing 911. You may also call the local police department’s non-emergency line listed above.

- 4. **Medical Attention:** Evidence collection should be completed within approximately 120 hours of an assault, but fluids, hair samples and DNA can be collected for a long time thereafter. Even if you have washed or bathed, evidence can often still be obtained. After 120 hours, it may still be helpful to have medical attention, even if you are not trying to obtain evidence of an assault. Sexual assault nurse examiners are trained in the collection of forensic evidence and can check for injuries and exposure to sexually transmitted infections and diseases. If you are still wearing any clothes worn during the incident, wear them to the hospital, but bring a change of clothes, as the hospital will keep the clothes you are wearing as evidence. If you have changed clothes, bring the ones you were wearing during the incident to the hospital in a clean paper (not plastic) bag or wrapped in a clean bedsheet. Leave sheets/towels at the scene of the incident. Police will collect them. Typically, police will be called to the hospital to take custody of the forensic kit, but it is up to you whether you wish to speak with them or file a criminal complaint.

Please note, not all hospitals have trained sexual assault nurse examiners on staff. Please refer to the below listing of hospitals with trained sexual assault nurse examiners:

Scranton (Main Campus)    Geisinger Community Medical Center (GCMC)

	1800 Mulberry Street Scranton, PA 18510 570-703-8000
Lake Region Campus	Wayne Memorial Hospital 601 Park Street, #1445 Honesdale, PA 18431 570-253-8100
Towanda Campus	Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital – Towanda Campus 91 Hospital Drive Towanda, PA 18848 570-265-2191

**Choose how to proceed.** You have options. You can: (1) do nothing until you are ready, (2) pursue resolution by Lackawanna College and/or (3) initiate criminal proceedings, and/or 4) initiate a civil process against the perpetrator. You may pursue whichever combination of options is best for you. If you pursue resolution by Lackawanna College your options can include a formal response, informal resolution, and/or supportive measures. If you wish to have an incident investigated and resolved by Lackawanna College students should contact the Title IX Coordinator. Employees should contact either Gina Leach, Human Resources Business Partner at 570-955-7890 or the Title IX Coordinator. Lackawanna College procedures will be explained and are summarized below. Those who wish incidents to be handled criminally should contact Public Safety at 570-961-7899 (office) or 570-241-2022 (cell) or the local police and have the right to be assisted by Lackawanna College in doing so.

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## CONFIDENTIALITY

To make informed choices, all parties should be aware of confidentiality and privacy considerations, as well as institutional mandatory reporting requirements.

**Confidential Reporting:** If a Complainant wishes to keep the details of an incident confidential, they should speak with campus mental health counselors and/or health service providers. Student Wellness Program staff are available to help on an emergency basis. Their service is free of charge. In addition, Lackawanna College has designated the following as employees who can be consulted confidentially by students and employees, including chaplains, advocates, etc. Local resources such as crisis centers are also confidential and have no duty to report disclosed information to Lackawanna College.

### *Confidential Resources:*

- Student Wellness Program Staff: Rachel Drosdick-Sigafoos, Program Director 570- 955-1478, [drosdickr@lackawanna.edu](mailto:drosdickr@lackawanna.edu).

Paloma DeMonte, Program Coordinator, 570-955-1466, [demontep@lackawanna.edu](mailto:demontep@lackawanna.edu)

[Studentwellness@lackawanna.edu](mailto:Studentwellness@lackawanna.edu)

- On-campus health service: Scranton Primary Healthcare 570-344-9684 / 570-969-9662
- On-campus Victim Advocates: Nuris Perdomo, Women’s Resource Center 570-346-4460
- Athletic trainers
- Off-campus (non-employees):
  - Women’s Resource Center (Scranton/PNG) 570-346-4674
  - Victims’ Resource Center (Hazleton) 1(866)206-9050
  - Victims’ Intervention Program (LRC) 570-253-4401
  - Abuse and Rape Crisis Center (Towanda) 570-265-5333
  - Transitions (Sunbury) 1(800)850-7948
  - National Sexual Assault Hotline / [www.rain.org](http://www.rain.org) 1(800)656-HOPE
  - National Domestic Violence Hotline 1(800)799-SAFE
  - Licensed professional counselors and other medical providers
  - Local rape crisis counselors
  - Domestic violence resources
  - Local or state assistance agencies
  - Clergy/Chaplains
  - Attorneys

**Mandated Reporting:** All Lackawanna College faculty and employees (including student-employees), other than those deemed Confidential Employees, are Mandated Reporters and are expected to promptly report all known details of actual or suspected discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation to appropriate officials immediately, although there are some limited exceptions. Supportive measures may be offered as the result of such disclosures without formal Lackawanna College action.

Complainants may want to carefully consider whether they share personally identifiable details with Mandated Reporters, as those details must be shared with the Title IX Coordinator.

If a Complainant expects formal action in response to their allegations, reporting to any Mandated Reporter can connect them with resources to report alleged crimes and/or Policy violations, and these employees will immediately pass Notice to the Title IX Coordinator (or designee) (and/or police, if desired by the Complainant or required by law), who will act when an incident is reported to them.

**Officials with Authority or OWAs:** Lackawanna College’s President, Senior Level Administrators (Vice Presidents, Academic Deans and Center Directors, Department and / Division Chairs), Student Engagement and Student Success Deans, Director of Athletics and Associate Director of Athletics, Director of Student Life and Housing and Resident Directors, Human Resources Business Partners and Public Safety Department have been designated as Officials with Authority (OWAs) to institute supportive measures and provide notice to the Title IX Coordinator. Giving an OWA notice of an incident will result in the offering of supportive measures and options for formal and informal resolution. If a formal complaint is filed with an OWA or the Title IX Coordinator, such incidents will be investigated and resolved in a prompt and equitable manner under Lackawanna College’s resolution procedures, which are discussed later within this brochure.

You may request that the Title IX Coordinator provide you with supportive measures and resources without initiating a formal resolution process. If you wish to pursue a formal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator will be unable to honor any request for confidentiality. The Respondent must be provided sufficient information, including the identity of the Complainant, to allow them to appropriately respond.

If Lackawanna College decides it is obligated to pursue formal resolution based on the notice you have given, the Title IX Coordinator can initiate a complaint. You are not obligated to participate in the resolution process as Complainant, or you could participate as a witness, instead. Regardless of whether you participate, you will have all the rights to which a Complainant is entitled, if you want them. The ability of Lackawanna College to enforce its policies may be limited if you decide not to participate at all.

**Incidents Involving Minors:** Please be aware that institutional duty with respect to minors (those under the age of 18) may require reporting sexual misconduct incidents to state agencies and/or local law enforcement. As a result, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in sexual misconduct incidents involving minors.

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## **SEXUAL MISCONDUCT: RISK REDUCTION FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, STALKING, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

While victim-blaming is never appropriate and Lackawanna College fully recognizes that only those who commit sexual offenses are responsible for their actions, Lackawanna College provides the suggestions that follow to help members of the campus community reduce their risk of being victimized and their risk of committing sexual offenses.

### **REDUCING THE RISK OF VICTIMIZATION**

- ✓ Make any limits and/or boundaries you may have known as early as possible.
- ✓ Tell a sexual aggressor “no,” as clearly and firmly as possible.
- ✓ Remove yourself, if possible, from an aggressor’s physical presence.
- ✓ Reach out for help, either from someone who is physically nearby or by calling someone. Bystanders around you may be waiting for a signal that you need help.
- ✓ Take affirmative responsibility for your alcohol and/or drug consumption, understanding that alcohol and drugs can increase your vulnerability to sexual victimization.
- ✓ Look out for your friends and ask them to look out for you. Respect them, and ask them to respect you, but be willing to challenge each other about high-risk choices.

### **REDUCE THE RISK OF BEING ACCUSED OF A SEX OFFENSE**

- ✓ Show your potential partner respect if you are in a position of initiating sexual behavior.
- ✓ If they say “no,” accept it and don’t push. If you want a yes, ask for it, and don't proceed without clear permission.
- ✓ Communicate your intentions to your potential sexual partner clearly and give that person a chance to share their intentions and/or boundaries with you.
- ✓ Respect personal boundaries. If you are unsure what’s okay in any interaction, ask.

- ✓ Avoid ambiguity. Just ask. Don't make assumptions about consent, about whether someone is attracted to you, how far you can go with that person, or if the individual is physically and mentally able to consent. If you have questions or are unclear, you *don't* have consent.
  - ✓ Don't take advantage of the fact that someone may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, even if that person chose to become that way. Their loss of control does not put you in control.
  - ✓ Be on the lookout for mixed messages. That should be a clear indication to stop and talk about what your potential partner wants or doesn't want to happen. They may be undecided about how far to go with you, or you may have misread a previous signal.
  - ✓ Respect the timeline for sexual behaviors with which others are comfortable and understand that everyone is entitled to change their minds.
  - ✓ Recognize that even if you don't think you are intimidating in any way, your potential partner may be intimidated by or fearful of you, perhaps because of your sex, physical size, or a position of power or authority you may hold.
  - ✓ Do not assume that someone's silence or passivity is an indication of consent. Pay attention to both verbal and non-verbal signals to avoid misreading intentions.
  - ✓ Understand that consent to one type of sexual behavior does not automatically grant you consent to other types of sexual behaviors. If you are unsure, stop and ask.
  - ✓ If your partner indicates a need to stop, or withdraws consent, respect them. Immediately.
  - ✓ If you've had consent with your partner previously, still check in with them. Just because something was okay with them before doesn't mean it will be okay in the future.
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## **A BRIEF SUMMARY OF TITLE IX'S RECENT HISTORY**

In 2011, the Obama-era Department of Education (ED) perceived that colleges needed to be more victim-centered in addressing sexual violence and should have more transparent and accessible policies and procedures for addressing complaints. At the instigation of then Vice President Joe Biden, ED issued a set of guidelines for colleges under Title IX in what is known as the Dear Colleague Letter. That letter resulted in investigation-centered approaches that were trauma-informed, confidential, and relatively informal.

Almost immediately, accused students and employees began to sue colleges for violations of their due process rights. By 2017, ED under the Trump administration took a different perspective and withdrew the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter while also announcing that new Title IX regulations were needed to better safeguard the due process rights of accused individuals. The regulatory process took two years, with new regulations published in May 2020 that took effect on August 14, 2020.

The 2020 Title IX regulations required all colleges to revise or rewrite their policies and procedures for addressing sex offenses, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Lackawanna College has worked diligently to ensure that its newly revised policies and procedures <https://www.lackawanna.edu/offices-and-departments/campus-life/title-ix/> are now compliant with these regulations. This was not an easy process. The regulations include fifteen pages of

new requirements, and more than 2,000 pages of explanation of the provisions within those fifteen pages. They are complex and legalistic.

To summarize:

- Title IX protects students and employees who are impacted by sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. When these behaviors occur, and a formal complaint is made, Lackawanna College is obligated to address and remedy the complaint to ensure that no one is denied effective access to the educational program or activities of Lackawanna College.
- Colleges have jurisdiction requirements that they must follow to determine whether a complaint falls within Title IX or is to be addressed within other Lackawanna College policies and procedures.
- Complainants are well-protected by the regulations in terms of supportive measures that are offered by institutions to try to address the impact of sex offenses.
- Complainants and Respondents are each entitled to an Advisor of their choosing (who can be an attorney) throughout the resolution process, and Lackawanna College can provide a non-attorney Advisor to each party, if needed.
- The regulations have created options for informal resolution that were not available before 2020.
- To protect Respondents' due process rights, institutions are required to use a formal grievance process for certain types of allegations. That formal process includes an investigation, a live hearing, questioning of the parties through their Advisors, a determination by an objective Decision-maker, and an appeal.

## WHEN DOES TITLE IX APPLY?

Title IX only applies when Lackawanna College has jurisdiction over the complaint. This happens when the Complainant is participating in (or attempting to participate) in Lackawanna College educational program or activities, AND the Respondent is a student or employee of Lackawanna College AND the behavior occurred within Lackawanna College control in the United States (meaning not on private property, outside the scope of the educational program, etc.).

If it is unclear whether Title IX applies to your situation, contact the Title IX Coordinator for additional assistance. If Title IX does not apply to your situation, the conduct may still be addressable under other Lackawanna College's policies. For such complaints involving students, contact the Dean of Students at 570-955-1530. For such complaints involving employees, contact Gina Leach, Human Resources Business Partner at 570-955-7860.

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF VAWA

**The Violence Against Women Act §304.** VAWA was originally enacted in 1994 to address concerns with violent crimes and violence against women. The goals of VAWA are to prevent violent crimes, respond to the needs of crime victims, learn more about crime, and change public attitudes through a collaborative effort made by a variety of organizations and systems. In 2013, President Obama signed the Violence



Against Women Reauthorization Act, which, among many provisions, amended sections of the 1990 Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act).

To summarize, the major relevant provisions of VAWA are:

- A requirement for institutions to maintain statistics about the number of incidents of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking that meet the specific definition of those terms
- Requirement for institutions to provide primary prevention programs to incoming students and new employees that must include: a statement that the institution prohibits the crimes of dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking; the definition of consent in reference to sexual activity; a description of safe and positive options for bystander intervention; information on risk reduction; and information on the institution's policies and procedures after a sex offense occurs; and an obligation to describe all of these within Lackawanna College's Annual Security Report:  
<https://www.lackawanna.edu/offices-and-departments/campus-life/crime-statistics-information/>.
- A requirement to provide ongoing prevention and awareness campaigns for students and employees and to describe these in the annual security report
- A requirement to describe each type of disciplinary proceeding used by the institution; the steps, anticipated timelines, and decision-making process for each type of disciplinary proceeding that includes how to file a disciplinary complaint, and how the institution determines which type of proceeding to use based on the circumstances of an allegation of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking
- A requirement for institutions to describe the range of protective (supportive) measures that the institution may offer
- A requirement for institutions to provide a prompt, fair, and impartial disciplinary proceeding in which: officials are appropriately trained and do not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against any party; the Complainant and Respondent have equal opportunities to have others present, including an Advisor of their choice; the Complainant and Respondent receive simultaneous notification, in writing, of the results of the hearing and any available appeal procedures; the procedures completed in a reasonable prompt timeframe; the Complainant and Respondent are given timely notice of meetings at which one or the other or both may be present; and the Complainant and the Respondent and their Advisors are given timely and equal access to information that will be used during formal and informal disciplinary meetings and hearings

There are a lot of similarities between Title IX and VAWA compliance. Ultimately, both ensure Complainants and Respondents have a full understanding of their rights, the institution's responsibilities, and transparency with navigating the institution's process for resolving reported sex offenses.

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## **POLICY TERMINOLOGY AND SEX OFFENSE DEFINITIONS**

There is certain terminology used in both the policy and procedures that are important for you to know. Additionally, members of the Title IX team will use these terms in their written and verbal communication. Below is a chart of the most common terminology used and its definition:

<i><b>Term</b></i>	<i><b>Definition</b></i>
<i><b>Knowledge</b></i>	When Lackawanna College receives Notice of conduct that reasonably may constitute harassment, discrimination, or retaliation in its Education Program or Activity.
<i><b>Complainant</b></i>	A student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute discrimination, harassment, or retaliation under the Policy; or a person other than a student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute discrimination or harassment or under the Policy and who was participating or attempting to participate in the College’s education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination, harassment or retaliation.
<i><b>Complaint</b></i>	An oral or written request to the College that can objectively be understood as a request for the College to investigate and make a determination about the alleged Policy violation(s).
<i><b>Respondent</b></i>	A person who is alleged to have engaged in conduct that could constitute discrimination based on a protected characteristic, harassment, or retaliation for engaging in a protected activity under this Policy.
<i><b>Supportive Measures</b></i>	Non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the Complainant or the Respondent before or after the filing of a

	complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed.
<b>Advisor</b>	Any person chosen by a party, or appointed by the institution, may accompany the party to all meetings related to the Resolution Process and advise the party on that process.
<b>Confidential Employee</b>	An employee whom Lackawanna College has designated as confidential under this Policy for the purpose of providing services to persons related to discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. If the employee also has a duty not associated with providing those services, the employee’s confidential status only applies with respect to information received about discrimination, harassment, or retaliation in connection with providing those services.
<b>Decision-Maker</b>	The person or panel who hears evidence, determines relevance, and makes the Final Determination of whether Policy has been violated and/or assigns pathways.
<b>Investigator</b>	The person(s) authorized by Lackawanna College to gather facts about an alleged violation of this Policy, assess relevance and credibility, synthesize the evidence, and compile this information into an Investigation Report.
<b>Mandated Reporter</b>	A Lackawanna College employee who is obligated by Policy to share Knowledge, Notice, and/or reports of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation with the Title IX Coordinator.
<b>Notice</b>	When an employee, student, or third party informs the Title IX Coordinator (or designee) of the alleged occurrence of discriminatory, harassing, and/or retaliatory conduct.

<b>Official with Authority (OWA)</b>	An employee of Lackawanna College explicitly vested with the responsibility to implement corrective measures for harassment discrimination, and/or retaliation on behalf of Lackawanna College.
<b>Parties</b>	The Complainant(s) and Respondent(s), collectively.

Lackawanna College’s Title IX policy is intended to define expectations for appropriate conduct and outline resolution processes to address conduct that does not meet these expectations. You can review the Lackawanna College’s full policy here:

<https://www.lackawanna.edu/offices-and-departments/campus-life/title-ix/>.

Sex offenses, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking are violations of Lackawanna College’s Conduct code/Student handbook and its Title IX policy. A number of federal laws and regulations, including Title IX, VAWA, and the Clery Act, mandate how institutions of higher education must respond to sex offenses. Many types of sex offenses also constitute violations of Pennsylvania law.

Members of the campus community, guests, and visitors have a right to be free from sexual offenses and to be protected by Lackawanna College policy regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. All members of the campus community must conduct themselves in a way that does not infringe upon the rights of others. When individuals are found to have violated policy, Lackawanna College will impose serious pathways, as determined by the Title IX Resolution Process.

**SEX OFFENSE DEFINITIONS**

The following are the definitions of conduct prohibited by Lackawanna College sexual harassment policy:

**SEX-BASED HARASSMENT:**

Sex-based Harassment is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, including sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity; sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking.

**QUID PRO QUO:**

- Any employee agent, or other person authorized by the College,
- To provide an aid, benefit, or service under the College’s education program or activity,
- Explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such aid, benefit, or service,
- On a person’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

### Hostile Environment Harassment:

- Unwelcome sex-based conduct, that
- Based on the totality of the circumstances,
- Is subjectively and objectively offensive, and
- Is so severe or pervasive,
- That it limits or denied a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the College's education program or activity.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT, defined as:

- Any sexual act<sup>1</sup>, including Rape, Sodomy, Sexual Assault with an Object, or Fondling directed against another person,
- Without the consent of the victim,
- Including instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent;
- Also unlawful sexual intercourse.
  - Rape:
    - Penetration,
    - Without the consent of the Complainant,
    - Including instances where the Complainant is incapable of giving consent
      - because of their age or
      - because of their temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
  - Sodomy:
    - Oral or anal penetration
    - Of the Complainant by the Respondent,
    - Without the consent of the Complainant,
    - Including instances where the Complainant is incapable of giving consent
      - because of their age or
      - because of their temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
  - Sexual Assault with an Object:
    - Respondent's use of an object or instrument
    - To unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening
    - Of the body of the Complainant,
    - Without the consent of the Complainant
    - Including instances where the Complainant is incapable of giving consent
      - because of their age or
      - because of their temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
  - Fondling:

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<sup>1</sup> This includes six sub-offenses clearly defined in the Policy <https://www.lackawanna.edu/offices-and-departments/campus-life/title-ix/>.

- The touching of the private body parts (breasts, buttocks, groin) of the Complainant by the Respondent
- Or causing the Complainant to touch the Respondent's private body parts
- Intentionally for the sexual purpose
- Without the consent of the Complainant
- Including instances where the Complainant is incapable of giving consent
  - because of their age or
  - because of their temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
- Incent:
  - Non-forcible sexual intercourse between person who are related to each other
  - Within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania law.
- Statutory Rape:
  - Non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person
  - Who is under the statutory age of consent of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**DATING VIOLENCE, defined as:**

- Violence, committed by a Respondent,
- Who is in or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the Complainant; and
- Where the existence of such relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
  - length of the relationship
  - type of relationship
    - frequency of the interaction between the Parties involved in the relationship.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, defined as:**

- Felon or misdemeanor crimes committed by a person who:
- Is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the Complainant under the family or domestic violence laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or a person similarly situated to a spouse of the Complainant;
- Is cohabitating with, or has cohabitation with, the Complainant as a spouse or intimate partner;
- Shares a child in common with the Complainant; or
- Commits acts against youth or adult Complainant who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**STALKING, defined as:**

- Engaging in a course of conduct on the basis of sex,
- Directed at a specific person, that would
  - Cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety, or the safety of others; or

- Suffer substantial emotional distress.

**SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, defined as:**

- An individual taking non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another,
- Does not constitute Sex-based Harassment as defined above.
- For their own benefit or for the benefit of anyone other than the person being exploited.

**BULLYING, defined as:**

- Repeated and / or severe aggressive behavior
- That is likely to intimidate or intentionally hurt, control, or physically or mentally diminish the Complainant,
- That is not speech or conduct that is otherwise protected by the First Amendment.

**ENDANGERMENT, defined as:**

- Threatening or causing physical harm;
- Extreme verbal, emotional, or psychological abuse; or
- Other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person or damages their property.

**HAZING, defined as:**

- Any act or action
- Which does or is likely to endanger the mental or physical health or safety of any individual
- As it relates to an individual, admission into, or affiliation with any Lackawanna College group or organization.

**RETALIATION, defined as:**

- Adverse action, including intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination,
- Against any person,
- By Lackawanna College, a student, employee, or a person authorized by the College to provide aid, benefit, or service under the College's education program or activity,
- For the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by law or Policy, or
- Because the person has engaged unprotected activity, including reporting information, making a Complaint, testifying, assisting, or participating or refusing to participate in any manner in an investigation or Resolution Process under the Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Procedures, including an Informal Resolution process, or any other appropriate steps taken by the College to promptly and effectively end any sex discrimination in its education program or activity, prevents its recurrence, and remediate its effects.

**CONSENT**

knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action to engage in sexual activity

In all sexual encounters, it is important that you obtain consent. Each of us is responsible for obtaining consent and has a right to choose to give consent or not give consent. Consent is:

- Informed, knowing, and voluntary (freely given)
- Active (not passive)
- Affirmative, clear words or actions that create mutually understandable permission regarding the conditions of sexual or intimate activity
- Not something that can be given by someone who is known to be, or who should be known to be, mentally or physically incapacitated
- Not something that can be obtained by use of physical force, compelling threats, intimidating behavior, or coercion

If consent is withdrawn, sexual activity must stop reasonably immediately. Any party can place conditions on their willingness to consent, and those conditions must be respected.

People may experience the same interactions differently, therefore each party is responsible for making sure that their potential partner has provided ongoing, clear consent to engage in any sexual activity or contact.

Consent to some forms of sexual activity (e.g., kissing, fondling, etc.) should not be construed as consent for other kinds of sexual activities (e.g., intercourse).

To legally give consent in Pennsylvania individuals must be at least 16 years old.

**Force:** Force is the use of physical violence and/or physical imposition to gain sexual access. Force also includes threats, intimidation (implied threats), and coercion that is intended to overcome resistance or produce consent (e.g., “Have sex with me or I’ll hit you,” which elicits the response, “Okay, don’t hit me, I’ll do what you want.”).

Sexual activity that is forced is, by definition, non-consensual, but non-consensual sexual activity is not necessarily forced. Silence or the absence of resistance alone is not consent. Consent is not demonstrated by the absence of resistance. While resistance is not required or necessary, it is a clear demonstration of non-consent.

**Coercion:** Coercion is unreasonable pressure for sexual activity. Coercive conduct differs from seductive conduct based on factors such as the type and/or extent of the pressure used to obtain consent. When someone makes clear that they do not want to engage in certain sexual activity, that they want to stop, or that they do not want to go past a certain point of sexual interaction, continued pressure beyond that point can be coercive.

**Incapacitation:** This is defined as a state in which individuals are unable to make rational, reasonable decisions because they lack the capacity to understand the “who, what, when, where, why, or how” of a situation or interaction. Individuals cannot sexually consent if they are unable to understand what is



happening, or if they are disoriented, helpless, asleep, or unconscious for any reason. That applies even if it is because they voluntarily consumed alcohol or drugs. Unless consent is “knowing,” it is not valid. Individuals engaging in sexual activity who know or should have known that the other party is incapacitated are engaging in sexual misconduct.

The fact that a Respondent was intoxicated and therefore did not realize that the Complainant was incapacitated does not excuse sexual assault.

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**Complicity:** Any act taken with the purpose of aiding, facilitating, promoting or encouraging the commission of an act of prohibited conduct by another person.

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT PROCEDURES

Lackawanna College’s full grievance process for sexual harassment defined above and in accordance with the regulations can be accessed here <https://www.lackawanna.edu/offices-and-departments/campus-life/title-ix/>.

Lackawanna College treats Complainants and Respondents equitably by providing remedies to a Complainant when a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the Respondent and by following a grievance process that complies with the Title IX regulations and VAWA.

Here is an overview of the major steps in the process:

### STEP ONE: INTAKE

The Title IX Coordinator or their designee, may assist the Complainant with understanding the policy and procedures, their options, and accessing resources. Assuming the Complainant chooses to file a complaint and move forward with a formal or informal resolution process, the next step is an Initial Assessment. [If there is an anonymous report, third-party report, or an unidentified Complainant, the Title IX Coordinator will attempt to: (1) take appropriate action to determine who was impacted and/or involved in the reported behavior to offer them supportive measures and resources and explain their process options, and (2) take reasonable action to stop the behavior, remedy its effects on individuals and the campus community, and prevent it from recurring in the future.]

All resolutions will be conducted by officials who receive annual training on issues related to sexual harassment, which includes domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The Title IX Coordinator, Investigators, Decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process are required to be trained on: the definitions of sexual harassment; the scope of Lackawanna College education program or activity; how to conduct an investigation and grievance process that includes hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable; and serving impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, identifying conflicts of interest, and bias.

Additionally, Decision-makers must receive training on any technology used at a live hearing and on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the Complainant’s sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant. Any materials used for training the Title IX

team will not rely on sex stereotypes and will promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal Complainants of sexual harassment. You can view the training materials provided to the Title IX team at:

<https://www.lackawanna.edu/offices-and-departments/campus-life/title-ix/title-ix-certifications/>.

Lackawanna College's resolution process is confidential. The institution will protect the confidentiality of parties throughout the resolution process, consistent with the provisions of state and federal law. [Title IX-related resolutions are not typically subject to publicly available open records requests (e.g., FOIA) provisions]. Any required release of information about a resolution will be accomplished without the inclusion of identifying information about the Complainant. Information about the Respondent will only be released to the extent permitted by law.

## **STEP TWO: INITIAL ASSESSMENT**

An initial assessment of the allegations is made by the Title IX Coordinator to determine appropriate jurisdiction and applicable policies/procedures. Under the federal Title IX regulations, the Title IX Coordinator is required to dismiss any formal complaint if one or more of the following is true:

- The alleged conduct would not constitute sexual harassment as defined within the Sexual Harassment policy, even if proved
- The alleged conduct did not occur in Lackawanna College's education program or activity
- The alleged conduct did not occur against a person in the United States
- The Complainant is not participating or attempting to participate in Lackawanna College's education program or activities at the time of filing the complaint.

Additionally, the Title IX Coordinator *may* dismiss any formal complaint if one or more of the following is true:

- At any time during the investigation or hearing a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the formal Complainant or any allegations therein
- The Respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by Lackawanna College
- Specific circumstances prevent Lackawanna College from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein

Upon a dismissal required or permitted under the federal Title IX regulations, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and the rationale to the parties simultaneously. The parties (meaning the Complainant and Respondent) will have an opportunity to appeal this decision by following the appeal procedures located here:

<https://www.lackawanna.edu/offices-and-departments/campus-life/title-ix/>.

If a dismissal occurs, the Title IX Coordinator may refer or reinstate the allegations for resolution under an alternative campus process, if appropriate.

Lackawanna College recognizes that incidents which fall outside of the narrow scope of the Title IX regulations may also negatively impact access to the institution's education programs and activities and are counter to the mission and values of the institution. Therefore, the Lackawanna College has also adopted the Student Code of Conduct and its implementing procedures to address other sex offenses that may fall outside the protections of Title IX. Lackawanna College's jurisdiction under this policy includes: The College's jurisdiction in disciplinary matters extended to conduct that occurs on the Colleges' premises, conduct that occurs as part of the Colleges' sponsored or pathwayed off-premises activities, or to any conduct that adversely affects the College community or reputation regardless of where it occurs.

### **STEP THREE: CHOOSE AN ADVISOR (if you have not already)**

The parties are each entitled to an Advisor of their choice to accompany them to any and all meetings pertaining to the complaint. An Advisor can be anyone, including but not limited to an attorney, friend, roommate, or parent. Advisors can be extremely helpful in assisting parties with navigating the Title IX resolution process, especially when it comes to the hearing. Lackawanna College is required to have a live hearing as part of its formal grievance process. At the live hearing, the Decision-maker(s) must permit each party's Advisor to ask the other party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions, including those challenging credibility. If a party does not have an Advisor, Lackawanna College will provide an Advisor, without fee or charge, from a pool of trained Advisors. Lackawanna College appointed Advisors are not attorneys.

#### **[For representation, Respondents may wish to contact organizations such as:**

- FACE (<http://www.facecampusequality.org>)
- SAVE (<http://www.saveservices.org>).

#### **Complainants may wish to contact organizations such as:**

- The Victim Rights Law Center (<http://www.victimrights.org>),
- The National Center for Victims of Crime (<http://www.victimsofcrime.org>), which maintains the Crime Victim's Bar Association.]
- The Time's Up Legal Defense Fund: <https://nwlc.org/times-up-legal-defense-fund/> ]

#### **Victim Advocates**

Complainants may want to choose an advocate as their Advisor, or to have access to an advocate for support. Advocates are individuals who may or may not be employed by an institution for the purpose of providing confidential support and resources independent of or in conjunction with a sex- or gender-based discrimination or misconduct resolution process. Advocates are typically trained to provide crisis response services and connection to law enforcement, legal, health, and other emergency services. Advocates are often involved in assisting with the provision of supportive measures for Complainants such as academic adjustments, employment adjustments, housing relocation, and coordination of medical or mental health services.

Below is a list of on-campus, community-based, and national advocacy services available:

- Nuris Perdomo (570)346-4460, nurisp@wrcnepa@org, Seeley Hall - Room 118, Wednesdays 12:30 - 4pm
- Community Advocacy Centers:
  - Women’s Resource Center (Scranton/PNG) (570)346-4671
  - Victims’ Resource Center (Hazleton) 1(866)206-9050
  - Victims’ Intervention Program (LRC) (570)253-4401
  - Abuse and Rape Crisis Center (Towanda) (570)265-5333
  - Transitions (Sunbury) 1(800)850-7948

National Organizations Supporting Crime Victims:

- National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
- National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)
- National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 1(800)656-HOPE
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 1(800)799-SAFE

**STEP FOUR: INVESTIGATION**

Trained campus Investigators will investigate that is prompt, thorough, reliable, equitable, fair, and impartial. They will interview the parties and witnesses and prepare a report. Your Advisor can accompany you to all interviews. More detailed information about the investigative process can be found at [Title IX Resolution Process A.](#)

As part of the investigation, parties and their Advisors will be provided access to all relevant and directly related evidence collected and will be given an opportunity to review and comment upon it.

**STEP FIVE: HEARING**

Lackawanna College’s resolution process provides for a neutral and independent Decision-maker. The Decision-maker(s) will have the opportunity to question Investigators, parties, and witnesses during a hearing. [Hearings are held in person, though any party may request to participate through video conference]. The Title IX Coordinator may also decide that the entire hearing should take place through videoconference. The parties may make opening and closing statements. During the hearing, parties’ Advisors will have the opportunity to question the other party and witnesses. If a party or witness chooses not to submit to questioning during the hearing, any prior statements made by that party or witness cannot be considered by the Decision-maker(s).

**Standard of Evidence:** Lackawanna College uses a preponderance of evidence standard of evidence. This means that Decision-makers consider whether, given the available relevant, credible evidence, it is more likely than not that a violation occurred or a high probability that a violation of policy occurred.

**Past History:** Questions and evidence about the Complainant’s sexual predisposition cannot be asked. Questions about a Complainant’s prior sexual behavior cannot be asked unless:

- Such questions and evidence are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, OR

- The questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent.

### **STEP SIX: FINAL DETERMINATION**

The parties will be informed of the outcome of Lackawanna College's resolution of a complaint in writing, without significant delay between the notifications to each party. This notice will include the final determination, any pathways imposed, a rationale for the final determination and any pathways, the institution's procedures for the parties to appeal, any change to the results that occurs prior to the time that such results become final, and when Lackawanna College considers those results to be final.

### **STEP SEVEN: APPEAL**

All parties involved in sexual harassment proceedings may appeal a decision within 5 business days on the basis of three (3) grounds permitted by Lackawanna College's policy. All parties are included in any appeal reconsideration and have equal rights of participation. All appeals are conducted by written exchange of materials. There is only one level of appeal. That decision is final. See [\[Student Handbook\]](#) for further details on appeal procedures.

### **TIMELINES FOR RESOLUTION**

Lackawanna College is committed to resolving complaints within a reasonably prompt timeframe. The Lackawanna College policy and procedures detail this timeline more specifically. Below is a template that will keep you informed of the timeline for your incident. Lackawanna College's process allows for the temporary delay of the grievance process or limited extensions of time frames for good cause with written notice to the Complainant and the Respondent. This notification will include specifics of the delay or extension with a detailed reason for the action. Contact the Title IX Coordinator if you need a delay in the process, or an extension for an aspect of the process.

### **INFORMAL RESOLUTION PROCESS**

To initiate an informal resolution process, a Complainant must submit a formal complaint first. After submission of the formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will provide additional information if an informal resolution is an option. Parties who wish to initiate an informal resolution process should contact the Title IX Coordinator.

All parties must agree, in writing, to initiate an informal resolution process. The parties may agree as a condition of engaging in informal resolution that statements made, or evidence shared during the informal resolution process will not be considered in the formal grievance process unless all parties consent.

It is not necessary to pursue informal resolution first to pursue a formal grievance process, and any party participating in informal resolution can stop the process at any time and begin or resume the formal grievance process.

There are three main types of informal resolution:

- Supportive Resolution. When the Title IX Coordinator can resolve the matter informally by providing supportive measures (only) to remedy the situation.
- Accepted Responsibility. When the Respondent accepts responsibility for violating policy, and desires to accept the pathway(s) and end the resolution process.

### **Respondent Accepts Responsibility for Alleged Violations**

The Respondent may accept responsibility for all or part of the alleged policy violations at any point during the resolution process. If the Respondent indicates an intent to accept responsibility for all of the alleged misconduct, the formal process will be paused, and the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether Informal Resolution can be used according to the criteria above.

If Informal Resolution is applicable, the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether all parties and Lackawanna College are able to agree on responsibility, pathways, and/or remedies. If so, the Title IX Coordinator implements the accepted finding that the Respondent is in violation of Lackawanna College policy and implements agreed-upon pathways and/or remedies, in coordination with other appropriate administrator(s), as necessary.

This result is not subject to appeal once all parties indicate their written assent to all agreed upon terms of resolution. When the parties cannot agree on all terms of resolution, the Formal Grievance Process will resume at the same point where it was paused.

When a resolution is accomplished, the appropriate pathway or responsive actions are promptly implemented to effectively stop the harassment or discrimination, prevent its recurrence, and remedy the effects of the discriminatory conduct, both on the Complainant and the community.

### **RIGHTS OF COMPLAINANTS AND RESPONDENTS**

- The right to an equitable investigation and resolution of all credible allegations of prohibited harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation made in good faith to Lackawanna College officials
- The right to timely written notice of all alleged violations, including the identity of the parties involved (if known), the precise misconduct being alleged, the date and location of the alleged misconduct (if known), the implicated policies and procedures, and possible pathways
- The right to timely written notice of any material adjustments to the allegations (e.g., additional incidents or allegations, additional Complainants, unsubstantiated allegations) and any attendant adjustments needed to clarify potentially implicated policy violations
- The right to be informed in advance of any public release of information by Lackawanna College regarding the allegation(s) or underlying incident(s), whenever possible
- The right not to have any personally identifiable information released by Lackawanna College to the public without consent provided, except to the extent permitted by law
- The right to be treated with respect by Lackawanna College officials
- The right to have Lackawanna College policy and procedures followed without material deviation
- The right not to be pressured to mediate or otherwise informally resolve any reported misconduct involving violence, including sexual violence
- The right not to be discouraged by Lackawanna College officials from reporting sexual harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation to both on-campus and off-campus authorities
- The right to be informed by Lackawanna College officials of options to notify proper law enforcement authorities, including on-campus and local police, and the option(s) to be assisted by

Lackawanna College in notifying such authorities, if the party so chooses. This also includes the right not to be pressured to report.

- The right to have allegations of violations of this Policy responded to promptly and with sensitivity by Lackawanna College law enforcement and/or other Lackawanna College officials
- The right to be informed of available supportive measures, such as counseling; advocacy; health care; student financial aid, visa, and immigration assistance; and/or other services, both on campus and in the community
- The right to a Lackawanna College-implemented no-contact order when a person has engaged in or threatens to engage in stalking, threatening, harassing, or other improper conduct

The right to be informed of available assistance in changing academic, living, and/or working situations after an alleged incident of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation, if such changes are reasonably available. No formal report, or investigation, either campus or criminal, needs to occur before this option is available. Such actions may include, but are not limited to:

- Changing an employee's work environment (e.g., reporting structure, office/workspace relocation)
  - Transportation assistance
  - Exam, paper, and/or assignment rescheduling or adjustment
  - Receiving an incomplete in, or a withdrawal from, a class (may be retroactive)
  - Transferring class sections
  - Temporary withdrawal/leave of absence (may be retroactive)
  - Alternative course completion options
  - Referral to counseling, medical, and/or other healthcare services
  - Referral to the Employee Assistance Program
  - Referral to community-based service providers
  - Student financial aid counseling
  - Education to the institutional community or community subgroup(s)
  - Altering campus housing assignment(s) and assistance from Lackawanna College staff in completing the relocation
  - Safety planning
  - Providing campus safety escorts
  - Implementing contact limitations (no contact orders) between the parties
  - Trespass, Persona Non Grata (PNG), or Be-On-the-Lookout (BOLO) orders
  - Timely warnings
  - Increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus
  - Any other actions deemed appropriate by the Title IX Coordinator
- The right to have Lackawanna College maintain such actions for as long as necessary and for supportive measures to remain confidential, provided confidentiality does not impair Lackawanna College's ability to provide the supportive measures
  - The right to receive sufficiently advanced, written notice of any meeting or interview involving the other party, when possible
  - The right to have the Investigator(s), Advisors, and/or Decision-maker(s) identify and question relevant available witnesses, including expert witnesses
  - The right to provide the Investigator(s)/Decision-maker(s) with a list of questions that, if deemed relevant, may be asked of any party or witness

- The right to have inadmissible prior sexual predisposition/history or irrelevant character evidence excluded by the Decision-maker
- The right to know the relevant and directly related evidence obtained and to respond to that evidence
- The right to a fair opportunity to provide the Investigator(s) with their account of the alleged misconduct and have that account be on the record
- The right to receive a copy of all relevant and directly related evidence obtained by the investigation, subject to privacy limitations imposed by state and federal law, and a ten (10) business day period to review and comment on the evidence
- The right to receive a copy of the final investigation report, including all factual, policy, and/or credibility analyses performed, and to have at least ten (10) business days to review and comment on the report prior to the hearing
- The right to be informed of the names of all witnesses whose information will be used to make a finding, in advance of that finding, when relevant
- The right to regular updates on the status of the investigation and/or resolution
- The right to have complaints addressed by Investigator(s), Title IX Coordinator(s), and Decision-maker(s) who have received [at least eight hours of] relevant annual training
- The right to a Hearing Panel that is not single-sex in its composition, if a panel is used
- The right to preservation of confidentiality/privacy, as permitted by law
- The right to meetings, interviews, and/or hearings that are closed to the public
- The right to petition that any Lackawanna College representative in the process be recused on the basis of disqualifying bias and/or conflict of interest
- The right to have an Advisor of their choice to accompany and assist the party in all meetings and/or interviews associated with the resolution process
- The right to the use of the appropriate standard of evidence, preponderance of the evidence; clear and convincing evidence, to make a finding after an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence
- The right to be present, including presence via remote technology, during all testimony given and evidence presented during any formal grievance hearing
- The right to have an impact statement considered by the Decision-maker(s) following a determination of responsibility for any allegation, but prior to pathwaying
- The right to be promptly informed in a written Notice of Outcome letter of the finding(s) and pathway(s) of the resolution process (if any) and a detailed rationale of the decision including an explanation of how credibility was assessed, delivered simultaneously (without undue delay) to the parties
- The right to be informed in writing of when a decision by the institution is considered final and any changes to the final determination or pathway(s) that occur post Notification of Outcome
- The right to be informed of the opportunity to appeal the finding(s) and pathway(s) of the resolution process, and the procedures for doing so in accordance with the standards for appeal
- The right to a fundamentally fair resolution as defined in these procedures

## **PATHWAYS AND REMEDIES**

There are several factors considered when determining a pathway. Pathways are imposed and enforced when the Respondent has been found in violation of the Lackawanna College sexual harassment policy. Some considerations for pathways include:

- The nature, severity of, and circumstances surrounding the violation(s)



- The Respondent's disciplinary history
- Previous allegations or allegations involving similar conduct
- The need for pathways / responsive actions to bring an end to the discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation
- The need for pathways / responsive actions to prevent future recurrence of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation
- The need to remedy the effects of the discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation on the Complainant and the community
- The impact on the parties
- Any other information deemed relevant by the Decision-maker(s)

Pathways are typically implemented as soon as feasible, either upon the outcome of any appeal or the expiration of the window to appeal without an appeal being requested.

**Examples of student pathways are:**

- **Probation:** Includes a period during which the student must demonstrate the ability to comply with the College's rules and regulations, as well as any imposed pathways. The length of the probationary period can vary from one (1) year to the balance of the students' tenure at the College, depending on the severity of the offense(s). While on probation, any further violation of College policy may result in disciplinary suspension or dismissal from the College.
- **Deferred Suspension:** This is the highest level of probation, in which any continued misconduct or non-compliance with pathways and provisions on the student's part will result in Dismissal with Appeal by the Dean of Students. In the case of an overturned disciplinary suspension or dismissal, the student will remain on Deferred Suspension. If a disciplinary suspension or dismissal occurs with a student who was not previously placed on Deferred Suspension and it is overturned, they will then be placed on Deferred Suspension. In the case of a second disciplinary suspension or dismissal, it will be without appeal. Students who are permitted to return to the College following a period of Disciplinary Suspension will be automatically placed on Deferred Suspension if found responsible for violation of College policy.
- **Suspension from Activities:** All students (including student-athletes) may be suspended from any Lackawanna College extracurricular activities until the student is actively participating in the pathways given. All student-athletes are suspended for a minimum of one game and remain suspended until the student is actively participating in the pathways given.
- **Housing Suspension:** The pathway indicates that a student has been excluded from the resident housing and the general grounds or parking lots surrounding the resident housing, including activities sponsored or supervised by the housing staff.
- **Disciplinary Suspension:** Separation of the student from the College for a specified period of time. While suspended, a student loses all rights and privileges and may not represent the College in any way. A student who is suspended is not in good standing with the College. Disciplinary Suspension may entail provisions added to a student's reentry into the College.
- **Restitution:** Reimbursement to the College for damage, destruction, or misappropriation on College premises. When imposed, restitution will be made in addition to any previously defined pathways. Restitution to other students can also be imposed.

- **Fines:** Penalty fees paid to the College. The amount is dependent upon the degree of policy infraction and is set by the College administration. Fines are not subject to negotiation and can be levied in addition to other pathways and / or restitution.
- **College Dismissal:** This indicates permanent separation from Lackawanna College. Students will be withdrawn from all enrolled courses by the College. The student will not be allowed to re-enroll at a future time. In accordance with federal and state regulations, all room and board payments will be forfeited.
- **Loss of Privileges:** Denial of specified privileges for a designated period of time.
- **Withholding Diploma:** The College may withhold a student's diploma for a specified period of time and / or deny a student participation in commencement activities if the student is found responsible for an alleged violation.
- **Other Actions:** In addition to or in place of the above pathways, the College may assign any other pathways as deemed appropriate.

#### Examples of employee pathways are:

- Employee termination from the College
- Unpaid suspension
- Restrictions from all or portions of campus
- Change in working facility
- Mandated education
- Written reprimand in personnel file
- Removal from classroom teaching
- Tenure revocation
- Withhold salary increase (from one to several years)
- Removal of endowed chair
- Removal of emeritus status
- Removal of graduate school status
- Termination of research project funding
- Removal from administrative position
- Verbal reprimand
- Required participation in counseling or training
- Demotion
- Change to reporting structure
- Reinstatement of an employment probationary period
- Other Actions: In addition to or in place of the above pathways, the College may assign any other pathways as deemed appropriate.

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## PREVENTION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

**Bystander Intervention:** Lackawanna College offers bystander intervention programming to all new students in an effort to ensure that each member of the campus community is invested in creating a safe campus environment. Program participants are instructed on safe options for preventing harm and intervening when a risk of sexual misconduct exists. This programming is completed by the Lackawanna College Student Wellness Program.

**VAWA Training:** Incoming students and new employees are provided with education and training on awareness and risk reduction of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and consent in compliance with the Violence Against Women Act.

**Ongoing Campaigns:** Ongoing awareness and prevention campaigns are provided throughout the school year to students, faculty and staff.

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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

### **Can an attorney be my Advisor?**

Yes. You have the right to an Advisor of your choice, which can include an attorney.

### **Will my parents/guardians find out about this incident?**

It depends. If you are a minor, members of the Title IX team have certain mandatory reporting obligations, which may include notifying your parents/guardians of the incident.

If you are not a minor, this incident is a part of your education record, which is protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This means that your education record cannot be shared with anyone with whom you have not given Lackawanna College permission to share.

### **Do I have to resolve this through a formal grievance process?**

No. You have options. If you are a Complainant and wish to resolve informally, you must first make a formal complaint. Upon receipt of this formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will provide you with additional information. Any party who wishes to resolve the matter informally should contact the Title IX Coordinator. All parties must agree, in writing, to informally resolve for this to be an option.

### **Is there a time limit on when I can report?**

There is no statute of limitations on when a complaint can be filed however there are certain jurisdictional requirements that must be met to pursue a formal grievance process under Title IX.

### **Will I get in more trouble if I was drinking underage during the incident?**

Lackawanna College maintains a policy of offering parties and witnesses amnesty from minor policy violations such as underage consumption of alcohol or the use of illicit drugs related to the incident.

### **What happens if the Respondent fails to comply with the pathways?**

Respondents are expected to comply with the assigned pathways, responsive actions, and/or corrective actions within the timeframe specified by the final Decision-maker(s). Failure to abide by the pathway(s)/action(s) imposed by the date specified, whether by refusal, neglect, or any other reason, may result in additional pathway(s)/action(s), including suspension, expulsion, and/or termination.

**What happens if the Respondent transfers, leaves, or resigns prior to the conclusion of the formal resolution process?**

If a Respondent permanently withdraws or resigns, the resolution process ends with a dismissal, as Lackawanna College no longer has disciplinary jurisdiction over the withdrawn student or former employee. However, Lackawanna College will continue to address and remedy any systemic issues or concerns that may have contributed to the alleged violation(s), and any ongoing effects of the alleged harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation.

**What if law enforcement is involved?**

Lackawanna College action(s) or processes are not typically altered or precluded on the grounds that civil or criminal charges involving the underlying incident(s) have been filed or that criminal charges have been dismissed or reduced. Lackawanna College may undertake a short delay in its investigation if circumstances require. Communication will be sent to the parties explaining the reason(s) for the delay and the anticipated duration of the delay.

**Do I have to be cross-examined during the hearing?**

If you want the Decision-Maker(s) to consider any prior statements made or evidence submitted by you, then yes, you must submit to cross-examination during the hearing. You have a choice not to, but your statements and evidence will not be considered by the Decision-maker(s).