

Anti-Harassment Policy and Complaint Procedure

Objective:

Davenport University strives to create and maintain a positive work and learning environment in which people are treated with dignity, decency and respect. The policy of Davenport University is to provide an environment free from harassment and unlawful discrimination on the basis of national origin, race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity, veteran or other protected status. Such harassment or discrimination does harm to those to experience it, is a violation of this policy, interferes with the fulfillment of our mission and therefore, will not be tolerated.

All employees, regardless of their positions, are covered by and are expected to comply with this policy and to take appropriate measures to ensure that prohibited conduct does not occur. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any employee who violates this policy. Based on the seriousness of the offense, disciplinary action may include verbal or written reprimand, suspension or termination of employment.

Prohibited Conduct

Discrimination

It is a violation of Davenport's policy to unlawfully discriminate in the provision of employment opportunities, benefits or privileges; to create discriminatory work conditions; or to use discriminatory evaluative standards in employment if the basis of that discriminatory treatment is, in whole or in part, based on that person's national origin, race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity, veteran or other protected status. Discrimination in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary measures up to and including termination.

Harassment

Harassment is unprofessional conduct that could reasonably be understood as (1) having the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, (2) having the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or access to educational activities and programs, (3) otherwise adversely affecting an individual's employment opportunities or access to educational activities and programs.

Such prohibited harassment includes, but is not limited to, epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, or threatening or intimidating acts that relate to a person's protected characteristics or are directed toward a person because of his or her protected characteristics. Written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility toward an individual or group because of these characteristics is prohibited in our workplace.

Sexual Harassment

Specifically, prohibited sexual harassment refers to behavior or comments which are not welcome, are personally offensive, undermine morale, and interfere with the work performance and effectiveness of its victims. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature can become unlawful harassment when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or access to educational activities and programs, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions or access to educational activities and programs, or (3) such conduct is unprofessional and has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment.

Prohibited behavior or comments do not have to be of a sexual nature; behavior or comments directed at an individual because of his or her sex with the intention to harass are prohibited. Sexually-based and "same sex" sexually-based behavior or comments are also prohibited.

Examples of conduct which are prohibited under this policy include, but are not limited to, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, insults, humor or jokes about sex or gender-specific traits, sexual propositions, threats, repeated unwanted social invitations, suggestive or insulting sounds, leering, suggestive whistling, obscene gestures, pin-ups, touching, pinching, brushing the body, and assault.

Retaliation

No adverse action may be imposed on an employee or student in response to:

- Filing or responding to a bona fide complaint of discrimination or harassment.
- Participating in the investigation of a complaint.
- Serving as an investigator of a complaint.

Taking adverse action against someone who makes a complaint or participates in the investigation process is a violation of this policy. Any person who is found to have violated this aspect of the policy will be subject to sanctions up to and including termination of employment.