

1B.1 Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education Opportunity

Part 1. Policy Statement. Itasca Community College is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and education opportunity. No person shall be discriminated against in the terms and conditions of employment, personnel practices, or access to and participation in, programs, services, and activities with regard to race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, or sexual orientation. In addition, discrimination in employment based on membership or activity in a local commission as defined by law is prohibited.

Harassment on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, or sexual orientation is prohibited. Harassment may occur in a variety of relationships, including faculty and student, supervisor and employee, student and student, staff and student, employee and employee, and other relationships with persons having business at, or visiting the educational or working environment.

This policy is directed at verbal or physical conduct that constitutes discrimination /harassment under state and federal law and is not directed at the content of speech. In cases in which verbal statements and other forms of expression are involved, Itasca Community College will give due consideration to an individual's constitutionally protected right to free speech and academic freedom. However, discrimination and harassment are not within the protections of academic freedom or free speech.

The college shall maintain and encourage full freedom, within the law, of expression, inquiry, teaching and research. Academic freedom comes with a responsibility that all members of our education community benefit from it without intimidation, exploitation or coercion.

This policy shall apply to all individuals affiliated with Itasca Community College, including but not limited to, its students, employees, applicants, volunteers, and agents, and is intended to protect the rights and privacy of both the complainant and respondent and other involved individuals, as well as to prevent retaliation or reprisal. Individuals who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary or other corrective action.

This policy supersedes all existing college non-discrimination policies.

Part 2. Definitions.

Subpart A. Consensual Relationship. A sexual or romantic relationship between two persons who voluntarily enter into such a relationship. Employees who are members of the same household should also refer to the MnSCU Board of Trustees Nepotism policy 4.10.

Subpart B. Discrimination. Discrimination is defined as conduct that is directed at an individual because of his or her protected class and that subjects the individual to different treatment by agents or employees so as to interfere with or limit the ability of the individual to participate in, or benefit from, the services, activities, or privileges provided by the college or otherwise adversely affects the individual's employment or education.

Subpart C. Discriminatory harassment. Discriminatory harassment is defined as verbal or physical conduct that is directed at an individual because of his or her protected class, and that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to have the purpose or effect of creating a hostile work or educational environment.

As required by law, Itasca Community College has further defined sexual harassment as a form of sexual discrimination which is prohibited by state and federal law. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or education, evaluation of a student's academic performance, or term or condition of participation in student activities or in other events or activities sanctioned by the college; or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions or other decisions about participation in student activities or other events or activities sanctioned by the college; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose and effect of threatening an individual's employment; interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment.

Subpart D. Employee. Itasca Community College personnel include all faculty, staff, administrators, teaching assistants, residence directors and student employees.

Subpart E. Protected Class. Protected class for the purpose of this policy means that discrimination and harassment in employment and education are prohibited on the basis of: race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance or sexual orientation. In addition, membership or activity in a local human rights commission is a protected class in employment.

Subpart F. Retaliation. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, intentionally engaging in any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment against an individual because he or she made a complaint under this policy or assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, or process under this policy, regardless of whether a claim of discrimination or harassment is substantiated; or associated with a person or group of persons who are disabled or are of a different race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation or national origin. Retaliation may occur whether or not there is a power or authority differential between the individuals involved.

Subpart G. Sexual harassment and violence as sexual abuse. Under certain circumstances, sexual harassment or violence may constitute sexual abuse according to Minnesota law. In such situations, the college shall comply with the reporting requirements in Minnesota Statutes Section 626.556 (reporting of maltreatment of minors) and Minnesota Statutes Section 626.557 (Vulnerable Adult Protection Act). Nothing in this policy will prohibit the college from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged sexual abuse. Itasca Community College 1B.3 Sexual Violence Policy addresses sexual violence.

Subpart H. Student. "Student" means an individual who is:

1. admitted, enrolled, registered to take or is taking one or more courses, classes, or seminars, credit or noncredit, at the college; or
2. between terms of a continuing course of study at the college, such as summer break between spring and fall academic terms; or
3. expelled or suspended from enrollment as a student at the college, during the pendency of any adjudication of the student disciplinary action.

Part 3. Consensual Relationships. An employee of Itasca Community College shall not enter into a consensual relationship with a student or an employee over whom he or she exercises direct or otherwise significant academic, administrative, supervisory, evaluative, counseling, or extracurricular authority or influence. In the event a relationship already exists, the college shall develop a procedure to reassign evaluative authority as may be possible to avoid violations of this policy. This prohibition does not limit the right of an employee to make a recommendation on personnel matters concerning a family or household member where the right to make recommendations on such personnel matters is explicitly provided for in the applicable collective bargaining agreement or compensation plan.

Part 4. Retaliation. Retaliation as defined in this policy is prohibited in the college. Any individual subject to this policy who intentionally engages in retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary or other corrective action as appropriate.

Itasca Community College, a member of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system, will follow Procedure 1B.1.1 Report/Complaint of Discrimination/Harassment Investigation and Resolution as can be found in its entirety on the MnSCU website at www.mnscu.edu/board/procedure/1b01p1.html. Contact Dr. Mike Johnson (218-327-4463) to report incidents of suspected harassment or discrimination.

1B.3 Sexual Violence Policy

Part 1. Policy statement.

Sexual violence is an intolerable intrusion into the most personal and private rights of an individual, and is prohibited at Itasca Community College. Itasca Community College is committed to eliminating sexual violence in all forms and will take appropriate remedial action against any individual found responsible for acts in violation of this policy. Acts of sexual violence may also constitute violations of criminal or civil law, or other college or MnSCU policies that may require separate proceedings. To further its commitment against sexual violence, Itasca Community College provides reporting options, internal mechanisms for dispute resolution, and prevention training or other related services as appropriate.

Subpart A. Application of policy to students, employees, and others. This policy applies to all Itasca Community College students and employees and to others, as appropriate, where alleged incidents of sexual violence have occurred on college property. Incidents of sexual violence alleged to have been committed by a student at a location other than on college property are covered by this policy pursuant to the factors listed in MnSCU Policy 3.6, Part 2 (Off Campus Conduct). Incidents of sexual violence alleged to have been committed by an Itasca Community College employee at a location other than college property are covered by this policy.

Individuals alleged to have committed acts of sexual violence on college property who are not students or employees are subject to appropriate actions by Itasca Community College, including, but not limited to, pursuing criminal or civil action against them.

Allegations of discrimination or harassment are governed by college policy 1B.1 and procedure 1B.1.1.

Subpart B. Sexual Violence Procedure. Itasca Community College, a member of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system, will follow MnSCU Procedure 1B.3.1 (Sexual Violence Procedure).

Part 2. Definitions.

The following definitions apply to this Policy and Procedure 1B.3.1.

Subpart A. Sexual violence. Sexual violence includes a continuum of conduct that includes sexual assault, and non-forcible sex acts, as well as aiding acts of sexual violence.

Subpart B. Sexual assault. “Sexual assault” means an actual, attempted, or threatened sexual act with another person without that person’s consent. Sexual assault is often a criminal act that can be prosecuted under Minnesota law, as well as form the basis for discipline under Itasca Community College student conduct codes and employee disciplinary standards. Sexual assault includes but is not limited to:

1. Involvement without consent in any sexual act in which there is force, expressed or implied, or use of duress or deception upon the victim. Forced sexual intercourse is included in this definition, as are the acts commonly referred to as “date rape” or “acquaintance rape.” This definition also includes the coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another.
2. Involvement in any sexual act when the victim is unable to give consent.
3. The intentional touching or coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force another to touch an unwilling person’s intimate parts (defined as primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast).
4. Offensive sexual behavior that is directed at another such as indecent exposure or voyeurism.

Subpart C. Consent. Consent is informed, freely given and mutually understood. If coercion, intimidation, threats, and/or physical force are used, there is no consent. If the complainant is mentally or physically incapacitated or impaired so that the complainant cannot understand the fact, nature, or extent of the sexual situation, and the condition was known or would be known to a reasonable person, there is no consent; this includes conditions due to alcohol or drug consumption, or being asleep or unconscious. Whether the respondent has taken advantage of a position of influence over the complainant may be a factor in determining consent.

Subpart D. Non-forcible sex acts. Non-forcible acts include unlawful sexual acts where consent is not relevant, such as sexual contact with an individual under the statutory age of consent, as defined by Minnesota law, or between persons who are related to each other within degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Subpart E. College property. “College property” means the facilities and land owned, leased, or under the primary control of Itasca Community College.

Subpart F. Employee. “Employee” means any individual employed by Itasca Community College, including student workers.

Subpart G. Student. “Student” means an individual who is:

1. admitted, enrolled, registered to take or is taking one or more courses, classes, or seminars, credit or noncredit, at the college; or
2. between terms of a continuing course of study at the college, such as summer break between spring and fall academic terms; or
3. expelled or suspended from enrollment as a student at the college, during the pendency of any adjudication of the student disciplinary action.

Part 3. Reporting incidents of sexual violence.

Subpart A. Prompt reporting encouraged. Complainants of sexual violence may report incidents at any time, but are strongly encouraged to make reports promptly in order to best preserve evidence for a potential legal or disciplinary proceeding.

Complainants are strongly encouraged to report incidents of sexual violence to law enforcement (911) for the location where the incident occurred. Complainants are also encouraged to contact the local victim/survivor services office (Itasca Alliance Against Sexual Assault, 218-326-5008), counseling and health care providers, and campus security authorities for appropriate action.

Subpart B. Assistance in reporting. When informed of an alleged incident of sexual violence, all college students and employees are urged to encourage and assist complainants, as needed, to report the incident to local law enforcement, local victim/survivor services and campus security authorities.

Contact Dr. Mike Johnson (218-322-2401) to report incidents of suspected sexual violence.