

**WSR 21-12-059
EMERGENCY RULES
LAKE WASHINGTON
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

[Filed May 27, 2021, 8:48 a.m., effective May 27, 2021, 8:48 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: On May 19, 2020, the Federal Register printed amendments to Title IX regulations (85 F.R. 30575). The new regulations address the grievance process for formal complaints of sexual harassment and are scheduled to take effect on August 14, 2020. This requires emergency updates to the college's student conduct code to be compliant with federal regulations. We are continuing to work through the rule-making process, and so need to file for emergency rules again.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New Supplemental Title IX Student Conduct Procedures, WAC 495D-121-680, 495D-121-690, 495D-121-700, 495D-121-710, 495D-121-720, 495D-121-730, 495D-121-740, 495D-121-750, and 495D-121-760.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: Chapter 34.05 RCW; and RCW 28B.50.140(13); 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: Lake Washington Institute of Technology is required by the United States Department of Education to comply with the recently adopted Title IX regulations, which took effect on August 14, 2020.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 9, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: May 10, 2021.

Elsa J. Gossett
Senior Executive Assistant
to the President
and Board of Trustees

OTS-2491.3

NEW SECTION

WAC 495D-121-680 Student conduct code—Order of precedence.

This supplemental procedure applies to allegations of sexual harass-

ment subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education. See 34 C.F.R. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with Lake Washington Institute of Technology's standard disciplinary procedures, WAC 495D-121-320 through 495D-121-670, these supplemental procedures shall take precedence. College may, at its discretion, contract with an administrative law judge or other person to act as presiding officer and assign such presiding officer to exercise any or all of the duties in lieu of the student conduct committee and committee chair.

[]

NEW SECTION

WAC 495D-121-690 Student conduct code—Prohibited conduct under Title IX. Pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(13) and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681, Lake Washington Institute of Technology may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student who commits, attempts to commit, or aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of "sexual harassment."

For purposes of this supplemental procedure, "sexual harassment" encompasses the following conduct:

(1) Quid pro quo harassment. A Lake Washington Institute of Technology employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of Lake Washington Institute of Technology on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(2) Hostile environment. Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to Lake Washington Institute of Technology's educational programs or activities, or employment.

(3) Sexual assault. Sexual assault includes the following conduct:

(a) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse. Any actual or attempted sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object or body part, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual intercourse includes anal or vaginal penetration by a penis, tongue, finger, or object, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact.

(b) Nonconsensual sexual contact. Any actual or attempted sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object, by a person upon another person that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual touching includes any bodily contact with the breasts, groin, mouth, or other bodily orifice of another individual, or any other bodily contact in a sexual manner.

(c) Incest. Sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person known to be related to them, either legitimately or illegitimately, as an ancestor, descendant, brother, or sister of either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren and adopted children under the age of eighteen.

(d) Statutory rape. Consensual sexual intercourse between someone who is eighteen years of age or older and someone who is under the age of sixteen.

(4) Domestic violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, RCW 26.50.010.

(5) Dating violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person:

(a) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(b) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(i) The length of the relationship;

(ii) The type of relationship; and

(iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(6) Stalking. Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.

[]

NEW SECTION

WAC 495D-121-700 Student conduct code—Prohibited conduct under Title IX jurisdiction. (1) This supplemental procedure applies only if the alleged misconduct:

(a) Occurred in the United States;

(b) Occurred during a Lake Washington Institute of Technology educational program or activity; and

(c) Meets the definition of sexual harassment as that term is defined in this supplemental procedure.

(2) For purposes of this supplemental procedure, an "educational program or activity" is defined as locations, events, or circumstances over which Lake Washington Institute of Technology exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the alleged sexual harassment occurred. This definition includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by Lake Washington Institute of Technology.

(3) Proceedings under this supplemental procedure must be dismissed if the decision maker determines that one or all of the requirements of subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section have not been met. Dismissal under this supplemental procedure does not prohibit Lake Washington Institute of Technology from pursuing other disciplinary action based on allegations that the respondent violated other

provisions of Lake Washington Institute of Technology's student conduct code, WAC 495D-121-320 through 495D-121-670.

(4) If the student conduct officer determines the facts in the investigation report are not sufficient to support Title IX jurisdiction and/or pursuit of a Title IX violation, the student conduct officer will issue a notice of dismissal in whole or part to both parties explaining why some or all of the Title IX claims have been dismissed.

[]

NEW SECTION

WAC 495D-121-710 Student conduct code—Initiation of discipline.

(1) Upon receiving the Title IX investigation report from the Title IX coordinator, the student conduct officer will independently review the report to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to pursue a disciplinary action against the respondent for engaging in prohibited conduct under Title IX.

(2) If the student conduct officer determines that there are sufficient grounds to proceed under these supplemental procedures, the student conduct officer will initiate a Title IX disciplinary proceeding by filing a written disciplinary notice with either the chair of the student conduct committee or the college's appointed Title IX hearing officer and serving the notice on the respondent and the complainant, and their respective advisors. The notice must:

- (a) Set forth the basis for Title IX jurisdiction;
 - (b) Identify the alleged Title IX violation(s);
 - (c) Set forth the facts underlying the allegation(s);
 - (d) Identify the range of possible sanctions that may be imposed if the respondent is found responsible for the alleged violation(s);
 - (e) Explain that the parties are entitled to be accompanied by their chosen advisors during the hearing and that:
 - (i) The advisors will be responsible for questioning all witnesses on the party's behalf;
 - (ii) An advisor may be an attorney; and
 - (iii) Lake Washington Institute of Technology will appoint the party an advisor of Lake Washington Institute of Technology's choosing at no cost to the party, if the party fails to do so.
- (3) Explain that if a party fails to appear at the hearing, a decision of responsibility may be made in their absence.

[]

NEW SECTION

WAC 495D-121-720 Student conduct code—Prehearing procedure.

(1) Upon receiving the disciplinary notice, the chair of the student conduct committee or the college's appointed Title IX hearing officer will send a hearing notice to all parties, in compliance with WAC 495D-121-410. In no event will the hearing date be set less than ten days after the Title IX coordinator provided the final investigation report to the parties.

(2) A party may choose to have an attorney serve as their advisor at the party's own expense. This right will be waived unless, at least five days before the hearing, the attorney files a notice of appearance with the committee chair with copies to all parties and the student conduct officer.

(3) In preparation for the hearing, the parties will have equal access to all evidence gathered by the investigator during the investigation, regardless of whether Lake Washington Institute of Technology intends to offer the evidence at the hearing.

[]

NEW SECTION

WAC 495D-121-730 Student conduct code—Rights of parties. (1) Lake Washington Institute of Technology's student conduct procedures, WAC 495D-121-320 through 495D-121-670, and this supplemental procedure shall apply equally to all parties.

(2) The Lake Washington Institute of Technology bears the burden of offering and presenting sufficient testimony and evidence to establish that the respondent is responsible for a Title IX violation by a preponderance of the evidence.

(3) The respondent will be presumed not responsible until such time as the disciplinary process has been finally resolved.

(4) During the hearing, each party shall be represented by an advisor. The parties are entitled to an advisor of their own choosing and the advisor may be an attorney. If a party does not choose an advisor, then the Title IX coordinator will appoint an advisor of Lake Washington Institute of Technology's choosing on the party's behalf at no expense to the party.

[]

NEW SECTION

WAC 495D-121-740 Student conduct code—Evidence. The introduction and consideration of evidence during the hearing is subject to the following procedures and restrictions:

(1) Relevance: The committee chair or the college's appointed Title IX hearing officer shall review all questions for relevance and shall explain on the record their reasons for excluding any question based on lack of relevance.

(2) Relevance means that information elicited by the question makes facts in dispute more or less likely to be true.

(3) Questions or evidence about a complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant and must be excluded, unless such question or evidence:

(a) Is asked or offered to prove someone other than the respondent committed the alleged misconduct; or

(b) Concerns specific incidents of prior sexual behavior between the complainant and the respondent, which are asked or offered on the issue of consent.

(4) Cross-examination required: If a party or witness does not submit to cross-examination during the live hearing, the committee or the college's appointed Title IX hearing officer must not rely on any statement by that party or witness in reaching a determination of responsibility.

(5) No negative inference: The committee or the college's appointed Title IX hearing officer may not make an inference regarding responsibility solely on a witness's or party's absence from the hearing or refusal to answer questions.

(6) Privileged evidence: The committee or the college's appointed Title IX hearing officer shall not consider legally privileged information unless the holder has effectively waived the privilege. Privileged information includes, but is not limited to, information protected by the following:

- (a) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;
- (b) Attorney-client and attorney work product privileges;
- (c) Privileges applicable to members of the clergy and priests;
- (d) Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;
- (e) Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; and
- (f) Other legal privileges identified in RCW 5.60.060.

[]

NEW SECTION

WAC 495D-121-750 Student conduct code—Initial order. (1) In addition to complying with WAC 495D-121-430, the student conduct committee or the college's appointed Title IX hearing officer will be responsible for conferring and drafting an initial order that:

- (a) Identifies the allegations of sexual harassment;
- (b) Describes the grievance and disciplinary procedures, starting with filing of the formal complaint through the determination of responsibility, including notices to parties, interviews with witnesses and parties, site visits, methods used to gather evidence, and hearings held;
- (c) Makes findings of fact supporting the determination of responsibility;
- (d) Reaches conclusions as to whether the facts establish whether the respondent is responsible for engaging in sexual harassment in violation of Title IX;
- (e) Contains a statement of, and rationale for, the committee's or the college's appointed Title IX hearing officer's determination of responsibility for each allegation;
- (f) Describes any disciplinary sanction or conditions imposed against the respondent, if any;
- (g) Describes to what extent, if any, complainant is entitled to remedies designed to restore or preserve complainant's equal access to Lake Washington Institute of Technology's education programs or activities; and
- (h) Describes the process for appealing the initial order to the Lake Washington Institute of Technology president.

(2) The committee chair or the college's appointed Title IX hearing officer will serve the initial order on the parties simultaneously.

[]

NEW SECTION

WAC 495D-121-760 Student conduct code—Appeals. (1) The parties shall have the right to appeal from the initial order's determination of responsibility and/or dismissal of an allegation(s) of sexual harassment in a formal complaint. The right to appeal will be subject to the same procedures and time frames set forth in WAC 495D-121-440.

(2) The president or their delegate will determine whether the grounds for appeal have merit, provide the rationale for this conclusion, and state whether the disciplinary sanction and condition(s) imposed in the initial order are affirmed, vacated, or amended, and, if amended, set forth any new disciplinary sanction and/or condition(s).

(3) President's office shall serve the final decision on the parties simultaneously.

[]