



**Policy Title: Baylor Civil Rights Policy**

**Policy Number: BU-PP 028**

**Date Issued: August 21, 2020**

**Responsible Executive: Vice President and Chief Compliance and Risk Officer**

**Date Last Revised: February 22, 2025**

**Responsible Office: Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX Office**

## **Baylor Civil Rights Policy BU-PP 028**

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### **I. Policy Statement**

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Baylor University is committed to maintaining a positive work and learning environment where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity in a professional atmosphere that promotes equal opportunities in a lawful manner and prohibits unlawful discriminatory practices and other discriminatory practices identified in this policy.

Baylor University prohibits unlawful Discrimination and Harassment and other discriminatory practices identified in this policy because of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, citizenship, immigration status, disability, sex, age, genetic information or the refusal to submit to a genetic test, past, current, or prospective service in the uniformed military service, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, Texas, or local law except as otherwise provided under the *Civil Rights Policy* (hereinafter this or the "Policy"). Baylor also prohibits Retaliation against any individual who engages in Protected Activity.

Baylor University complies with all applicable federal, state, and local nondiscrimination laws, and does not engage in prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, nationality or ethnic origin, sex, age, disability or veteran status in either employment or the provision of services. The University is governed by a predominantly Baptist Board of Regents and is operated within the Christian-oriented aims and ideals of Baptists. Baylor is also affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, a cooperative association of autonomous Texas Baptist churches. As such, the University prescribes standards of personal conduct that are consistent with its religious mission and values. Baylor's commitment to equal opportunity and respect of others does not undermine the validity and effect of the constitutional and statutory protections for its religious liberty, including without limitation, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, among others.

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## II. Reason for the Policy

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Baylor University is unwaveringly committed to building and fostering a Caring Christian Community in which our members feel safe, respected and supported. Such a commitment includes ongoing compliance with all applicable anti-discrimination laws. As such, Baylor does not illegally discriminate, and prohibits illegal discrimination based on race, color, national or ethnic origin, citizenship, sex, age, disability, military service, pregnancy or other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state, or local law (“Protected Characteristics”) in employment and regarding qualified students in any education program or activity, as such discrimination is defined by applicable law. The University also prohibits associated retaliation as defined in applicable law and policy.

Given that the University is operated within the Christian-oriented aims and ideals of Baptists, governed by a predominantly Baptist Board of Regents and affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Baylor prescribes standards of personal conduct for employees and students consistent with its religious mission and values and that are integral to its Christian faith mission, and employs individuals whose values and conduct align with Baylor’s mission. Baylor’s commitment to equal opportunity and respect of others does not undermine the validity and effect of the constitutional and statutory protections for its religious liberty. The Protected Characteristics and application of the non-discrimination policy are interpreted consistently with relevant and applicable law and with the University’s religious mission and values.

The University’s full notice may be found on the [Notice of Non-Discrimination](#) webpage.

Inquiries about the application of Title IX and its regulations, which requires the University to not discriminate based on sex, can be directed to the Title IX Coordinator at: [TitleIX\\_Coordinator@baylor.edu](mailto:TitleIX_Coordinator@baylor.edu); 254-710-8454; or Clifton Robinson Tower, suite 285, and/or the United States Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights at [OCR@ed.gov](mailto:OCR@ed.gov); or 800-421-3481. Reports of sex discrimination can be made at [www.baylor.edu/reportit](http://www.baylor.edu/reportit).

Information about the University’s grievance procedures for discrimination and harassment on the basis of protected characteristics can be found in the [Baylor Civil Rights Policy](#) and the [Sexual and Interpersonal Misconduct Policy](#).

This Policy is designed to comply with the University’s obligations toward its employees and students under all relevant federal, state, and local civil rights laws and to be interpreted in a manner consistent with applicable law and Baylor’s religious liberties. This Policy is also intended to be used to comply, in part, with any requirements for non-discrimination in employment in connection with federal or state contracts or grants. Some forms of Prohibited Conduct may also violate state and federal laws, and criminal prosecution may occur independently of any University process.

Baylor University calls members of the Baylor community to a standard of behavior higher than the minimum required by law. As such, this Policy contains expectations, standards,

guidelines, or procedures that exceed those established by federal or state law applicable to Baylor University and its employees; however, those expectations, standards, guidelines, and procedures cannot, and do not:

1. replace, modify, or supersede federal and/or state law, including in connection with any agency or court proceeding; or
2. serve as anything other than a private expectation, standard, guideline, or procedure
  - i. which may be changed at any time by Baylor University in its sole discretion;
  - ii. which may be utilized by Baylor University to aid in its determination of an appropriate private remedy or discipline by Baylor University;
  - iii. that is not contractual, either expressly or impliedly; and
  - iv. that is not, nor shall it be or serve as the basis of any cause of action or claim against Baylor University or any employee thereof, as a heightened standard of conduct, or against which to judge any acts or omissions of Baylor or its agents, employees, or representatives.

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### **III. Individuals/Entities Affected by this Policy and Scope of Policy**

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This Policy applies to all Covered Individuals.

Scope of Policy: This Policy applies to conduct that occurs:

- on any University-owned or leased property;
- in the context of any University-related or sponsored business, educational, or other program or activity, regardless of the location (including without limitation travel, research, conferences, fund-raising, admissions, recruiting events, or internship programs);
- through the use of University-owned or provided technology resources;
- when the conduct has a direct nexus to the University and its activities, such as, but not limited to, a continuing injurious effect or the creation or continuation of a hostile environment in university programs or activities; or
- where otherwise required by applicable law.

Except for the policies identified in the Section below entitled “Issues Excluded from this Policy,” this Policy is the exclusive means for individuals to file internal claims of Discrimination or Harassment based upon Protected Characteristics, or Retaliation for engaging in Protected Activity. Employees may not bring such claims under any other Baylor policy or procedure, including but not limited to the University Grievance Policy or the Faculty Grievance Procedure. *Any grievance or complaint filed under any other policy or procedure alleging a civil right violation must be referred to the Equity, Civil Rights, and*

*Title IX Office (hereafter referred to as the “Equity Office”). Such claims cannot be considered by any other body unless assigned by the Equity Office.*

Harassment and Discrimination are also prohibited under this Policy (or the SIM Policy as appropriate) when they are based on something that is directly related to a Protected Characteristic, such as hair texture, hair style, pregnancy, or native language.

Failure by the University to follow any described step in this Policy, or to take longer than the timeline goals does not invalidate any Baylor action(s) or give rise to any claim or cause of action against the University.

This Policy does not alter the at-will relationship of non-contracted employees with the University, nor does it constitute or create a contractual obligation on behalf of the University toward, or with, any individual or entity, including, without limitation, contractors, faculty, or contracted staff.

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#### **IV. Issues Excluded from this Policy**

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##### **A. Sexual and Interpersonal Misconduct**

Issues related to sexual harassment, and certain misconduct of an interpersonal nature are addressed in accordance with Baylor’s *Sexual and Interpersonal Misconduct Policy* (“SIM Policy” BU-PP 022), so are excluded from the *Civil Rights Policy*. More specifically, such conduct includes: sexual harassment, sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual exploitation, complicity, and related retaliation, as defined in the SIM Policy.

##### **B. Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities**

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504, Baylor has an obligation to make reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified job applicants and employees with disabilities, and to otherwise qualified student applicants and students with disabilities, unless it would create or cause an undue hardship on Baylor, endanger the safety or welfare of others, or require a fundamental alteration to an academic program. Baylor has procedures for employees in the policy on the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA)* (BU-PP 415). Baylor has ADA and Section 504 procedures for students that can be accessed through the Baylor Office of Access and Learning Accommodation (OALA) [website](#). All requests for reasonable accommodation must first be fully addressed under those procedures.

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All other matters involving allegations of Discrimination or Harassment based on a disability will be addressed in accordance with the *Civil Rights Policy*.

### C. Academic Matters

Allegations of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation based upon Protected Characteristics or Protected Activity involving grades, student evaluations, suspensions, or other academic discipline, or otherwise involving alleged acts of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation in academic matters by faculty or academic administrators, are covered under this Policy. Before any such claim may be raised under this Policy, it must be fully resolved through the *Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure*. If the student still wishes to pursue a Complaint of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation after the Academic Appeal process is complete, he/she may request resolution under this Policy.

### D. Faculty Matters

Certain matters involving faculty are expressly excluded from the procedures in this Policy. Any claims of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation in these excluded matters must be brought under the separate procedures, as provided in the following Personnel Policies:

1. Grievances involving the tenure process or tenure decisions, which are governed by the *Tenure Policy* (BU-PP 704); and
2. Dismissal proceedings initiated by the University against a faculty member, when such termination is governed by the Dismissal Committee process identified in the *Dismissal Policy* (BU-PP 705).

Any other claims of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation by faculty (other than those addressed under BU-PP 022), and all claims by applicants, should be made under this Policy. Certain claims may be referred by the Equity Office to the Office of the Provost for investigation at the discretion of the Provost.

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## V. Choice of Policy

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Where conduct involves the potential violation of both this Policy and another University policy, the Equity Office may choose to address other potential misconduct under the procedures set forth in this Policy. Notwithstanding the foregoing, where the conduct involves the potential violation of the Sexual and Interpersonal Misconduct Policy and claims of Discrimination under this policy, the Associate Vice President for Equity may

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exercise discretion to investigate them under the most-applicable Policy, and will utilize the appropriate procedural protections for the allegations of sexual misconduct.

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## **VI. Related Documents and Forms**

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### A. Related University [Policies](#) and Documents

- BU-PP [Disclaimer](#)
- 022 [Sexual and Interpersonal Misconduct Policy](#)
- 023 [Standards of Personal Conduct](#)
- 024 [Code of Ethics](#)
- 025 [Technology Usage Policy](#)
- 027 [Employee Personal Information](#)
- 029 [Handling of Confidential Information](#)
- 031 [Sexual Conduct](#)
- 036 [Romantic and / or Sexual Conduct with Students and Supervises](#)
- 037 [Whistleblower Policy](#)
- 110 [Recruitment and Employment - Faculty](#)
- 120 [Staff Recruitment and Employment](#)
- 121 [Student Employment](#)
- 408 [Family and Medical Leave Act](#)
- 409(a) [Paid Military/Emergency Responder Leave](#)
- 415 [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) and Pregnant Workers Fairness Act \(PWFA\)](#)
- 416 [Lactation Accommodation](#)
- 418A [Maternity Leave and Primary Caregiver Leave for Faculty](#)
- 421 [Paid Parental Leave](#)
- 701 [Academic Freedom and Duties](#)
- 704 [Policy for Tenure at Baylor University](#)
- 705 [Faculty Dismissal Policy](#)
- 712 [Faculty Grievances Policy](#)
- 807 [Staff Disciplinary Actions](#)
- 822 [Staff and Student Employee Grievances](#)

[Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure](#)  
[Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion](#)  
[Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement](#)  
[Honor Code Policies and Procedures](#)  
[Network Usage Policies](#)  
[OALA Accommodation Requests](#)  
[Privacy Policy](#)  
[Protection of Minors Policy](#)

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[Policy on Hazing](#)  
[Statement on Human Sexuality](#)  
[Student Code of Conduct](#)  
[Student Dress and Appearance](#)  
[Student Organization Policies](#)

## B. Applicable Law

- Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
- Age Discrimination Employment Act (ADEA) of 1967 and 1975;
- Equal Employment of Veterans;
- Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA);
- Pregnant Workers Fairness Act of 2023 (PWFA); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX);
- Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;
- Genetic Information and Non-Discrimination Act (GINA);
- Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866;
- Equal Employment Opportunity, Executive Order 11246;
- Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009;
- Equal Pay Act of 1963;
- The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA);
- Uniformed Services Employment;
- Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974;
- Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA);
- Texas Human Rights Act, Chapter 21 of the Texas Labor Code (TCHRA), including Senate Bill 45 and House Bill 21 Amendments effective Sept 1, 2021;
- Chapter 40, Section 819 of the Texas Administrative Code;
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); and
- other related law.

## C. Forms and Tools

- [Employee Assistance Program](#)
- [Report It](#)
- [Ethics Point](#)

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## VII. Definitions

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These definitions apply to terms as used in this Policy.

<b>Adaptable Resolution</b>	A voluntary and remedies-based resolution option. Adaptable Resolution may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following approaches: Restorative Justice Conference, Restorative Justice Circle, Facilitated Conversation, and Shuttle Communication.
<b>Complaint</b>	An allegation(s) of Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Retaliation prohibited by this Policy, filed in Good Faith by or against a Covered Individual, and filed in accordance with this Policy.
<b>Complainant</b>	A person who experiences alleged Discrimination or Harassment based upon Protected Characteristics, or Retaliation for engaging in Protected Activity.
<b>Covered Individuals</b>	All members of the University community, i.e., faculty, staff, and students (and applicants to be faculty/staff/students), and volunteers. (Volunteers are only covered individuals when on Baylor property or engaged in University-sponsored events at the time of the alleged misconduct).
<b>Disability</b>	<p>A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as defined by law.</p> <p>Protection from harassment and discrimination based on a disability is extended not only to individuals who have a record of an impairment, but also those who are regarded as having a disability and those who have a relationship or association with an individual with a disability.</p> <p>To request accommodations for a disability, an individual must contact and provide documentation to the Office of Access and Learning (students) or Human Resources (qualified applicants / employees). Those offices will work with students and qualified applicants / employees in accordance with the law and their policies based on an individualized assessment. (See “Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities” above.)</p>

<p><b>Discrimination</b></p>	<p>Treating an individual differently and negatively by taking an injurious action because of his or her Protected Characteristics.</p> <p>An injurious action is any 1) act or omission that results in a negative effect (“some harm”) on the terms, conditions, and privileges of employment or enrollment; or 2) conduct that interferes with a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the University’s educational programs or activities. An “injurious action” as defined in this Policy may overlap with or be broader than the standard established in law under the term “adverse action.”</p> <p>Injurious actions could include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• denial or limitation of access to programs or services;</li> <li>• the provision of lesser services;</li> <li>• differential application of policies;</li> <li>• loss of money;</li> <li>• hiring, firing, promotion, or demotion;</li> <li>• reduction in pay or benefits; and/or</li> <li>• reassignment, transfer, or a change in duties.</li> </ul> <p>As the University is exempt from the prohibition of religion-based discrimination, complaints of religious discrimination may not always be covered by this policy.</p>
<p><b>Good Faith</b></p>	<p>An actual and reasonable belief that the misconduct has both occurred and is contrary to this Policy or is unlawful.</p>

<p><b>Harassment</b></p>	<p>Verbal, written, visual, or physical conduct directed toward an individual when such conduct is due to that individual’s Protected Characteristics. Harassment on the basis of Protected Characteristics may be actionable under this policy if it creates a hostile environment.</p> <p>A hostile environment is created when the conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive and unreasonably interferes with, limits, or deprives an individual from participating in or benefiting from their educational environment, employment or other University programs or services. Words, images, actions, or other conduct must be unwanted from the subjective standpoint of the Complainant and must be offensive from the objective standpoint of a reasonable person. The Equity Office will examine the context, nature, scope, frequency, duration, severity, and location of incidents in evaluating whether a hostile environment was created. A “hostile environment” as identified under this Policy may overlap with or be broader than the minimums established in law under the same term.</p> <p>Examples of conduct that may constitute Harassment include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Epithets, slurs, or negative stereotyping that relate to the individual or group’s Protected Characteristics;</li> <li>• Displaying material on University premises that shows hostility or aversion to an individual or group that directly relates to the Protected Characteristics such as the display of the Confederate battle flag, a swastika, or a noose (see <i>note on Academic Freedom</i>).</li> <li>• Graphic, abusive, degrading, intimidating, or offensive jokes, comments, remarks, or gestures directed at an individual or group based upon their Protected Characteristics;</li> <li>• Threatening, intimidating, or hostile acts against an individual or group based on their Protected Characteristics;</li> <li>• Derogatory teasing, tricks, gossip, slights; excluding an individual from projects or activities; and any other acts or omissions taken because of a person’s Protected Characteristics; or</li> <li>• Retaliatory Harassment or any similar conduct when done in retaliation for engaging in a Protected Activity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Investigative Resolution</b></p>	<p>A resolution option that involves an investigation, a determination on responsibility, and, if appropriate, the imposition of sanctions.</p>
<p><b>Party/Parties</b></p>	<p>A Complainant or Respondent participating in a resolution process.</p>
<p><b>Preponderance of the Evidence</b></p>	<p>A standard based on all Relevant evidence and reasonable inferences from the evidence, in which the greater weight of</p>

	information indicates that it was more likely than not the alleged policy violation occurred.
<b>Protected Activity</b>	Making a Good Faith Complaint under this Policy; filing an external complaint with appropriate authority over the matter or issue; opposing in a reasonable manner and consistent with University policy an action reasonably believed to constitute a violation of this Policy or the law; participating in proceedings involving Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation under this Policy or under the relevant laws; or any other activity protected by applicable federal or state civil rights laws.
<b>Protected Characteristics</b>	<p>Race, color, sex, national origin, ethnicity, citizenship, immigration status, disability, sex, age, genetic information, or the refusal to submit to a genetic test, past, current, or prospective service in the uniformed services, or other characteristic protected under applicable federal, Texas, or local law. These “Protected Characteristics” are interpreted consistent with the relevant laws, including all statutory and constitutional protections for religious liberty.</p> <p>When the evidence shows that an employee’s or student’s Protected Characteristics were a substantial influencing factor behind Discrimination or Harassment, a violation of this Policy may be found. An influencing factor is considered substantial when the injurious action or other conduct would not have otherwise reasonably occurred unless the Protected Characteristics were present. A “substantial influencing factor” as identified under this Policy may overlap with or be broader than the minimums established in law under the term “Motivating Factor.”</p>
<b>Relevant</b>	Information that: <b>(a)</b> has any tendency to make a fact more or less probable than it would be without the evidence; and <b>(b)</b> the fact is of consequence in determining the action.
<b>Respondent</b>	An individual who has been accused of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation.

<b>Retaliation</b>	<p>Acts or words against an individual or group of individuals involved in a Protected Activity because of participation in the Protected Activity. Retaliation can take many forms, including, but not limited to, injurious action, violence, threats, or intimidation when such acts or words would discourage a reasonable person (under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the Complainant) from engaging in Protected Activity.</p> <p>When the evidence shows that an employee’s or student’s Protected Activities were a substantial influencing factor behind retaliatory acts, a violation of this Policy may be found. An influencing factor is considered substantial when the acts would not have otherwise reasonably occurred unless the Protected Activity occurred. Sequencing and timing of events will be considered in evaluating influencing factors. A “substantial influencing factor” as identified under this Policy may overlap with or be broader than the minimums established in law under the term “Motivating Factor.”</p>
<b>Supervisor</b>	Any person who has authority to direct a faculty, staff, or student-employee’s work activities and can undertake or recommend tangible employment decisions affecting an employee. It includes Chairs, Department Heads, Managers, Coaches, and Student Employee managers.
<b>Third Party</b>	An individual who is not a Covered Individual (e.g., alumni/ae or visitors).
<b>Witness</b>	An individual who may have information Relevant to a Complaint of Prohibited Conduct. A Witness may be a Covered Individual or a Third Party.
<b>University</b>	As used throughout this Policy, “University” refers to Baylor University.

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**VIII. Contacts**

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<b>Subject</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Office email/web site</b>
Policy Questions, Reports, and Training	Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX Office	254.710.8454	<a href="mailto:Civil_Rights@Baylor.edu">Civil_Rights@Baylor.edu</a> <a href="https://www.baylor.edu/civilrights">https://www.baylor.edu/civilrights</a>

## IX. Responsibilities

<b>Associate Vice President for Equity</b>	<p>Provides oversight for the Equity Office functions including supervision of staff, policy oversight and implementation of processes and practices.</p> <p>The Associate Vice President for Equity may delegate responsibilities under this policy to designated administrators or external professionals, who will have appropriate training and/or experience. When used in this policy, the term Associate Vice President for Equity may include an appropriate designee.</p>
<b>Covered Individuals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know, understand, and comply with this Policy;</li> <li>• Engage bystander intervention strategies to stop Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation;</li> <li>• Be receptive to concerns and Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation; and</li> <li>• Immediately report allegations to the Equity Office (non-supervisors are strongly encouraged to report).</li> </ul>
<b>Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX Office (“Equity Office”)</b>	<p>Oversees the University’s centralized response to all Complaints by or against Covered Individuals or other reports of prohibited conduct against the University or a subset thereof. Ensures consistent implementation of this Policy and compliance with federal and state law.</p>
<b>Human Resources</b>	<p>Coordinates with the Equity Office on Complaints against employees, to include faculty, staff, and student-employees.</p>
<b>Office of General Counsel</b>	<p>Provides legal support to the Equity Office, to include performing legal sufficiency reviews.</p>
<b>Office of Provost</b>	<p>Coordinates with the Equity Office on Complaints against faculty members.</p>
<b>Procurement</b>	<p>Coordinates with the Equity Office on Complaints by or against contractors.</p>
<b>Student Conduct Administration</b>	<p>Coordinates with the Equity Office on Complaints against Students.</p>
<b>Supervisors (includes Chairs and Department Heads)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know and understand this Policy;</li> <li>• Take action to prevent and immediately stop Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation;</li> <li>• Be receptive to concerns and Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation; and</li> <li>• Immediately report allegations to the Equity Office</li> <li>• Immediately take appropriate corrective action (in consultation with the Equity Office and Office of Human Resources) when they become aware of potential violations of this Policy.</li> </ul>
<b>Threat Assessment Group (TAG)</b>	<p>Responsible for analyzing, evaluating, and disseminating protective intelligence information relating to both internal and</p>

	external individuals who may pose a threat to students, faculty, and/or staff.
<b>Vice President &amp; Chief Compliance &amp; Risk Officer</b>	Coordinates the University's compliance with this Policy. May delegate responsibilities under this Policy to designated administrators or external professionals, who will have appropriate training and/or experience.

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## **X. Prohibited Conduct**

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Baylor prohibits Discrimination and Harassment based on Protected Characteristics, and Retaliation for Protected Activity as defined in this Policy by or against Covered Individuals and within the Scope of the Policy, as well as attempts to commit prohibited conduct.

Baylor expects all faculty, staff, students, and Supervisors to engage bystander intervention strategies to stop Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation.

A determination that a Complaint does not violate the Policy may still result in disciplinary action under Baylor's other policies and procedures. Supervisors, in particular, are held to a higher standard to cultivate a work environment consistent with the values and ends articulated in the Policy.

Supervisors must take immediate and appropriate corrective action when they know or should know Discrimination or Harassment is occurring. This can take various forms of intervention and, depending upon the circumstance, will involve the Equity Office and the Office of Human Resources. For example, if a Supervisor overhears a discriminatory or harassing conversation, the Supervisor must report that to the Equity Office. The supervisor should also step in and stop the inappropriate conversation while it is ongoing. If the Supervisor learns that such a conversation occurred in the past, the Supervisor must immediately report it to the Equity Office. Failure by a Supervisor to take immediate and appropriate corrective action when they know or should know that Discrimination or Harassment based on Protected Characteristics is occurring may subject them to discipline, up to and including termination of employment, and/or potential civil liability.

Academic Freedom: The definitions in the Policy (e.g., Harassment) are not intended to limit academic freedom to discuss, teach, research, or publish regarding matters related to Protected Characteristics. Institutions of higher education are established for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching, learning, and research. Accordingly, the Policy does not prohibit authentic, civil

discussions, academically or historically relevant displays, or the holding or civil expression of opinions, on matters of Protected Characteristics and related topics such as, but not limited to, historical and current racial division, sexual identity, disability, or other issues. A person's disagreement with or dislike for a statement or expression is not proof that the statement or expression was threatening, intimidating, degrading, objectively offensive, or hostile.

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## **XI. Procedures**

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All Covered Individuals, regardless of title or location, should follow the procedures below to initiate Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation under which the Equity Office will have the primary responsibility for investigation. Following an initial review of a Complaint, the Equity Office may forward the matter to other offices or entities, as appropriate.

When the Respondent is a staff member or volunteer, the Equity Office may coordinate with Human Resources. When the Respondent is a faculty member, the Equity Office may coordinate with the Office of the Provost. When the Respondent is a student, the Equity Office may coordinate with Student Conduct Administration. When the Respondent is a contractor, the Equity Office will coordinate with Procurement to determine the appropriate course of action under the terms of the contract. Baylor will typically refer Complaints against employees of contractors to the contractor for action. In the event that an individual in the Office of Human Resources, Provost, or Procurement is identified as a Respondent or otherwise materially implicated in supporting the conduct being complained about, the Equity Office will consult with the Vice President or designee over that office in order to potentially recuse the complained-about person from the above consulting activities.

If the Respondent is both a student and an employee, the AVP for Equity will determine which procedures outlined below will apply based upon the facts and circumstances, such as whether the Respondent's status as a student or an employee predominates in the context of the alleged Prohibited Conduct. If a student-employee/employee-student is found to have engaged in Prohibited Conduct, the student-employee/employee-student may be subject to sanctions both in connection with their employment and in connection with their student status, as appropriate under these and other applicable procedures.

If the Respondent is no longer a Covered Individual at the time of the Complaint or at any time before the Resolution of the matter, the University may be limited in its ability to respond to the Complaint. In such circumstances, the University may seek to provide support for the Complainant and take appropriate steps to limit or end the prohibited behavior, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects.

## A. Reporting Civil Rights Complaints to the Equity Office

1. Complaints. Anyone can make a report of suspected or potential violations of this Policy to the Equity Office. This includes those who witness or receive information about, or who have been subjected to Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation by a Covered Individual. The Equity Office will accept Complaints made in person, by phone, or in writing. Individuals making reports to the Equity Office need not state a Complaint to the degree that would be necessary to determine all elements of the allegation but, if possible, a person submitting a report should include the following information when making a Good Faith Complaint: (1) the Complainant's name and contact information; (2) the name of the Respondent(s); (3) an explanation of the conduct reasonably believed to constitute prohibited discriminatory, harassing, or retaliatory conduct with approximate date(s) of when these actions occurred; and (4) a brief description of why the reporter reasonably believes the alleged conduct was based on a Protected Characteristic.

Because of jurisdictional timelines associated with the ability of government agencies and courts to consider violations of various Civil Rights laws (consistent with the exceptions noted above in this Policy), Complaints under the Policy should immediately be made with the Equity Office, and within 180 days of the most recent alleged prohibited discriminatory, harassing, or retaliatory conduct. The Equity Office retains discretion to accept Complaints filed outside of the 180-day timeframe, given that Baylor has an interest in prohibiting misconduct regardless of government or court jurisdiction.

2. Supervisors and Mandatory Reporters. All Supervisors and Equity staff who learn about alleged misconduct in the course and scope of their employment duties *are required to report immediately* to the Equity Office any information they know about suspected or potential violations of this Policy. Student-employees who have supervisory responsibility or responsibility for the welfare of other students and learn of potential violations of this policy in the scope of their employment (e.g., including but not limited to Campus Living & Learning Community Leaders, Resident Chaplains, Athletics Team Managers, Peer Educators, and Line Camp Leaders) are considered Mandatory Reporters. Failure by a Supervisor or Mandatory Reporter to report suspected or potential violations of this Policy in a timely manner may subject them to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

A Complainant may choose not to make a complaint or report in their own case, even if the Complainant would otherwise have reporting obligations by virtue of being a Supervisor or Mandatory Reporter.

3. Reporting by non-Supervisor Covered Individuals. All Covered Individuals, who are not Supervisors or Mandatory Reporters, *are strongly encouraged to report* to the Equity Office any information they know about suspected or potential violations of this Policy. Complaints may be made through Report It, including anonymously through EthicsPoint.
4. Confidential Resources. The University has designated limited categories of employees as Confidential Resources with whom students may speak confidentially concerning Prohibited Conduct. A Confidential Resource is any employee who is a licensed medical, clinical, or mental-health professional (e.g., physicians, nurses, physician's assistants, psychologists, psychiatrists, professional counselors, social workers, and those performing services under their supervision), when acting in that professional role in the provision of services to a patient; and any employee providing administrative, operational, and/or related support for such health care providers in their performance of such services. Employees in the University Counseling Center, and University Health Center, Baylor Psychology Clinic, and Athletics Mental Health Services are confidential resources. The Baylor University Chaplain and the Chaplain assigned to the Louise Herrington School of Nursing in Dallas are also Confidential Resources when acting within a ministerial or pastoral role in the provision of services to a student. Other members of the Office of Spiritual Life, Resident Chaplains, and Athletic Chaplains are not Confidential Resources.
5. Emergency Reports. In the event of an immediate health or safety concern, individuals should contact 911 or Baylor University Policy Department immediately.
6. Good Faith Complaints. Complaints made in Good Faith under this Policy will not result in any injurious action against the Complainant, and no other person who participates in Good Faith in an investigation will be subject to Retaliation because of Good Faith participation. However, if an investigation results in a finding that the Complainant, or other participant in the process, knowingly accused another falsely of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation, then the Complainant, or other such person who did not participate in Good Faith, may be subject to appropriate sanctions, which may include termination of employment or, in the case of students, permanent separation from the University.
7. Confidentiality and Privacy of Reports. The Equity Office is not under any legal obligation to ensure confidentiality of Complaints and cannot promise to do so. The Equity Office does attempt to maintain the privacy of Complaints to the extent consistent with its obligation to enforce this Policy. Information related to a Complaint of Prohibited Conduct will be shared with a limited number of University

employees who need to know in order to assist in the assessment and resolution of the Complaint and related issues. During an investigation, information may be disclosed to participants as necessary to facilitate the thoroughness and integrity of the investigation.

Once a Complaint has been shared with the Equity Office, a Complainant may also directly request that their identity remain private (request for anonymity), that no investigation occur, or that no disciplinary action be taken. The University will carefully balance this request with the University's commitment to utilize its reasonable best efforts to provide a non-discriminatory and harassment-free environment, and the Respondent's right to have specific notice of the allegation(s) if the University were to take action that affects the Respondent. In such circumstances, the Associate Vice President for Equity may arrange for preliminary fact-finding by an investigator to gain a better understanding of the context of the Complaint or take other appropriate steps, including consulting with the University's Threat Assessment Group. See [Balancing Complainant Autonomy with University Responsibility to Investigate](#).

In order to enforce this Policy and the University's legal obligations, and/or protect the safety of the campus community, the Equity Office may proceed, at its discretion, with an investigation, and any appropriate disciplinary action against a Respondent based upon an anonymous Complaint and/or against the request of the Complainant.

Under limited circumstances deemed by the University to pose a threat to the health or safety of any University community member, the University may independently notify law enforcement. An individual may make a report to the University, to law enforcement, to neither, or to both. Campus investigations of Prohibited Conduct and law enforcement investigations operate independently of one another, although the University will coordinate information with the Baylor University Police Department as appropriate.

8. Public Awareness Events. Supervisors and Mandatory Reporters are not required to report information disclosed at public awareness events (e.g., protests, survivor speak-outs) or other public forums in which individuals may disclose Prohibited Conduct. The University may however provide information about rights and available University and community resources and support at public awareness events.

## B. Supportive and Protective Measures

Upon receipt of a report of Prohibited Conduct, the Equity Office will initially reach out to the Complainant and offer to provide reasonable and appropriate Supportive or Protective Measures designed to: preserve the Parties' educational or workplace experiences; protect the Parties during an investigation; address safety concerns for the broader University community; maintain the integrity of the resolution process; and/or deter further injurious actions and Retaliation. Supportive Measures are designed to maintain appropriate working or learning conditions, and Protective Measures involve a restrictive action against a Respondent. At the appropriate time, the Equity Office will also reach out to the Respondent regarding Protective Measures and will offer Supportive Measures. Examples of Supportive or Protective Measures may include:

- assistance in accessing support services, including, as available, counseling, academic support, and health or mental health services, both on and off campus, as applicable;
- modifications of work schedules, change in work locations, changing working arrangements, or providing other employment accommodations as appropriate;
- mutual restrictions on contact between the Parties (i.e., "no contact directives");
- modifications of University housing, including but not limited to arranging for new housing, or providing temporary housing options, as appropriate;
- leaves of absence;
- restriction on Respondent's access to classrooms, space, and/or resources;
- suspension of the Respondent; and/or
- other reasonable measures that can be used to achieve the goals of this Policy.

The determination of whether to implement Protective Measures for faculty, staff, or volunteers will be made by the Equity Office in consultation with Human Resources and Office of Provost for faculty members and may include consultation with the appropriate department(s) where the Complainant and Respondent work. The determination of whether to implement Protective Measures for students will be made by the Equity Office and may occur in consultation with the Vice President for Student Life, or his/her designee, or other offices as appropriate. While the Equity Office will not typically conduct investigations into Complaints against a Contractor or Contractor employees, in the event that Protective Measures for a Contractor or Contractor employees are needed, those measures will be coordinated with Procurement prior to decision and implementation. In appropriate cases the Equity Office will also coordinate with the divisional Vice President and the University's Threat Assessment Group.

A Respondent may be suspended (paid or unpaid) from employment, volunteer activities, or enrollment on an interim basis under appropriate circumstances as determined by the University, in its discretion. For example, without limitation, suspension may occur when the University has received information which indicates that the continued presence on campus of the Respondent will likely have a serious detrimental effect on the physical, mental, or emotional health, safety, or well-being of another person; when physical safety is seriously threatened; when the ability of the University to carry out its operations is threatened or impaired; or where the Equity Office in conjunction with the Threat Assessment Group concludes that other Protective Measures (such as a temporary transfer) are not feasible to address reasonable concerns under the circumstances. In these or other appropriate circumstances a Complainant may also be placed on a temporary leave of absence (paid or unpaid).

The decision to impose an interim suspension or leave of absence may be made at any point in the process. The University will implement Supportive or Protective Measures to Third Parties as appropriate and available, taking into account the role of the Third Party and the nature of any contractual relationship with the University. Any Supportive or Protective Measures will be designed to the extent reasonable and practicable to not disproportionately impact the Complainant. The University will maintain the privacy of any Supportive or Protective Measures provided under this Policy to the extent practicable. The University will promptly address any violation of Protective Measures.

All individuals are encouraged to report to the Equity Office any concerns about the failure of another to abide by the terms of Protective Measures. In the event of an immediate health or safety concern, individuals should contact 911 or Baylor University Police Department immediately. The University may take immediate action to enforce a previously implemented measure(s), and disciplinary penalties up to and including employment or contract termination, removal as a student, and permanent removal from campus, can be imposed for failing to abide by a University-imposed Protective Measure(s).

### C. Initial Contact with Complainant

After receiving a report of Prohibited Conduct, the Equity Office will:

- (1) promptly contact or attempt to contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of Supportive Measures (unless deemed unnecessary because contact has already been made with the Complainant regarding the conduct alleged in the report);

- (2) inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without pursuing resolution and consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures; and
- (3) explain to the complainant the process for requesting resolution.

#### D. Evaluation of Complaint

As part of or in addition to the initial contact with the complainant, the Equity Office will assess the nature and circumstances of the report to determine whether the reported conduct raises a potential policy violation and whether the reported conduct is within the scope of this policy. If the initial Complaint lacks sufficient information for the Equity Office to make this decision, the Equity Office may contact the Complainant and/or other appropriate University community members to gather further information. The Equity Office has the discretion to make this evaluation prior to or after interviewing the Complainant.

As part of the initial evaluation of a Complaint, the Equity Office may:

- notify the Complainant of the importance of preservation of evidence;
- assess for any pattern of improper conduct by the Respondent;
- discuss the Complainant's expressed preference for manner of resolution and any barriers to proceeding (e.g., confidentiality concerns); and
- explain the University's Whistleblower Policy (BU-PP 037) prohibiting Retaliation, that the University will take prompt action when Retaliation is reported, and how to report acts of Retaliation.

At the conclusion of the initial assessment, the University will proceed with one of the following options:

- (1) Proceed with an investigation under the Investigative Resolution process. This will occur when a party requests an investigation and the AVP for Equity determines it is appropriate; or when the AVP for Equity determines that an investigation must be pursued even when a Complainant makes no request or requests that no investigation be pursued.
- (2) Proceed with Adaptable Resolution. This will always require the consent of the Complainant and approval of the AVP for Equity. The consent of the Respondent is also required when the form of resolution involves the Respondent.
- (3) If outside the scope of this policy, refer the matter to another appropriate office or department for resolution under the relevant policy.
- (4) If the Complainant requests that the University not pursue a resolution process and the University determines that it can respect that request, the University

will close the report. This option could include notifying the Respondent of the alleged misconduct. The level of detail shared with the respondent will be at the discretion of the AVP for Equity. The University may re-open the matter if the Complainant subsequently requests resolution or if the University subsequently determines there is a need to re-open the matter.

#### E. Evaluating Requests for Resolution

A party's request for either Adaptable or Investigative Resolution must be reviewed and approved by the AVP for Equity.

- (1) In evaluating requests for Adaptable Resolution, the AVP for Equity will consider factors such as, but not limited to, the stated goals of the requesting party, the severity of the alleged violation, the potential risks to campus community members posed by the reported misconduct, and whether the process would conflict with Federal, State, or local law.
- (2) In evaluating requests for Investigative Resolution, the AVP for Equity may decline a request for the following reasons:
  - i. The alleged misconduct, even if proven, would not constitute Prohibited Conduct under this Policy.
  - ii. The complaint alleges conduct that must first be addressed through the Academic Appeals Process or through another University process altogether (e.g. tenure grievances, faculty dismissal, disability accommodation requests).
- (3) The AVP for Equity will notify the requesting party of any decision to decline a request for Resolution. If the other party has already been made aware of the Resolution request, the other party will also receive notice of the denial. Both parties will still be able to request Supportive Measures.

#### F. Balancing Complainant Autonomy with University Decision to Respond

In order to protect the safety of the campus community, the AVP for Equity may decide to initiate or continue Investigative Resolution even if a Complainant specifically requests that the matter not be pursued. The Equity Office may also initiate an inquiry of potential violations of this policy even absent a Complaint or identified Complainant or Respondent and even if a report has been withdrawn. If a Complainant requests that the University not investigate the alleged incident, the University may gather facts about the alleged incident in a manner that complies with the confidentiality parameter described above. In determining whether to investigate the alleged incident(s), the University will consider factors such as, for example:

- the seriousness of the alleged incident;

- whether the institution has received other reports of Prohibited Conduct committed by the Respondent(s);
- whether the alleged incident poses a risk of harm to others; and
- any other factors the University determines are Relevant.

A Complainant may request that their name or other personally-identifiable information not be shared with a Respondent, that no investigation be pursued, or that no disciplinary action be taken. In these instances, before taking any further investigative steps, a member of the Equity Office will discuss any concerns with the Complainant and, to the extent reasonable and practicable under the circumstances, seek to address and remedy barriers to reporting and/or participation based upon concerns about Retaliation or other lack of clarity in understanding procedural options and potential outcomes.

The AVP for Equity will consider what steps may be possible or appropriate when a Respondent is unknown or the Complainant requests anonymity, and what other measures or remedies might be considered to address any effects of the reported behavior on the campus community. The AVP for Equity will make a determination regarding the appropriate manner of resolution under the policy. The University will seek resolution consistent with the Complainant's request, if it is reasonable and practicable to do so, based upon the facts and circumstances, while also promoting the health and safety of the Complainant and the University community. The University's ability to investigate and respond fully to a report may be limited if the Complainant requests anonymity or declines to participate in an investigation.

The University may also or alternatively take other appropriate steps to eliminate the reported conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects on the Complainant and the University community, and/or take steps designed to restore or preserve the Complainant's equal access to the University's education program or activity, as practicable under the circumstances. Such steps may include offering appropriate Supportive Measures to the Complainant, providing targeted training and prevention programs, and/or providing or imposing other remedies. The AVP for Equity may also request that a report be re-opened and pursued under this policy if any new or additional information becomes available, and/or if the Complainant decides that they would like Investigative Resolution to occur.

In those instances when the AVP for Equity determines that the University will proceed with an investigation despite the Complainant's request that one not occur, the AVP for Equity will notify the Complainant of the University's decision to investigate the matter, but the Complainant will not be required to participate in the investigation or in any of the actions taken by the University if they choose not to do so. If a Complainant declines to participate, the University will usually not include the Complainant in the

remaining process steps. If a Complainant initially declines to participate, that Complainant may request to participate again at any time during the fact gathering process. Requests to participate will not be granted once the fact gathering process is complete.

## G. Resolution Options

The University is committed to providing a prompt, thorough, equitable, and impartial resolution of reported violations of this Policy. There are several resolution options available for addressing Complaints. The Equity Office will seek input from the Complainant regarding resolution options but, ultimately, the Equity Office has the discretion to determine the most appropriate path for addressing a Complaint.

Throughout any resolution process, each Party has the right to consult with an advisor of their choosing. The advisor may be any person, including an attorney. The Parties may be accompanied by their respective advisor at any meeting or proceeding related to the resolution of a Complaint under this Policy. While an advisor may provide support and advice to a Party at any meeting, the institution may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which an advisor may participate in the proceedings. Advisors may not speak on behalf of the Parties or otherwise participate in, or in any manner delay, disrupt, or interfere with meetings. Generally, the Equity Office and investigator will communicate directly with the Complainant or Respondent, and any communications with an advisor may only occur after a FERPA waiver (for students) or privacy waiver (for employees) has been executed. An advisor should plan to make themselves reasonably available, and the University will not unduly delay the scheduling of meetings or proceedings based on the advisor's unavailability.

### 1. Adaptable Resolution.

Adaptable Resolution is a voluntary and remedies-based resolution option. Adaptable Resolution may be pursued instead of Investigative Resolution at the request and agreement of both Parties and as deemed appropriate by the University. The AVP for Equity will assess the request for Adaptable Resolution in light of factors such as, but not limited to, the stated goals of the requesting party, the severity of the alleged violation, and the potential risks to campus community members posed by the reported misconduct. Parties engaged in Investigative Resolution may also request to end Investigative Resolution and begin Adaptable Resolution at any time prior to a determination regarding responsibility being shared. The University will only proceed with Adaptable Resolution if both parties provide their voluntary written consent. Adaptable Resolution may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following approaches: Restorative Justice Conference, Restorative Justice Circle, Facilitated Conversation, and Shuttle

Communication. The University will not compel a Party to participate in any particular form of Adaptable Resolution conducted under this Policy.

Participation in Adaptable Resolution is voluntary, and any Party can request to end Adaptable Resolution at any time prior to signing a written Adaptable Resolution agreement. Additionally, the AVP for Equity can end Adaptable Resolution if the AVP determines it is no longer the appropriate avenue for resolution for a given report. If Adaptable Resolution is stopped prior to completion, information that is shared with or documented by the facilitator of the Adaptable Resolution will not be shared with the investigator if Investigative Resolution is initiated or resumed. Statements made by a party in Adaptable Resolution cannot be used in an Investigative Resolution process. A Party's willingness to participate in Adaptable Resolution will not be considered as evidence in Investigative Resolution.

Adaptable Resolution does not include an investigation or adjudication by the University under the Investigative Resolution process outlined in this Policy but may involve the Respondent's agreement to appropriate and reasonable remedies, including supported direct conversation or interaction with the Complainant, education, training, and/or other remedies agreed to by the Parties.

The Equity Office will maintain records of all reports and conduct referred for Adaptable Resolution, which should typically be completed within 60 calendar days of the agreement to begin Adaptable Resolution. While the University will seek to honor confidentiality of the Parties' communications with the facilitator during the Adaptable Resolution process to the extent necessary to facilitate the resolution, the University may share information discussed or created during this process, for example without limitation, in response to a judicial subpoena or a FERPA educational record request. However, if the Respondent is found responsible for any violations of this Policy in the future, information regarding the prior report processed through Adaptable Resolution, as well as the fact of any agreed resolution, may be used and fully considered in the sanctioning phase for the subsequent report, provided that the Respondent is granted the opportunity to address the prior report as well.

If a Party requests the initiation of an Adaptable Resolution process and the AVP for Equity agrees that the matter is appropriate for Adaptable Resolution, the Equity Office will provide to each Party a written notice that discloses:

- the allegations;
- the requirements of the Adaptable Resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the Parties from initiating or resuming Investigative Resolution arising from the same allegations;

- the Parties' right to withdraw from Adaptable Resolution and resume or initiate Investigative Resolution with respect to the Complaint; and
- information about maintenance of records or how records could be shared.

The matter will be deemed resolved if and when the Parties expressly agree in writing to an outcome that is acceptable to them, and which is approved by the AVP for Equity (in consultation with other appropriate University administrators as deemed necessary). A Party may withdraw from the Adaptable Resolution process at any time prior to signing a written Adaptable Resolution agreement. Upon signing a resolution agreement, neither Party may initiate an Investigative Resolution process regarding the same factual allegations, and the Parties agree to comply with the terms of the resolution agreement. Failure to comply with a resolution agreement, once signed and approved, may result in disciplinary consequences, which may include, without limitation, the University placing an appropriate hold on the student's account until the terms of the agreement are met, or employment discipline up to and including termination.

Generally, the University will not offer or facilitate an Adaptable Resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee engaged in Prohibited Conduct against a student. In the rare instances where Adaptable Resolution is used in cases involving students and employees, the remedies offered through the resolution agreements may be limited, and may be coordinated by the Equity Office with HR and/or Office of the Provost.

The facilitator(s) for Adaptable Resolution will not be the Investigator assigned for Investigative Resolution (if applicable).

## 2. Investigative Resolution.

Investigative Resolution involves an investigation, determination on responsibility, and, if appropriate, the imposition of sanctions. When the Equity Office determines a Complaint warrants further investigation or it is appropriate for the Investigative Resolution process to proceed, the Equity Office will appoint one or more trained investigators to conduct a prompt, thorough, fair, and impartial investigation, all to the extent reasonable and practicable. The investigator(s) will be impartial and free from conflict of interest or bias.

The Equity Office has the discretion to consolidate multiple Complaints into a single investigation if evidence Relevant to one incident might be Relevant to the other(s). The Equity Office may also investigate whether the alleged conduct violates other University policies.

a) Investigation Expectations.

- (1) Timeframe for Investigation and Resolution. The Equity Office has a goal of completing the investigation and resolution process in approximately 60-90 calendar days following notice to the Parties that it is proceeding with an investigation. The University may extend any timeframe in this Policy. Typically, the Equity Office will determine that additional time is needed to ensure the integrity and thoroughness of the investigation; to comply with a request by law enforcement; in response to the unavailability of the Parties or Witnesses; or for other legitimate reasons. There are many factors that can affect deadlines such as intervening breaks in the University calendar (including summer and winter breaks), University finals periods, the complexity of the investigation and the severity and extent of the alleged misconduct.

Requests for delays by the Parties for good cause may be considered. However, the University will not approve a request that unduly or unreasonably delays the prompt resolution of a Complaint under this Policy.

The Equity Office will notify the Parties in writing of any extension of the timeframes granted at the good cause request of one of the Parties and the reason stated for the extension. The Equity Office will work with the Parties to balance the need for promptness and the preference for in-person meetings regarding the investigation.

- (2) Rights of all Parties. During the investigation, except as otherwise described in this Policy, the participating Complainant and Respondent have equal rights to receive a written notice of investigation; to participate in the investigation; to review and present information and evidence, including Witnesses; to timely and equal access to information that will be used in disciplinary proceedings; and to timely notice of meetings at which their presence will be requested or required. The Respondent will receive written notice of the outcome.
- (3) Obligation to Provide Truthful Information. All Covered Individuals are expected to provide truthful information in any report or proceeding under this Policy. Submitting or providing false or misleading information in bad faith or with a view to personal gain or intentional harm to another in connection with an incident of Prohibited Conduct is prohibited and subject to student conduct disciplinary sanctions and/or employee discipline up to and including termination. This provision does not apply to Complaints

made or information provided in Good Faith, even if the facts alleged in the Complaint are not later substantiated or no Policy violation is found to have occurred.

- (4) Cooperation. Baylor expects all Covered Individuals to cooperate fully with any inquiry, investigation, and resolution procedures. Failure or refusal to cooperate includes, but is not limited to, delaying or failing to acknowledge requests from University officials for information; or delaying or failing to make oneself available for meetings with University officials. In some cases, refusal to cooperate could result in student conduct disciplinary sanctions and/or employee discipline up to and including termination. This Section does not mandate a Respondent incriminate him or herself but does require any statements be truthful. Complainants may decline to cooperate to the extent identified above. The Equity Office is permitted to, but is not required to, draw adverse inferences from a refusal of a Complainant or Respondent to cooperate. At a minimum, refusal to participate and cooperate in an investigation is a waiver of rights to be included in the remaining process steps and to challenge the process or the outcome of the investigation. Declining to participate in the investigation may also impact the timing and outcome of the case.
- (5) Withdrawal or Termination of a Respondent. If a Respondent is no longer a Covered Individual during an investigation, the University may, but is not required to, proceed with the investigation and resolution process. The University also reserves the right to impose sanctions on the former employee or student, including, without limitation, limiting their right to reapply, not providing references, inserting notations on transcripts, and/or restricting access to University property.
- (6) Coordination with Law Enforcement. If the alleged conduct in the Complaint is a potential violation of criminal law, the Equity Office will advise the Complainant of their right to file a criminal complaint and direct the Complainant to appropriate resources. If there is a concurrent criminal investigation, the University may contact the law enforcement agency that is conducting any investigation to inform that agency that a University investigation is also in progress, to attempt to ascertain the status of the criminal investigation, and to determine the extent to which any evidence collected by law enforcement may be available to the University in its investigation. In most cases, the University will not delay its own investigation pending the criminal investigation. University employees are not to attempt to discourage employees from pursuing their legal remedies.

b) The Investigation Process.

The Equity Office will exercise its discretion to determine the nature and steps to be followed in any investigation based upon the identity of the Complainant and Respondent; the nature and severity of the alleged conduct; and other factors. At any point in the investigation process, the Equity Office may expand or narrow the scope of the investigation based upon a determination that allegations do not state a violation of this Policy, or that there are new violations of this or other policies. The Complainant and Respondent will be informed of such decisions in writing.

Most investigations will follow similar steps, but the order of those steps may vary. For example, Witnesses may be interviewed before the Respondent.

- (1) Notice to Complainant. When the Equity Office concludes that the allegations of the Complaint state a potential violation, the Equity Office will notify the Complainant of that determination and will offer to meet with the Complainant to confirm the specific factual allegations and discuss the Equity Office's procedures.
- (2) Notice to Respondent. If the Equity Office initiates an investigation, the Equity Office will notify the Respondent and provide written information on available resources, options, and Supportive Measures.
- (3) Interview(s) with the Complainant and Respondent. The initial interview with each Party will include a request for identification of any Relevant Witnesses and production to the Equity Office of any Relevant evidence. Initial interviews will usually be in person, but subsequent communications may be by video interview, phone, or email. Subsequent interviews may be needed to review facts that develop during the investigation, or to give the Party an opportunity to respond to information from the other Party or Witnesses. The Equity Office may share a written or oral summary with the other Parties. In addition to the formal interviews, the Parties may be asked to write a statement or to review and verify a summary of allegations or summary of the interview.
- (4) Collection of Evidence and Interviews with Witnesses. The amount and type of evidence that may be Relevant, including Witnesses, may vary. The investigator has discretion to determine which Witnesses to interview and will consider requests or recommendations for Witnesses made by the Complainant and Respondent. Not every Witness suggested by the Complainant or Respondent may be interviewed, for example, if: their

knowledge is not Relevant, is duplicative, or is only of facts that are not contested; or the Witness is uncooperative or cannot reasonably be reached. Witnesses may not participate solely to speak about an individual's character. Investigators may also need to interview Supervisors and administrators when alleged conduct involves injurious employment actions.

(5) Prior or Subsequent Conduct of the Respondent. Prior or subsequent conduct of the Respondent may be considered in determining pattern, knowledge, intent, motive, or absence of mistake. For example, evidence of a pattern of Prohibited Conduct by the Respondent, either before or after the incident in question, regardless of whether there has been a prior finding of a Policy violation, may be deemed Relevant to the determination of responsibility for the Prohibited Conduct under investigation. The determination of relevance of prior conduct pattern evidence will be based on an assessment of whether the previous or subsequent conduct was substantially similar to the conduct under investigation or indicates a pattern of similar Prohibited Conduct. The investigator will determine the relevance of this information and both Parties will be informed if evidence of prior or subsequent conduct is deemed Relevant.

(6) Standard of Proof. The Equity Office will decide, by a Preponderance of the Evidence, whether there is sufficient evidence to support a finding of a Policy violation. The Complainant does not have the burden of proving a Policy violation occurred. However, failure of a Complainant to fully cooperate in Good Faith may deprive the investigator of Relevant evidence upon which to base a finding.

c) Investigative Reports, Findings, Sanctions

(1) No Hearings. The Equity Office is not required to conduct evidentiary hearings as part of its Civil Rights Policy investigations, and it would be rare to do so. As a result, Parties should not anticipate or expect direct confrontation with or opportunities to cross-examine other Parties or Witnesses. The Equity Office may, in some cases, meet with the Parties together if this will facilitate fact-finding.

(2) Relevance. The Equity Office has the discretion to determine what information is Relevant to evaluate the credibility of the Parties and Witnesses, whether Prohibited Conduct has occurred, and if so, what the appropriate remedy is. In general, the investigator will not consider as Relevant statements of personal opinion or statements as to any party's

general reputation for any character trait. Depending on the situation, the prior and subsequent conduct of the Parties, evidence of their biases, and other factors may become Relevant.

- (3) Preliminary Investigative Report (“PIR”). The investigator will provide each participating Party with an equal opportunity to review a Preliminary Investigative Report. The report will contain all evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised, including inculpatory and exculpatory evidence and evidence upon which the University may not rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility, so that each Party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation. Such evidence will include any statements made by the Parties and Witnesses, written or electronic communications, social media posts, videos, photographs, and any other Relevant documentary evidence gathered by the investigator, redacted as necessary to comply with any applicable federal or state law regarding confidentiality. Such evidence will not include privileged records or information that may have been gathered or received during the investigation, without written consent from the Party holding the privilege.

The University will provide to each Covered Individual who is a participating Party, and the Party’s advisor, if any, access to an electronic version of the PIR via an online file sharing platform. Parties and advisors are not permitted to download, print, photograph, or copy the PIR or evidence and are not permitted to re-disclose the PIR or evidence without the University’s permission. Violations of these prohibitions may subject Parties to University discipline under this Policy, applicable conduct codes, or employee disciplinary processes.

There may be occasions for good cause where sharing a PIR in full is not possible, feasible, or appropriate or the PIR is redacted, for example without limitation, for FERPA-protected information.

The participating Complainant and Respondent will have an opportunity to concurrently review the PIR (to the extent not protected or privileged) and may, within seven business days, submit a written response to the investigator. The Parties’ written responses will be considered by the investigator prior to completion of the investigative report, and some or all of the responses may be attached or otherwise incorporated into the investigative report. In the event that new, Relevant information is provided or identified at this stage, the information will be incorporated into the investigative report as deemed appropriate by the investigator and will be

shared with both Parties. As appropriate, the Parties may have the opportunity for further response if sufficient new information has been gathered. If additional review is granted, each Party will have three business days to review any additional information and any further comment by the Parties will be limited to responding to the new information only.

A PIR will include the allegation(s), factual summaries, and other appropriate elements as determined by the Equity Office. The Preliminary Report will not include the finding.

- (4) Final Investigative Report (“FIR”); Sanctions. When deemed appropriate by the investigator, the investigator will prepare a Final Investigative Report, which will: fairly summarize Relevant evidence; include as exhibits evidentiary materials as deemed appropriate by the investigator; and communicate findings. Complainants will not be given access to the FIR.

(a) When the Respondent is a Student:

- (i) Final Investigative Report. The FIR will communicate any findings, sanctions, or remedies. The Equity Office will provide viewing access of the report to the Respondent and his/her advisor. In addition, the Equity Office will provide full access to the report and supporting material as appropriate to any University administrators with a business reason to view the report, such as those for whom it is necessary to implement the sanctions and remedies. There may be occasions for good cause where sharing a complete FIR is not possible, feasible, or appropriate or the FIR is redacted, for example without limitation, for FERPA-protected information.

The Respondent and advisor are not permitted to download, print, photograph, or copy the FIR. Violations of these prohibitions may subject Parties to University discipline under applicable conduct codes or disciplinary processes.

- (ii) Determination of Sanctions. This Policy prohibits a broad range of conduct, all of which is serious in nature. In keeping with the University’s commitment to foster an environment that is safe, inclusive, and free from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation, the Equity Office has latitude in the imposition of sanctions tailored to the facts and circumstances of each Report, the impact of the conduct on the University, its constituents, and the

surrounding community, as well as accountability for the Respondent. The imposition of sanctions is designed to eliminate Prohibited Conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects, while supporting the University's educational mission and federal and state obligations. Sanctions may include educational, restorative, rehabilitative, and punitive components up to and including termination, suspension, and/or expulsion.

The Equity Office may consult with University administrators in making a determination regarding sanctions and remedies. The appropriate University administrators will execute the sanctions and remedies in accordance with University policies.

The Equity Office may solicit information from the Complainant, the Respondent, and any other Baylor administrator who can provide information Relevant to a determination regarding sanctions. The Equity Office may also solicit and review any written impact or mitigation statement submitted by the Complainant or Respondent. In determining the appropriate sanction, the Equity Office shall consider the following factors:

- the nature and violence of the conduct at issue;
- the impact of the conduct on the Complainant;
- the impact or implications of the conduct on the community or the University;
- prior misconduct by the Respondent, including the Respondent's Relevant prior discipline history, both at the University or elsewhere (if available), including criminal convictions;
- maintenance of a safe and respectful environment conducive to learning;
- protection of the University community; and
- any other mitigating, aggravating, or compelling circumstances in order to reach a just and appropriate resolution in each case.

(iii) Sanctions and Remedies Available. Where there is a finding of responsibility, the investigator may impose one or more sanctions. Sanctions against students may include any of the sanctions that are listed below or set forth for violations of the University's Student Conduct Code. Sanctions may be imposed individually or in combination. For violations of this Policy, the following sanctions, listed in ascending order of severity, may be imposed.

- Warning: A formal admonition.
- Disciplinary Probation: A more serious admonition may be assigned for a definite amount of time. It implies that any future violation, of whatever kind, during that time, may be grounds for suspension, suspension with conditions, or, in especially serious cases, expulsion from the University. Disciplinary probation will be taken into account in judging the seriousness of any subsequent infraction, even if the probationary period has expired.
- Withholding of Degree: In cases involving seniors or graduate students in their final semester, the University may withhold conferring a student's Baylor degree for a specified period of time. This penalty is imposed instead of suspension at the end of senior year or final year of graduate study when all other degree requirements have been met.
- Suspension: Student status at the University may be terminated for a specified period of time. During a time of suspension, the student is not permitted on the University's campus or at University functions, whether on or off campus. This restriction includes participation in services provided by the University to students, including any Baylor academic course work.
- Suspension with Conditions: Student status at the University may be terminated for at least the period of time specified by the suspension, with the suspension to continue until certain conditions, stipulated by the appropriate body applying this penalty, have been fulfilled. These conditions may include, but are not limited to, restitution of damages and formal apology.
- Expulsion: This is permanent termination of student status at the University, without any opportunity for readmission. Expelled students are not permitted on the University's campus or at University functions, whether on or off campus. This restriction includes participation in services provided by the University to students, including any Baylor academic course work.

The following outcomes may accompany the preceding sanctions, as appropriate:

- Community Service: Community service up to 10 hours per week may be added to disciplinary probation for a portion or duration of the probationary period or following a warning.

- University Housing: When appropriate to the infraction, removal from University housing or relocation within University housing may be added to any of the other penalties listed above (except warning).
- Restriction of Access to Space, Resources, and Activities: When appropriate in cases involving behavioral misconduct between members of the community, restrictions may be placed on access to space and/or resources or on participation in activities so as to limit opportunities for contact between the Parties.
- Educational Programs: In addition to any of the sanctions listed above, a student may be required to participate in educational programs.

The fact that these additional outcomes are listed here as examples does not limit the University's ability to issue Protective Measures such as restriction of access to space, resources, and activities, and/or no contact directives at its discretion even where no policy violation has been investigated or charged, and/or where no policy violation has been found.

All sanctions appear in an individual's disciplinary record at the University and may be disclosed by the University when the student consents in writing or as otherwise required by law.

Sanctions will be imposed as soon as practical under the circumstances and may be suspended during the period of any appeal, in a manner that preserves both the respondent's rights and the University's ability to carry out the sanctions. In cases adjudicated prior to the last day of classes, if the final sanction is separation from the University (i.e., suspension, suspension with conditions, or expulsion), the effective date will be at the discretion of the investigator, and the granting of credit for the semester and/or the conferring of a degree will be at the discretion of the University.

A student who is suspended or expelled for a violation of this Policy will have the notation "Ineligible to Reenroll" placed on his or her academic transcript. On request by the student, the University may remove the notation from the academic transcript if (1) the student is eligible to reenroll, or (2) the University determines that good cause exists to remove the notation. Such requests should be directed to the AVP for Equity in writing. The removal of the notation

from the academic transcript shall not require the University to make any modification to the student's disciplinary records at the University.

(b) When the Respondent is Faculty or Staff, or Student-Employee: This Policy is to be interpreted in a manner consistent with and equivalent to the applicable federal state, and local laws prohibiting employment Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation. This policy does not create contractual rights regarding employment, discipline, termination or otherwise. As a result, this policy does not in and of itself create any legal obligation for Baylor.

(i) Final Investigative Report. The FIR will communicate findings on the allegations. The Equity Office will provide viewing access of the report to the Respondent and his/her advisor. In addition, the Equity Office will provide full access of the report and supporting material as appropriate to any University administrators with a business reason to view the report, such as those for whom it is necessary to implement the sanctions and remedies. There may be occasions for good cause where sharing a complete FIR is not possible, feasible, or appropriate or the FIR is redacted, for example without limitation, for legally protected information.

The Respondent and advisor are not permitted to download, print, photograph, or copy the FIR. Violations of these prohibitions may subject Parties to University discipline under applicable conduct codes or employee disciplinary processes.

(ii) Sanctions and Remedies Available. In cases where the Respondent is a University employee, the sanctions will be determined by: the Provost's Office; or supervisory chain with guidance from the Provost's Office and/or Human Resources; or by another appropriate body or administrator, in accordance with the University policies and procedures.

Disciplinary action may include, without limitation, (in accordance with the employment policies governing the employee in question) counseling or training, written warning, financial penalty, paid or unpaid leave of absence, suspension, demotion, reassignment of duties, or termination. Disciplinary action will be determined based on the seriousness of the misconduct and on the individual's prior disciplinary history, if any. Determination of sanctions may also

implicate contractual issues for those who have employment contracts.

The disciplinary action or remedies will be communicated to the Respondent by the appropriate administrator and may be in coordination with the Equity Office.

- d) Appeal Process. A Respondent found to have committed misconduct may appeal such a finding to the Associate Vice President for Equity. Appeals will typically be reviewed by an Appeal Officer appointed by the AVP for Equity. A request for appeal must be submitted in writing to the AVP for Equity no later than seven business days after delivery of notice of the Final Investigative Report to the Respondent.

A student is afforded the option to appeal the finding of responsibility; and/or 2) the sanction(s) imposed.

An employee is only afforded the option to appeal the finding of responsibility. Appeals for sanctions should be made through appropriate University processes based on the disciplinary authority: HR for staff and the Provost's Office for faculty.

(1) Appeal of Finding of Responsibility

The grounds for appeal of a finding of responsibility are: 1) the finding was arbitrary or capricious; 2) there was a material procedural error that substantially impacted the outcome; or 3) there is new evidence that was not reasonably available and that could substantially impact the outcome.

If the Appeal Officer agrees that any grounds for appeal have been satisfied, the Appeal Officer can nullify or modify the finding, or take other action as deemed appropriate at the discretion of the Appeal Officer. If the Appeal Officer does not agree that a ground for appeal has been satisfied, the Appeal Officer will affirm the finding, and the University's decision in the matter will be final.

(2) Appeal of the Sanction(s) Imposed

If a student Respondent believes the sanctions imposed are not appropriate for the violation, he or she may file an appeal.

The Appeal Officer will review the information provided in the appeal and other information as determined at the Appeal Officer's discretion and decide to:

- a. Let the sanctions stand;

- b. Modify the sanctions or impose different sanctions; or
- c. Suspend the sanctions.

The decision of the Appeal Officer regarding an appeal of sanctions constitutes the University's final decision on the matter.

- e) Additional Remedies. Regardless of the outcome of an Investigation, the Equity Office may recommend additional remedies for the Complainant to address the effects of the conduct on the Complainant, restore the Complainant's access to University programs and activities, and restore to the Complainant, to the extent possible, benefits and opportunities lost (if any) as a result of the Prohibited Conduct. The Equity Office may also identify remedies to address the effects of the conduct on the University community.
- f) Re-opening Investigations. The University recognizes that under extraordinary circumstances, a Complainant or Respondent may identify newly discovered information that was not previously available during the investigation through the exercise of due diligence. The Equity Office has the discretion to review this information and determine whether it would have substantially affected the finding or sanction or if another compelling justification exists for its consideration. If so, the Equity Office may review the investigative finding or outcome and refer the matter for additional action in furtherance of this Policy.

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## **XII. Other Provisions**

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### **A. Pregnancy and Related Conditions**

#### **1. Notice**

When a student notifies the Equity Office of the student's pregnancy or related conditions, the Equity Office will provide the University's notice of nondiscrimination, and will provide information about the student's rights and resources for modification and support.

#### **2. Modifications and Accommodations**

For students and employees experiencing their own pregnancy and related conditions (i.e. not partners of those individuals), reasonable modifications or accommodations are available for policies, practices, or procedures as necessary to ensure equal access to educational programs and activities. Students who need to request reasonable modifications should contact the [Office of Access and Learning Accommodation](#). Additional detailed information about resources for pregnant and parenting students can be found [online](#). Modifications for students are made on an individualized basis, in consultation with the student or employee. Modifications that would fundamentally alter the nature of an education program or activity will not be approved.

Modifications may include, but are not limited to: breaks during class to express breast milk, breastfeed, or attend to health needs associated with pregnancy or related

conditions, including eating, drinking, or using the restroom; intermittent absences to attend medical appointments; access to online education; changes in schedule or course sequence; extensions of time for coursework and rescheduling of tests and examinations; allowing a student to sit or stand, or carry or keep water nearby; counseling; changes in physical space or supplies (for example, access to a larger desk or a footrest); elevator access; or other changes to policies, practices or procedures.

Employees should request accommodations through [Human Resources](#). Available accommodations are similar to the modifications available to students, and are consistent with the [Pregnant Workers Fairness Act](#). An employee who is temporarily unable to perform one or more essential functions of their job, and who therefore needs light duty or a change in their work assignments, may be able to get such a change as a reasonable accommodation. Requests for accommodation which would cause the University an undue hardship or are not reasonable or not arrived at through the interactive process may not be approved.

Supporting documentation may be required when requested modifications or accommodations go beyond what is obvious or standard for pregnancy and related conditions.

### 3. Voluntary Leave of Absence

Students may voluntarily take a leave of absence to cover, at minimum, the period of time deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed healthcare provider. When the student returns to the University, the student will be reinstated to the academic status and, as practicable, to the extracurricular status that the student held when the voluntary leave began. Students should contact the Equity Office to work collaboratively with a Case Coordinator regarding the logistics of taking and returning from a leave of absence.

Employees with insufficient accrued leave may take a voluntary leave of absence without pay for a reasonable period of time. Upon return, the qualified employee will be reinstated to the employment status they held when leave began or to a comparable position, without decrease in the rate of compensation, loss of promotional opportunities, or loss of any other right or privilege of employment. For more information related to employee requests for leave please see Baylor's [FMLA policy](#) and process. Additional information for employees is also available through the [Pregnant Workers Fairness Act](#).

### 4. Lactation Spaces

The University has lactation spaces on campus for students and employees. Use the [Nursing Mother Room Campus Map](#) for room number and location as well as an updated list. Students and employees will receive reasonable break time to express breast milk or breastfeed.

### 5. Temporary Medical Conditions

With respect to student medical or hospital benefits, services, plans, or policies that the University administers, operates, offers, or participates in, pregnancy and related conditions will be treated in the same manner as, or in a manner that is not less favorable than, other temporary medical conditions, subject to the provisions of available insurance

policies.

Admissions policies and practices will treat pregnancy or related conditions in the same manner and under the same policies as any other temporary medical conditions.

For employees, pregnancy and related conditions will be treated the same as any other temporary medical condition for all job-related purposes.

#### 6. Certification to Participate

Students will not be required to provide certification from a healthcare provider or any other person to indicate the student is physically able to participate in an education program or activity unless: 1) The certified level of physical ability or health is necessary for participation in the program or activity; and 2) all students participating in the program or activity are required to submit certification; and 3) the information obtained is not used as a basis for discrimination.

#### 7. Reporting Discrimination or Harassment

Individuals who believe they have experienced discrimination or who have information about suspected discrimination in an education program or activity based on pregnancy or related conditions can report the discrimination to the Equity Office, per the reporting guidelines in this policy. Matters of Harassment based on pregnancy or related conditions will be addressed under the [SIM Policy](#).

#### B. Prevention and Education

This Policy reflects the University's commitment to educate all of the members of the University community about Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation, their impact on individuals and the University as a whole, the steps necessary to address it, and the protections available to all involved. Such education is essential to establishing and maintaining a campus environment in which the dignity of all persons is respected.

Incoming students and new faculty and staff receive primary prevention and awareness programming and returning students and current faculty and staff receive ongoing training and related programs. The University provides coordinated programming and training through multiple departments, including the Equity Office, Human Resources, Student Health & Welfare, Student Life, Baylor University Police Department, the Provost's Office, Wellness, Health Services, and the Counseling Center.

#### C. Periodic Review

The University will review this Policy on a periodic basis as appropriate. The review will capture evolving legal requirements, evaluate the supports and resources available to the Parties, and assess the effectiveness of the resolution process

(including as to the fairness of the process, the time needed to complete the process, and the sanctions and remedies imposed).

#### D. Records

In accordance with the Equity Office's record retention policy, the office will maintain records of all reports, Investigative Resolution, Adaptable Resolution, and steps taken to eliminate Prohibited Conduct, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects. Findings of responsibility will also be included in a student's disciplinary record maintained by Student Conduct Administration and/or an employee's personnel records.

#### D. Policy Changes

Temporary emergency modifications of this Policy, which are consistent with law, may be made at the discretion of the Responsible Executive based on business needs and/or associated with a natural or manmade disaster.