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Definitions

Bias generally refers to any belief, attitude, behavior or practice that reflects an assumed superiority of one group over another. Bias against a group is expressed through prejudice (negative attitudes, judgments, or expressions) or discrimination (negative behavior) directed at an individual or group because of some aspect of their identity and can be overt or covert. Bias can be directed against individuals or groups, but it can also be institutionalized into policies, practices and structures. While freedom of expression and the open exchange of ideas are a vital part of the educational discourse, bias activity dehumanizes people, erodes individual rights, debilitates morale, and interferes with the effectiveness of work and learning environments.

Bias Incident

Bias incidents are acts of conduct, speech, or expression that target individuals and groups based on their actual or perceived race/color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity/expression, age, disability, or sexual orientation. Bias-related incidents, while abhorrent and intolerable, do not alone meet the necessary elements required to prove a crime, or even a violation of College policy. However, to be successfully addressed, bias-related incidents do require the active participation of a community committed to fundamental human dignity and equality.

Harassment Based on a Protected Class

Harassment based on a protected class is defined as unreasonable, unwelcome conduct that is based on an individual's sex, race, color, age, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, marital status, medical condition, veteran status, disability, or any other College-recognized protected classification. This type of harassment can occur in any form and can be directed at individuals or groups. When appropriate, minor infractions can be resolved informally and with remedial steps, including training, counseling, or mediation. When this harassment objectively and subjectively harms the person by severely, persistently, or pervasively

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expulsion/dismissal. In all cases, the College encourages individuals to seek support and assistance as soon as harassing conduct occurs. Before any conduct can be considered for disciplinary action, it must be clear that no substantial free expression interests are threatened by bringing a formal charge of harassment.

Hate Crime

Hate crimes are definable crimes, such as: crimes involving threats of violence, property damage, personal injury and other illegal conduct, but that are also intentionally motivated by bias. A hate crime is an infraction of the law and will be addressed accordingly.

Reporting and Privacy

Information reported on this form may be submitted anonymously* and is considered private to the extent permitted by law and/or consistent with the mission of the College and its [Code of Conduct](#).

Privacy generally means that information related to a report of bias will only be shared with a limited circle of individuals. The use of this information is limited to those College employees who “need to know” in order to assist in the active review, investigation, or resolution of the report. While these individuals generally are not confidential resource personnel, they will be discreet and respect the privacy of all individuals involved in the process.

**Note: Bias incident reports submitted anonymously will limit potential actions the College can take to address the incident.*

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