Equity and Inclusion at MTSU

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Institutional Equity and Compliance
CAB 116
615-898-2185
Overview

• Compliance
  o ADA, Title II and Accessibility
  o Nondiscrimination (AA/EO)
  o Title VI/LEP and Title IX

• Equity (Fairness, Mediation, Investigations/Resolution)
Ada Compliance and Accessibility

• **Title II** applies to state and local government entities and protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability in services, programs and activities provided by state and local government entities.

• Put simply, **our offerings need to be as accessible as possible**

• **Proactive Accessibility Measures**
  - Possibilities are Ever Increasing

• **Reactive Accommodation**
  - Individual Accommodation will always be an option
  - Working to create an environment where those requests are not as frequent
Electronic Information Access

- **Enhancing Our Efforts**
  - Electronic Transmissions of Information
    - ✓ Proactive
    - ✓ Same as physical access
  - Legal Compliance
  - Reach More People
  - Going Forward Not Backward
Areas of Concern Related to Access and Electronic Information

- **Word Documents**
  - Headings
- **PDFs**
  - Scans
- **Pictures**
  - Alternate text
- **Purchasing**
  - Product Accessibility
- **Videos**
  - Captioning and Audio Description
Accessibility Resources

- Director of ADA Compliance – Lance Alexis
- Faculty Instruction and Technology Center – Barbara Draude
- Center for Educational Media – Laura Clark
- Procurement – Kathy Crisp
Americans with Disabilities Act

- Pre and Post Employment Self-Identification
- Routine Surveying of the Community (October)
- Employee Requests for Accommodations
  (Director of ADA Compliance and Accessibility in IEC)
Disclosing a Medical Diagnosis

- No downside
- Disclose whether or not an accommodation is needed
- Easy to do
  - Complete and submit online application
  - Upload documentation to the application before submitting or afterward
MTSU Nondiscrimination/EO/AA

• MTSU Policy 21: University Nondiscrimination Statement
  o Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, ethnic or national origin, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age (as applicable), status as a covered veteran, or genetic information in its programs and activities involving students, employees or other participants

• MTSU Policy 25: Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
  o MTSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer that values diversity in all forms. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, creed, ethnic or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran and genetic information
Title VI

• **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964:**

  No person in the United States shall on the basis of **race, color or national origin**, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any **program or activity** receiving **federal financial assistance** (includes grants/contracts)

• **Intent of Title VI is:**

  To ensure that eligible persons previously or traditionally deprived of equal opportunity are adequately encouraged to participate fully in all MTSU programs and services
Title VI Continued…

• **Limited English Proficiency:**
  - Title VI's prohibition on the basis of national origin also prohibits discrimination based on limited English proficiency
  - Under Title VI MTSU is required to provide LEP individuals with meaningful access to our programs and services
  - Providing meaningful access generally involves services for oral interpretation and written translation of vital documents

• **Avaza:** MTSU provides oral interpretation and written translation services (24/7) through AVAZA at: 615-810-8506 (Code 37970)
  - IEC will pay for the service for our students, faculty and staff
  - Posters are available in each department
• **Title VI Complaints:**
  o Are reported to the Title VI Coordinator
  o Marian V Wilson in IEC

• **Title VI Online Training** (ordinarily taken within 30 days of new hire)
  o Title VI training is required annually in the state of Tennessee
  o You will receive a link from our new vendor in early November

• **Title VI is covered under:**
  o MTSU Policy 26: Discrimination and Harassment Based on Protected Categories Other Than Sex
Title IX

- No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance
  - What does it prohibit?
    - Discrimination on the basis of sex
    - Sexual harassment
    - Sexual assault and sexual violence
Sexual Harassment

- Sexual Harassment is a form of sex discrimination and a violation of Title IX; it is:
  - Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual
  - The submission to, or rejection of, unwelcome sexual advances impacts the terms or conditions of one’s learning or employment
  - The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s \textit{working/learning performance} or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment
Unacceptable Behaviors

- **Repeated** sexual innuendo, obscene or off-color jokes, slurs, lewd remarks and language, and other offensive sexual comments
- Content in letters and notes, **social media**, facsimiles, email/Internet, graffiti that is of a sexual nature or sexually abusive
- Sexual propositions, insults, and threats, sexually-oriented demeaning names
- **Persistent and unwanted sexual or romantic overtures** or attention/Subtle or overt pressure for sexual favors
- Displaying pornographic pictures, calendars, cartoons, or other sexual material in the workplace
- Coerced or **unwelcome touching**, patting, brushing up against, pinching, kissing, stroking, massaging, squeezing, fondling or tickling
Sexual Violence (VAWA)

- Sexual Misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and a violation of Title IX
  - It includes the offenses: dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault

- Dating Violence against a person when the accuser and accused are dating or who have dated, or who have or had a sexual relationship. “Dating” and “dated” do not include fraternization between two individuals solely in a business or non-romantic social context. (not roommates)

- Domestic Violence against a person when the accuser and accused are current or former spouses, who live or have lived together as a spouse or intimate partner (not roommates), are related by blood or adoption, are related or were formally related by marriage, are adult or minor children of a person in a relationship described above.
Sexual Violence (VAWA) Continued…

- **Stalking**: a willful course of conduct involving repeated or continuing harassment of another individual that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed or molested (includes cyber-stalking)

- **Sexual Assault**: nonconsensual sexual contact where the accused knows, or has reason to know, that the victim did not, or could not consent; nonconsensual sexual contact includes, but is not limited to:
  - Rape, sexual battery, sexual coercion, sodomy, engaging in sexual contact after the victim has said “No”
  - Intentional touching of intimate parts; or
  - Intentional touching of the clothing covering the immediate area of intimate parts, if that intentional touching can be reasonably construed as being for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification
  - Sexual intercourse or sexual contact when the person has a disability or is a minor

(Note: Includes any of the above between people of the opposite sex or the same sex)
Consent

- **Consent is an informed decision, freely given**, made through mutually understandable words or actions that indicate a willingness to participate in mutually agreed upon sexual activity
  - Past consent does not imply future consent
  - Silence or an absence of resistance does not imply consent
  - Consent can be withdrawn at any time

- **Consent cannot be given by an individual:**
  - Who is asleep or unconscious
  - Mentally or physically incapacitated
  - Is under duress, being coerced or forced
Reporting Unacceptable Behaviors

- **Responsible Employee:** an MTSU employee who has the authority and the duty to report incidents of sexual misconduct, or whom a student/employee could reasonably believe has this authority or duty:
  - Police, VP’s, AVP’s, Deans, Associate Deans, Assistant Deans, Directors, Associate Directors, Assistant Directors, Department Chairs/Heads, Graduate Teaching Assistants, Academic Advisors, Advisors for student clubs/organizations, Resident Assistants, Athletic Department staff, including all coaches and academic tutors, Campus Security Authorities etc.
  - **You (all faculty)** are responsible employees and must report sexual misconduct
Responsible Employee Continued…

Responsible Employees must:

- Report any incident of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment or sexual violence) once you become aware of it to a Title IX Coordinator /Investigator.

- Provide all details and facts of the incident, names of those involved, date, time, location, etc.

- **Do Not** wait to determine whether the alleged sexual misconduct actually occurred, or that a hostile environment was created before reporting an incident.
Confidential Reporting

However, before a student reveals information about unacceptable behavior, you must inform them that:

• You have an obligation to report any details shared
• They always have the option to report to law enforcement
• They have the option to report confidentially to the Counseling Center, the Health Center, MTSU’s Sexual Assault Liaison, Murfreesboro’s Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Prevention Center
• In some instances, the Title IX Coordinator may not do a formal investigation (it will depend on the circumstances)
  
  If an individual requests that MTSU maintain his/her confidentiality, the Title IX Coordinator will consider a number of factors (i.e., weapon involved, multiple perpetrators, prior history here or another university, threats to victim or others, victim is a minor/disabled, etc.)
Complaint Procedures

• Title IX is covered under:
  o MTSU Policy 27, Misconduct, Discrimination, and Harassment Based on Sex

• Process for resolution is:
  o Investigation
  o Interim Measures
  o Determination of Violation or not
  o Institutional Hearing Option
  o Appeal to President
  o Discipline; Hearing Option
  o Remedial Measures
Title IX Coordinators

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Questions