

Last updated August 6, 2021

NECO Title IX Statement and Resources

The New England College of Optometry, seeks to foster an environment that supports its educational mission and is committed to providing a safe learning, and working environment for all members of the college community that is free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, sexual misconduct and related violence. NECO does not discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, or sexual orientation in its education programs or activities and prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") and/or all other applicable state and federal laws.

What is Title IX:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) states that "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." It protects individuals from sexual or gender-based bullying, discrimination, harassment, and violence. This includes protection from being retaliated against for filing a complaint of discrimination or harassment.

The law covers sex-based discrimination against students, faculty, and staff.

(TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972, 20 U.S.C.A. § 1681 ET. SEQ.)

NECO also complies with all obligations under the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 ("VAWA") and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act").

NECO provides a variety of confidential and non-confidential support resources, reporting options and complaint procedures to those persons who believe they have been subjected to sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking. NECO will work closely with those persons to provide referrals to law enforcement and support resources. The college prohibits retaliation and provides appropriate interim measures including changes to academic and co-curricular activities, transportation, dining, and employment situations as well as no contact orders. In keeping with its obligations under Title IX, the college is committed to promptly, fairly, and equitably investigating complaints, ensuring the safety of the Complainant, and providing remedies and resources.

NECO also complies with Massachusetts laws that protect individuals from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, as well as on the basis of gender identity. Questions or concerns about possible discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity under state law may also be directed to a Title IX Coordinator or deputy coordinators listed below:

Joanna Hurier

Executive Director of Human Resources/Title IX Coordinator

hurierj@neco.edu
Phone: 617-587-5787
Mobile: 617-775-8650

Dr. Gary Chu
Vice President, Professional Affairs/Deputy Title IX Coordinator
email: chu@neco.edu
Office: 617-587-5541
Mobile: 617-834-3245

All training provided to Title IX coordinators by Institutional Compliance Solutions
<http://icslawyer.com/community-access/community-access-higher-ed/>

You may also report concerns to the following confidential hotlines:
NECO Confidential telephone hotline- 617-587-5753
NECO Confidential email- voice@neco.edu

Community Resources:

If you experience sexual harassment, gender discrimination, or sexual violence, we encourage you to reach out right away – we are here to help.

Boston Police 617-343-4250

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) (for Students and Employees)
800-841-8371 (24-hour hotline)

BARCC offers free, confidential services to sexual assault survivors, their friends and families. It also operates a 24-hour confidential hotline that provides survivors of sexual assault with telephone counseling and personal support. The Center also maintains a referral network of survivor support groups (call 617-492-RAPE or 617-492-7273).

Victim Rights Law Center (VRLC) (for Students and Employees)
115 Broad Street
Boston, MA 02110
617-399-6720

VRLC is dedicated to serving the legal needs of sexual assault victim. The VRLC provides free legal services, legal training and technical assistance.

Jane Doe Inc. (Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence)
(for Students and Employees)
C/O WeWork
8th floor Suite 800

745 Atlantic Avenue 02111
617-248-0922
Or via email.

Jane Doe Inc. is an interactive service locator tool to find sexual assault and domestic violence resources in your area and a map of service providers across Massachusetts.

Casa Myrna Vasquez (for Students and Employees)

451 Blue Hill Ave.
Boston, 02121
617-521-0100

Case Myrna provides Boston's most comprehensive range of programs to address domestic and dating violence.

Fenway Health Violence Recovery Program (VRP)

617-927-6202

VRP provides counseling, support groups, advocacy, and referral services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) victims of bias crime, domestic violence, sexual assault, and police misconduct.

Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence

617-338-2355 (24- hour multilingual helpline)

Multilingual helpline is staffed by trained advocates who together speak a total of 12 Asian languages and dialects including Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, and Toisanese), Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Nepali, Punjabi, Callers to ATASK receive crisis intervention, safety planning, emotional support, and information about domestic violence and restraining orders.

Fenway Health

Through Fenway's Helplines, you can receive help, information, referrals, and support for a range of issues including anti-gay/lesbian harassment and violence.

LGBT Helpline (ages 25+): 617-267-9001; Toll-Free: 888-340-4528;

Individuals who believe that they have been subjected to prohibited conduct may file a formal complaint with either or all of the government agencies set forth below.

United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

JFK Federal Building Room 475
Government Center
Boston, MA 02203
800-669-4000

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)

One Ashburton Place Room 601
Boston, MA 02108
617-994-6000

United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights

5 Post Office Square, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109
Telephone: 617-289-0111
Facsimile: 617-289-0150
TTY: 1-800-877-8339