

Discriminatory Harassment

In This Section

Smith College affirms that diversity in all aspects of the educational environment is necessary to achieve the highest level of academic excellence. A central element of the college's commitment to excellence is to maintain an environment that is free of conduct that unreasonably interferes with the academic and professional experience of any member of its community.

Consistent with its obligations as a recipient of financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education, the college complies with all relevant federal laws that prohibit discrimination in education, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VI"), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The college further complies with all relevant laws of the commonwealth of Massachusetts that prohibit discrimination in education.

The college is committed to creating an educational environment that is open to all individuals without discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, national origin/ancestry, religion, sex or gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, genetic information, or veteran status/membership in the uniformed services. The college affirms its commitment by holding all of its community members responsible for upholding this principle and recognizing their legal obligations under applicable federal and state statutes.

Discriminatory Harassment

misconduct, complaints of discrimination involving staff or faculty, or grade disputes. For sexual misconduct complaints, please see the Sexual Misconduct Policy. For allegations of discrimination involving staff and faculty, please see the [Equal Educational Opportunity Policy](#). Grade disputes are governed by the college's Grade Dispute Policy.

Discriminatory Harassment Defined

Discriminatory harassment is unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct based on a person's actual or perceived race, color or national origin or other protected category that substantially or unreasonably interferes with an individual's academic performance; adversely affects the targeted individual's or others' learning opportunities; or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Examples of such conduct include:

- Offensive or degrading remarks, verbal abuse, or other hostile behavior such as insulting, teasing, mocking, degrading or ridiculing another person or group;
- Racial slurs, derogatory remarks about a person's accent, or display of racially offensive symbols;
- Unwelcome or inappropriate physical contact, comments, questions, advances, jokes, epithets or demands; and
- Displays or electronic transmission of derogatory, demeaning or hostile materials.

When sanctioning, the offensiveness should be measured by its gravity, whether it is intended to be offensive and disrespectful, whether it is repeated even after

Discriminatory Harassment

Smith College Resources

Amy Condon

Director of Civil Rights Compliance & Title IX Coordinator

titleixcoordinator@smith.edu

State and Federal Agency Complaints

In addition to the above, an individual who believes they have been subjected to illegal discrimination may file a formal complaint with the government agencies listed below. Using the college's complaint process does not prohibit an individual from filing a complaint with either of these agencies. Claims filed with MCAD or must be filed within 300 days from the date of the alleged violation and complaints filed with OCR must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act.

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION (MCAD)

Boston Office:

One Ashburton Place, Room 601

Boston, MA 02108

617-994-6000

New Bedford Office:

800 Purchase Street, Room 501

New Bedford, MA 02740

508-990-2390

Discriminatory Harassment

Worcester Office:

484 Main Street, Room 320

Worcester, MA 01608

508-453-9630

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS (OCR)

Boston Office

8th Floor

5 Post Office Square

Boston, MA 02109-3921

Telephone: 617-289-0111

FAX: 617-289-0150; TDD: 800-877-8339

Email: OCR.Boston@ed.gov



Smith College

10 Elm Street

Northampton, MA 01063

Phone: **413-584-2700**

Portal

Employment

Directory

Libraries

Dining Menus

Botanic Garden

Campus Map

Museum of Art

Give to Smith



[See what you can do with a Smith education.](#)



© 2026 Smith College.

[Privacy](#) • [Terms of Use](#) • [Title IX](#) • [Equity and Inclusion](#) • [Nondiscrimination Statement](#) • [Consumer Information](#) • [Contact Us](#)

Experiencing an accessibility issue on a Smith web page? **Please let us know.**