

## **Policy Against Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Statement of Nondiscrimination**

Discrimination under this Policy is defined as conduct directed at individuals because of their race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, sex, marital status, age (except when sex or age is a bona fide qualification), disability (when the person is otherwise qualified) or genetic information that subjects the individual to different treatment so as to adversely affect the individual's employment or educational experience at the College. Discrimination includes retaliation against an individual for reporting instances of discrimination or harassment under this Policy.

#### **B. Sex Discrimination is Prohibited**

The College does not discriminate in its admissions practices except as permitted by law, in its employment practices, or in its educational programs or activities on the basis of sex. As a recipient of federal financial assistance for education activities, the College is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to ensure that all of its education programs and activities do not discriminate on the basis of sex. At Goucher College discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy or related conditions.

Goucher has obligations under Title IX to provide certain supports and modifications to people experiencing pregnancy or related conditions in order to ensure their equal access to Goucher's program or activity. For example, Goucher must treat pregnancy or related conditions in the same manner and under the same policies as any other temporary medical conditions and must allow voluntary leaves of absence. Students, employees, or applicants should contact the Title IX Coordinator for more information. Employees or applicants may also contact Human Resources for more information, because additional workplace laws and policies apply.

Pregnancy or related conditions include pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation; medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation; and recovery from pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, or related medical conditions.

The College also prohibits retaliation against any person opposing discrimination or participating in any discrimination investigation or complaint process or any person opposing sexual harassment or participating in any sexual harassment investigation or formal complaint process, whether internal or external to the institution.

#### **C. Application of Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act to this Policy**

In both practice and policy, Goucher adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended 2008 (ADAAA); Sections 504 and 508 of the

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and all other federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability. The College is committed to providing individuals with disabilities equal access and opportunity, and strives in its policies and practices to provide for the full participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of Goucher life.

Parties may request reasonable accommodations for disclosed disabilities to the Title IX Coordinator at any point relating to the implementation of this Policy, including making a disclosure or report, and initiating a resolution procedure. Accommodations will be granted if they are appropriate and do not fundamentally alter the process. The Title IX Coordinator will not affirmatively provide disability accommodations that have not been specifically requested by the parties, even where the parties may be receiving accommodations in other Goucher programs and activities. With the consent of the impacted student or employee, the Title IX Coordinator will work collaboratively with the appropriate campus offices to ensure that approved reasonable accommodations (disability-related) are honored as applicable throughout any process related to this Policy.

Students: The Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) 410-337-6591 (TTY/TDD, dial 711) [access@goucher.edu](mailto:access@goucher.edu)

Employees: Human Resources 410-337-6135

#### **D. Purpose of this Policy**

This Policy identifies and defines conduct prohibited under this Policy, and the process that will be used to respond to allegations of Prohibited Conduct. The College will act on all notices of allegations of Prohibited Conduct. It will take necessary measures to end conduct that is in violation of this Policy, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect on individuals and the community. Within any process related to this Policy, the College provides reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities and reasonable religious accommodations, when that accommodation is consistent with state and federal law.

Situations involving other conduct that may be in violation of other Goucher student or employee conduct policies should be reported to the Dean of Students for matters involving students, or the Provost or Human Resources for matters involving faculty or staff. Situations involving other conduct relating to nonaffiliates should be reported to the Office of Campus Safety.

#### **E. To whom this Policy applies**

This Policy addresses Prohibited Conduct as defined below. Consistent with Title IX, the College's Prohibited Conduct of Title IX Sexual Harassment must occur within Goucher College's program or activity and within the United States.

The College's program or activity includes (1) any on-campus premises of Goucher College; (2) any off-campus premises over which the College has substantial control; (3) off-campus activities that are part of a College program, including field trips and sanctioned events such as performances, and athletic or academic competitions; and (4) activity occurring within computer

and internet networks, digital platforms, and computer hardware or software owned or operated by, or used in operations of the College's program and activities over which the College has substantial control.

Concerns and reports of other forms of Prohibited Conduct as defined in this Policy that fall outside of the scope of Title IX Prohibited Conduct will be addressed by the applicable procedures set forth in this Policy. Matters that fall outside the scope of this Policy may be addressed by a separate applicable policy.

## **II. PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

This Policy prohibits the following behaviors as defined below: Discrimination, Discriminatory Harassment, Title IX Sexual Harassment, and Non-Title IX Sexual Harassment. These acts shall also be referred to as Prohibited Conduct under this Policy.

### **A. Discrimination**

Discrimination is defined as treating members of a protected category less favorably because of their actual or perceived membership in that category or as having a policy or practice that adversely impacts the members of one protected category more than others.

Discrimination on the base of sex includes discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

### **B. Discriminatory Harassment**

Discriminatory Harassment is subjecting an individual to unwelcome conduct, whether verbal or physical, that creates an intimidating, hostile, or abusive working, learning or campus living environment; that alters the conditions of employment or education; or unreasonably interferes with an individual's work or academic performance on the basis of someone's actual or perceived membership in a protected category.

Harassment may include, but is not limited to: verbal abuse; epithets or slurs; negative stereotyping; threatening, intimidating or hostile acts; denigrating jokes; insulting or obscene comments or gestures; and the display or circulation of written or graphic material (including in hard copy, by email or text, or through social media) that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group members of a protected category. Calls, texts, emails, and social media usage that occurs on or off campus can contribute to a hostile work, learning, or living environment.

The College will determine whether the conduct was discriminatory based on both subjective and objective factors, based on the totality of the circumstances surrounding an alleged incident or course of conduct, including, the frequency, nature, and severity of the conduct, and whether a reasonable person would find the conduct discriminatory. Harassment need not be severe or pervasive to be unlawful and can be any harassing conduct that consists of more than petty slights or trivial inconveniences.

Protected categories include, race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, sex, marital status, age (except when sex or age is a bona fide qualification), disability (when the person is otherwise qualified) or genetic information or any other protected category under applicable local, state, or federal law.

### C. Title IX Sexual Harassment

Conduct meeting these definitions must occur within the College's Education Program or Activity and inside the United State to constitute Title IX Sexual Harassment. Conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- i. Title IX Quid Pro Quo Sexual Harassment – An employee or graduate student conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the College on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.
- ii. Title IX Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment – Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the College's educational program or activity.
- iii. Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Retaliation as defined below:
  1. **Sexual assault** – an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Specifically, this includes:
    - a. Rape – the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.
    - b. Fondling – the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of their age or because of their temporary or permanent mental incapacity.
    - c. Incest – sexual intercourse between person who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
    - d. Statutory Rape – sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.
  2. **Dating Violence** – violence committed by a person:
    - a. Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
    - b. Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
      - i. The length of the relationship;
      - ii. The type of relationship; and
      - iii. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

- c. Emotional and psychological abuse do not constitute violence for the purposes of this definition.
- 3. **Domestic Violence** – felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a person who:
  - a. Is current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction of the College, or a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim;
  - b. Is cohabitating, or has cohabited, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
  - c. Shares a child in common with the victim; or
  - d. Commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction.
  - e. Emotional and psychological abuse do not constitute violence for the purposes of this definition.
- 4. **Stalking** – engaging in a course of conduct, on the basis of sex, directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person’s safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.
- 5. **Retaliation** - Retaliation is any materially adverse action taken against an individual because they were involved in the disclosure, reporting, investigation, or resolution of a report of Prohibited Conduct. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion, discrimination, violence, or any other conduct against any person by Goucher College, a student, or an employee or other person authorized by the College to provide aid, benefit, or service under the College’s education program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by this Policy or by law, including Title IX or its regulations. Adverse action does not include perceived or petty slights, or trivial annoyances.

The prohibition against retaliation applies to any individuals who participate (or refuse to participate) in any manner in an investigation, or hearing, and to any student who refuses to participate in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing.

Retaliation may occur even where there is a finding of “not responsible” under this Policy. Good faith actions lawfully pursued in response to a report of Prohibited Conduct are not Retaliation.

#### **D. Non-Title IX Sexual Harassment**

Includes conduct that meets the definition of Title IX Sexual Harassment but does not occur within the United States or within the College’s educational program or activities.

Non-Title IX Sexual Harassment also includes conduct that does not meet the definition of Title IX Sexual Harassment but otherwise constitute an unwelcome sexual advance, a request for sexual favors, or other unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal, graphic, physical, or otherwise when the conditions outlined in (i) or (ii) below are present; or unwelcome conduct based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, which may include acts of aggression, intimidation, or hostility, whether verbal, non-verbal, graphic, physical, or otherwise when the conditions outlined in (i) or (ii) below are present;

- i. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of a person's employment, academic standing, or participation in any college program or activity or is used as the basis of college decisions affecting the individual; or
- ii. Such conduct creates a hostile environment. A "hostile environment" exists when the conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it unreasonably interferes with, limits, or deprives an individual from participating in or benefiting from the College's education or employment programs or activities. Conduct must be deemed severe, persistent, or pervasive from both a subjective and objective perspective. In evaluating whether a hostile environment exists, the College will consider the totality of known circumstances, including, but not limited to:
  1. The frequency, nature, and severity of the conduct;
  2. Whether the conduct was physically threatening;
  3. The effect of the conduct on the Complainant's mental or emotional state;
  4. Whether the conduct arose in the content of the discriminatory conduct;
  5. Whether the conduct unreasonably interfered with the Complainant's educational or work performance or college programs or activities; and
  6. Whether the conduct is protected by academic freedom or freedom of speech.

A hostile environment can be created by persistent or pervasive conduct or by a single or isolated incident, if sufficiently severe. The more severe the conduct, the less need there is to show a repetitive series of incidents to prove a hostile environment.

Instances of Non-Title IX Sexual Assault, Non-Title IX Dating Violence, Non-Title IX Domestic Violence, and Non-Title IX Stalking, will meet the definition for Title IX Sexual Harassment, but will include conduct that does not occur within the United States or within the College's educational programs or activities.

#### **E. Sexual Coercion**

The application of unreasonable pressure, including emotionally or physically manipulative actions or statement, or direct or implied threats, in order to compel the person to engage in sexual activity.

#### **F. Sexual Exploitation**

The abuse or exploitation of another person's sexuality without consent, for the perpetrators own advantage or benefit, or for the benefit or advantage of anyone other than the one being exploited. Sexual Exploitation includes, without limitation, causing or attempting to cause the incapacitation of another person in order to gain a sexual advantage over that person; causing the prostitution of another person; electronically recording, photographing, or transmitting intimate or sexual utterances, sounds or images of another person; allowing third parties to observe sexual acts; engaging in voyeurism; distributing intimate or sexual information about another person; and/or knowingly transmitting a sexually transmitted infection, including HIV, to another person.

## **G. Prohibited or Inappropriate Intimate and Sexual Relationships**

### **General**

Persons in positions of power or authority over others should be aware of and sensitive to the problems that may arise from seemingly consensual relationships with their subordinates. The power differential inherent in such relationships may compromise free choice. Any perceived abuse of authority diminishes trust and respect among members of the college community. For example, others not involved in the relationship may believe they are being treated or evaluated unfairly as a result of the relationship. Claims of sexual harassment may emerge from the subordinate person in the relationship or from third parties. Accordingly, all members of the college community are expected to maintain appropriate professional relations with one another.

### **Relationships with Students**

Goucher College specifically prohibits consensual sexual or physically intimate relationships between faculty and students and between staff and students. Such relationships undermine significant educational goals of the College. Subject to the appropriate approvals, an individual department or office within the College may implement more restrictive policies for its employees, according to the special nature and requirements of their employment. There may be occasions when a sexual or physically intimate relationship exists before one or both of the individuals in the relationship becomes a faculty member, staff member, or student, such as to violate the prohibition on consensual relationships with students. In such cases, the faculty or staff member in the pre-existing relationship is required to disclose the relationship promptly to either the provost in the case of faculty, or the director of human resources in the case of staff. With the assistance of the provost or director, and in a manner that causes the least detrimental effect for the student, the faculty or staff member shall take steps to remove themselves from the position of power or authority.

### **Relationships between Faculty and Staff**

An individual may be found to have professional influence or authority over a faculty or staff member when that individual supervises or evaluates performance, or recommends or awards salary, reappointment, promotion, or tenure of the faculty or staff member. The existence of professional influence or authority is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Subject to the appropriate approvals, an individual department or office within the College may implement more restrictive policies for its employees, according to the special nature and requirements of their employment.

When a consensual sexual or physically intimate relationship exists or develops between a faculty or staff member and a member of the faculty or staff over whom the faculty or staff member has professional influence or authority, the person with professional influence or authority shall promptly report the existence of the relationship to either the Provost in the case of faculty, or the Associate Vice President of Human Resources in the case of staff. With the assistance of the Provost or Associate Vice President of Human Resources, and in a manner that causes the least detrimental effect for the other person, the faculty or staff member shall take steps to remove themselves from the position of power or authority. Because such steps may adversely affect the other person in the relationship, may jeopardize the position at the College of the person with influence or authority and may inconvenience or cause undue hardship to other members of the college community, both parties should be mindful of the potential consequences before entering into a sexual or physically intimate relationship.

Discipline: Failure to comply with this form of Prohibited Conduct or to self-report the existence of a relationship as required by this Policy is in itself considered sexual misconduct and will be subject to the procedures referenced in this Policy.

### **III. KEY DEFINITIONS**

#### **A. Involved Party Definitions**

**Advisor:** Each party has the right to choose and consult with an advisor of their choice at their own expense. The advisor may be any person, including a friend, family member, therapist, union representative, or an attorney. Goucher will not limit their choice of advisor. Parties in this process may be accompanied by an advisor of choice to any meeting or proceeding to which they are required or are eligible to attend. Except where explicitly stated by this Policy, advisors shall not participate directly in the process. Goucher will provide the parties equal access to advisors; any restrictions on advisor participation will be applied equally. The advisor may not represent, advocate, or speak on behalf of a complainant or respondent. An advisor may not disrupt or impede any resolution proceeding.

**Complainant:** Any individual who has reported being or is alleged to be impacted by Prohibited Conduct as defined by this Policy, and who was participating in a Goucher program or activity at the time of the alleged misconduct.

**Hearing Officer:** Trained professional designated by the College to decide responsibility, sanction, or appeals. A Hearing Officer may be one person, or a panel of multiple people as determined by the College. When there is no hearing, the investigator may be appointed as the decision-maker to the matter.

**Party/parties:** Referring to complainant(s), respondent(s), or both/all complainant(s) and respondent(s).

**Respondent:** an individual, or group of individuals such as a student organization, who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct under this Policy; or retaliation for engaging in a protected activity.

**Student:** Any person who has (or will have) attained student status by way of:

1. Admission, housing, or other service that requires student status.
2. Registration for one or more credit hours.
3. Enrollment in any non-credit, certificate or other program offered by the College.

## **B. Conduct Information Definitions**

**Coercion/Force:** Consent cannot be procured by the use of physical force, compulsion, threats, intimidating behavior, or coercion. Sexual activity accompanied by coercion or force is not consensual.

- Coercion refers to unreasonable pressure for sexual activity. When someone makes it clear that they do not want to engage in sexual activity or do not want to go beyond a certain point of sexual interaction, continued pressure beyond that point can be considered coercive. The use of coercion can involve the use of pressure, manipulation, substances, or force. Ignoring objections of another person is a form of coercion.
- Force refers to the use of physical violence or imposing on someone physically to engage in sexual contact or intercourse. Force can also include threats, intimidation (implied threats), or coercion used to overcome resistance.

**Consent:** Consent is a knowing, voluntary and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity, expressed in words or actions. For consent to be valid, there must be a clear expression in words or actions that the other individual consented to that specific sexual conduct with that particular person or people.

Individuals may experience the same interaction in different ways. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each party to determine that the other has consented before engaging in the activity. If consent is not clearly provided prior to engaging in the activity, consent may be ratified by word or action at some point during the interaction or thereafter, but clear communication from the outset is strongly encouraged.

Consent to some sexual contact (such as kissing or fondling) cannot be presumed to be consent for other sexual activity (such as intercourse). Past consent does not imply future consent. A current or previous dating relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent.

The existence of consent is based on the totality of the circumstances, evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable person in the same or similar circumstances, including the context in which the alleged incident occurred. Silence or the absence of resistance alone is not consent. In Maryland, a minor (meaning a person under the age of 18 years) cannot consent to sexual activity except in limited circumstances dictated by law.

Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity through reasonable and clear communications through words or actions. When consent is withdrawn, sexual activity must stop.

Consent cannot be given if any of the following are present: Incapacitation, Force, or Coercion.

**Disclosure or Report:** A disclosure or report may be made by anyone, whether they learned about conduct potentially constituting Prohibited Conduct under this Policy, or whether they personally experienced such conduct. A person making a disclosure or report may or may not be seeking to initiate an investigation.

**Finding:** A written conclusion by a preponderance of the evidence, issued by an Investigator or Hearing Officer, that the conduct did or did not occur as alleged.

**Formal Complaint:** A formal complaint at the College means a written document (hard copy or electronic) that alleges that a Respondent committed Prohibited Conduct and requests initiation of the procedures consistent with this Policy to investigate the allegations of the conduct. A Formal Complaint can only be filed by a Complainant with a signature or other indication that the Complainant is the person filing the Formal Complaint or signed by the Title IX Coordinator.

**Incapacitation:** Incapacitation occurs when someone cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because they lack the capacity to give knowing and informed consent (e.g., to understand the “who, what, when, where, why, and how” of their sexual interaction). Incapacitation is determined through consideration of all relevant indicators of a person’s state and is not synonymous with intoxication, impairment, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. This Policy also covers a person whose incapacity results from temporary or permanent physical or mental health condition, involuntary physical restraint, and/or the consumption of incapacitating drugs, or who are sleeping.

Under this Policy, the College will consider whether a respondent knew or should have known the complainant to be incapacitated, based on an objective, reasonable person standard that assumes the reasonable person is both sober and exercising sound judgment. The fact that the respondent was unaware of the complainant’s incapacity due to the respondent’s own drug or alcohol use shall not be considered as an excuse.

**No-Contact Order/No Communication Agreement:** A No-Contact Order/No Communication Agreement is a document issued by a Goucher administrator that is designed to limit or prohibit contact or communications between the parties. A No-Contact Order/No Communication Agreement may be mutual or unilateral, with the exception that a No-Contact Order issued as either a sanction or remedy shall be unilateral, directing that the respondent does not contact the complainant.

**Notice:** All notices under this Policy are written and sent to the student or employee’s assigned Goucher email address or delivered via Certified Mail to the local or permanent address(es) of the parties as indicated in official Goucher records or personally delivered to the intended recipient.

**Remedies:** Remedies means measures provided, as appropriate, to a complainant or any other person the College identifies as having had their equal access to the College’s education program

or activity limited or denied by discrimination or other prohibited conduct covered by this Policy. These measures are provided to restore or preserve that person's access to the education program or activity after Goucher determines that discrimination occurred. Only the complainant will be informed of any remedies pertaining to them. Some examples are academic support and/or opportunity to retake a class or resubmit work or time extensions on course or degree completion, or non-academic support such as counseling, or changes to work assignments or locations. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for implementation of remedies.

**Sexual Activity:** Sexual Activity shall have the same meaning as “sexual act” and “sexual contact.” (1) The term “sexual act” means— A. contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, and for purposes of this subparagraph contact involving the penis occurs upon penetration, however slight; B. contact between the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the vulva, or the mouth and the anus; C. the penetration, however slight, of the anal or genital opening of another person by a hand or finger or by any object, with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person; or D. the intentional touching, not through the clothing, of the genitalia of another person who has not attained the age of 18 years with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person. (2) The term “sexual contact” means the intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person.”

### **C. Other Definitions**

**Confidential Resources:** Any individual identified by the College who receives information about conduct prohibited under this Policy in their confidential capacity and who are privileged under state law will not report prohibited conduct disclosed to them without written consent. Designation as a confidential resource under this Policy only exempts such individuals from disclosure to the Title IX Coordinator. It does not affect other mandatory reporting obligations under state child abuse reporting laws, the Clery Act as a campus security authority, or other laws that require reporting to campus or local law enforcement.

**Days:** Any reference to days refers to business days when Goucher College is in normal operation.

**Supportive Measures:** Individualized measures offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, without unreasonably burdening a complainant or respondent, not for punitive or disciplinary reasons, and without fee or charge to the complainant or respondent to:

- Restore or preserve that party's access to the College's education program or activity, including measures that are designed to protect the safety of the parties or the College's educational environment; or
- Provide support during the College's grievance procedures or during an alternative resolution process.

Supportive measures may include but are not limited to: counseling; extensions of deadlines and other course-related adjustments; campus escort services; increased security and monitoring of

certain areas of the campus; restrictions on contact applied to one or more parties; leaves of absence; changes in class, work, housing, or extracurricular or any other activity, regardless of whether there is or is not a comparable alternative; no-contact directives (which may be mutual or unilateral at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator); and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment. Supportive measures are non-disciplinary and non-punitive. Supportive Measures will also be offered to respondents when they are notified of the allegations.

Any Supportive Measures put in place will be kept confidential, except when doing so impairs the ability of the institution to provide the Supportive Measures.

The College will offer and coordinate supportive measures as appropriate for the parties as applicable to restore or preserve their access to the College's program or activity or provide support during the College's alternative resolution process or grievance procedures. Prohibited Conduct under this Policy have the right to request supportive measures from the College regardless of whether they desire to make a formal complaint or seek alternative resolution.

A party may challenge the College's decision to provide, deny, modify, or terminate supportive measures when such measures are applicable to them. An impartial employee will be designated to consider modification or reversal of the College's decision to provide, deny, modify, or terminate supportive measures. When the individual providing Supportive Measures is a Deputy Title IX Coordinator or other individual identified by the Title IX Coordinator to provide Supportive Measures, the Title IX Coordinator will be designated to consider the challenge regarding supportive measures. The impartial employee will typically respond to the challenge within five (5) business days.

The Title IX Coordinator has the discretion to implement or modify supportive measures. Violation of the parameters of supportive measures may violate existing codes or handbooks.

#### **IV. DELEGATIONS OF DUTIES UNDER THIS POLICY**

Obligations in this Policy assigned to a particular title, such as the Title IX Coordinator, may be designated as appropriate by the College, including to external professionals.

##### **A. Academic Freedom**

Complaints under this Policy that classroom materials, projects, or classroom discussions are offensive because they include references to sexual terms are to be evaluated with due regard to principles of academic freedom. Consistent with those principles, course content and teaching methods remain the province of individual faculty members. However, content or methods that focus attention on sexual terms or characteristics not germane to the academic discussion or on sexual characteristics of individual students, faculty, or staff are inappropriate, and may constitute sexual harassment and a violation of this Policy.

##### **B. Office of Title IX**

Goucher is committed to promoting a diverse, equitable, and inclusive working and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. The Title IX Coordinator is charged with monitoring compliance with Title IX; providing education and training; and coordinating the

College's response, investigation, and resolution of all reports of Prohibited Conduct under this Policy. The Title IX Coordinator acts with independence and authority and oversees all resolutions under this Policy free from bias and conflicts of interest. The Title IX Coordinator is available to meet with any Student, Employee, or other individual to discuss this Policy or the accompanying procedures and can be contacted at:

Email: [titleixcoordinator@goucher.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@goucher.edu)

Phone: 410-337-6570

### **C. Conflicts of Interest or Bias**

Any individual carrying out any part of this Policy shall be free from any actual conflict of interest or demonstrated bias that would impact the handling of a matter. Should the Title IX Coordinator have a conflict of interest, the Title IX Coordinator is to immediately notify their supervisor, who will either take, or reassign, the role of Title IX Coordinator for purposes of carrying out the handling and finalization of the matter at issue. Should any investigator, Hearing Officer, or Appeals Officer have a conflict of interest, the investigator, Hearing Officer, or Appeals Officer is to notify the Title IX Coordinator upon discovery of the conflict so that the Title IX Coordinator may reassign the role as appropriate. This Policy will note where parties have the opportunity to challenge the participation of any individual implementing this Policy based on actual conflict of interest or demonstrated bias.

### **D. Crime and Incident Disclosure Obligations**

The Clery Act is a federal crime and incident disclosure law. It requires, among other things, that the College report the number of incidents of certain crimes, including some of the Prohibited Conduct in this Policy, that occur in particular campus-related locations. The Clery Act also requires the College to issue a warning to the community in certain circumstances.

In the statistical disclosures and warnings to the community, the College will ensure that a complainant's name and other identifying information is not disclosed. The Title IX Coordinator will refer information to the Office of Campus Safety when appropriate for a determination about Clery-related actions, such as disclosing crime statistics or sending campus notifications. Please see the Clery Act reporting for Internation and Off-Campus Domestic Programs ([link](#)) and Title IX and Clery Reporting Obligations ([link](#)).

## **V. REPORTING DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

### **A. Employee Reporting Obligations**

Goucher believes it is important to be proactive in taking reasonable steps to identify and prevent incidents of harassment or discrimination. All employees, with limited exceptions as identified by Goucher, are required to promptly provide to the Title IX Coordinator all complaints or reports of Prohibited Conduct to the Title IX Coordinator and share all information reported or made available to the employee. If an employee in a supervisory capacity has direct knowledge of an incident of harassment or discrimination on the part of, or directed toward, any employee of the community, that supervisor is required to bring the matter to the attention of the Title IX Coordinator.

Goucher also encourages employees who themselves experience harassment and/or discrimination to bring their concerns to the Title IX Coordinator, though they are not required to do so.

When providing this information to the Title IX Coordinator, the employee must include their own name and contact information, and all known details about an incident, which may include, if known, the dates, times, locations, names of involved individuals and the nature of the incident.

Aside from this reporting obligation, employees will, to the fullest extent possible, maintain the privacy of an individual's information, consistent with FERPA.

All Maryland citizens should report suspected abuse or neglect to the local department of social services or to a local law enforcement agency. Ensuring the safety of Maryland's children is an obligation shared by all citizens and organizations. If you are a health care practitioner, educator, human service worker or a law enforcement officer, you are required by law to report both orally and in writing any suspected child abuse or neglect. You should report your suspicion to the local department in the jurisdiction where you believe the abuse or neglect took or is taking place. Oral reports should be made immediately. A mandated reporter must also complete a written report within 48 hours of contact which discloses the suspected abuse or neglect.

Baltimore County Department of Social Services Contact Information:  
410-887-TIME (8463) (8am-4:30pm M-F)  
410-583-9398 (after-hours number)

<https://dhs.maryland.gov/child-protective-services/reporting-suspected-child-abuse-or-neglect/local-offices/>

### **B. How to Make a Report to the College**

All reports of violations of this Policy will be taken seriously and in good faith. The Title IX Coordinator will provide information and guidance regarding how to file a formal complaint with the College and/or local law enforcement, as well as information and assistance about what course of action may best support the individual(s) involved and how best to address the report.

Every reasonable effort will be made to maintain the privacy of those making a report to the extent possible. In all cases, Goucher will give consideration to the party bringing forward a report with respect to how the matter is pursued. The College may, when necessary to protect the community, initiate an investigation or take other responsive actions to a report, even when the person identifying a concern chooses not to participate in a resolution process and/or requests that the College not initiate an investigation.

Employees, students, guests, or visitors who believe that this Policy has been violated should promptly contact the Title IX Coordinator or another member of the Title IX Office as follows:

Email: [titleixcoordinator@goucher.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@goucher.edu)

Phone: 410-337-6570

Online Reporting Form: <https://www.goucher.edu/title-ix/>

There is no timeline for making a report under this Policy, however, Goucher encourages the prompt reporting of a complaint as the ability of the College to pursue the complaint to conclusion may be hindered by the passage of time.

### **C. Amnesty**

Goucher College encourages reporting of incidents of sexual misconduct. The College recognizes that a student who has been using drugs or consuming alcohol during or near the time of an incident may be hesitant to make a report or to respond fully during an investigation because of potential consequences under the Code of Conduct for their own behavior. A student involved in informal or formal complaint procedures under this Policy, either as reporting party, responding party, or witness, will not be subject to disciplinary action under the College's Code of Conduct for their own personal consumption of alcohol or drugs at or near the time of the incident, provided that any such violations were not reasonably likely to place the health or safety of any other person at risk. The College may initiate an educational discussion or pursue other educational remedies regarding alcohol or other drugs to protect the health and well-being of the student.

### **D. Privacy and Confidentiality**

The College values the privacy of its students, employees, and other community members. Community members should be able to seek the assistance they need and access this Policy without fear that the information they provide will be shared more broadly.

References made to privacy mean Goucher offices and employees who cannot guarantee confidentiality, but will maintain privacy to the greatest extent possible, relaying information as necessary to investigate or seek a resolution and to notify the Title IX Coordinator or designee, who is responsible for tracking patterns and spotting systemic issues. The College will limit the disclosure as much as practicable.

All activities under these procedures shall be conducted with the privacy interests of those involved. While Goucher will take all reasonable steps to protect the privacy of individuals involved in a report, it may be necessary to disclose some information to individuals or offices on campus in order to address a report or provide for the physical safety of an individual or the campus. Thus, Goucher cannot, and does not, guarantee that all information related to reports will be kept confidential.

In order to maintain the privacy of evidence gathered as part of any resolution process, access to materials under the procedures in this Policy will be provided only by a secure method and parties and advisors are not permitted to make copies of any documents shared or make use of the documents outside of the processes described in this Policy. Parties may request to review a hard copy of materials, and the College will make that available in a supervised or monitored setting. Inappropriately sharing materials provided during this process may constitute retaliation under this Policy.

Individuals may speak confidentially with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources (e.g., licensed mental health care providers, physicians, clergy) may not report to Title IX Coordinator any identifying information about conduct that may violate the Prohibited Conduct in this Policy without the written consent of the individual who supplied the information, unless required by law. Such disclosures will not be reported to the Title IX Coordinator or initiate any process under this Policy.

The College employs two types of employees who are not required to report information about sex discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator:

- Privileged and confidential employees whose communications are privileged or confidential under Federal or State law. The employee must be hired for and functioning within the scope of their duties to which the privilege or confidentiality applies. For example, physicians, clergy, and mental health counselors are all confidential employees. Disclosures made to these employees means that information cannot be disclosed to anyone internal or external to the College without the expressed permission from the individual disclosing the information. State law requires professional counselors to report: (i) when a patient is likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm to the patient or others; (ii) if there is reasonable cause to suspect that a minor has been sexually abused. These reports must be made to the Baltimore County Department of Social Services.
- Employees designated by the institution as exempt from reporting known sex discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator and designated as such for the purpose of providing services to the campus community related to sex discrimination. Such employees must be acting in the scope of that role when they learn of the information about sex discrimination for this exemption to apply. For example, the ombudsperson and sexual violence response counselors may be designated as exempt from internal reporting. Disclosures made to these employees means that information will not be shared with the Title IX Coordinator or anyone within the College but may be released under legal action or court order without the permission of the individual disclosing the information.

### **E. Reporting to the Police**

Some Prohibited Conduct may constitute a violation of both the law and Goucher policy. Goucher encourages students to report alleged crimes promptly to local law enforcement agencies. All persons have the right to file with law enforcement, as well as the right to decline to file with law enforcement. The decision not to file shall not be considered as evidence that there was not a violation of Goucher policy.

Criminal investigations may be useful in the gathering of relevant evidence, particularly forensic evidence. The standards for finding a violation of criminal law are different from the standards for finding a violation of this Policy. Conduct may constitute Prohibited Conduct under this Policy even if law enforcement agencies lack sufficient evidence of a crime and decline to prosecute.

Proceedings under this Policy may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings off campus. However, when a report is made to Goucher as well as to

law enforcement, Goucher may delay its process if a law enforcement agency requests that Goucher delay its process for a reasonable amount of time to allow law enforcement to gather evidence of criminal misconduct. Criminal or legal proceedings are separate from the processes in this Policy and do not determine whether this Policy has been violated.

All investigations and determinations under this Policy will be thorough, reliable and impartial, and will seek to collect evidence and names of witnesses to gather information that is directly or substantially relevant to whether the alleged Policy violation occurred and will not be based on the grounds that civil or criminal charges involving the same incident have been filed or that charges have been dismissed or reduced.

In the case of an emergency, where the physical well-being of a member of Goucher community or the safety of Goucher as an institution is threatened, any individual with such knowledge should promptly inform the Office of Campus Safety. Goucher may take any immediate steps as may be necessary and appropriate under the circumstances to ensure the well-being of the College community and Goucher as an institution.

## **VI. RESPONDING TO A REPORT**

The following process will be used following the receipt of a report of Prohibited Conduct under this Policy.

### **A. Initial Conduct**

Following receipt of a report alleging a potential violation of this Policy, the Title IX Coordinator will contact the complainant to meet with the Title IX Coordinator for an initial intake and assessment meeting, and will provide the following (as applicable):

- An invitation to meet to offer assistance and explain their rights, resources, and options under this Policy.
- Access to this Policy.
- Information regarding available campus and community resources for counseling, health care, mental health, or victim advocacy. Upon request, information regarding legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid and other available services may be provided.
- The availability of Supportive Measures regardless of whether a complaint is filed and/or any resolution is initiated.
- The options for resolution (no action, prevention, agreement, investigation) and how to initiate such resolution processes.
- The right to notify law enforcement as well as the right not to notify law enforcement.
- The importance of preserving evidence and, in the case of potential criminal misconduct, how to get assistance from Campus Safety or local law enforcement in preserving evidence.
- The right to an advisor of choice, if applicable, during Goucher proceedings under this Policy including the initial meeting with the Title IX Coordinator.
- A statement that retaliation for filing a formal complaint, or participating in the formal complaint process, is prohibited.
- Information on how to initiate the Investigation or Resolution-Based Agreement process.

## **B. Initial Intake & Assessment**

The Initial Assessment process seeks to gather information about the nature and circumstances of the report to determine whether this Policy applies to the report and, if so, which resolution process may be appropriate, as well as which section of the resolution procedures apply based on the conduct and the status of the parties. The Title IX Coordinator may also determine that the provision of supportive measures is the only appropriate response under the Policy. The initial assessment is not a finding of fact or responsibility. If the individual bringing forward the report is not the actual complainant, the Title IX Coordinator will limit communication to general information on policies and processes.

Should the complainant wish to file a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether this Policy applies and, if so, the appropriate process under this Policy. The Title IX Coordinator will communicate to the complainant this determination.

If the information provided does not suggest a potential violation of this Policy, the Title IX Coordinator will provide the complainant written notice that the matter is being referred for handling under a different policy, and/or to another appropriate office for handling.

## **C. Requests for Confidentiality or No Further Action**

When a complainant requests that Goucher not use their name as part of any resolution process, or that Goucher not take any further action, Goucher will generally try to honor those requests. However, there are certain instances in which Goucher has a broader obligation to the community and may need to act against the wishes of the complainant. In such circumstances, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the complainant in writing of the need to take action. The factors the Title IX Coordinator will consider when determining whether to act against the wishes of a complainant include:

1. The complainant's request not to proceed with filing a formal complaint;
2. The complainant's reasonable safety concerns regarding filing a formal complaint;
3. The risk that additional acts of Prohibited Conduct would occur if a formal complaint is not filed;
4. The severity of the alleged Prohibited Conduct, including whether the Prohibited Conduct, if established, would require the removal of a respondent from campus or imposition of another disciplinary sanction to end the Prohibited Conduct and prevent its recurrence;
5. The age and relationship of the parties, including whether the respondent is an employee of the College;
6. The scope of the alleged Prohibited Conduct, including information suggesting a pattern, ongoing Prohibited Conduct, or Prohibited Conduct alleged to have impacted multiple individuals;
7. The availability of evidence to assist a Decisionmaker in determining whether the Prohibited Conduct occurred;
8. Whether the College could end the alleged Prohibited Conduct and prevent its recurrence without filing a formal complaint; and

9. Whether the conduct as alleged presents an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of the complainant or other persons, or that the conduct as alleged prevents the College from ensuring equal access on the basis of sex to its education program or activity.

#### **D. Emergency Removal**

Goucher retains the authority to remove a respondent from Goucher's program or activity on an emergency basis, where Goucher (1) undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, (2) determines that an immediate and serious threat to the health or safety of a complainant or any student, employee, or other individual arising from the allegations of Prohibited Conduct justifies a removal, and (3) the College provides the respondent with notice of and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

The respondent may challenge the decision immediately following the removal, by notifying the Title IX Coordinator in writing. Goucher will designate an impartial individual, not otherwise involved in the case, to consider the challenge to the removal and determine if the emergency removal was reasonable.

For all other Prohibited Conduct, Goucher may defer to its interim suspension policies for students and administrative leave for employees.

#### **E. Administrative Leave**

The College retains the authority to place an employee respondent on administrative leave during a pending formal complaint process or other process under this Policy, with or without pay as appropriate. Administrative leave may be a supportive measure, emergency removal, or consistent with applicable law.

Administrative leave implemented as a supportive measure or as emergency removal is subject to the procedural provisions above, including the right to challenge the decision to implement that measure.

#### **F. Formal Complaints**

A formal complaint is required in order to proceed with a resolution process under this Policy except Support-Based Resolution. A formal complaint must be written, in paper form (hand delivered or by mail or shipping service) or electronically submitted and either signed or with another indication that it is being filed by the Complainant, the Complainant's parent or guardian, or by the Title IX Coordinator, and that alleges a violation of the Policy as defined above, by a covered person, within the College's program or activity, and requesting that Goucher investigate the allegations.

Where the Complainant is unable or unwilling to file a formal complaint, and there have been allegations of violations of this Policy involving covered persons in the College's programs and activities, the Title IX Coordinator may file and sign a formal complaint. In that case, the Title IX Coordinator does not have the status of Complainant or party. A Complainant retains their rights even if they decline to participate, including but not limited to receiving notices, the opportunity

to review evidence and the right to receive the final investigation report. The Title IX Coordinator will use discretion in these matters.

A formal complaint cannot be filed anonymously because the Respondent must be notified who is making the accusation against them. A person does not, however, need to file a formal complaint to obtain supportive measures. For supportive measures, the Complainant's identity may remain confidential to the extent practicable to implement the supportive measure.

In certain cases, the identity of the Respondent may not be known by the person filing the formal complaint. They may still file the formal complaint, and the College may be able to better identify the Respondent.

### **G. Dismissal of a Formal Complaint**

Before dismissing a formal complaint, Goucher will make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

Goucher may dismiss a formal complaint brought under this Policy, or any specific allegations raised within that formal complaint, at any time during the investigation or hearing, if:

- Goucher is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;
- The respondent is not participating in Goucher's education program or activity and is not employed by Goucher;
- Specific circumstances prevent the College from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding the formal complaint or allegations within the formal complaint;
- The complainant voluntarily withdraws their formal complaint in writing and the Title IX Coordinator declines to initiate a formal complaint; or
- Goucher determines the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute Prohibited Conduct under this Policy.

A formal complaint of Title IX Sexual Harassment must be dismissed when:

- The conduct alleged did not occur in the College's education program or activity, or did not occur against a person in the United States; or
- The complainant voluntarily withdraws some but not all allegations in a formal complaint in writing, and the College determines that the conduct that remains alleged in the formal complaint would not constitute Title IX Prohibited Conduct under this Policy; or
- The conduct alleged in the formal complaint, even if proven, would not constitute Prohibited Conduct under this Policy.

Upon dismissal, Goucher will promptly notify the complainant in writing of the basis for the dismissal. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then Goucher will notify the parties simultaneously in writing. If a dismissal of one or more allegations changes the appropriate decision-making process under these procedures, the Title IX Coordinator will include that information in the notification.

Goucher will notify the complainant that a dismissal may be appealed on the basis outlined in the Appeals section. If dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then Goucher will also notify the respondent that the dismissal may be appealed on the same bases. If

a dismissal is appealed, Goucher will follow the procedures outlined in the Appeals section of these procedures.

When a formal complaint is dismissed, Goucher will, at a minimum:

- Offer supportive measures to the complainant as appropriate;
- If the respondent has been notified of the allegations, offer supportive measures to the respondent as appropriate; and,
- Take other prompt and effective steps, as appropriate, through the Title IX Coordinator to ensure that Prohibited Conduct does not continue or recur within Goucher's education program or activity.

A complainant who decides to withdraw a formal complaint or any portion of it may later request to reinstate it or refile it.

Parties may appeal the dismissal of a formal complaint as included below under Appeal Procedures

#### **H. Referrals for Other Misconduct**

Goucher has the discretion to refer reports of misconduct not covered by this Policy for handling under any other applicable Goucher policy or code. As part of any such referral for further handling, Goucher may use evidence already gathered through any process covered by this Policy.

Should there be a conflict between the provision of this Policy and other Goucher policies, procedures, rules, regulations, or terms or conditions of employment, the provisions of this Policy will govern unless specifically stated otherwise.

This Policy and these procedures are separate from Goucher's student disciplinary processes, by which Goucher may bring a discipline charge against a student for violating Goucher policy according to the provisions found in Goucher's Student Code of Conduct.

#### **I. Consolidation of Cases**

Goucher may consolidate reports under this Policy as appropriate: for example, if there are multiple reports where the allegations of Prohibited Conduct arise out of the same facts or circumstances, or there are multiple reports with overlapping parties.

Goucher also reserves the right to use this Policy to adjudicate other allegations and conduct charges as defined by policies outside of the scope of this Policy in instances when the conduct is associated with an alleged issue of Prohibited Conduct under this Policy. The Title IX Coordinator will address these consolidated reports in collaboration and coordination with other appropriate offices, such as the Dean of Students or Human Resources. Allegations of a violation of a separate policy are not required to be handled using the procedural requirements set forth in this Policy.

#### **J. Student Withdrawal or Employee Resignations while Matters are Pending**

If a student or employee respondent permanently withdraws or resigns from Goucher with unresolved allegations pending, the College will consider whether and how to proceed with the

resolution process. The College will continue to address and remedy any systemic issues or concerns that may have contributed to the alleged violation(s) and any ongoing effects of the alleged harassment, discrimination or retaliation.

A student respondent who withdraws or leaves while the process is pending may not return to Goucher without first resolving any pending matters. Such exclusion applies to all Goucher campuses and programs. Admissions will be notified that the student cannot be readmitted. They may also be barred from Goucher property or events. If a student respondent withdraws or takes a leave for a specified period of time (e.g., one semester or term), the resolution process may continue remotely, and that student is not permitted to return to Goucher unless and until the matter is fully resolved.

An employee respondent who resigns with unresolved allegations pending is not eligible for rehire with Goucher and the records retained by the Title IX Coordinator will reflect that status. All Goucher responses to future inquiries regarding employment references for that individual will include that the former employee resigned during a pending disciplinary matter.

## **VII. OPTIONS FOR RESOLUTION**

There are multiple ways to resolve a report of Prohibited Conduct. Whenever possible, the College will utilize the resolution method chosen by the complainant. During the resolution of a report, the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether to implement reasonable supportive measures designed to assist all parties (complainants and respondents) and community members in maintaining access to and participation in Goucher programs, services and activities during the resolution of the report.

This section includes information on (A) Support-Based Resolution, (B) Agreement-Based Resolution, and (C) Formal Resolution procedures, which may include an Investigation only based process, or an Investigation and Hearing based process as detailed below.

### **A. Support-Based Resolution**

A formal complaint is not required for a Support-Based Resolution. A Support-Based Resolution is an option for a complainant who does not wish Goucher to take any further steps to address their concern, and when the Title IX Coordinator determines that another form of resolution, or further action, is not required. Some types of support that may be appropriate include: adjustments or changes to class schedules; moving from one residence hall room to another; adjusted deadlines for projects or assignments; adjustments to work schedule or arrangements; escorts to and around campus; or counseling.

A Support-Based Resolution does not preclude later use of another form of resolution, for example if new information becomes available to Goucher and the Title IX Coordinator determines there is need for additional steps to be taken, or the complainant later decides to pursue a formal complaint.

### **B. Agreement-Based Resolution**

A formal complaint is required for Agreement-Based Resolution. Agreement-Based Resolution is not available to resolve a student Complainant's allegation that an employee has engaged in Title IX Prohibited Conduct.

Agreement-Based Resolution is an alternative to the investigation and hearing procedures where the Parties each voluntarily agree to resolve the formal complaint in a way that does not include an investigation and does not include any finding of responsibility. Agreement-Based Resolution is a voluntary, structured interaction between or among affected parties that balances support and accountability. If the College offers Agreement-Based Resolution to the parties, and they voluntarily consent to engage in that process, the Title IX Coordinator must still take other prompt and effective steps as needed to ensure that Prohibited Conduct does not continue or recur within the education program or activity. Parties and the Title IX Coordinator may agree to pause or exit the investigation and hearing resolution procedures to explore Agreement-Based Resolution.

Any party may design a proposed agreement between the parties. The Title IX Coordinator must approve of the use of the Agreement-Based Resolution process and approve the final agreement between the parties. Agreement-Based Resolution may be initiated at any time prior to the release of the final determination. Agreement-Based Resolution does not result in a determination about whether the alleged Prohibited Conduct occurred.

The Title IX Coordinator has the discretion to determine that Agreement-Based Resolution is not an appropriate way to address the reported conduct, and that the matter must instead be resolved through the Formal Resolution process.

#### Initiating the Agreement-Based Resolution Process

Prior to the initiation of Agreement-Based Resolution, the Title IX Coordinator will provide the Parties written notice that includes:

- The specific allegation and the specific conduct that is alleged to have occurred.
- The requirements of the Agreement-Based Resolution process.
- Any consequences resulting from participating in the Agreement-Based Resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared, and whether Goucher could disclose such information for use in a future Goucher resolution process, including an investigation and resolution process arising from the same or different allegations, as may be appropriate.
- Notice that an agreement resulting from the Agreement-Based Resolution process is binding only on the parties and is not subject to appeal.
- Notice that once the Agreement is finalized and signed by the Parties, they cannot initiate or continue an investigation procedure arising from the same allegations.
- A statement indicating that the decision to participate in the Agreement-Based Resolution process does not presume that the conduct at issue has occurred.
- A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for violating this Policy, unless respondent admits to violations of this Policy.
- An explanation that all parties may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice, who may be a parent, colleague, friend, or attorney.

- A statement that any party has the right to withdraw from the Agreement-Based Resolution process and initiate or resume resolution procedures at any time before agreeing to a resolution.
- The date and time of the initial meeting with staff or the Title IX Coordinator, with a minimum of 3 days' notice.
- Information regarding Supportive Measures, which are available equally to the parties.
- The potential terms that may be requested or offered in an Agreement-Based Resolution agreement.

### Facilitating an Agreement

If all Parties are willing to explore Agreement-Based Resolution, the Title IX Coordinator will then meet separately with each party to discuss the Agreement-Based Resolution process and facilitate an agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached, either because the Parties do not agree, determine they no longer wish to participate in the Agreement-Based Resolution process, or the Title IX Coordinator does not believe that the terms of the agreement or continuing the Agreement-Based Resolution process is appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator may decide that the reported conduct will instead be addressed through the Formal Resolution process. The Title IX Coordinator will inform the Parties of such decision, in writing.

Agreement-Based Resolution processes are managed by facilitators who do not have a conflict of interest or bias in favor of or against complainants or respondents generally or regarding the specific parties in the matter. The Title IX Coordinator may serve as the facilitator, subject to these restrictions. The investigator or Hearing Officer for the matter may not facilitate an Agreement-Based Resolution in that same matter.

Any party may craft or create the terms of their agreement and will be asked for their suggestions or ideas. Examples of agreements may include but are not limited to:

- an agreement that the respondent will change classes or housing assignments;
- an agreement that the Parties will not communicate or otherwise engage with one another;
- an agreement that the Parties will not contact one another;
- completion of a training or educational project by the respondent;
- completion of a community service project by the respondent;
- an agreement to engage in a restorative justice process or facilitated dialogue; and/or
- discipline agreed upon by all parties.

In order to facilitate Agreement-Based Resolution, information shared by any party will not be used in any related resolution process of the same formal complaint under this Policy. No evidence concerning the allegations obtained within the Agreement-Based Resolution process may be disseminated to any outside person, provided that any party to the Agreement-Based Resolution process may generally discuss the allegations under investigation with a parent, advisor, or other source of emotional support, or with an advocacy organization. An admission of responsibility made during an Agreement-Based Resolution process, however, may not be incorporated into the investigation and adjudication proceeding.

### Finalizing the Resolution Agreement

Once the final terms of the Resolution Agreement have been agreed upon by all parties, in writing, and approved by the Title IX Coordinator, the matter will be considered closed, and no further action will be taken. Once signed, no appeal is permitted. The Agreement-Based Resolution process is generally expected to be completed within thirty (30) days and may be extended by the Title IX Coordinator as appropriate. All parties will be notified, in writing, of any extension and the reason for the extension.

Records of an Agreement-Based Resolution process can be shared with other offices as appropriate.

Any violations of the terms of the Resolution Agreement may result in disciplinary action.

### **C. Formal Resolution**

This Policy includes two types of resolution options that constitute Formal Resolution. These include:

- **Formal Resolution Process A:** utilized for Formal Resolution of Title IX Sexual Harassment.
- **Formal Resolution Process B:** utilized for Formal Resolution for all other forms of Prohibited Conduct of this Policy.

The following information applies to both types of Formal Resolution Processes generally:

#### Acceptance of Responsibility

If a respondent accepts responsibility for all or part of the Prohibited Conduct alleged, the designated sanctioning officer will issue an appropriate sanction or responsive action as to those violation(s) and continue processing any remaining allegations of Prohibited Conduct, if any.

#### Assignment of the Investigator and/or Hearing Officer (as applicable)

The College will assign a trained investigator and/or Hearing Officer (as applicable) to conduct an adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation and determination, if applicable, in a reasonably prompt timeframe. Goucher reserves the right to utilize internal or external investigators and Hearing Officers.

All parties have the option to participate in the investigation, and each have the same rights during the resolution process including the right to an advisor, to submit relevant witness names and evidence, and to review the evidence gathered by the investigator prior to the investigator providing the final report to the Hearing Officer (as applicable). All parties have the same rights at the hearing, including the right to review any evidence that will be considered by the Hearing Officer prior to the hearing.

The investigator will establish deadlines for submission of names of relevant witnesses and submission of evidence and communicate those deadlines to the parties in writing.

#### Conflict of Interest or Bias

After a Notice of Investigation is issued to all parties, any party may object to the participation of the Title IX Coordinator or designated investigator on the grounds of a demonstrated bias or actual conflict of interest. All parties will have three (3) days from the date of the Notice of Investigation to object to the selection of the investigator or the Title IX Coordinator. Objections to the Title IX Coordinator are to be made, in writing, to the Title IX Coordinator's supervisor. Objections to the appointment of the investigator are to be made in writing, to the Title IX Coordinator. All objections will be considered, and changes made as appropriate. If the objection is substantiated as to either the Title IX Coordinator or the Investigator, that individual shall be replaced. Any change will be communicated in writing.

### Timeline

In those cases that do not include a hearing (Process B), the College strives to complete the investigation process within ninety (90) days from the date of the Notice of Investigation. In those cases that include a hearing (Process A), Goucher strives to complete the investigation process within sixty (60) days from the date of the Notice of Investigation and complete the hearing within sixty (60) days of the Notice of Hearing.

The timeline for any part of the resolution process may be extended for good cause by the Title IX Coordinator. All parties shall be notified, in writing, of any extension to the timeline that is granted, the reason for the extension, and the new anticipated date of conclusion of the investigation and/or determination. Good cause reasons for extension may include ensuring availability of witnesses and other participants and ensuring participants have sufficient time to review materials.

Goucher shall not unreasonably deny a student party's request for an extension of a deadline related to a formal complaint during periods of examinations or school closures.

The investigator and/or Title IX Coordinator shall provide the Parties with periodic status updates, in writing.

### Burden and Standard of Review

Goucher has the burden of conducting an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether Prohibited Conduct occurred. This burden does not rest with any party, and any party may decide to limit their participation in part or all of the process, or to decline to participate. This does not shift the burden of proof away from Goucher and does not indicate responsibility. The standard of proof used in any determination process is the preponderance of the evidence standard, which means more likely than not.

### Written Notice of Meetings

Goucher will provide to a party or witness whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all meetings or proceedings with sufficient time to prepare to participate.

## Evidence Gathering

### *Interviews*

The investigator will interview all parties and relevant witnesses and gather relevant and directly related documentary evidence provided by the parties and any identified witnesses. Interviews may be conducted in person, or via video conference. When a party meets with an investigator, the investigator will ask questions related to the allegations in the formal complaint and a party is given the opportunity speak to the allegations and related events. Parties may identify fact witnesses and provide evidence that is relevant or directly related to the allegations. This will include inculpatory evidence (that tends to show it more likely that someone committed a violation) and exculpatory evidence (that tends to show it less likely that someone committed a violation). The investigator ultimately determines whom to interview to determine the facts relevant to the formal complaint.

### *Irrelevant Evidence*

The following are not relevant, as per applicable federal law. This means this information will not be accessed or considered, except by Goucher to determine whether one of the exceptions listed below applies.

- Evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by Federal or State law, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality;
- A party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless Goucher obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its resolution procedures; and
- Evidence and questions about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior unless:
  - They are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or
  - They concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent.

### **i. Formal Resolution Process A: Investigation & Decision-making Procedures in Cases of Title IX Sexual Harassment**

The following describes the investigation and live hearing procedures for matters of Title IX Sexual Harassment.

### Notice of Investigation

Prior to the start of an investigation, the Parties will be provided a written Notice of Investigation communicating the initiation of an investigation. Should additional allegations be brought forward, or information regarding location or date of the incident(s), a revised written Notice of Investigation shall be provided to all parties.

The Notice shall include, at a minimum:

- Goucher College’s investigation procedures, including the applicable determination procedure that will be used in this investigation and hearing process, and a link to the relevant policies.
- Information about the agreement-based resolution process, with a link to the full procedures.
- Sufficient information available at the time to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), a description of the facts alleged to constitute Prohibited Conduct, the specific type of Prohibited Conduct alleged under the Policy, and the date(s), time(s), and location(s) of the alleged incident(s).
- A statement that Retaliation is prohibited.
- Expected length of the major stages of the resolution process, as well as any applicable deadlines.
- Information to the parties that the investigator will establish and communicate, in writing, all investigation deadlines, including the final deadlines for submitting names of witnesses, evidence, and relevant questions to ask a party or witness. These deadlines may be extended by the Title IX Coordinator for good cause, and any changes will be provided, in writing, to the parties, along with the rationale for the revised deadline(s).
- The process for raising a challenge to the appointed investigator or Title IX Coordinator, and the deadline for doing so.
- A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for Prohibited Conduct until a determination is made at the conclusion of the resolution process. Prior to such a determination, the parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial Hearing Officer. Should the respondent be found responsible, possible sanctions may include suspension or expulsion from the College.
- A statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice who may be a friend, parent, therapist, colleague, or attorney.
  - The parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and directly related evidence or an investigation report that accurately summarizes this evidence.
- Information that the College prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during grievance procedures.
- The date and time of the initial interview with the Investigator, with a minimum of five (5) business days’ notice.

### Individual Interviews

The investigator will hold individual interviews with parties and witnesses to ask relevant questions and follow-up questions, including questions exploring credibility, and to request of the parties the names of relevant witnesses and relevant evidence. Only the investigator and the party or witness may attend each individual interview. A party's advisor may attend these meetings, subject to the rules described in this Policy. Additional attendees may be permitted at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator in connection with an approved disability-related

accommodation. All persons present at any time during any part of the investigation or resolution process are expected to maintain the privacy of the proceedings and not discuss or otherwise share any information learned as part of the grievance process and may be subject to further College discipline for failure to do so.

The investigator will then gather from parties, witnesses, and other sources, all relevant and directly related evidence.

The Title IX Coordinator will share expectations of decorum to be observed at all times in any meeting or proceeding under this Policy. These expectations are applied equally to all parties and advisors. The College has the discretion to remove, with or without prior warning, from any meeting or proceeding an involved party, witness, or advisor who does not comply with these expectations and any other applicable College rules.

The individual interviews may be conducted with all participants physically present in the same geographic location, or, at the College's discretion, with all participants joining virtually through a video conferencing option. The investigator will determine, in their sole discretion, whether parties and witnesses are likely to provide relevant information about the allegations and has the sole discretion to determine which parties and witnesses to call to an interview. The investigator may conduct follow-up interviews as they deem appropriate.

#### Investigator Determination of Relevance

The investigator will determine whether parties and witnesses are likely to provide relevant information about the allegations and has the sole discretion to determine which parties and witnesses to call to individual follow-up meetings.

The investigator will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant, directly related, or irrelevant. Character evidence is not relevant evidence and therefore will not be considered.

#### Evidence Review

At the conclusion of all fact-gathering, the investigator will provide each party and their advisor the opportunity to review all relevant and directly related evidence gathered. In the event that an audio or audiovisual recording is shared, the recording will be made available via a secure platform so as to maintain the privacy of those participating in the process.

The purpose of the review process is to allow each party the equal opportunity to meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation, to submit any additional relevant evidence, and the names of any additional witnesses with relevant information. This is the final opportunity to offer evidence or names of witnesses. Evidence not provided during the investigation process will not be considered by the Hearing Officer. Given the sensitive nature of the information provided, the College will facilitate this review in a secure manner. None of the parties nor their advisors may copy, remove, photograph, print, image, videotape, record, or in any manner otherwise duplicate or remove the information provided. Any student or

employee who fails to abide by this may be subject to discipline. Any advisor who fails to abide by this may be subject to discipline and/or may be excluded from further participation in the process.

The parties will have a minimum of ten (10) business days to inspect and review the evidence and submit a written response in writing to the investigator. The Title IX Coordinator shall have the discretion to extend the evidence review period based on the volume and nature of the evidence.

When deemed appropriate by the investigator, the investigator shall then conduct any additional fact gathering as may be necessary. If new, relevant evidence was submitted as part of evidence review or is gathered during this second fact-gathering period, the new relevant evidence will be made available for review by the parties and their advisors. The parties shall have five (5) business days to provide a response to the newly gathered evidence. No new evidence will be accepted as part of any response, except that the investigator shall have the discretion to accept relevant evidence that was not previously available or known to exist, and that was not previously discoverable with the exercise of reasonable diligence.

The investigator will consider the parties' written responses before finalizing the investigation report.

#### Final Investigation Report

The investigator will prepare a written report summarizing all of the relevant evidence gathered and all steps taken during the investigation process. The investigator will also include as an attachment all relevant evidence gathered during the investigation, as well as all interview notes.

Once the investigation report is final, the report together with all attachments shall be provided to each party and to their advisor, if any, in a secure manner (e.g., by providing digital copies of the materials through a protected, "read-only" web portal). Each party shall have ten (10) business days to provide a response. The response, if any, shall be provided to the Hearing Officer and shared with the parties and their advisor, if applicable.

#### Initiating the Hearing

Within ten (10) business days prior to the date of the hearing, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the parties in writing of the specific charge, the date, time, and location of the hearing, the name of the Hearing Officer, and how to challenge participation by the Hearing Officer for bias or conflict of interest – which the Title IX Coordinator will resolve in their sole discretion. The College may, at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, postpone the hearing or determine that multiple hearing sessions are necessary for a continuance. Good causes for extension may include the unavailability of the parties, the timing of semester breaks or holidays designated by the College, or other extenuating circumstances requiring more time. Any extension, including the reason for the extension, will be shared with the parties in writing. The Complainant or the Respondent may seek to postpone the hearing. Permission to

postpone a hearing may be granted provided that the request to do so is based on a compelling need and communicated to the Title IX Coordinator prior to the time of the hearing.

### Hearing Format

The live hearing may be conducted with all parties physically present in the same geographic location, or, at the College's discretion, any or all parties, witnesses, and other participants may appear at the live hearing virtually through a video conferencing option. This technology will enable participants simultaneously to see and hear each other. At its discretion, the College may delay or adjourn a hearing based on technological errors not within a party's control.

A typical hearing may include brief opening remarks by the Complainant and/or Respondent, with follow-up questions posed by the Hearing Officer, information presented by the parties or witnesses deemed relevant by the Hearing Officer, with follow-up question for the parties or witnesses by the Adjudicator and the parties' Advisors for cross-examination, and brief concluding remarks by the Complainant and Respondent.

### Attendance by and Participation of Parties and Witnesses

All Parties have a right to be present at the hearing. Parties may be accompanied in the hearing by an Advisor of their choice and must provide the name of their Advisor to the Title IX Coordinator at least three (3) calendar days prior to the hearing.

The College may still proceed with the live hearing in the absence of a party and/or witness(es) and may reach a determination of responsibility in their absence. If a party does not attend the live hearing, the party's advisor may appear and conduct cross-examination on their behalf. If neither a party nor their advisor appear at the hearing, the College will provide an advisor to appear on behalf of the non-appearing party.

The Hearing Officer cannot draw an inference about the determination regarding responsibility based solely on a party's absence from the live hearing or refusal to answer cross examination or other questions.

The parties may submit to the Title IX Coordinator a list of witnesses they believe have relevant information to the outcome of the hearing. The Hearing Officer will review the parties' requested witnesses and consider any other witnesses. The Hearing Officer has discretion to determine which witnesses are relevant and may decline to hear from witnesses where they conclude that the information is not necessary for the review. Witnesses will only be permitted to attend the hearing during their own testimony.

### Recordings and Transcripts

All proceedings will be audio recorded. A transcript of the recording will be made available to the parties for inspection and review. This will be the sole recording of the hearing; no Party, Advisor, or witness is permitted to record the hearing, or any portion of the hearing. Any unauthorized recording may result in disciplinary action.

### Newly Discovered Evidence

As a general rule, no new evidence or witnesses may be submitted during the live hearing. If a party identifies new evidence or witnesses that were not reasonably available during the investigation and could affect the outcome of the matter, the party may request that such evidence or witnesses be considered at the live hearing.

The Hearing Officer will consider this request and make a determination regarding:

- whether such evidence or witness testimony was unavailable by reasonable effort prior to the hearing, and
- whether such evidence or witness testimony could affect the outcome of the matter. The party offering the newly discovered evidence or witness has the burden of establishing these questions by the preponderance of the evidence.

If the Hearing Officer answers in the affirmative to both questions, then the parties will be granted a reasonable pause in the hearing to review the evidence or prepare for questioning of the witness. Alternatively, should the newly discovered evidence require additional fact-gathering, the Hearing Officer may send the case back to the investigator for any further investigation as may be required. In this case, the investigator will issue an amended Investigation Report, to which the Parties shall have an opportunity to respond. Depending on the amount of new evidence, the College may shorten the second review and response period, as determined by the Title IX Coordinator. The amended Investigation Report, along with any response(s), shall then be provided to the Parties, their Advisor, and to the Hearing Officer.

### Hearing Officer

At the College's discretion, the Hearing Officer will be a single adjudicator or a hearing panel of three (3) individuals, with one panel member serving as chairperson. The Hearing Officer will not be the Title IX Coordinator, Title IX Investigator, or advisor to any party in the formal complaint, nor may any Hearing Officer to the matter serve on the appeals body to the claim.

The Hearing Officer determines responsibility regarding whether the Policy was violated, and determines which sanctions will apply, if any. Where a student is found responsible for a violation of this Policy, the Title IX Coordinator will designate an appropriate administrator from the College to provide a record of disciplinary history to the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer will then determine the appropriate sanction(s).

The Hearing Officer may not have a conflict of interest or bias in favor of or against complainants or respondents generally, or in favor or against the parties to the particular case.

### Hearing Advisor

As per this Policy, in the event that a party does not have an Advisor present at the live hearing, the College must provide an Advisor, without fee or charge to that party, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney to conduct cross-examination on behalf of that party. At the hearing, the Hearing Officer will permit each party's Advisor to ask the other party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions, including those challenging credibility. Such cross-examination at the live hearing must be conducted directly, orally, and in real time by the party's Advisor of choice and never by a party personally. Advisors provided by the College will be adults with an understanding of the purpose of cross-examination and may be attorneys or have training commensurate to attorneys with respect to conducting cross-examination.

### Cross-Examination

Before any cross-examination question is answered, the Hearing Officer will determine if the question is relevant. Cross-examination questions that are duplicative of those already asked, including by the Hearing Officer may be deemed irrelevant if they have been asked and answered.

Should a party or the party's advisor choose not to cross-examine a party or witness, the party shall affirmatively waive cross-examination through a written or oral statement to the Hearing Officer.

The Hearing Officer shall have the authority to determine whether questions shall be submitted in writing (whether by using a "chat" feature of the video-conferencing platform, email, or a similar mechanism), prior to being asked, so as to facilitate the Hearing Officer's ability to understand the question before making any determination of relevance.

### Impact Statements

Following the hearing, the parties will be offered an opportunity to provide written impact statements 24 hours after the conclusion of the hearing to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will share the impact statements, if submitted, with the parties and their advisors; however, the parties may not respond or provide any comments to the submitted impact statements. The Title IX Coordinator will only provide the impact statements to the Hearing Officer if there is a finding of responsibility for Prohibited Conduct to support sanctioning decisions. Impact statements will not be considered by the Hearing Officer when reaching a determination of responsibility.

### Notice of Outcome

The notice of outcome is a written determination regarding any findings of responsibility that will be issued simultaneously to all parties. If there are no extenuating circumstances, the determination regarding responsibility will be issued by the College within ten (10) business days from the completion of the hearing. The notice of outcome will include:

- Identification of the allegations potentially constituting Prohibited Conduct. For each allegation:

- A statement of, and rationale for, a determination regarding responsibility,
- A statement of, and rationale for, any disciplinary sanctions the recipient imposed on the respondent, and
- A statement of, and rationale for, whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the College’s education program or activity will be provided to the Complainant, except that the remedies provided shall not be shared with the Respondent.
- A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with the parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held.
- Findings of fact supporting the determination.
- Conclusions regarding which section of this Policy or other College Policy (ies), if any, the respondent has or has not violated.
- The College’s procedures and the permitted reasons for the complainant and respondent to appeal.
- How to challenge participation by the Appeal Panel for bias or conflict of interest – which the Title IX Coordinator will resolve at their sole discretion.

**ii. Formal Resolution Process B: Investigation & Decision-making Procedures for all forms of Prohibited Conduct Except Title IX Sexual Harassment under this Policy**

This procedure is for all matters of Prohibited Conduct being investigated and determined under this Policy except for Title IX Sexual Harassment. The College will assign a trained investigator to conduct an adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation in a reasonably prompt timeframe. The College reserves the right to utilize internal or external investigators.

All parties have the option to participate in the investigation, and each have the same rights during the resolution process including the right to an advisor, to submit relevant witness names and evidence, and to review the evidence gathered by the investigator prior to the investigator making any findings.

Notice of Investigation

Prior to the start of an investigation, the Parties will be provided a written Notice of Investigation communicating the initiation of an investigation. Should additional allegations be brought forward, or information regarding location or date of the incident(s), a revised written Notice of Investigation shall be provided to all parties.

The Notice shall include, at a minimum:

1. Goucher's investigation procedures, including the applicable determination procedure that will be used in this investigation and resolution, and a link to the relevant policies.

2. Information about the agreement-based resolution process, with a link to the full procedures.
3. Sufficient information available at the time to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), a description of the facts alleged to constitute Prohibited Conduct, the type of Prohibited Conduct, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident(s).
4. A statement that retaliation is prohibited.
5. Whether the investigator, or another individual, shall serve as the Decisionmaker (as applicable).
6. Expected length of the major stages of the resolution process, as well as any applicable deadlines.
7. The Notice will inform the parties that the investigator will establish and communicate, in writing, all investigation deadlines, including the final deadlines for submitting names of witnesses, evidence, and relevant questions to ask a party or witness. These deadlines may be extended by the Title IX Coordinator for good cause, and any changes will be provided, in writing, to the parties, along with the rationale for the revised deadline(s).
8. The process for raising a challenge to the appointed investigator, Decisionmaker or Title IX Coordinator, and the deadline for doing so.
9. A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for Prohibited Conduct until a determination is made at the conclusion of the resolution process. Prior to such a determination, the parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and directly related evidence to a trained, impartial Decisionmaker.
10. A statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice who may be a friend, parent, therapist, colleague, or attorney.
11. The parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and directly related evidence or an investigation report that accurately summarizes this evidence.
12. Article IV, Section B of Goucher's Code of Conduct prohibits the furnishing of false information to any college official, staff member, faculty member, or office.
13. The Decisionmaker will be identified. If the College assigns a different Decisionmaker, an updated notice will be provided to the parties.
14. The date and time of the initial interview with the Investigator, with a minimum of five (5) days' notice.

### Individual Interviews

The investigator will hold individual interviews with parties and witnesses to ask relevant questions and follow-up questions, including questions exploring credibility, and to request of the parties the names of relevant witnesses and relevant evidence. Only the investigator and the party or witness may attend each individual interview, and a party may be accompanied by their advisor. Additional attendees may be permitted at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator in connection with an approved disability-related accommodation. All persons present at any time during any part of the investigation or resolution process are expected to maintain the privacy of the proceedings and not discuss or otherwise share any information learned as part of the resolution process, and may be subject to further Goucher discipline for failure to do so.

The College will share expectations of decorum to be observed at all times in any meeting or proceeding under this Policy. These expectations are applied equally to all parties and advisors. The College has the discretion to remove, with or without prior warning, from any meeting or proceeding an involved party, witness, or advisor who does not comply with these expectations and any other applicable Goucher rules.

The individual interviews may be conducted with all participants physically present in the same geographic location, or, at the College's discretion, with all participants joining virtually through a video conferencing option. All interviews will be recorded, and either an audio or audiovisual record, or transcript of these meetings will be provided to the parties during evidence review. The investigator will determine, in their sole discretion, whether parties and witnesses are likely to provide relevant information about the allegations and has the sole discretion to determine which parties and witnesses to call to an interview. The investigator may conduct follow-up interviews as they deem appropriate. The investigator will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant, directly related or irrelevant. Character evidence that is not relevant will not be considered.

### Evidence Review

At the conclusion of all fact-gathering, the investigator will provide each party and their advisor the opportunity to review all relevant and directly related evidence gathered. In the event that an audio or audiovisual recording is shared, the recording will only be made available at an in-person and monitored meeting on campus, and will not otherwise be transmitted for review, so as to maintain the privacy of those participating in the process.

The purpose of the inspection and review process is to allow each party the equal opportunity to meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation and to submit any additional relevant evidence, questions for parties or witnesses, or the names of any additional witnesses with relevant information. This is the final opportunity to offer evidence or names of witnesses. Evidence not provided during the investigation process will not be considered by the Decisionmaker. Given the sensitive nature of the information provided, Goucher will facilitate this review in a secure manner. None of the parties nor their advisors may copy, remove, photograph, print, image, videotape, record, or in any manner otherwise duplicate or remove the information provided. Any student or employee who fails to abide by this may be subject to discipline. Any advisor who fails to abide by this may be subject to discipline and/or may be excluded from further participation in the process.

The parties will have a minimum of ten (10) business days to inspect and review the evidence and submit a written response in writing to the investigator. The College will provide access to copies of the parties' written responses to the investigator to all parties and their advisors, if any. The Title IX Coordinator shall have the discretion to extend the evidence review period based on the volume and nature of the evidence.

At the conclusion of the evidence review, when deemed appropriate by the investigator, the investigator shall then conduct any additional fact-gathering as may be necessary. If new, relevant evidence was submitted as part of evidence review or is gathered during this second

fact-gathering period, the new relevant evidence will be made available for review by the parties and their advisors. The parties shall have five (5) business days to provide a response to the newly-gathered evidence. No new evidence will be accepted as part of any response, except that the investigator shall have the discretion to accept relevant evidence that was not previously available or known to exist, and that was not previously discoverable with the exercise of reasonable diligence.

The investigator will consider the parties' written responses before finalizing the investigation report.

### Impact Statements

Following the investigation, the parties will be offered an opportunity to provide written impact statements to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will share the impact statements, if submitted, with the parties and their advisors; however, the parties may not respond or provide any comments to the submitted impact statements. The Title IX Coordinator will only provide the impact statements to the investigator if there is a finding of responsibility for Prohibited Conduct to support sanctioning decisions. Impact statements will not be considered by the investigator when reaching a determination of responsibility.

### Final Investigation Report and Determination

The investigator, who will serve as the Decisionmaker shall evaluate the relevant and directly related evidence and make a factual determination regarding each allegation, and also determine whether a violation of the Policy occurred. The investigator/decisionmaker may choose to place less or no weight upon statements by a party or witness who refused to respond to questions deemed relevant and directly related, or who was not available, despite reasonable diligence, for a follow-up interview. The investigator/decisionmaker will not draw an inference about whether Prohibited Conduct occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to questions.

The investigator/decisionmaker shall prepare a report which shall include:

- A description of the Prohibited Conduct.
- A reference to the policies and procedures used to evaluate the allegations.
- A description of all procedural steps taken to date.
- An evaluation of the relevant and directly related evidence and the rationale for that evaluation.
- Findings of fact for each allegation, with rationale.
- Sanction determination (if applicable).
- Whether remedies will be provided.
- The procedures for an appeal.

This report shall be provided to the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that the investigator/decisionmaker has determined that a violation of Goucher Policy has occurred, the Title IX Coordinator shall then provide the report to the appropriate Sanctioning Officer to

determine the sanction, and the Title IX Coordinator shall then determine the appropriate remedy(ies) for the Complainant and any impacted parties.

#### Complaints Against Faculty or Staff

- Faculty: The Provost will consider the imposition of sanctions, after considering the parties' Impact/Mitigation statements.
- Staff: The Associate Vice President for Human Resources will consider the imposition of sanctions, in consultation with the supervisor, after considering the parties' Impact/Mitigation statements.

#### Complaints Against Students

- The Associate Vice President of Student Well-Being and Dean of Students shall consider the imposition of sanctions after considering the parties' Impact/Mitigation statements, and may impose sanctions.

The Title IX Coordinator shall then provide the parties and their advisors, if any, with a written Notice of Outcome and a copy of the investigator/decisionmaker's report. The Notice of Outcome shall include any disciplinary sanctions for the respondent, whether remedies will be provided, and the procedures for appeal. In addition, the complainant shall be informed of any remedies that apply to the complainant.

The Title IX Coordinator will provide each party, and their advisor, written communication regarding the decision, the sanction determination, and the procedures for appeal, along with a copy of the Investigation Report. The Title IX Coordinator will also provide written communication to the Complainant regarding any appropriate remedies.

### **VIII. SANCTIONS**

One or more of the sanctions or disciplinary steps listed here may be imposed on a respondent who is found responsible for a violation of the College's policies. Sanctions or disciplinary steps not listed here may be imposed in consultation with the Title IX Coordinator.

The form of sanction or discipline used will depend on the nature of the offense, as well as any prior disciplinary history. Such discipline or sanction will be imposed pursuant to and in accordance with any and all applicable College rules, policies, and procedures. Factors considered when determining a sanction/responsive action may include:

- The nature, severity of, and circumstances surrounding the violation.
- An individual's disciplinary history.
- Previous grievances or allegations involving similar conduct.
- The need for sanctions/responsive actions to bring an end to the discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.
- The need for sanctions/responsive actions to prevent the future recurrence of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.
- The need to remedy the effects of the discrimination, harassment or retaliation on the victim and the campus community.

Student sanctions imposed are implemented when the decision is final (after an appeal, or, if there was no appeal, after the appeals period expires).

Faculty found responsible for violating this Policy may be referred to the appropriate academic official for any other applicable processes.

The sanctions described in this Policy are not exclusive of, and may be in addition to, other actions taken or sanctions imposed by outside authorities.

### Faculty

For faculty violations, sanctions may include a referral to the Provost for determination of employment status-related issues. This referral may result in imposition of a written warning, a letter of reprimand, mandatory attendance at an educational program on discrimination or harassment, mandatory referral for psychological assessment and compliance with any resulting treatment plan, restriction of responsibilities, restriction of activities and/or access to campus facilities, reassignment, denial of salary increase, or salary decrease, suspension with or without pay, or dismissal.

### Staff

For violations by employees other than faculty members, sanctions may include a referral to the Associate Vice President for Human Resources, in consultation with a supervisor, for determination of employment status-related issues. This referral may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

### Students

For student violations, sanctions may include a referral to the Associate Vice President for Student Well-Being and Dean of Students for determination of student status-related issues. This referral may result in the imposition of a written letter of warning, a letter of reprimand, mandatory attendance at an educational program on sexual harassment or sexual assault, mandatory referral for psychological assessment and compliance with any resulting treatment plan, change in room assignment, restriction of activities and/or on access of campus facilities, probation, expulsion from the residence halls and/or from nonacademic campus activities, suspension or expulsion from the College and revocation of a degree. Students found responsible for sexual assault involving intercourse and/or penetration are likely to receive a sanction of suspension or expulsion upon referral for determination of student status related issues.

The sanctions available for students or employees who have been found responsible under the following specific forms of prohibited conduct are limited to the following:

#### Sexual Assault:

- Expulsion or Termination.
- No contact requirements.
- Suspension for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 semesters or for employees for a designated period of time.
- Removing the Respondent from student housing.
- Restricting the Respondent's access to college facilities or activities.

- Dismissal from or restricting reassignment of college employment.
- Assignment of educational program and/or training.

Domestic Violence:

- Expulsion or Termination.
- No contact requirements.
- Suspension for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 semesters or for employees for a designated period of time.
- Removing the Respondent from student housing.
- Restricting the Respondent’s access to college facilities or activities.
- Dismissal from or restricting reassignment of college employment.
- Assignment of educational program and/or training.
- Disciplinary probation.

Dating Violence:

- Expulsion or Termination.
- No contact requirements.
- Suspension for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 semesters or for employees for a designated period of time.
- Removing the Respondent from student housing.
- Restricting the Respondent’s access to college facilities or activities.
- Dismissal from or restricting reassignment of college employment.
- Assignment of educational program and/or training.
- Disciplinary probation.

Stalking

- Expulsion or Termination.
- No contact requirements.
- Suspension for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 semesters or for employees for a designated period of time.
- Removing the Respondent from student housing.
- Restricting the Respondent’s access to college facilities or activities.
- Dismissal from or restricting reassignment of college employment.
- Assignment of educational program and/or training.
- Disciplinary probation.

**IX. APPEALS**

Each party may appeal (1) the dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any included allegations under and/or (2) a determination regarding responsibility as related to Formal Resolution (process A or B as applicable). Determinations may be appealed in writing by either party. Appeals will be sent to the Title IX Coordinator, who will then send the appeal to the Appeals Officer assigned to conduct a written review of the appeal(s) and to make a final determination. Appeals must be in writing and filed within five (5) days following the issuance of the outcome letter. If the parties

do not file an appeal, the determination is final at the expiration of the time to file an appeal. If any of the parties file an appeal, the determination regarding responsibility become final on the date that the College provides the parties with the appeal determination.

When an appeal is filed, the other party shall be notified and provided with a copy of the filed appeal within one (1) day and have five (5) days to respond to the appeal in writing. Any party's decision not to submit a reply to an appeal is not evidence that the non-appealing party agreed with the appeal.

Within three (3) days of an Appeal Officer being assigned, either party may provide written objection to the Appeal Officer on the basis of an actual bias or conflict of interest. Any objection is to be sent to the Title IX Coordinator. Should the Title IX Coordinator determine that there is an actual bias or conflict of interest, the Title IX Coordinator will appoint another Appeal Officer.

Appeals may be filed only on the following three grounds:

1. Procedural Error: A procedural error occurred that would change the outcome. A description of the error and its impact on the outcome of the case must be included in the written appeal; or,
2. New Evidence: New evidence or information has arisen that was not available or known to the party during the investigation or determination that would change the outcome. Information that was known to the party during the resolution process but which they chose not to present is not considered new information. The new evidence, an explanation as to why the evidence was not previously available or known, and an explanation of its potential impact on the investigation findings must be included in the written appeal; or
3. Actual Conflict of Interest or Demonstrated Bias: The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or others with a role in the process with an actual conflict of interest or demonstrated bias for or against complainants or respondents generally, or the individual complainant or respondent, that would change the outcome. Any evidence supporting the alleged conflict of interest or demonstrated bias must be included in the written appeal.

The Appeal Officer will make a determination within ten (10) days regarding the appeal and communicate that decision, along with a rationale for the decision to the Title IX Coordinator who will communicate the Appeal Officer's decision to the Parties. The decision of the Appeal Officer is final.

#### **A. Failure to Complete Sanctions/Comply with Responsive Actions**

All responding parties are expected to comply with conduct sanctions/responsive actions/corrective actions within the timeframe specified by the College. Responding parties needing an extension to comply with their sanctions must submit a written request to the Title IX Coordinator stating the reasons for needing additional time.

Failure to follow through on conduct sanctions/responsive actions/corrective actions by the date specified, whether by refusal, neglect or any other reason, may result in additional sanctions/responsive actions/corrective actions, such as suspension, expulsion, termination, or a transcript notation. Students who fail to comply will be referred for a potential violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

#### **X. RECORD RETENTION**

In implementing this Policy, records of all reports and resolutions will be kept by the Title IX Coordinator in accordance with the applicable Goucher records retention schedule. All records will be afforded the confidentiality protections required by law, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act governing confidentiality of student information.

#### **XI. ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION**

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) investigates reports of unlawful discrimination and harassment in employment.

The U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) investigates complaints of unlawful discrimination and harassment of students and employees in education programs or activities.

For more information, contact the nearest office of the EEOC or OCR.

US Department of Education

Office for Civil Rights

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

<https://www.eeoc.gov/contact-eeoc>

#### **XII. POLICY REVIEW & REVISION**

These policies and procedures will be reviewed and updated regularly by the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will submit modifications to this Policy in a manner consistent with institutional policy upon determining that changes to law, regulation or best practices require policy or procedural alterations not reflected in this Policy and procedure. Procedures in effect at the time of its implementation will apply. The Policy definitions in effect at the time of the conduct will apply even if the Policy is changed subsequently, unless the parties consent to be bound by the current policy.

This Policy may be revised at any time without notice. All revisions supersede prior Policy and are effective immediately upon posting to the College website.

Policy Adopted: April 22, 2025

### **XIII. RESOURCES**

#### **Privileged & Confidential Resources for Students**

*On Campus:*

The Student Counseling Center

410-337-6481

[goucher.edu/experience/living-well/student-counseling-center](http://goucher.edu/experience/living-well/student-counseling-center)

Rev. Maeba Jonas, Chaplin

410-337-6048

[chaplain@goucher.edu](mailto:chaplain@goucher.edu)

[goucher.edu/experience/getting-involved/religious-and-spiritual-life](http://goucher.edu/experience/getting-involved/religious-and-spiritual-life)

The Student Health Center

410-337-6050

[nurse@goucher.edu](mailto:nurse@goucher.edu)

[goucher.edu/experience/living-well/student-health-center](http://goucher.edu/experience/living-well/student-health-center)

*Off Campus:*

TurnAround, Inc.

443-279-0379

[turnaroundinc.org](http://turnaroundinc.org)

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)

301-328-7023

[mcasa.org](http://mcasa.org)

House of Ruth

410-889-7884

[hruth.org](http://hruth.org)

#### **Employees Exempt from Reporting for Students**

- The Student Counseling Center
- Rev. Maeba Jonas, Chaplain
- The Student Health Center

#### **Privileged & Confidential Resources for Employees**

Rev. Maeba Jonas, Chaplain

410-337-6048

[chaplain@goucher.edu](mailto:chaplain@goucher.edu)

[goucher.edu/experience/getting-involved/religious-and-spiritual-life](http://goucher.edu/experience/getting-involved/religious-and-spiritual-life)

TurnAround, Inc.

443-279-0379

[www.turnaroundinc.org](http://www.turnaroundinc.org)

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)

301-328-7023

[mcasa.org](http://mcasa.org)

House of Ruth

410-889-7884

[hruth.org](http://hruth.org)

## **State Resources**

### Maryland Higher Education Commission

Maryland state law requires that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) develop a list of attorneys and legal services programs willing to represent student reporting parties or responding parties in formal Title IX proceedings on a pro bono basis or for fees equivalent to those paid to attorneys under civil legal services programs administered by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation. A reporting or responding party may:

- obtain from the Commission, through its website, a list of licensed attorneys who have indicated that they will represent reporting or responding parties in Title IX proceedings on a pro bono basis or for reduced legal fees; and
- through the reporting or responding party's attorney, seek payment for the attorney of certain legal costs and fees from the Commission's Legal Representation Fund for Title IX Proceedings, subject to the availability of funding.

Note: This service is available only to current or former students who make or respond to a complaint about which a formal Title IX investigation is initiated and who were enrolled as a student at the College at the time of the incident. Goucher does not administer this process but will provide available information to students who wish to use this service.

MHEC does not provide attorneys or reimburse attorneys' fees for representation in a criminal or civil matter.

Students are free to waive this service and retain a private attorney at their own expense.

## **National Resources**

National Sexual Assault Hotline

1-800-656-4673

[rainn.org](http://rainn.org)

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-7233

[thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org)

Love is Respect  
1-866-331-9474  
[loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org)

Safe Helpline  
877-995-5247  
[safehelpline.org](http://safehelpline.org)

LGBT National Help Center  
888-843-4564  
[lgbthotline.org](http://lgbthotline.org)

National Human Trafficking Hotline  
1-888-373-7888  
[humantraffickinghotline.org](http://humantraffickinghotline.org)

The Trevor Project  
1-866-488-7386  
[thetrevorproject.org](http://thetrevorproject.org)