

Dear Campus Community,

On Wednesday, May 6, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education issued new regulations mandating how schools nationwide respond to complaints of sexual harassment. As a result, universities – including UC Riverside – have been given until August 14, 2020, to comply with the new Title IX rules.

The rules require significant changes in how universities respond to reports of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking. Both UCR and the UC system as a whole oppose many of these changes, which include a narrower definition of sexual harassment, a requirement for a formal complaint in order to initiate an investigation, and restrictions regarding formal hearings.

We understand this comes at a challenging time as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 crisis. The university remains committed to our mission of supporting each and every one of our students, and ensuring their well-being is the number one priority.

UCR will continue to provide education, prevention, and processes that are fair and compassionate to all. Per University of California President Janet Napolitano, “We remain steadfast in our commitment to our students and community and will respond to the rules with care and thoughtfulness. We have come too far as a nation to halt our progress against sexual harassment.”

Please refer to President Napolitano’s [statement](#) for additional information.

Sexual misconduct has no place at UCR or any campus. We remain committed to stewarding policy implementation that, in addition to being compliant, is consistent with our community values and the mission of the university. We are grateful for the courage of people who step forward to report their experiences and those who chose to participate in the investigation and adjudication process. Our campuses are safer because of their bravery.

Please note the [new regulations](#) do not go into effect until Aug. 14 and until systemwide revisions are made to policies and procedures, UCR will continue to apply the current UC Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy.

If you or anyone you know has been the victim of sexual violence or sexual harassment, reach out and connect with the [Campus Advocacy, Resource, & Education \(CARE\)](#) office. CARE provides confidential support for students, staff, and faculty. The office can provide trauma informed, holistic advocacy services, and help you understand your rights and options when making a formal complaint. To file a report or to learn more about our current policies and procedures, contact the [Title IX](#) office.

We will provide additional information regarding the changes and how they will be implemented at UCR in the coming months, including posting resources on the [UCR Title IX website](#). If you have any questions, contact titleix@ucr.edu.

Best Regards,

Brian L. Haynes, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs