

Suffolk County Community College Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination Policy

A. PURPOSE

Suffolk County Community College (“College”) is an equal-opportunity employer and educational institution dedicated to fostering and maintaining a safe, accessible, diverse and inclusive environment that is free of all forms of discrimination and harassment. The College is committed to increasing the availability of opportunities and access for students, staff, and faculty. It is the responsibility of all members of the College community to comply with and take appropriate action to assist in the implementation of this policy in order to promote the realization of non-discrimination and equal opportunity. This policy ensures that only relevant factors are considered and that equitable and consistent standards of conduct and performance are applied.

To the extent this policy conflicts with other College policies or procedures, this policy supersedes the conflicting portions of those policies/procedures.

B. DEFINITIONS

Discrimination is behaviors or actions that deny or limit a person’s ability to benefit from and/or fully participate in the College’s educational programs or activities or employment opportunities because of a person’s actual or perceived protected characteristics. Harassment on the basis of one or more of the protected characteristics listed below is a form of discrimination prohibited by this policy. Bias incidents, which are also prohibited by this policy, are defined as acts of bigotry, harassment, or intimidation directed at a member or a group because of their actual or perceived protected characteristics.

C. DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED

1. Suffolk County Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, marital status, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, equal pay compensation-sex, national origin, military or veteran status, domestic violence victim status, criminal conviction, disability or any other legally prohibited basis upon which discrimination is unlawful in its admissions, programs and activities, or employment. This applies to all employees, students, applicants or other members of the College community (including, but not limited to, trustees, vendors, visitors, and contractors). No person, on the basis of protected status, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination or harassment under the College’s admissions, programs, and activities, and employment. The College will take steps to prevent and remedy discrimination and harassment, and to prevent the recurrence of discrimination and harassment.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the College’s non-discrimination policies:

Civil Rights Compliance Officers	
Christina Vargas Associate VP for Opportunity and Belonging/Title VI and Title IX Coordinator Ammerman Campus, NFL Bldg., Ste. 230 533 College Road, Selden New York 11784 vargasc@sunysuffolk.edu (631) 451-4950	Dionne Walker-Belgrave, Ed.D. Affirmative Action Officer/Deputy Title IX Coordinator Ammerman Campus, NFL Bldg., Suite 230 533 College Road, Selden, New York 11784 walkerd@sunysuffolk.edu (631) 451-4051

2. The College has zero tolerance for behavior that introduces discrimination or harassment into the teaching, learning or working environment; or any other relationship arising from College activities or programs.

3. Retaliation against a person who files a complaint, serves as a witness, or assists or participates in any manner in under this policy, is strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action. Retaliation is an adverse action taken against an individual as a result of complaining about unlawful discrimination or harassment, exercising a legal right, and/or participating in a complaint investigation as a third-party witness. Participants who experience retaliation should contact the Civil Rights Compliance Officers listed above, and may file a complaint pursuant to this policy.
4. This policy shall apply to:
 - all employees, students, applicants or other members of the College community (including, but not limited to, trustees, vendors, visitors and contractors);
 - any location of College-sanctioned activities on or off campus;
 - all education programs and activities;
 - any College-administered programs;
 - all terms, conditions, and privileges of employment, including but not limited to hiring and firing, compensation, assignment or classification of employees, transfer, promotion, layoff or recall, job advertisements, recruitment, testing, facilities, training and apprenticeship programs, fringe benefits, pay, retirement plans, disability leaves; and
 - educational access for students, faculty, and staff.
5. This policy supports and adheres to applicable federal, state, and local laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment (see References at the end of this policy).

D. PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING DISCRIMINATION

The Suffolk County Community College Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Complaint and Grievance Procedure can be used to file a discrimination or sexual harassment complaint internally (see Related Policies, Documents and Contacts at the end of this policy).

- *Discrimination and harassment complaints against employees or third parties¹:*
Should be reported to the Chief Diversity Officer/Title IX Coordinator or Affirmative Action Officer (see Appendix A for current contact information).
- *Discrimination and harassment complaints against students:*
Should be reported to the Campus Associate Dean of Student Services of the campus at which the alleged discrimination occurred (see Appendix A for current contact information).

External resources for making a complaint of discrimination or sexual harassment are listed in Appendix B to this policy.

E. DISSEMINATION

This policy will be disseminated to the greatest extent possible to all internal and external constituents, inclusive of, but not limited to, the following: inclusion in faculty and student handbooks, College catalogs, as well as other employee and student venues and materials. Externally, all advertising will include a notice that Suffolk County Community College is an equal opportunity employer and educator and all recruitment sources will be advised that the College encourages referrals of members of protected groups.

¹ 'Third party' includes all trustees, vendors, visitors, and contractors.

F. CONFIDENTIALITY

The College recognizes that confidentiality is important to victims of discrimination and harassment. A victim who has made a report may make a request for confidentiality or privacy at any point. Suffolk County Community College will make all reasonable efforts to honor such a request limiting information to those who need to know for an investigation to commence. The College understands that it may be difficult for a victim to come forward, and there are several options available for students who wish to maintain confidentiality while getting the support they need. However, requests for confidentiality may limit Suffolk County Community College's ability to investigate and respond to the allegations. The College cannot guarantee complete confidentiality because of its responsibility to safeguard all members of the community and its obligations under the law, including Title VI, VII and IX. Certain employees on campus have different abilities to maintain confidentiality: Some employees are required to maintain near complete confidentiality; talking to them is sometimes called a "privileged communication." For students, this includes the offices of Mental Health Services, and Health Services on each campus.

G. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Violations of this policy shall be considered misconduct, and violators may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with College policy, the applicable collective bargaining agreements, and the Student Code of Conduct. Such discipline may include termination, suspension or expulsion.

H. RELATED POLICIES, DOCUMENTS, AND CONTACTS

POLICIES

- [Anti-Bullying Policy](#)
- [Definition of Affirmative Consent](#)
- [Options for Confidentially Disclosing Sexual Violence](#)
- [Policy for Alcohol and/or Drug Use Amnesty in Sexual and Interpersonal Violence Cases](#)
- [Sexual Violence Response Policy](#)
- [Title IX Grievance Policy for Addressing Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment](#)
- [Whistleblower Policy](#)
- [Workplace Violence Prevention Policy](#)

DOCUMENTS

- [Annual Security Report](#)
- [Anti-Discrimination Grievance Procedure for employees](#)
- [Code of Professional Ethics](#)
- [College Disciplinary Process vs. Criminal Justice Process](#)
- [Faculty Resources Guide](#)
- [Non-Discrimination Notice](#)
- [Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#)
- [Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Complaint and Grievance Procedure for employees](#)
- [Student's Bill of Rights](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Student Handbook](#)
- [Title IX Grievance Procedure for Addressing Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment](#)

I. REFERENCES

- Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. § 6101 *et seq.*
- Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.*
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*
- Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.* (nondiscrimination based on race, color, and national origin in federally assisted programs)
- Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.* (nondiscrimination based on race, color, and national origin in employment)
- Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.* (nondiscrimination based on sex in education programs and activities)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794 (nondiscrimination based on disability)
- Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110-233
- NYS Executive Law Article 15 (New York State Human Rights Law)
- NYS Education Law § 313 (nondiscrimination in educational programs)
- NYS Education Law Article 129-A (regulation of conduct on college campuses and college property)
- NYS Education Law Article 129-B (college implementation of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking prevention and response policies and procedures)
- Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 (amending the Americans with Disabilities Act)
- Equal Pay Act of 1963, Pub. L. 88-38 (codified at 29 U.S.C. § 206(d))

APPENDIX A
CONTACTS FOR MAKING A COMPLAINT

- Contact Public Safety at any time by calling (631) 451-4242 or 311 from any College phone.
- In case of an emergency, call 911 to contact local law enforcement.

Civil Rights Compliance Officers (complaints against employees and third parties):

<p>Christina Vargas Associate VP for Opportunity and Belonging/Title VI and Title IX Coordinator Ammerman Campus, NFL Bldg., Ste. 230 533 College Road, Selden New York 11784 vargasc@sunysuffolk.edu (631) 451-4950</p>	<p>Dionne Walker-Belgrave, Ed.D. Affirmative Action Officer/Deputy Title IX Coordinator Ammerman Campus, NFL Bldg., Suite 230 533 College Road, Selden, New York 11784 walkerd@sunysuffolk.edu (631)-451-4051</p>
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Associate Deans/Deputy Title IX Coordinators (complaints against students):

Eastern Campus and Culinary Arts	Michael J. Grant Campus	Ammerman Campus
<p>Mary Reese, Ed.D. Campus Associate Dean of Student Affairs Deputy Title IX Coordinator Peconic Building, Room 228E Riverhead, NY 11901 reesem@sunysuffolk.edu (631) 548-2565</p>	<p>Meryl S. Rogers, Ed.D. Campus Associate Dean of Student Affairs Deputy Title IX Coordinator Caumsett Hall room 106 Brentwood, NY 11717 rogersm@sunysuffolk.edu (631) 851-6521</p>	<p>Edward F. Martinez, Ed. D. Campus Associate Dean of Student Affairs Deputy Title IX Coordinator Ammerman Building Room 200C Selden, NY 11784 martineze@sunysuffolk.edu (631) 451-4790</p>

For students: [Options for Confidentially Disclosing Sexual Violence](#) - these on-campus privileged and confidential resources will not report crimes to law enforcement or College officials without your permission, except for extreme circumstances, such as a health and/or safety emergency:

Mental Health and Wellness Services	Student Health Services
<p>mentalhealth@sunysuffolk.edu</p> <p>Ammerman Campus (631) 451-4040 Eastern Campus (631) 548-2650 Michael J. Grant Campus (631)-851-6876</p>	<p>Ammerman Campus (631) 451-4047 Eastern Campus (631) 548-2510 Michael J. Grant Campus (631) 851-6709</p>

- State Police 24-hour hotline to report sexual assault on a New York college campus: 1-844-845-7269
- For state-wide resources available at every SUNY campus including resources for SUNY students travelling abroad or studying overseas, see SUNY's [Sexual Assault & Violence Response \(SAVR\) Resources](#).

APPENDIX B
EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Employment	Admissions & Education Programs and Activities
<p>New York State Division of Human Rights Long Island (Suffolk) Office New York State Office Building 250 Veterans Memorial Highway Suite 2B-49 Hauppauge, New York 11788 Tel: (631) 952-6434 TDD: (718) 741-8300 Email: Info.LongIsland@dhr.ny.gov Also see the Division of Human Rights website</p> <p>U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission New York District Office 33 Whitehall Street, 5th Floor New York, New York 10004 Tel: (800) 669-4000 Fax: (212) 336-3790 TTY: (800) 669-6820 ASL Video Phone: (844) 234-5122 Also see the EEOC website.</p>	<p>Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: How to file a complaint with OCR</p> <p>New York State Division of Human Rights Long Island (Suffolk) Office New York State Office Building 250 Veterans Memorial Highway Suite 2B-49 Hauppauge, New York 11788 Tel: (631) 952-6434 TDD: (718) 741-8300 Email: Info.LongIsland@dhr.ny.gov Also see the Division of Human Rights website</p>

Links updated 5-26-2026