Harassment, Including Stalking

Summary/Purpose: To give notice about students’ responsibility to refrain from harassment or any other unreasonable interference with another.

Students and other members of the University community have the right to an environment free of conduct that unreasonably interferes, hinders, or otherwise denies another a suitable working, living, or learning environment. Therefore, members of the University community should refrain from harassing others or creating an environment that denies others a suitable working, living, or educational environment.

For conduct to violate this policy, the conduct must be more than merely offensive; it must be so objectively offensive and repeated, pervasive, or severe that it effectively denies the victim access to the University’s resources and opportunities, unreasonably interferes with the victim’s work or living environment, or deprives the victim of some other protected right. Examples of conduct prohibited by this policy include, but are not limited to, the following: intentionally inflicting severe emotional distress or harm; fighting words (words that actually tend to provoke immediate violent reaction); obscene, lewd, or lascivious conduct; stalking (as defined in Section 97-3-107 of the Mississippi Code); cyberstalking (as defined by Section 97-45-15 of the Mississippi Code); defaming another (a false statement that harms the reputation of another); and speech or conduct based upon race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation that is so objectively offensive and repeated, pervasive, or severe as to violate this policy.

This policy shall not be construed to impair any constitutionally protected activity, including speech, protest, or assembly.

In addition to the University judicial process, The University of Mississippi provides a mechanism to address grievances that may arise over sexual harassment or alleged discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, veteran’s status, age, national origin, or handicap as prohibited by Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Incidents of harassment should be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students and/or the Office of Equal Employment and Regulatory Compliance.