

What does OCR Say?

The US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, (“OCR”) is responsible for enforcing Title IX.

OCR takes a broader view of an institution’s responsibility to respond to sexual harassment against students and to remedy gender discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual assault.

OCR guidelines state:

The college is responsible if it knew or reasonably should have known of the harassment and failed to promptly take reasonable steps to end the harassment and prevent recurrence.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- Title IX (1972): Federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions.
- The Jeanne Clery Act (1998): Required colleges and universities in the United States to disclose information regarding crime on and around campus.
- Dear Colleague Letter (2011): Provides Office of Civil Rights guidance regarding concerns that arise in sexual violence cases.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS, (CONTINUED)

- VAWA (2013): The Violence Against Women Act, aimed at improving how colleges address sexual violence; imposes obligations to revise policies and practices.
- SAVE Act (2014): Part of VAWA amendments, made changes to the Jeanne Clery Act; requires colleges to report additional sexually violent crimes.