TCNJ Title IX
By Chelsea Jacoby, Title IX Coordinator

FAQs

What is Title IX and who does it protect?
- Title IX is a federal educational amendment that protects all individuals associated with any federally funded institution from any form of gender discrimination and harassment, including sexual violence - specifically, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment.
- The College of New Jersey’s Title IX Policy applies to all students, faculty, and staff within the campus community. It includes both on-campus and off-campus conduct in connection with the College or College-recognized programs in addition to conduct that may create a hostile environment for a member of the TCNJ community. Title IX also applies to individuals of all gender identities.

Who is responsible for enforcing Title IX at TCNJ?
- The following staff members are responsible for enforcing the Title IX Policy. Please direct all questions and concerns to:

  **Chelsea Jacoby, M.S., ATC**
  Title IX Coordinator
  Vice President for Student Affairs Suite - BSC 201
  Phone: (609) 771.3112
  Email: jacobyc@tcnj.edu

  **Caitlin Babcock**
  Title IX & Student Conduct Investigator
  Dean of Students Suite - BSC 220
  Phone: (609) 771.2613
  Email: babcockc@tcnj.edu

In what capacity can I speak to Title IX staff on behalf of my student?
- The Title IX Office would be happy to answer any general questions regarding the College’s Title IX Policy and procedures, however, in order to discuss specifics of a Title IX incident, process, or outcome with a parent or legal guardian, your student needs to provide a written waiver or other supporting documentation to the Title IX Office explicitly providing the Office permission to speak with you directly.
Is there a time limit for individuals to make a report?

- No - The College encourages reporting an incident as soon as possible in order to maximize our ability to respond promptly and effectively. If the respondent is no longer a student or employee, the College may not be able to take action against the Respondent, but it will still seek to meet its Title IX obligation by taking steps to end the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects, when appropriate.

What safety measures and accommodations are available to someone who has experienced harm when they report a Title IX-related incident?

- In all cases, the College will take appropriate steps designed to mitigate the effects of the alleged prohibited conduct, prevent its recurrence, and make accommodations for the student(s) involved. Even if the student is not interested in participating in a College or criminal process, these measures can be applied. Such interim measures may include, but are not limited to:
  ○ Moving a student’s campus residence
  ○ Adjusting a work schedule for employment
  ○ Changing a student or faculty’s academic schedule
  ○ Changing a student, faculty, or staff’s transportation arrangements
  ○ Allowing a student to withdraw from or retake a class without penalty
  ○ Providing access to tutoring or other academic support
  ○ Issuing a ban letter from campus
  ○ Issuing a “no contact” directive

See our Interim & Remedial Measures page for more information.

How is a Title IX investigation different from a criminal investigation?

- The College and Criminal processes are two separate entities.
- “A criminal investigation undertaken by the police seeks to determine whether an individual violated criminal law. An individual who is found guilty of such a crime following a police investigation and trial may be imprisoned. In contrast, Title IX investigations conducted by The College of New Jersey determine whether an accused party has violated the College’s policy on sexual misconduct and what disciplinary actions may be appropriate. The College follows a “preponderance of the evidence” standard, which requires the evidence supporting a finding of responsibility to be more convincing than the information in opposition to it or, in other words, that it is more likely than not the alleged conduct occurred. An individual has the right to pursue a College investigation by filing a complaint with the Title IX Coordinator,
Chelsea Jacoby, and to pursue criminal charges through the police. A reporting party may elect to file a complaint with the College, the police, or both at the same time. While TCNJ may provide information and support, college and criminal investigations are independent and distinct. The processes are not mutually exclusive. A student may be arrested and charged in the criminal justice system as well as under the Title IX and/or Student Conduct Code. Alternatively, charges can occur for alleged violations of the Title IX Policy and/or Student Conduct Code, which may not be violations of the law.”

Who and how can someone submit a Title IX report?
- Anyone who has experienced or been impacted by sexual violence, or has information about an incident involving sexual violence, is encouraged to report the information to
the Title IX Office, so we can conduct outreach to the person who has experienced harm and inform them of their rights/options and get them connected with resources.

- A report can be submitted in any of the following ways -
  - Submitting a report through the College’s Title IX Reporting Link
    - This is the preferred method
  - Contacting the Title IX Office directly
    - Title IX Coordinator, Chelsea Jacoby, via:
      - Email: jacobyc@tcnj.edu
      - Phone: 609-771-3112 ; or
    - Title IX Investigator, Caitlin Babcock, via:
      - Email: babcockc@tcnj.edu
      - Phone: 609-771-2613 ; or
    - Meet with the Title IX Staff in person (BSC 201) to make the report

My student has been impacted by sexual violence, how can I best help them?

- **DO -**
  - **Believe** - To assist in your student’s healing process, simply start by telling them that you believe them. All too often they are not believed by friends, family, and systems, which increases harm.
  - **Listen** - If your student chooses to disclose a traumatic experience to you, trust that they chose you for a reason. The most helpful thing you can do is listen to what they have to say. Listening can be as simple as being there as they process the situation on their own. Don’t worry if you don’t feel like you know exactly what to say. It’s more important to make sure they feel heard, and that they can communicate with you without fear of judgment.
  - **Validate** - Acknowledge your student’s feelings of sadness, fear, anger or confusion. Let them know that these feelings are normal.
  - **Refer & Support** - Be engaged, but patient. Your student should be given the space to make their own choices about what they want to do, including what resources they want to access. It can be helpful to present options and then to support them in reaching out. Also, students are often able to have a support person during their meetings/appointments. Find out if your student would find it helpful for you to be in attendance with them - if not, be respectful of their wishes, and if so, make sure that serving in that support role for them feels right for you as well. For more information on available resources, visit titleix.tcnj.edu
  - **Take Care of Yourself** - You may be experiencing many of your own emotions and thoughts, and it’s critical that you take care of yourself. This means knowing and expressing your own boundaries and limits in supporting your student and loved one and being aware of your own experiences of trauma.
● AVOID -
  ○ Asking questions that suggest blame, such as “why were you drinking?” or “why didn’t you get help sooner?”
  ○ Sharing that you know what they are going through.
  ○ Feeling as though you need to know all of the answers or have the exact right thing to say.

What are available resources for my student to access should they be impacted by sexual violence?

● ON-CAMPUS

  
  Office of Title IX
  The Title IX Office ensures that complaints of sexual violence are handled in accordance with established policies and procedures. The Title IX office is dedicated to meeting with students seeking information about their resources, rights, and options, and can offer/implement interim measures/remedies as needed, as well as provide a fair, thorough, and prompt investigation, adjudication, and/or resolution process.

  Location: Brower Student Center, Suite 201
  Phone: 609.771.3112
  Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

  Dean of Students Office - CARE
  At TCNJ, the Dean of Students (DOS) case management staff coordinate the proactive and follow-up case management services for students referred for personal, emotional, mental health, and/or academic concerns in a non-clinical setting. Our case management staff coordinates care within the community as well as across campus resources such as the Mental Health Services, Disability Support Services, Student Health Services, Records and Registration, Student Financial Aid, etc.

  Location: Brower Student Center, Suite 220
  Phone: 609-771-CARE (2273)
  Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

  Anti-Violence Initiatives (AVI)*
  Offers confidential clinical counseling services to those who have experienced or have been impacted by sexual violence.

  Location: Forcina Hall - Room 308, Ewing, NJ 08628
  Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm or by appointment
  Phone: (609) 771-2272
Mental Health Services (MHS)*
Mental Health Services (Formally known as CAPS) offers group counseling, brief individual counseling and referral services to TCNJ undergraduate and graduate students. These services are provided free of charge.

Location: Eickhoff Hall 107
Phone: 609-771-2247
Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Request for Services: https://caps.tcnj.edu/counseling-services/request-for-services-form/

AFTER HOURS: Contact TCNJ Police at 911 from any campus phone or 609-771-2345 from a cell phone or Capital Health Emergency Mental Health Services & Mobile Outreach (24/7) 609-396-HELP (4357)

Center for Integrated Wellness*
The Center for Integrated Wellness (TCNJ Clinic) is an outpatient facility that offers professionally supervised, low-fee, couples & family therapy and individual counseling to Mercer County and TCNJ residents, as well as the surrounding communities.

Location: Forcina Hall-124
Phone: (609) 771-2700
Hours: Monday 9 am- 4:30 pm, Tuesday-Thursday 9 am- 9 pm, and Friday 9 am- 4 pm

Community Counseling Collaborative*
Community Counseling Collaborative is a group of outside clinicians that provide services to TCNJ students either on-campus or at an off-campus location, whichever is preferred by the student. The clinicians accept various forms of insurance, and many will accept payments on a sliding scale, which means students who do not have insurance or cannot afford typical payments, would only be expected to pay what they can manage.

Location: Forcina Hall
Services & Contact Information: Community Counseling Collaborative Spreadsheet

• OFF-CAMPUS
Womanspace*
Womanspace is a nonprofit agency in Mercer County, New Jersey, that provides a comprehensive array of services to individuals and families impacted by domestic and sexual violence and dedicated to improving the quality of life for adults and their families. Programs include crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, court advocacy and housing services.

24-Hour Crisis Line: (609) 394-9000
Location: 1530 Brunswick Ave, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Website: http://www.womanspace.org/

* = Denotes they are a confidential resource

For more information, see our Title IX Policy