

APPENDIX A

DEFINITIONS

Academic Work, Test, Quiz, or Other Assignment

The terms “academic work, test, quiz, or other assignment” includes any required or optional academic work that is assigned. Examples include, but are not limited to, exams, quizzes, tests, homework, case studies, essays, research papers, group work, extra credit assignments, class attendance, experiential learning activities, internship or externship components, resumes, comprehensive exams, and thesis and dissertation drafts and submissions.

Administrative Hold

The term “administrative hold” refers to the indicator placed on a student’s record preventing access to such University procedures as registration, release of transcripts, and course add/drops until the student meets the requirements of the University office placing the indicator as described in the Undergraduate/Graduate Catalogs.

Complainant

The term “Complainant” refers to the party reporting the complaint or concern against another party.

Conduct History

The term “conduct history” is a compilation of records related to any student or student organization’s behavior that resulted in a finding of Responsible through the University conduct process outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct*.

Consent

The term “consent” means mutually understandable words or actions, actively communicated both knowingly and voluntarily, that clearly conveys permission for a specific sexual activity. Consent cannot be compelled or coerced. Consent is not effective if it results from: (a) the use of physical force, (b) a threat of physical force, (c) intimidation, (d) coercion, (e) incapacitation, or (f) any other factor that would eliminate an individual’s ability to exercise their own free will to choose whether or not to engage in sexual activity.

- Revocation of Consent:

One partner can revoke their consent **at any time**, so long as it’s **clearly communicated** to the other partner. Revocation of consent may be communicated verbally and/or non-verbally. Once a partner has revoked his or her consent, the sexual activity must stop. If one partner continues the sexual activity after the other partner has revoked his or her consent, a sexual assault has occurred

Coercion

Sexual coercion is defined as the use of violence or threats of violence against a person or the person's family or property; depriving or hindering a person by any means, substance, object or clothing; attempting to intimidate a person by threats or force; or when committed with the intent to compel a person to do or abstain from doing an act that the person has the right to do or abstain from doing. Coercion is more than an effort to persuade, entice, or attract another person to have sex. In evaluating whether coercion was used, the University will consider: (i) the frequency of the application of the pressure, (ii) the intensity of the pressure, (iii) the degree of isolation of the person being pressured, and (iv) the duration of the pressure.

Dating Violence

Abuse or violence, or a threat of abuse or violence, committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the Reporting Party. A casual acquaintanceship or ordinary socializing between two individuals does not constitute a romantic or intimate relationship.

Designee

The term “designee” refers to the Managing Director of the Office of Student Conduct or could include but is not limited to an individual staff member, Office of the Dean of Students staff, Office of Student Rights and Resolution Staff and members of the Behavior Intervention Team.

Disciplinary Good Standing

The term “disciplinary good standing” is defined as a student not currently on disciplinary probation, deferred disciplinary suspension, or any level of disciplinary suspension/expulsion and who has fulfilled in a timely manner, if any, sanctions imposed.

Discipline Body

The term “discipline body” means any University official or group of officials authorized by the Director of the Office of Student Conduct to determine whether a student has violated the *Code of Student Conduct* and to recommend imposition of sanctions.

Employee:

The term “employee” means any person who receives a W-2 or 1042-S from the university, including full-and part-time faculty, staff, and students.

Hearing Body

A “Hearing body” is the individual or individuals that make the determination of responsible or not responsible and issue sanctions upon a responsible finding in an Administrative Hearing or Panel Hearing.

Interpersonal Violence

The term “Interpersonal Violence” means (Domestic or family violence) Abuse or violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the Reporting Party, by a person with whom the Reporting Party shares a child in common, by a person whom the Reporting party is (or has) cohabitated, or by any other person against a Reporting Party who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Texas.

Investigation Report

An “Investigation Report” is a formal or informal report of all of the evidence and/or information gathered by the Investigator.

Managing Director

The term Managing Director refers to the Managing Director of the Office of Student Conduct” or designee who has oversight of implementation of the *Code of Student Conduct* to include but is not limited to determination of Investigation of incidents, all notification procedures, interim actions/suspensions, Investigation procedures, adjudication procedures and appellate procedures.

Member of the University Community

The term “member of the University community” includes any person who is a student, faculty or staff member, University official or any person employed by the University or campus visitors.

Official Academic Record

The term “official academic record” includes, but is not limited to applications for admission, the awarding of a degree, grade reports, test papers, registration materials, grade change forms, and reporting forms used by the Office of the Registrar.

Policy

The term “policy” is defined as the written regulations, standards and/or rules of the University.

Policy Clarification

The term “policy clarification” refers to written notice to a student when it is determined that the information reported does not warrant an allegation, but may warrant notice to the involved parties to clarify the policy in question.

Preponderance of Evidence

The term “preponderance of evidence” is the standard of proof used by Student Conduct Hearing Officers, Office of Student Conduct and University Student Housing. It is defined as a circumstance in which the evidence as a whole shows that the fact(s) for which proof is being sought are more likely than not.

Religious Holy Day

The term “religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code § 11.20.

Respondent

The term “Respondent” refers to the party responding to the complaint or concern reported regarding their behavior or actions.

Retaliation

Retaliation is strictly prohibited against a person who files a report through appropriate university reporting mechanisms which are made in good faith, who assists someone in filing a report, or participated in any manner in the investigation and/or conduct process. Retaliation is defined as any intentional, adverse action taken by any party to the matter, absent legitimate nondiscriminatory purposes, against a participant [or supporter of a participant] in an investigation and/or conduct process, civil rights grievance proceeding, or other protected activity.

Sponsorship and/or co-sponsorship

The term “sponsorship and/or co-sponsorship” is defined as minimally including, but not limited to, direct participation in planning, coordination and implementation by members of the sponsoring organizations.

Student

The term “student” includes all persons admitted to or enrolled in courses at the University, either full time or part time, pursuing undergraduate, graduate or professional studies, and/or those who attend postsecondary educational institutions other than Texas Tech University and who reside in University residence halls. Persons who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the University are considered “students”.

Student/Student Organization Conduct History

The term “student/student organization conduct history” includes, but is not limited to any responsible finding in a conduct proceeding.

Investigator

The term “Investigator” means a University designee authorized by the Director of the Office of Student Conduct, Dean of Students and/or the Director of University Student Housing pursuant to the *Code of Student Conduct* to adjudicate alleged violations of the *Code of Student Conduct*.

Student Organization

Texas Tech University defines a student organization as a group consisting of 5 or more students (president, treasurer, and a minimum of three members) joining together for a common mission, cause, and/or any other association. Only currently enrolled students are

eligible to be part of student organizations at TTU. TTU registers student organizations annually through the Center for Campus Life. Registered student organizations are bound by the expectations set forth by the Center for Campus Life and receive all rights and Responsibilities outlined by TTU (Section M. Registered student organizations 1.a). Student organizations that are unregistered may not access University resources however, unregistered student organizations shall be subject to the TTU Code of Student Conduct.

University

The term “University” means Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

University Official

The term “University official” includes any person employed by Texas Tech University or Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center while performing assigned administrative or professional Responsibilities.

University Premises

The term “University premises” includes all land, buildings, facilities and other property in the possession of or owned, used or controlled by the University (including adjacent streets and sidewalks)

Appendix B

Consent at Texas Tech

- o Community members engaging in sexual activity must have clear, knowing, and voluntary consent from their sexual partner prior to and during each sexual activity.

- o Consent is defined as mutually understandable words or actions, actively communicated both knowingly and voluntarily, that clearly convey permission for a specific activity.

- o The following factors must all be fulfilled in order to have valid consent:
 - Consent has been expressed by each partner through clear words or actions.
 - Consent is actively expressed by each partner. Consent is not passive or implied.
 - Each partner is informed about each sexual activity and knowingly consents to participate in each sexual activity.

Consent is given voluntarily and freely by each partner for each sexual activity.

Each partner has capacity to consent to engage in sexual activities.

- o Silence cannot be assumed to express consent and saying “NO” is not the only way a partner may communicate lack of consent. A partner may use non-verbal cues to indicate their lack of consent for any sexual activity. It is the responsibility of the initiator of any sexual activity to obtain their partner’s consent for every sexual activity.

Some examples of non-verbal communication that demonstrate lack of consent include:

- Resistance: pushing hands away, pulling away from partner
 - Body going limp or freezing up
 - Crying
 - Wincing
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- o Before engaging in any type of sexual activity, it is the initiator’s responsibility to obtain their partner’s consent, either verbally or non-verbally

 - o Revocation of Consent:
 - One partner can revoke their consent at any time, so long as it’s clearly communicated to the other partner. Revocation of consent may be communicated verbally and/or non-verbally. Once a partner has revoked his or her consent, the sexual activity must stop. If one partner continues the sexual activity after the other partner has revoked his or her consent, a sexual assault has occurred.

 - o A prior existing sexual relationship between consenting adults does not imply future consent to engage in sexual activities. At any time in a relationship, one partner may revoke his or her consent to sexual activities with the other partner. This is true even in marriage or other long-term sexual relationships. Consent for one sexual activity does not equal consent

for other sexual activities.

- o Consent cannot be compelled. Compelled sexual activity is by definition non-consensual. Compelling someone into engaging in sexual activities by the use of physical force, threats, intimidation, or coercion invalidates consent, even if it's eventually given, and thus constitutes a violation of the TTU sexual misconduct policies.

Sexual activity cannot be compelled by threats, intimidation, coercion, or physical force.

Incapacitation: Incapacitation occurs when an individual lacks the ability to make informed, rational decisions due to an impairment, which may be temporary or permanent.

A person CANNOT consent to sexual activity when they are incapacitated. Engaging in sexual activity with someone you know or reasonably should know is incapacitated is a violation of the sexual misconduct policy. The question of what the responding party should have known is objectively based on what a reasonable person, sober and exercising good judgment, would have known about the condition of the complainant/reporting party.

There are three types of incapacitation:

- Age: A minor cannot consent to engage in sexual activity. In Texas, the legal age of consent is 17.
- Mental Disability: A person with a mental disorder or other cognitive issue which prohibits them from making an informed decision lacks capacity to consent to engage in sexual activity.
- Physical Incapacitation: A person who is asleep, unconscious, and/or intoxicated to the point of no longer understanding or controlling their actions cannot consent to engage in sexual activity.

- o Key Points Regarding Consent

It is the responsibility of the initiator of sexual activity to obtain consent prior to acting.

Silence is not consent – consent must be “actively given.”

A person is not required to actively resist their aggressor.

A person is not required to say “No” as a means of expressing non-consent.

A person's intentional use of alcohol/drugs neither negates nor diminishes the initiator's responsibility to acquire consent before engaging in sexual activity.

Consent can be withdrawn at any time, and if communicated clearly that consent has been withdrawn, all sexual activity must cease.

Consent has an expiration date. Consent on Thursday does not mean consent on Friday.