

Title IX for TAs at UW–Madison Updated August 4, 2019

What is Title IX?

Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex at educational institutions that receive federal funding, including UW–Madison. Sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation for reporting any of these behaviors are all prohibited under Title IX.

What are my responsibilities as a TA?

All TAs at UW–Madison are *mandatory reporters*. This means that if one of your students discloses one of the above incidents to you (sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, stalking), you are legally required to [report it](#) to UW–Madison’s [Title IX office](#).

I want to be able to help my students and respect their privacy. What happens if I don’t report?

If you know of an instance of sexual harassment or assault but do not report it, UW–Madison can be held liable for not conducting an investigation—because technically, the university was aware of the incident (because you are a university employee and a mandatory reporter). This can, in turn, jeopardize UW–Madison’s federal funding. It’s a sticky situation.

So what can I do to support students?

Two things:

- **Tell students** that you are a mandatory reporter and what that means. Do this on the first day of each section. Put it in your section syllabus. Make sure students are aware that if they disclose sexual harassment or assault to you, you cannot commit to maintaining their confidentiality.
- **Direct students** toward confidential sources of support on campus. For undergraduate students, the only confidential space is [University Health Services](#), and in particular [Survivor Services](#), which can be reached via email at survivor.services@uhs.wisc.edu or via phone at 608-265-5600 (option 3).

What can I do if I am a victim of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, or sexual assault as a graduate student?

UHS is also available to graduate students as a confidential reporting space, as is the [Ombuds Office](#) for UW–Madison employees (608-265-9992, Lowell Hall Rooms 223–225).