



2026 ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT

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Austin, TX 78757**

**South Austin Campus:
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Austin, TX 78704**

**All Campuses
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**AVENUE FIVE INSTITUTE
SAFETY & SECURITY INFORMATION**

Campus safety and security are important issues at the Avenue Five Institute (the "Institute"). Our goal is to provide students with a safe environment in which to learn and to keep students, parents, and employees well informed about campus security. The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, or Clery Act, requires institutions of higher education to provide students and families with the information they need to make informed decisions. The following policies and procedures are established to comply with the Clery Act.

A. Timely Warnings & Emergency Notifications

In the event that a situation arises, either on or off campus, that, in the judgment of a Campus Security Authority constitutes an ongoing or continuing threat, a campus wide "timely warning" will be issued. Furthermore, the Campus Security Authority will immediately notify the Institute community upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or staff occurring at the Institute, unless issuing a notification will compromise efforts to contain the emergency. The warning will be disseminated to staff and students through announcements in campus facilities, cell phone messages, email, Institute website, social media and/or flyers to ensure that the entire campus is likely to receive the warning. The timely warning will include information that promotes safety and tips to prevent similar crimes, allowing the campus community to take appropriate precautions. The timely warning will also include the time, location, and type of crime reported. Anyone with information warranting a timely warning or emergency notification should report the circumstances to the Campus Director by phone at (512) 968-2835 or in person at the Institute.

Information regarding any crimes committed on the campus or leased/attached properties (parking lot) will be available and posted in a conspicuous place within two (2) business days after the reporting of the crime and be available for sixty (60) business days during normal business hours, unless the disclosure is prohibited by law, would jeopardize the confidentiality of the victim, or an ongoing criminal investigation the safety of an individual, cause a suspect to flee evade detection: or result in the destruction of evidence. Once any reason for the lack of disclosure is no longer in force, the Institute will disclose the information. Unless issuing the information risks compromising law enforcement efforts, the information provided via notice will include: Date and time (or timeframe) of the incident, a brief description of the incident, any information that will promote safety and aid in the prevention of similar crimes, suspect description when appropriate, local police contact information, and any other information deemed appropriate. If there is a request for information that is older than sixty 60 days, that information must be made available within two (2) business days of the request.

B. Reporting the Annual Disclosure of Crime Statistics

The Institute prepares this report to comply with the Clery Act. The full text of this report can be located on our website at: www.avenuefive.edu. This report is prepared in cooperation with the local law enforcement agencies around our campus.

Campus crime, arrest and referral statistics include those reported to the local police departments, designated campus officials (including but not limited to the Campus Director), and other law enforcement agencies.

Each year notification is made to all enrolled students and employees that provides the website to access this report. Copies of the report may also be obtained in person from the Campus Director or by calling (512) 968-2835. All prospective employees may obtain a copy from the Campus Director.

C. Reporting of Criminal Offenses

Avenue Five Institute encourages anyone who is the victim or witness to any crime or other emergency to report the incident as soon as possible. Contact the Campus Director at (512) 968-2835 (non-emergencies) or dial 9-1-1 (emergencies only). Any suspicious activity or person seen loitering inside or around the Institute buildings should be reported to the Campus Director.

Reports may also be made to the Institute's Campus Security Authorities, or CSAs. Under Federal law, the definition of CSAs includes individuals/offices designated by the Institute as those to whom crimes should be reported; and officials with significant responsibility for student and campus activities. If an Institute staff member has "significant responsibility" for students and campus activities outside of the classroom, and students potentially could report a crime / incident to that staff member, then they are a CSA. CSAs are defined by function, not title. For the Avenue Five Institute, CSAs include the following:

CAMPUS	CAMPUS DIRECTOR	VICE PRESIDENT(s)	PRESIDENT	CEO
North Austin	Jessica Lopez	Rae Gober/Nikki England	Teddy Romero	Brandon Martin
South Austin	Samantha Dukes	Rae Gober/Nikki England	Teddy Romero	Brandon Martin

For off campus options you may contact the Austin Police Department at (512) 974-2000 for non-emergencies. You should always dial 9-1-1 for emergency situations.

Anyone who is the victim or witness to any crime is encouraged to promptly report the incident to the police. Because police reports are public records under state law, the police cannot hold reports of crime in confidence.

D. Confidential Reporting

Avenue Five Institute encourages anyone who is the victim or witness to any crime to report the incident as soon as possible. All reports will be investigated. Violations of the law will be referred to the local police department. When a potentially dangerous threat to the Institute community arises, timely reports or warnings will be issued through email messages, text messages, the posting of flyers in the Institute buildings, in-class announcements, or other appropriate means.

If you are the victim of a crime and do not want to pursue action within the campus or criminal justice systems, you may still want to consider making a confidential report. With your permission, the Campus Director can file a report on the details of the incident without revealing your identity. The purpose of a confidential report is to comply with your wish to keep the matter confidential, while taking steps to ensure the future safety of yourself and others. With such information, the Institute can keep an accurate record of the number of incidents occurring on campus properties. In addition, this will determine where there is a pattern of crime regarding a location, method, or assailant, and alert the campus community to potential danger. Reports filed in this manner are counted and disclosed in the annual crime statistics for the Institute.

E. Access Policy

During business hours, Avenue Five Institute campuses are open to students, staff and the general public. Admittance into the building is permitted only at designated entrances. Emergency only exits are secured from outside entry and equipped with alarms to notify of their use. During non-business hours, access to school facilities is by key through the facility's main entrance, as issued by the Director of Operations. Emergencies may necessitate changes or alterations to any posted hours of operation. Campus Security Authorities meet regularly to discuss issues concerning campus security. Avenue Five Institute does not have facilities for on-campus residences. Avenue Five Institute does not have a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with local police

F. Campus Security Authority and Jurisdiction

The Institute's administration attempts to provide a safe, secure educational environment for all students and employees. The Institute does not provide security guards on its campus premises. The ultimate authority for law enforcement at the Institute is the local police department. The Institute does not have any written agreements with local police departments for the investigation of alleged criminal offenses. Institute officials have the authority to contact the local police to request assistance in preventing or reacting to crime within or in the immediate vicinity of Institute facilities. The Campus Director is the Institute's coordinator of security issues at each campus. They are not authorized to arrest individuals but do have the authority to detain suspected criminal offenders if it is deemed safe to do so.

G. Security Awareness Programs

All new enrolled students participate in a general Institute orientation class. During the orientation class, the need and procedure of reporting emergencies and criminal activities, campus security measures and crime prevention is discussed. Similar information is presented to new employees. In addition, information is disseminated to students and employees through tips posted in the Institute buildings, in-class announcements, and announcements through social media.

Though the Institute does not offer regularly scheduled crime awareness or prevention programs, students are encouraged to exercise proper care in seeing to their own personal safety and the safety of others. For information on crime prevention programs and tips contact the local police department's crime prevention unit. The following is a description of policies, rules and programs designed to inform students and employees about the prevention of crimes on campus. This guidance is provided to students.

1. Do not leave personal property in classrooms
2. Report to your institutional official, any suspicious persons
3. Always try to walk in groups outside the school premises and stay in well-lighted areas
4. If you are waiting for a ride, wait within sight of other people
5. Don't prop open self-locking doors
6. Trust your instincts

H. Criminal Activity Off Campus

The Avenue Five Institute does not provide law enforcement services to off-campus activities on behalf of the Institute.

I. Emergency Response Preparation and Evacuation

The following procedure will be used to notify students and staff of a dangerous situation on school campus. Every instructor and senior staff member is instructed to keep their cell phones with them at all times while working so that they can receive calls, text messages, or be notified of an emergency situation. Instructors will notify students of any Alert Codes and make sure that students follow instructions. Any Instructor, Director, or Administrative Personnel can issue an alert. Any person receiving an alert should resend alert to any/all appropriate parties. The School Director or acting authority will notify the police or an emergency response unit of any impending dangers related to any Alert Code. The School Director or assigned personnel is responsible for sending out a timely warning to the campus community by email, text, or phone call regarding any health or safety situations. The following Alert Codes represent levels of emergency and response:

CODE	INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO RESPOND
EXIT BUILDING	Evacuation to nearest exit. All students and staff should evacuate the building immediately.
EXIT FRONT	Front Evacuation. All students and staff should evacuate the building using only the front exits.
EXIT REAR	Rear Evacuation. All students and staff should evacuate the building using only the back exits.

LOCK DOWN	Remain in Building. All students and staff should remain in the building and do not exit. All classroom and office doors should be shut and locked if possible. Students and staff should remain calm once they have reached a secure location within the building.
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Evacuation Procedure. Evacuation should take place if it is determined that it is safer outside than inside the building (fire, explosion, intruder) and staff, students and visitors can safely reach the evacuation location without danger.

The Campus Director will call or designate another to immediately call public safety (911) (police, fire and emergency responders) to give notice the Institute has been evacuated. The Campus Director will communicate when it is safe to re-enter the building.

Institute team member responsibilities:

- Instruct students and guests to exit the building using the designated emergency exit routes or as directed by the Campus Director. Emergency exit routes should be diagrammed on the Institute floor plan drawing posted near the light switch inside each room.
- Use a secondary route if the primary route is blocked or hazardous.
- Help those needing special assistance.
- Do not lock classroom doors when leaving, close door and turn off lights.
- Do not stop for student or staff belongings.
- Take class roster, phone lists, first-aid kit and other emergency supplies with you. Check the bathrooms, hallways and common areas for visitors, staff or students while exiting.
- Go to designated gathering locations.
- When outside the building, check for injuries.
- Account for all students. Immediately report any missing or injured students to the Campus Director.
- Wait for additional instructions.

Lockdown Procedure. Lockdown is the initial physical response to provide a time barrier during an active shooter/intruder event. Lockdown is not a stand-alone defensive strategy. When securing in place, this procedure should involve barricading the door and readying a plan of evacuation or counter tactics should the need arise.

The Campus Director will make an announcement that the Institute is experiencing an emergency situation and that it is now under lockdown. The Campus Director will designate staff to call 9-1-1, identify the name and address of the Institute, describe the emergency, state the Institute is locking down, and provide intruder description and weapon(s) if known. The Campus Director will instruct staff to stay on the phone to provide updates and additional information.

Institute team member responsibilities:

- Clear the hallway and bathrooms by your room, moving everyone into the classroom.
- Lock your doors.
- Move any large objects in front of the door to barricade door. All moveable items such as chairs should be used as well.
- Take attendance and be prepared to notify the Campus Director or local law enforcement of missing students or additional students, staff or guests sheltered in your classroom.
- Do not place students in one location within the room. In the event that entry is gained by a shooter or intruder, students should consider exiting by running past the shooter/intruder.
- Staff and students may utilize methods to distract the shooter/intruder's ability to accurately shoot or cause harm, such as loud noises or aiming and throwing objects at the shooter/intruder's face or person.
- Allow no one outside of the classroom until the Campus Director or local law enforcement gives the "All Clear" signal unless a life-threatening situation exists and a means to safe exit is available (through a window or other safe passage).
- If students and Institute personnel are outside of the Institute building at the time of a lockdown, Institute personnel will move students to the designated off-site assembly location.

Shelter-In-Place Procedure. The shelter-in-place procedure provides a refuge for students, staff and the public inside the Institute building during an emergency. Shelters are located in areas of the building that maximize the safety of occupants. Shelter-in-place is used when evacuation would place people at risk. Shelters may change depending on the emergency.

The Campus Director will announce that the Institute is experiencing an emergency situation and needs to implement shelter-in-place procedures. Students, guests and staff will be directed to move to the designated shelter locations in the Institute. All students, guests and staff outside will be directed to immediately move to an inside room.

The Campus Director will designate staff to monitor radio, Internet, and other media for information on incident conditions that caused the shelter-in-place. The Campus Director will contact and consult with public safety officials as appropriate, and be prepared to announce additional procedures due to changing conditions of the incident, or to announce an "All Clear."

Institute team member responsibilities:

- Move students into designated safe areas such as inside rooms with no windows, bathrooms, utility closets or hallways without large windows or doors.
- Close classroom doors and windows when leaving.
- Have everyone kneel down and be ready to cover their heads to protect from debris, if appropriate.
- All persons must remain in the shelter until notified by the Campus Director or public safety official that it is safe to exit.

Fire Response Procedure. The Institute has a policy and procedures governing fire drills and conducts fire drills as required by law. All staff are trained on how to respond in the event of a fire.

Any staff discovering fire or smoke will activate the fire alarm, and report the fire to the Campus Director, or call 911 if conditions require and/or injured are in need of medical assistance. Staff, students and visitors will immediately evacuate the building using prescribed routes or alternate routes to the assembly areas.

No one may re-enter building(s) until it is declared safe by the fire department.

Once the fire department arrives, it is critical to follow the instructions of, and cooperate with, the fire department personnel who have jurisdiction at the scene.

The Campus Director will call or direct staff to call 911 to confirm the alarm is active, identify the Institute name and location, provide exact location of the fire or smoke, if any staff or students are injured, and state the building is being evacuated. The Campus Director will ensure that staff, students and visitors immediately evacuate the building using prescribed routes or alternate routes due to building debris to the assembly areas. Assembly areas may need to be relocated because of the building collapse or unsafe areas from the fire. The Campus Director will designate staff to obtain student roll from instructors and identify any missing students.

The Campus Director will not allow staff, students or guests to return to the building until the fire department with jurisdiction over the scene has determined that it is safe to do so and given the "All Clear."

Institute team member responsibilities:

- Take the class roster and first-aid kit and any other supplies or resources relevant to the incident and lead students as quickly and quietly as possible out of the building to the designated gathering location.
- Use alternate escape routes if the regular route is blocked or there is a safety hazard.
- Assist or designate others to assist students with functional needs.
- Close the classroom door and turn out the lights upon exiting and confirm all students and personnel are out of the classroom.
- Take attendance at the gathering location. Report any missing students or staff members and/or any injuries to the Campus Director or the emergency response personnel at the scene.
- Keep class together and wait for further instructions.
- Remain in safe area until the "All Clear" signal has been issued.
- No one may re-enter building(s) until it is declared safe by the fire department.

Medical Emergency Procedure. These procedures are in place to assist staff, students and guests in the event of a medical emergency.

The Institute's staff should:

- Quickly assess the situation. Make sure the situation is safe for you to approach (i.e., live electric wires, gas leak, building damage, etc.).
- Immediately notify the Campus Director.
- Assess the seriousness of the injury or illness.
- Call or have someone call 9-1-1 immediately. Be prepared to provide the Institute name and address, exact location (floor, room number); describe illness or type of injury; and age of the victim(s).
- Protect yourself against contact with body fluids (blood borne pathogens).
- Administer appropriate first-aid according to your level of training until help arrives.
- Comfort and reassure the injured person. Do not move an injured person unless the scene is unsafe.

The Campus Director will direct staff to call 9-1-1, if necessary, and provide appropriate information to emergency responders. The Campus Director will send Institute staff with first responder/ first-aid training to the scene if this has not already occurred. The Campus Director will assign a staff member to meet emergency medical service responders and lead them to the injured person, and assign a staff member to remain with the injured person if they are transported to the hospital. If the injured person is a member of Institute personnel or a student, the Campus Director will notify parent, guardian, or other appropriate family member of the situation, include type of injury or illness, medical care given and location where the injured person has been transported. The Campus Director will ensure that student or staff medical information from administrative records is sent to the hospital. The Campus Director will develop and maintain written documentation of the incident.

J. Fire Prevention and Workplace Hazards

It is the responsibility of all faculty and staff to alert the Campus Director of any and all conditions that could potentially pose a fire hazard or other unsafe condition in or around the building. No smoking is permitted in the building and flammable chemicals are confined and stored in a locked area, meeting all OSHA requirements. Good housekeeping practices will be the responsibility of all faculty, staff and students. Waste materials are to be discarded in their proper places and all aisles, doorways, hallways and exit doors are to be kept clear at all times.

K. Alcoholic Beverages or Controlled Substances

It is the policy of Avenue Five Institute that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance or alcohol is prohibited while in the workplace, on Institute premises, or as part of any Institute sponsored activities. Any employee or student violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion and referral for prosecution. The specifics of this policy can be found in the Drug Free School Policy.

L. Alcohol and Substance Abuse Education

The Institute has developed a program to prevent the illicit use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol by students and employees. The program provides services related to drug use and abuse including dissemination of information materials, referrals, and Institute disciplinary actions.

A violation of any law regarding drugs or alcohol is also a violation of the Institute's Drug Free School Policy and will be treated as a separate disciplinary matter by the Institute.

Please see the Drug Free School Policy for the prevention and treatment center contact information.

Additional information about drug and alcohol abuse, health risks, addiction and prevention can be accessed at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (www.institutedrinkingprevention.gov) as well as the National Institute on Drug Abuse (www.drugabuse.gov/DrugPages/DrugsofAbuse.html).

M. Sexual Harassment Policies & Procedures

Avenue Five Institute is committed to providing a working and educational environment for all students, faculty and staff that is free from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. Every member of the Institute community should be aware that the Institute is strongly opposed to sexual harassment, and that such behavior is prohibited by state and federal laws.

The Institute's Sexual Harassment Policy is part of this Annual Security Report. It describes the Institute's programs to prevent sexual harassment, and the procedures that the Institute will follow once an incident of sexual harassment has been reported. This Policy is disseminated widely to the Institute community through publications, the Institute website, new employee orientations, student orientations, and other appropriate channels of communication. Copies of the Policy can be obtained from the Campus Director or downloaded from the Institute's website at www.avenuefive.edu. The Institute provides training to key staff members to enable the Institute to handle any allegations of sexual harassment promptly and effectively. The Institute will respond quickly to all reports of sexual harassment, and will take appropriate action to prevent, to correct, and if necessary, to discipline behavior that violates this policy.

The Institute's Sexual Harassment Policy governs sexual harassment that occurs in the Institute's education programs or activities. This Policy applies to all students, employees, and third parties conducting business with the Institute, regardless of the person's gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, nationality, class status, ability, religion or other protected status. The Institute encourages victims of sexual violence to talk to somebody about what happened – so victims can get the support they need, and so the Institute can respond appropriately. As further described in the Policy, the Institute will seek to respect a victim's request for confidentiality to the extent possible, while remaining ever mindful of the victim's well-being.

N. Sexual Offender Registration

In accordance to the Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act of 2000, the Clery Act, and the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the Institute is providing information for where students and employees may obtain information regarding registered sex offenders. The Texas Sex Offenders Registry may be found at https://www.dps.texas.gov/administration/crime_records/pages/sexoffender.htm. The Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act requires institutions of higher education to provide a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement information provided by a state concerning registered sex offenders can be obtained.

AVENUE FIVE INSTITUTE
CAMPUS CRIME REPORT – NORTH AUSTIN CAMPUS
8620 Burnet Road Suite 300 Austin, TX 78757

The Campus Director prepares this report to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act. The report is prepared in cooperation with the local law enforcement agencies surrounding our campus. Campus crime, arrest, and referral statistics include those reported to the Campus Director and local law enforcement agencies. Copies of the report may be obtained in the Campus Director's Office or by calling (512) 968-2835. All prospective employees may obtain a copy from the Campus Director or by calling (512) 968-2835.

To Report A Crime: Contact the Campus Director at (512) 968-2835 (non-emergencies) or dial 9-1-1 (emergencies only). Any suspicious activity or person seen loitering inside or around the Institute buildings should be reported to the Campus Director.

Offense	On Campus			Public Property		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	1	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazing	0	0	0	0	0	0
VAWA Offenses						
Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrests & Disciplinary Referrals						
Liquor Law Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Arrests Referred for Disciplinary Action	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hate Crimes – There were no Hate Crimes reported for 2023, 2024, or 2025.

AVENUE FIVE INSTITUTE
CAMPUS CRIME REPORT – SOUTH AUSTIN CAMPUS
500 E Ben White, Austin TX 78704

The Campus Director prepares this report to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act. The report is prepared in cooperation with the local law enforcement agencies surrounding our campus. Campus crime, arrest, and referral statistics include those reported to the Campus Director and local law enforcement agencies. Copies of the report may be obtained in the Campus Director's Office or by calling (512) 968-2835. All prospective employees may obtain a copy from the Campus Director or by calling (512) 968-2835.

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Offense	On Campus			Public Property		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	1	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	1	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazing	0	0	0	0	0	0
VAWA Offenses						
Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	1	0	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrests & Disciplinary Referrals						
Liquor Law Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Arrests	0	1	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Arrests Referred for Disciplinary Action	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hate Crimes – There were no Hate Crimes reported for 2023, 2024, or 2025.

AVENUE FIVE INSTITUTE DRUG FREE SCHOOL POLICY

Avenue Five Institute believes that it is very important to provide a safe environment for all of its students and employees. Substance abuse, while at work, Institute or otherwise, seriously endangers the safety of students and team members, as well as the general public, and creates a variety of problems including increased theft, decreased morale, decreased productivity, and a decline in the quality of services provided. It is also our Policy to prevent the use and/or presence of these substances in the Institute. The Avenue Five Institute will strive to provide an environment conducive to making conscientious and healthy decisions when students are faced with difficult choices associated with the use of legal and illegal drugs.

It is a violation of Institute policy for any employee or student to:

- Use illegal drugs or misuse prescription drugs;
- Misuse alcohol;
- Possess, trade, manufacture, distribute, dispense, buy or offer for sale alcohol, illegal and/or prescription drugs while on duty, during break periods, or on Institute property;
- Arrive or return to Institute intoxicated from use of illegal drugs, misused prescription drugs or alcohol;
- Engage in the use of illegal drugs, misuse of prescription drugs or alcohol during Institute hours or while on Institute property (including parking lots); and
- Use prescription drugs or non-prescription drugs that may affect the safety of the student or fellow students, and members of the public.

Any employee or student who is taking any prescription or non-prescription drug which might impair safety, performance, or any motor functions must advise his/her Instructor or the Campus Director before providing services under such medication.

Employees and students are individually responsible for being aware of applicable laws, regulations, ordinances, and the Institute's policy for complying with them. Avenue Five Institute will assist in that endeavor by providing current information on an ongoing basis to all students and employees.

Drug & Alcohol Health Risks

Alcohol: People drink to socialize, celebrate, and relax. Alcohol often has a strong effect on people—and throughout history, people have struggled to understand and manage alcohol's power. Why does alcohol cause people to act and feel differently? How much is too much? Why do some people become addicted while others do not?

Alcohol's effects vary from person to person, depending on a variety of factors, including:

- How much you drink
- How often you drink
- Your age
- Your health status
- Your family history

While drinking alcohol is itself not necessarily a problem—drinking too much can cause a range of consequences, and increase your risk for a variety of problems.

Cocaine: Cocaine is a powerfully addictive stimulant drug. Cocaine increases levels of the natural chemical messenger *dopamine* in brain circuits controlling pleasure and movement. This flood of dopamine ultimately disrupts normal brain communication and causes cocaine's high.

Short-term effects include constricted blood vessels, nausea, faster heartbeat, extreme happiness and energy, irritability and paranoia. Long-term effects include nosebleeds, severe bowel decay, higher risk of contracting HIV, hepatitis C, and other bloodborne diseases, malnourishment, restlessness, and severe paranoia with auditory hallucinations. A person can overdose on cocaine, which can lead to death.

Marijuana: Marijuana contains the mind-altering chemical THC and other related compounds. THC over-activates certain brain cell receptors, resulting in effects such as altered senses, changes in mood, impaired body movement, difficulty with thinking and problem-solving, and impaired memory and learning. Marijuana use can have a wide range of health effects, including hallucinations and paranoia, breathing problems, and possible harm to a fetus's brain in pregnant women. Marijuana use can cause some very uncomfortable side effects, such as anxiety and paranoia and, in rare cases, extreme psychotic reactions. Marijuana use can lead to a substance use disorder, which can develop into an addiction in severe cases.

Hallucinogens and Dissociative Drugs: Hallucinogens and dissociative drugs—which have street names like acid, angel dust, and vitamin K—distort the way a user perceives time, motion, colors, sounds, and self. These drugs can disrupt a person's ability to think and communicate rationally, or even to recognize reality, sometimes resulting in bizarre or dangerous behavior. Hallucinogens such as LSD, psilocybin, peyote, DMT, and ayahuasca cause emotions to swing wildly and real-world sensations to appear unreal, sometimes frightening. Dissociative drugs

like PCP, ketamine, dextromethorphan, and *Salvia divinorum* may make a user feel out of control and disconnected from their body and environment. In addition to their short-term effects on perception and mood, hallucinogenic drugs are associated with psychotic-like episodes that can occur long after a person has taken the drug, and dissociative drugs can cause respiratory depression, heart rate abnormalities, and a withdrawal syndrome.

Methamphetamine: The abuse of methamphetamine—a potent and highly addictive stimulant—remains an extremely serious problem in the United States. The consequences of methamphetamine abuse are terrible for the individual—psychologically, medically, and socially. Abusing the drug can cause memory loss, aggression, psychotic behavior, damage to the cardiovascular system, malnutrition, and severe dental problems. Methamphetamine abuse has also been shown to contribute to increased transmission of infectious diseases, such as hepatitis and HIV/AIDS.

Reasonable Search:

To ensure that illegal drugs and alcohol do not enter or affect the Institute, Avenue Five Institute reserves the right to search all vehicles, containers, lockers, or other items on Institute property in furtherance of this Policy. Individuals may be requested to display personal property for visual inspection upon the Institute's request. Searches will be conducted only where Avenue Five Institute has reason to believe that the student has violated the Institute's Policy. Failure to consent to a search or display of personal property for visual inspection will be grounds for discipline, up to and including termination from the program or denial of access to Institute premises. Searches of a student's personal property will take place only in the student's presence. All searches under this Policy will occur with the utmost discretion and consideration for the student involved. Individuals may be required to empty their pockets, but under no circumstances will a student be required to remove articles of clothing to be physically searched.

Student Assistance:

Avenue Five Institute holds all students accountable in terms of substance use but also supports getting help for students. Students who come forward voluntarily to identify that they have a substance problem will not be reprimanded. It is important for the student to come to an understanding regarding the extent of the problem in order to correct the problem and be able to avoid future usage in violation of the Institute's Policy. This is required in order to correct the problem and be able to avoid violating the Institute's Policy in the future. If the student is willing to actively engage in resolving the substance use problem, the Institute will refer the student to a Substance Abuse Professional for an assessment and possible outpatient counseling at the student's expense. This leave will be conditioned upon receipt of reports from the treatment providers that the student is cooperating and making reasonable progress in the treatment program. The student will be permitted to return to the Institute only if (s)he passes a drug /alcohol test and has satisfactory medical evidence that (s)he is fit for attendance.

This protection does not cover a student who confesses a problem after an incident or accident that requires a substance use test, or after being notified that a reasonable suspicion test is required.

Disciplinary Action:

Violation of this Policy will result in the student's immediate termination. Re-admittance may be considered after 60 days. To be considered for re-admittance, the student must provide proof of having satisfactorily attended treatment that is provided by a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) and/or prescribed by a SAP and completed a drug and/or alcohol test, determined by which test was previously positive, with a negative test result. If the student is readmitted, (s)he must complete the prescribed follow-up testing by the SAP or by law, as applicable, to continue attending Avenue Five Institute. Treatment and follow-up testing will be at the expense of the student. The Institute may terminate a student who has entered a rehabilitation program for violations of the Drug Free School Policy or any other school policy in accordance with the procedures set forth in the School Catalog.

Confidentiality:

All information, interviews, reports, statement memoranda and drug test results, written or otherwise, received by Avenue Five Institute as part of this Drug Free School Policy are confidential communications. Unless authorized by state laws, rules or regulations, the Institute will not release such information without a written consent form signed voluntarily by the person tested. Information on drug testing results will not be released unless such information or records are compelled by a court or a professional or occupational licensing board.

Alcohol & Drug Prevention & Treatment

Prevention and Treatment Centers:

- **Texas Substance Abuse Helpline:** 1-866-971-2658
- **Alcoholics Anonymous:** 512-327-9927
- **Salvation Army Adult Rehab Center Austin:** 512-447-2272

REFERRAL AND HOTLINE INFORMATION- The school does not offer professional counseling services but offers the following recourse information:

- National Institution on Drug Abuse (M-F, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 1 -800-662-HELP
- National Alcohol & Drug Abuse Hotline 1-800-234-0420
- Cocaine Helpline 1-800-COCAINE
- Boys Town National Hotline 1-800-448-3000 (Alcohol, drug-crisis, intervention, mental health referral)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-HOPE
- National Women's Health Information Center 1-800-994-9662 (www.womenshealth.gov)

- Care Unit Hospital Program 1-888-868-2104
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988 (24 hours/day)

Biennial Review:

The Institute will review the drug and alcohol prevention program every two years on the odd number year. Any recommendations/data and or assistance available to substance abusers will be updated and distributed to all students and staff of Avenue Five Institute.

Overview of Federal Controlled Substance Penalties.

The Controlled Substances Act (CSA) places all substances which were in some manner regulated under existing federal law into one of five schedules. This placement is based upon the substance's medical use, potential for abuse, and safety or dependence liability. The Act also provides a mechanism for substances to be controlled (added to or transferred between schedules) or decontrolled (removed from control). The procedure for these actions is found in Section 201 of the Act (21U.S.C. §811).

The CSA provides penalties for unlawful manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of controlled substances. The penalties are basically determined by the schedule of the drug or other substance, and sometimes are specified by drug name, as in the case of marijuana. As the statute has been amended since its initial passage in 1970, the penalties have been altered by Congress. The following charts are an overview of the penalties for trafficking or unlawful distribution of controlled substances.

FEDERAL TRAFFICKING PENALTIES

DRUG/SCHEDULE	QUANTITY	PENALTIES	QUANTITY	PENALTIES
Cocaine (Schedule II)	500–4999 grams mixture	First Offense: Not less than 5 yrs, and not more than 40 yrs. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 or more than life. Fine of not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if not an individual.	5 kgs or more mixture	First Offense: Not less than 10 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 or more than life. Fine of not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual.
Cocaine Base (Schedule II)	28–279 grams mixture		280 grams or more mixture	
Fentanyl (Schedule II)	40–399 grams mixture		400 grams or more mixture	
Fentanyl Analogue (Schedule I)	10–99 grams mixture		100 grams or more mixture	
Heroin (Schedule I)	100–999 grams mixture	Second Offense: Not less than 10 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$8 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual.	1 kg or more mixture	Second Offense: Not less than 20 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.
LSD (Schedule I)	1–9 grams mixture		10 grams or more mixture	
Methamphetamine (Schedule II)	5–49 grams pure or 50–499 grams mixture		50 grams or more pure or 500 grams or more mixture	
PCP (Schedule II)	10–99 grams pure or 100–999 grams mixture		100 gm or more pure or 1 kg or more mixture	
				2 or More Prior Offenses: Life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.

PENALTIES

Other Schedule I & II drugs (and any drug product containing Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid)	Any amount	First Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 yrs, or more than life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.
	1 gram	Second Offense: Not more than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if not an individual.
Flunitrazepam (Schedule IV)		
Other Schedule III drugs	Any amount	First Offense: Not more than 10 years. If death or serious injury, not more than 15 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2.5 million if not an individual.

		Second Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious injury, not more than 30 yrs. Fine not more than \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.
All other Schedule IV drugs	Any amount	First Offense: Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000 if an individual, \$1 million if not an individual.
Flunitrazepam (Schedule IV)	Other than 1 gram or more	Second Offense: Not more than 10 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than an individual.
All Schedule V drugs	Any amount	First Offense: Not more than 1 yr. Fine not more than \$100,000 if an individual, \$250,000 if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 4 yrs. Fine not more than \$200,000 if an individual, \$500,000 if not an individual.

FEDERAL TRAFFICKING PENALTIES—MARIJUANA

DRUG	QUANTITY	1 st OFFENSE	2 nd OFFENSE
Marijuana (Schedule I)	1,000 kg or more marijuana mixture; or 1,000 or more marijuana plants	Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs., or more than life. Fine not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if other than an individual.	Not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if other than an individual.
Marijuana (Schedule I)	100 kg to 999 kg marijuana mixture; or 100 to 999 marijuana plants	Not less than 5 yrs. or more than 40 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if other than an individual.	Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75million if other than an individual.
Marijuana (Schedule I)	More than 10 kgs hashish; 50 to 99 kg marijuana mixture More than 1 kg of hashish oil; 50 to 99 marijuana plants	Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if other than an individual.	Not more than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if other than an individual.
Marijuana (Schedule I)	Less than 50 kilograms marijuana (but does not include 50 or more marijuana plants regardless of weight) 1 to 49 marijuana plants;	Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000, \$1 million if other than an individual.	Not more than 10 yrs. Fine \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than individual.
Hashish (Schedule I)	10 kg or less		
Hashish Oil (Schedule I)	1 kg or less		

*The minimum sentence for a violation after two or more prior convictions for a felony drug offense have become final is a mandatory term of life imprisonment without release and a fine up to \$20 million if an individual and \$75 million if other than an individual.

Key Provisions of Texas Drug & Alcohol Laws

The following legal sanctions for said illegalities are set forth by the State of Texas.

PUNISHMENT FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG RELATED CRIMES IN STATE OF TEXAS: The Texas Health and Safety Code sets the possession law, dividing controlled substances into five penalty groups, plus a marijuana category. While some of the substances are legal, it is illegal to possess them without a prescription, and the health code establishes the punishments for illegal possession.

Penalty Group	Examples of Drugs/Controlled Substances
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1	Cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, GHB, ketamine, oxycodone and hydrocodone
1A	LSD
2	Ecstasy, PCP and mescaline.
3	Valium, Xanax and Ritalin
4	Compounds containing Dionine, Motofen, Buprenorphine or Pryovalerone

Penalty Group 1

Weight (grams)	Classification	Penalty
Less than 1	State Jail Felony	180 days to 2 years in state jail; fine up to \$10,000
1 or more, less than 4	Third-Degree Felony	2-10 years in state prison; fine up to \$10,000
4 or more, less than 200	Second-Degree Felony	2-20 years in state prison; fine up to \$10,000
200 or more, less than 400	First-Degree Felony	5-99 years in state prison; fine up to \$10,000
400 or more	Enhanced First-Degree felony	10-99 years in state prison; fine up to \$100,000

Penalty Group 1A

Amount (units)	Classification	Penalty
Less than 20	State Jail Felony	180 days to 2 years in state jail; fine up to \$10,000
20-79	Third-Degree Felony	2-10 years in state prison; fine up to \$10,000
80-3999	Second-Degree Felony	2-20 years in state prison; fine up to \$10,000
4000-7999	First-Degree Felony	5-99 years in state prison; fine up to \$10,000
8000 or more	Enhanced First-Degree felony	15-99 years in state prison; fine up to \$250,000

Penalty Group 2

Weight (grams)	Classification	Penalty
Less than 1	State Jail Felony	180 days to 2 years in state jail; fine up to \$10,000
More than 1, less than 4	Third-Degree Felony	2-10 years in state prison; fine up to \$10,000
More than 4, less than 400	Second-Degree Felony	2-20 years in state prison; fine up to \$10,000
400 or more	Enhanced First-Degree felony	5-99 years in state prison; fine up to \$50,000

Penalty Groups 3 and 4

Weight (grams)	Classification	Penalty
Less than 28	State Jail Felony	No more than 1 year in county jail; fine to \$4,000
28 or more, less than 200	Third-Degree Felony	2-10 years in state prison; fine up to \$10,000
200 or more, less than 400	Second-Degree Felony	2-20 years in state prison; fine up to \$10,000
400 or more	Enhanced 1st-Degree felony	5-99 years in state prison; fine up to \$50,000

The Texas Tax Code, in addition to criminal penalties for drug possession, also sets potential civil penalties. Although the statute is not often used in minor possession cases, the code requires that taxes must be paid on illegal drugs, so that "dealers" who possess over certain amounts can be charged with tax evasion. The state of Texas can also suspend your license for up to six months following a conviction on any violation of Texas Controlled Substances Act.

The Code of Criminal Procedure also allows police to seize any property used or "intended to be used" in the commission of a drug felony. That means they can take your car, your home, or any other belonging where you are accused of carrying or hiding drugs. The asset forfeiture law is a civil action, not criminal, and you don't have to be convicted for the state to try to take your property. Drug possession penalties are complicated, and depend on the classification of the substance and the quantity.

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia- Any item that can be used as a drug processing, packaging, or consumption mechanism can be defined as paraphernalia under 481.002 (17) of the Texas Controlled Substances Act. Even common household items such as scales, spoons, bowls, envelopes or bags can land you an illegal possession of paraphernalia charge. The most common paraphernalia charges result from pipes and bongs. Simple possession of drug paraphernalia is a Class C Misdemeanor, which carries a penalty of fines up to \$500. Distribution or possession with intent to distribute or sell drug paraphernalia is a Class A misdemeanor, which can result in up to a year in jail. Second offense penalties will result in mandatory jail time, or if you sell to someone under 18 years old.

Notice of Federal Student Aid (FSA) Penalties for Drug Law Violations:

The Higher Education Opportunity Act requires institutions to provide to every student upon enrollment a separate, clear and conspicuous written notice with information on the penalties associated with drug-related offenses under existing section 484(r) of the HEA. It also requires an institution to provide a timely notice to each student who has lost eligibility for any grant, loan, or work-study assistance as a result of penalties under 484(r)(1) of the HEA a separate clear, and conspicuous written notice that notifies the student of the loss of eligibility and advises the student of the ways in which to regain eligibility under section 484(r)(2) of the HEA. Students are hereby notified that federal guidelines mandate that a federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for Federal Student Aid funds. Convictions only count if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV aid—they do not count if the offense was not during such a period. Also, a conviction that was reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record does not count, nor does one received when he/she was a juvenile, unless the student was tried as an adult.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended (HEA) suspends aid eligibility for students who have been convicted under federal or state law of the sale or possession of drugs, if the offense occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving federal student aid (grants, loans, and/or work-study). If you have a conviction(s) for these offenses, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) to complete the "Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet" to find out how this law applies to you.

If you have lost federal student aid eligibility due to a drug conviction, you can regain eligibility if you pass two unannounced drug tests conducted by a drug rehabilitation program that complies with criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education.

By completing the FAFSA, you may be eligible for non federal aid from states and private institutions even if ineligible for Federal Aid. If you regain eligibility during the award year, notify your financial aid administrator immediately. If you are convicted of a drug-related offense after you submit the FAFSA, you might lose eligibility for federal student aid, and you may be liable for returning any financial aid you received during a period of ineligibility.

Institute Flexibility:

Avenue Five Institute reserves the right to alter or amend any portion of this policy at any time without prior notice. The Institute reserves the right to alter or modify this policy in a given situation depending on the totality of the circumstances. Time periods stated herein for the performance of any act or provision of any notice by the Institute are for guidance only and failure of Avenue Five Institute to strictly meet any time frame provided herein shall not preclude the Institute from taking any action provided herein. Under no circumstances shall failure to perform any act within the time frames herein excuse or relieve any student from his or her obligations, act to nullify any positive test, or relieve any student from the consequences of any positive test, or any other violation of this Policy.

Review of Effectiveness of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program

In August of 2026, Avenue Five Institute conducted a review of the effectiveness of our drug and alcohol program, as outlined above. The President and CEO met to discuss the policy and any occurrences of drugs on campus or instances in which the policy was violated. The results of our review showed that the presence of drugs and alcohol (or their after-effects) at our campuses isn't measurable and the use of drugs is not impacting our school environment.

Method Used to Determine the Effectiveness of Policy

On a biennial basis, during the Fall, the CEO performs a review of the effectiveness of our Drug Policy. This review is conducted with support from the School Directors, as needed. To determine if the Drug Policy is meeting its objectives, the below methods are used:

1. Determine how many violations of the Drug and Alcohol Policy (and Standards of Conduct Regarding Drugs & Alcohol) occurred during the prior two years.
2. Determine how many students had been terminated due to violation of the Drug (and Standards of Conduct Regarding Drugs & Alcohol).
3. If there are two or less individuals who have violations during the period, and one or less individual who has been terminated due to a violation, then Avenue Five deems that there is not a drug and/or alcohol issue at the campus. Otherwise, there is a potential drug/alcohol issue at the campus.
4. Follow-up actions are taken if a campus is determined to have a potential drug/alcohol issue. In such a case, the Campus Director must develop a report to explain the situation and determine if changes to the policy are required (see step 5).
5. The Campus Director report process includes reviewing the violations in order to identify the root causes of the violations and what actions could be taken to address them. The Campus Director will provide a summary of recommendations to be reviewed by the CEO. In reviewing the report, the CEO will look to see if any of the violations could/should have been prevented or addressed sooner based on previous knowledge, reports, red flags, etc. Based on this analysis,

Based on this analysis, the CEO will make appropriate changes and update the Drug and Alcohol policies and standards of conduct so that future violations can be reduced or eliminated.

2026 Review Outcomes and Analysis

1. Number of violations of our drug policy- 0.
2. Number of violations that resulted in student termination- 0.
3. No campus-wide drug/alcohol issue was identified.
4. NA
5. NA

No changes were recommended to the drug and alcohol policy as a result.

AVENUE FIVE INSTITUTE
SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICIES & GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

1. Introduction

Avenue Five Institute (the "Institute") is committed to providing a working and educational environment for all students, faculty and staff that is free from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. Every member of the Institute community should be aware that the Institute is strongly opposed to sexual harassment, and that such behavior is prohibited by state and federal laws.

The Institute does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational, extracurricular, or other programs or in the context of employment. Sex discrimination is prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, a federal law that provides:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

As part of the Institute's commitment to providing a working and learning environment free from sexual harassment, this Policy shall be disseminated widely to the Institute community through publications, the Institute website, new employee orientations, student orientations, and other appropriate channels of communication. The Institute provides training to key staff members to enable the Institute to handle any allegations of sexual harassment promptly and effectively. The Institute will respond promptly to all reports of sexual harassment, and will take appropriate action to prevent, to correct, and if necessary, to discipline behavior that violates this Policy.

2. Scope of the Policy

This Policy governs sexual harassment that occurs in the Institute's education programs or activities. This Policy applies to all students, employees, and third parties conducting business with the Institute, regardless of the person's gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, nationality, class status, ability, religion or other protected status. The Institute encourages victims of sexual harassment to talk to somebody about what happened – so victims can get the support they need, and so the Institute can respond appropriately. As further described in this Policy, the Institute will seek to respect a victim's request for confidentiality to the extent possible, while remaining ever mindful of the victim's well-being.

3. Prohibited Conduct

Sexual harassment comprises a broad range of behaviors focused on sex that may or may not be sexual in nature. Sexual harassment includes an Institute employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the Institute's education programs or activities also constitutes sexual harassment. Sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence are all forms of sexual harassment. Retaliation following an incident of alleged sexual harassment or attempted sexual harassment is strictly prohibited. The definitions for specific acts of sexual harassment can be found in the Definitions of Key Terms at the end of this Policy statement.

Sexual harassment can occur between strangers or acquaintances, or people who know each other well, including between people involved in an intimate or sexual relationship, can be committed by anyone regardless of gender identity, and can occur between people of the same or different sex or gender. **This Policy prohibits all forms of sexual harassment.**

4. Options for Assistance Following an Incident of Sexual Harassment

The Institute strongly encourages any victim of sexual harassment to seek immediate assistance. Seeking prompt assistance may be important to ensure a victim's physical safety or to obtain medical care. The Institute strongly advocates that a victim of sexual harassment report the incident in a timely manner. Time is a critical factor for evidence collection and preservation.

Reporting Incidents of Sexual Harassment

Victims of sexual harassment may file a report with the Austin Police Department. Victims may also file a report with the Institute's Title IX Coordinator. More information about reporting an incident of sexual harassment can be found in Section 6 of this Policy, below.

The Institute will respond promptly when it has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in its education programs or activities. The Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures as described below, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint. The Institute will also provide the complainant with written notification about assistance available both within and outside of the Institute community.

A complainant may choose for the investigation to be pursued through the criminal justice system and/or through the Institute's disciplinary procedures by filing a formal complaint as described in this Policy. The Institute and the criminal justice system work independently from each other. Law enforcement officers do not determine whether a violation of this Policy has occurred. The Title IX Coordinator will guide the complainant through the available options and support the complainant in his or her decision.

Supportive Measures

The Institute's Title IX Coordinator will work with all students affected by sexual harassment to ensure their safety and support their wellbeing. This assistance may include providing supportive measures to support or protect a student after an incident of sexual harassment and while an investigation or disciplinary proceeding is pending. Supportive measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the Institute's

education programs and activities without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the Institute's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment.

Supportive measures may include:

- counseling,
- extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments,
- modifications of work or class schedules,
- campus escort services,
- mutual restrictions on contact between the parties,
- changes in work or housing locations,
- leaves of absence,
- increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and
- other similar measures.

The Institute will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the Institute to provide the supportive measures. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.

The measures needed by each student may change over time, and the Title IX Coordinator will communicate with each student throughout any investigation to ensure that any supportive measures are necessary and effective based on the students' evolving needs. Students who report an incident of sexual harassment may also be able to obtain a formal protection order from a civil or criminal court. The Institute will work with the student and the applicable court to assist in the enforcement of any such protective orders.

Support Services Available

Counseling, advocacy and support services are available for complainants, whether or not a complainant chooses to make an official report or participate in the Institute's disciplinary or criminal process. *Avenue Five Institute does not provide counseling or health care services.*

Sexual harassment crisis and counseling options are available locally and nationally through a number of agencies, including:

National Resources:

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 800-656-4673

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233

National Institute of Mental Health: www.nimh.nih.gov

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration: www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline, 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Local Resources:

- **SAFE Alliance:** www.safeaustin.org, 512-267-SAFE(7233)
- **Texas Runaway Hotline:** 1-800-989-HELP(4357)
- **Women's Counseling & Referral Center:** 512-326-1222
- **Sexual Assault Legal Hotline:** 512-225-9290

Evidence Preservation

Victims of sexual assault, domestic violence or dating violence should consider seeking medical attention as soon as possible. It is important that a victim of sexual assault not bathe, douche, smoke, change clothing or clean the bed/linen where they were assaulted so that evidence necessary to prove criminal activity may be preserved. In circumstances where the victims do not opt for forensic evidence collection, health care providers can still treat injuries and take steps to address health concerns. Victims of sexual harassment are encouraged to also preserve evidence by saving text messages, instant messages, social networking pages, other communications, and keeping pictures, logs or other copies of documents, if they have any, that would be useful in connection with an Institute or police investigation.

5. Title IX Coordinator

The Institute's Title IX Coordinator is responsible for monitoring and overseeing the Institute's compliance with Title IX and the prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination. The Title IX Coordinator is:

- Knowledgeable and trained in Institute policies and procedures and relevant state and federal laws;
- Available to advise any individual, including a complainant, respondent, or a third party, about Institute and community resources and reporting options;
- Available to provide assistance to any Institute employee regarding how to respond appropriately to a report of Title IX-related prohibited conduct and related retaliation;
- Participates in ensuring the effective implementation of this Policy, including monitoring compliance with all procedural requirements, record keeping, and timeframes; and
- Responsible for overseeing training, prevention, and education efforts and annual reviews of climate and culture.

Inquiries or concerns about Title IX may be referred to the Institute's Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator:

Title IX Coordinator: Brandon Martin
8620 Burnet Rd. Ste 300
Austin, Texas 78757

Deputy Title IX Coordinator: Teddy Romero
8620 Burnet Rd. Ste 300
Austin, Texas 78757

6. Reporting Policies and Protocols

Avenue Five Institute strongly encourages all members of the Institute community to report information about any incident of sexual harassment as soon as possible. Reports can be made either to the Institute and/or to law enforcement.

Reporting to the Institute

An incident of sexual harassment may be reported to the Institute's Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, or to a designated School official. No other Institute officials or employees have the authority to institute corrective measures under these Policies and Procedures on behalf of the Institute. **The Institute will not be deemed to have actual knowledge of alleged sexual harassment unless the Institute's Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Title IX Coordinator or a designated School official possess such knowledge.** Reports of sexual harassment to Institute officials or employees other than the Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Title IX Coordinator or a designated school official will not confer actual knowledge to the Institute of such allegations, unless the Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Title IX Coordinator or designated school official subsequently obtain such actual knowledge.

If the Institute's Title IX Coordinator is the alleged perpetrator of the sexual harassment, the report should be submitted to the Deputy Title IX Coordinator or a designated school official. Filing a report with an Institute official will not obligate the victim to prosecute, nor will it subject the victim to scrutiny or judgmental opinions from officers.

Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed in Section 5 for the Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, or designated school official receiving the person's verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the telephone number or email address, or by mail to the office address, listed for the Title IX Coordinator.

While there is no time limit for reporting, reports of sex discrimination or harassment should be brought forward as soon as possible. All incidents should be reported even if significant time has elapsed, but prompt reporting will better enable the Institute to respond, investigate, provide an appropriate remedy, and impose discipline if appropriate. Note that if a complainant seeks to file a formal complaint for the Institute to initiate an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment, the complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the Institute's education programs or activities at the time of filing such formal complaint. The Institute is committed to supporting the rights of a person reporting an incident of sexual harassment to make an informed choice among options and services available.

The Institute will respond to all reports in a manner that treats each individual with dignity and respect and will take prompt responsive action to end any harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects.

Reporting to Law Enforcement

An incident of sexual harassment can be reported to law enforcement at any time, 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week, by calling 911. At the complainant's request, the Institute will assist the complainant in contacting law enforcement. If the complainant decides to pursue the criminal process, the Institute will cooperate with law enforcement agencies to the extent permitted by law. A complainant has the option to decide whether or not to participate in any investigation conducted by law enforcement. Filing a police report will:

- Ensure that a victim of sexual assault receives the necessary medical treatment and tests; and
- Provide the opportunity for collection of evidence helpful in prosecution, which cannot be obtained later (ideally a victim of sexual assault should not wash, douche, use the toilet, or change clothing prior to a medical/legal exam).

Reporting of Crimes & Annual Security Reports

Campus safety and security are important issues at Avenue Five Institute. Our goal is to provide students with a safe environment in which to learn and to keep students, parents, and employees well informed about campus security. The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, or Clery Act, requires institutions of higher education to record and report certain information about campus safety, including the number of incidents of certain crimes on or near campus, some of which constitute sexual harassment under this Policy.

Each year the Institute prepares this annual security report to comply with the Clery Act. The full text of this report can be located on the Institute's website at www.avenuefive.edu. This report is prepared in cooperation with the local law enforcement agencies around our campus. Each year notification is made to all enrolled students and employees that provides the website to access this report. Copies of the report may also be obtained in person from the Campus Director or by calling (512) 968-2835. All prospective employees may also obtain a copy from the Campus Director.

Timely Warnings

In the event that a situation arises, either on or off campus, that, in the judgment of a Campus Security Authority constitutes an ongoing or continuing threat, a campus wide "timely warning" will be issued. The Campus Security Authority will immediately notify the Institute community upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or staff occurring at the Institute, unless issuing a notification will compromise efforts to contain the emergency. The warning will be issued through the most effective and efficient means available and may include instant messaging to students and Institute employees. Notices may

also be posted in the common areas throughout the Institute. Anyone with information warranting a timely warning should report the circumstances to the Campus Director by phone at (512) 968-2835 or in person at the Institute. The Institute will provide adequate follow-up information to the community as needed.

Third-Party and Anonymous Reporting

In cases where sexual harassment is reported to the Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, or a designated school official by someone other than the complainant (by an instructor, classmate, or friend, for example), the Title IX Coordinator will promptly notify the complainant that a report has been received. This Policy and the Procedures will apply in the same manner as if the complainant had made the initial report. The Title IX Coordinator will make every effort to meet with the complainant to discuss available options and resources. Reports from an anonymous source will be treated in a similar fashion.

No Retaliation

The Institute prohibits retaliation against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a Title IX investigation, proceeding, or hearing. The Institute will take strong responsive action if retaliation occurs. Any incident of retaliation should be promptly reported to the Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, or a designated school official.

Except as may otherwise be required by law, the Institute will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness.

Charging an individual with a violation of the Institute's code of conduct for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding does not constitute retaliation, provided, however, that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

Coordination With Drug Free School Policy

Students may be reluctant to report instances of sexual harassment because they fear being disciplined pursuant to the Institute's alcohol or drug policies. The Institute encourages students to report all instances of sexual harassment and will take into consideration the importance of reporting sexual harassment in addressing violations of the Institute's alcohol and drug policies. This means that, whenever possible, the Institute will respond educationally rather than punitively to student alcohol or drug policy violations associated with reported sexual harassment.

7. Institute Policy on Confidentiality

The Institute encourages victims of sexual harassment to talk to somebody about what happened – so victims can get the support they need, and so the Institute can respond appropriately.

This Policy is intended to make students aware of the various reporting and confidential disclosure options available to them – so they can make informed choices about where to turn should they become a victim of sexual harassment. The Institute encourages victims to talk to someone identified in one or more of these groups.

Privileged and Confidential Communications – Professional & Pastoral Counselors

Professional, licensed counselors and pastoral counselors who provide mental-health counseling to members of the community (and including those who act in that role under the supervision of a licensed counselor) are not required to report any information about an incident to the Title IX Coordinator without a victim's permission. The Institute does not provide professional or pastoral counseling, but can assist a victim of sexual harassment in obtaining support services from these groups or agencies. Contact information for these support organizations is listed in Section 4 of this Policy.

NOTE: While these professional and pastoral counselors and advocates may maintain a victim's confidentiality vis-à-vis the Institute, they may have reporting or other obligations under state law.

ALSO NOTE: If the Institute determines that the alleged perpetrator(s) pose a serious and immediate threat to the Institute community, a Campus Security Authority may be called upon to issue a timely warning to the community. Any such warning should not include any information that identifies the victim.

Reporting to a Designated School Official

A "designated school official" is an Institute employee who has the authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the Institute upon actual notice of sexual harassment.

A designated school official will report to the Title IX Coordinator all relevant details about the alleged sexual harassment shared by the complainant – including the names of the complainant and respondent, any witnesses, and any other relevant facts, including the date, time and specific location of the alleged incident.

To the extent possible, information reported to a designated school official will be shared only with people responsible for handling the Institute's response to the report. Designated school officials should not share information with law enforcement without the complainant's consent or unless the complainant has also reported the incident to law enforcement.

In addition to the Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator, the Institute's designated school officials include the Institute's Chief Executive Officer, Director of Operations, and Campus Directors.

Before a complainant reveals any information to a designated school official, the official should ensure that the complainant understands the official's reporting obligations – and, if the complainant wants to maintain confidentiality, direct the complainant to confidential resources.

If the complainant wants to tell the designated school official what happened but also maintain confidentiality, the official should tell the complainant that the Institute will consider the request but cannot guarantee that the Institute will be able to honor it. In reporting the details of the incident to the Title IX Coordinator, the official will also inform the Coordinator of the complainant's request for confidentiality.

Designated school officials will not pressure a complainant to request confidentiality, but will honor and support the complainant's wishes, including for the Institute to fully investigate an incident. By the same token, designated school officials will not pressure a complainant to make a formal complaint and initiate an Institute investigation if the complainant is not ready to do so.

A complainant who at first requests confidentiality may later decide to file a formal complaint with the Institute or report the incident to local law enforcement, and thus have the incident fully investigated.

Reporting to Title IX Coordinator

To the extent possible, information reported to the Title IX Coordinator will be shared only with people responsible for handling the Institute's response to the report. The Title IX Coordinator should not share information with law enforcement without the complainant's consent or unless the complainant has also reported the incident to law enforcement.

Before a complainant reveals any information to the Title IX Coordinator, the Coordinator should ensure that the complainant understands the Coordinator's reporting obligations – and, if the complainant wants to maintain confidentiality, direct the complainant to confidential resources. If the complainant wants to tell the Title IX Coordinator what happened but also maintain confidentiality, the Coordinator should tell the complainant that the Institute will consider the request but cannot guarantee that the Institute will be able to honor it.

The Title IX Coordinator will not pressure a complainant to request confidentiality, but will honor and support the complainant's wishes, including for the Institute to fully investigate an incident. By the same token, the Title IX Coordinator will not pressure a complainant to make a formal complaint and initiate an Institute investigation if the complainant is not ready to do so.

Requesting Confidentiality: How the Institute Will Weigh the Request and Respond

If a complainant discloses an incident to the Title IX Coordinator but wishes to maintain confidentiality or requests that no investigation into a particular incident be conducted or disciplinary action taken, the Institute must weigh that request against the Institute's obligation to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all students, including the complainant.

If the Institute honors the request for confidentiality, a complainant must understand that the Institute's ability to investigate the incident and pursue disciplinary action against the respondent will be limited. A complainant may provide the Title IX Coordinator with confidential knowledge of alleged sexual harassment and receive supportive measures from the Institute without the complainant filing a formal complaint and initiating an investigation. Although rare, there are times when the Institute may not be able to honor a complainant's request in order to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all students.

The Title IX Coordinator will evaluate requests for confidentiality. When weighing a complainant's request for confidentiality or that no investigation or discipline be pursued, the Title IX Coordinator will consider a range of factors, including the following:

- The increased risk that the respondent will commit additional acts of sexual harassment or other violence, such as:
 - whether there have been other sexual harassment complaints about the same respondent;
 - whether the respondent has a history of arrests or records from a prior Institute indicating a history of violence;
 - whether the respondent threatened further sexual harassment or other violence against the complainant or others;
 - whether the sexual harassment was committed by multiple respondents;
- Whether the sexual harassment was perpetrated with a weapon;
- Whether the complainant is a minor;
- Whether the Institute possesses other means to obtain relevant evidence of the sexual harassment (e.g., security cameras or personnel, physical evidence); and
- Whether the complainant's report reveals a pattern of perpetration (e.g., via illicit use of drugs or alcohol) at a given location or by a particular group.

The presence of one or more of these factors could lead the Title IX Coordinator to file a formal complaint to investigate and, if appropriate, pursue disciplinary action. If none of these factors are present, the Institute will likely respect the complainant's request for confidentiality.

If the Institute determines that it cannot maintain a complainant's confidentiality, the Institute will inform the complainant prior to starting an investigation and will, to the extent possible, only share information with people responsible for handling the Institute's response. The Institute will remain ever mindful of the complainant's well-being, and will take ongoing steps to protect the complainant from retaliation or harm and work with the complainant to create a safety plan. Retaliation against the complainant, whether by students or Institute employees, will not be tolerated. The Institute will also:

- Assist the complainant in accessing other available victim advocacy, academic support, counseling, disability, health or mental health

- services, and legal assistance;
- Provide other security and support, which could include issuing a no-contact order, helping arrange a change of course schedules (including for the respondent pending the outcome of an investigation), or adjustments for assignments or tests; and
- Inform the complainant of the right to report a crime to local law enforcement – and provide the complainant with assistance if the complainant wishes to do so.

The Institute may not require a complainant to participate in any investigation or disciplinary proceeding.

Because the Institute is under a continuing obligation to address the issue of sexual harassment campus-wide, reports of sexual harassment (including non-identifying reports) will also prompt the Institute to consider broader remedial action – such as increased monitoring, supervision, or security at locations where the reported sexual harassment occurred; increasing education and prevention efforts, including to targeted population groups; conducting climate assessments/ victimization surveys; and/or revisiting its policies and practices.

If the Institute determines that it can respect a complainant's request for confidentiality, the Institute will also take immediate action as necessary to protect and assist the complainant. This includes the Title IX Coordinator promptly contacting the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures. A complainant's request for confidentiality will limit the Institute's ability to investigate a particular matter. The Institute may take steps to limit the effects of the alleged sexual harassment and prevent its recurrence without initiating formal action against the respondent or revealing the identity of the student complainant. Examples include providing increased monitoring, supervision, or security at locations or activities where the harassment occurred; providing training and education materials for students and employees; revising and publicizing the Institute's policies on sexual harassment; and conducting climate surveys regarding sexual harassment.

Off-campus Counselors and Advocates

Off-campus counselors, advocates, and health care providers will also generally maintain confidentiality and not share information with the Institute unless the complainant requests the disclosure and signs a consent or waiver form. Contact information for these off-campus resources can be found in Section 4 of this Policy.

8. Formal Complaint Investigation Procedures and Protocols

The Institute will investigate all formal complaints of sexual harassment. A formal complaint must be in writing filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the Institute investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. A formal complaint form may be obtained from the Title IX Coordinator, although no particular form is required to submit a formal complaint so long as the complaint is in writing, signed by a complainant, alleges sexual harassment against a respondent, and requests an investigation. The Institute's Title IX Coordinator oversees the Institute's investigation, response to, and resolution of all reports of prohibited sexual harassment, and of related retaliation, involving students, faculty, and staff.

As soon as practicable after receiving a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will make an initial assessment of the formal complaint to determine whether the formal complaint, on its face, alleges an act prohibited by this Policy. If the Title IX Coordinator determines the formal complaint states facts which, if true, could constitute sexual harassment in violation of this Policy, the Title IX Coordinator will proceed through the formal investigation process (see below). If the Title IX Coordinator determines the complainant's report does not state facts that, if true, could constitute a violation of this Policy, the Title IX Coordinator will communicate this determination in writing to the complainant. In such circumstances the complainant may still file a report with the federal Office for Civil Rights, the police, or seek available civil remedies through the judicial system. The complainant may also re-file the report with the Institute upon discovery of additional facts.

The Institute will dismiss a formal complaint if the conduct alleged in the formal complaint would not constitute sexual harassment under Title IX even if proved, did not occur in the Institute's education program or activity, or did not occur against a person in the United States. **Such dismissal does not preclude action under another provision of the Institute's code of conduct.** The Institute may dismiss the formal complaint if a complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint; the respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the Institute; or specific circumstances prevent the Institute from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein. The Institute will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and reasons therefore simultaneously to the parties.

Notice

Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the Institute will provide written notice of the Institute's grievance process to the parties who are known. The Institute will also provide the parties with notice of the allegations of sexual harassment potentially constituting sexual harassment, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known; the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment; and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. The written notice will include a statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process. The written notice will inform the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence that is submitted to and/or collected by the Institute in connection with the investigation. The written notice will also inform the parties of any provision in the Institute's code of conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If, in the course of an investigation, the Institute decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in a prior notice provided to the parties, the Institute will provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

Voluntary Resolution

Voluntary resolution, when selected by all parties and deemed appropriate by the Title IX Coordinator, is a path designed to eliminate the

conduct at issue, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects in a manner that meets the safety and welfare needs of the Institute community. If all parties voluntarily agree to participate in an informal resolution that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication after receiving notice of a formal complaint, and if the Institute determines that the particular formal complaint is appropriate for such a process, the Institute will facilitate an informal resolution to assist the parties in reaching a voluntary resolution. The Institute retains the discretion to determine which cases are appropriate for voluntary resolution.

Voluntary resolution may include: conducting targeted or broad-based educational programming or training for relevant individuals or groups; providing increased monitoring, supervision, or security at locations or activities where the harassment occurred; facilitating a meeting with the respondent and the complainant present; and any other remedy that can be tailored to the involved individuals to achieve the goals of the Policy.

Voluntary resolution may also include restorative principles that are designed to allow a respondent to accept responsibility for harassment and acknowledge harm to the complainant or to the Institute community. Restorative models will be used only with the consent of both parties and following a determination by the Title IX Coordinator that the matter is appropriate for a restorative approach.

The Institute will not compel parties to engage in mediation or to participate in any particular form of informal resolution. As the title implies, participation in voluntary resolution is a choice, and either party can request to end this manner of resolution and pursue an investigation and adjudication at any time, including if voluntary resolution is unsuccessful at resolving the complaint.

In connection with any informal resolution process, the Institute will provide written notice to the parties disclosing the allegations and the requirements of the informal resolution process. The Institute will notify the parties that any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint. The Institute must obtain the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process. The informal resolution process may not be utilized to resolve allegations that an Institute employee sexually harassed a student.

The time frame for completion of voluntary resolution may vary, but the Institute will seek to complete the process within 15 days of all the parties' request for voluntary resolution.

Formal Investigation Process

The burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rests on the Institute and not on the parties. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for the investigation of a formal complaint. The Title IX Coordinator may designate a specially trained investigator (or team of investigators) to conduct the investigation.

The Institute's process for responding to, investigating, and adjudicating sexual harassment reports will continue during any law enforcement proceeding. The investigator may need to temporarily delay an investigation while the police are gathering evidence but will resume the investigation after learning that the police department has completed its evidence-gathering and will generally not wait for the conclusion of any related criminal proceeding.

The investigator will interview the complainant, respondent, and any witnesses. They will also gather pertinent documentary materials (if any) and other information. The Institute will provide, to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings, investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate. Each party shall have an equal opportunity to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. The Institute will not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.

Time Frame for Investigation

Consistent with the goal to maximize educational opportunities and minimize the disruptive nature of the investigation and resolution, the Title IX Coordinator seeks to resolve all reports in a timely manner. In general, an investigation may last up to 30 days, from receipt of a formal complaint from the complainant or the Title IX Coordinator of the request to proceed with an investigation. Adjudication will generally take up to 30 days from the date the investigative report is provided to both the complainant and the respondent. The Title IX Coordinator may set reasonable time frames for required actions under the Policy. Those time frames may be extended for good cause as necessary to ensure the integrity and completeness of the investigation, comply with a request by external law enforcement, accommodate the availability of witnesses, accommodate absences or delays by the parties, the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities, account for Institute breaks or vacations, or address other legitimate reasons, including the complexity of the investigation (including the number of witnesses and volume of information provided by the parties) and the severity and extent of the alleged conduct. Any extension of the timeframes, and the reason for the extension, will be shared simultaneously with the parties in writing. Best efforts will be made to complete the process in a timely manner by balancing principles of thoroughness and fundamental fairness with promptness.

Where necessary, the Institute will take prompt steps to protect complainants pending the final outcome of an investigation, including the provision of supportive measures to the complainant and/or the respondent. The Institute may remove a respondent from the Institute's education programs or activities on an emergency basis, provided that the Institute undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. The Institute may place a non-student employee respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of a grievance process.

The Institute will provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the formal complaint, including the evidence upon which the Institute does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence, whether obtained from a party or other source, so

that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation. Prior to completion of the investigative report, the Institute will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties will have at least 10 days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report. The Institute will make all such evidence subject to the parties' inspection and review available at any hearing to give each party equal opportunity to refer to such evidence during the hearing, including for purposes of cross-examination

Investigation Report

The investigator will prepare an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and, at least 10 days prior to a hearing, send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, for their review and written response. Such report will include a statement of the allegations and issues, the positions of the complainant and respondent, a summary of the evidence (including from interviews and documentation gathered), an explanation why any proffered evidence was not investigated, assessment of individual credibility, findings of fact, and an analysis of whether a violation of the Policy has occurred. The investigator will use "preponderance of the evidence" as the standard of proof to determine whether a violation of the Policy occurred. Preponderance of the evidence means that the investigator must be convinced based on the information it considers that the respondent was more likely than not to have engaged in the conduct at issue in order to find the respondent responsible for violating the Policy. The complainant and respondent will be simultaneously notified of the completion of the investigation and provided with the investigator's report.

9. Grievance/Adjudication Procedures

Hearing Panel

The Institute will convene a hearing panel following the end of the investigation. The hearing panel determines whether the respondent is responsible or not responsible for a violation of the Policy

The hearing panel will consist of three members. The Title IX Coordinator will designate the members of the hearing panel but will not serve as a panel member. The investigator responsible for the Institute's investigation of the formal complaint may not serve as a panel member. The hearing panel members may include administrators, officers, lawyers, or other individuals with relevant experience and special training. Panel members may participate remotely so long as the Institute utilizes technology enabling the panel members and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or witness answering questions. All panelists will receive training from experts in the field at least once a year. In addition to training on how the adjudicatory process works, the training will include specific instruction about how to approach students about sensitive issues that may arise in the context of sexual harassment. The complainant and respondent will be informed of the panel's membership before the hearing process begins. A complainant and/or respondent may challenge the participation of a panel member because of perceived conflict of interest, bias, or prejudice. Such challenges, including rationale, must be made to the Title IX Coordinator at least three days prior to the commencement of the hearing. At its discretion, the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether such a conflict of interest exists and whether a panel member should be replaced. Postponement of a hearing may occur if a replacement panelist cannot be immediately identified.

Advisors

Both the complainant and the respondent are entitled to be accompanied to any meeting or proceeding relating to the allegation of sexual harassment by an advisor or support person of their choice, provided the involvement of such advisor or support person does not result in the postponement or delay of such meeting as scheduled.

Written Submissions

Both the complainant and respondent will have the opportunity to submit written responses to the investigation report and other relevant information to the hearing panel. Each of the complainant and respondent will have the opportunity to review any written submissions by the other. The hearing panel may set reasonable parameters for these written submissions. The hearing panel will review the investigation report and written submissions.

Hearing Procedures

The Title IX Coordinator will give the complainant and respondent at least 10 calendar days' advance notice of the hearing. The Title IX Coordinator may arrange to hold the hearing at an off-campus location. The hearing is a closed proceeding, meaning that no one other than the panel members, the complainant and respondent, their respective advisors, witnesses (when called), and necessary Institute personnel may be present during the proceeding. The Campus Director will work with Institute staff so that any student whose presence is required may participate in the hearing.

In general, hearings will proceed as follows:

- The Title IX Coordinator may set reasonable time limits for any part of the hearing. Each of the complainant and respondent will have the opportunity to present witnesses and other information consistent with the Policy and these Procedures. The panel may determine the relevance of, place restrictions on, or exclude any witnesses or information. When the complainant and respondent are not able to be present for the hearing panel, arrangements will be made for participation virtually, with technology enabling the participants to see and hear each other simultaneously.
- In cases where either the complainant or respondent opts not to participate in the hearing, the panel may still hear from the other.
- Additional hearing rules include:
 - o Cross Examination. At the hearing, the hearing panel shall permit each party's advisor to ask the other party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions, including those challenging credibility. Such cross-examination at the live hearing must be conducted directly, orally, and in real time by the party's advisor of choice and never by a party personally.

- o At the request of either party, the Institute will provide for the hearing to occur with the parties located in separate rooms with technology enabling the hearing panel members and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness answering questions.
- o Only relevant cross-examination and other questions may be asked of a party or witness. Before a complainant, respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or other question, the hearing panel must first determine whether the question is relevant and explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.
- o If a party does not have an advisor present at the live hearing, the Institute will provide without fee or charge to that party, an advisor of the Institute's choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, to conduct cross-examination on behalf of that party.
- o Information Regarding Romantic or Sexual History. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent. The existence of a prior consensual dating or sexual relationship between the complainant and respondent by itself does not support an inference of consent to alleged sexual harassment.
- o Prior Conduct Violations. The hearing panel will not consider the respondent's prior conduct violations, unless the investigator provided that information to the hearing panel because the respondent was previously found to be responsible, and the previous incident was substantially similar to the present allegation(s) and/or the information indicates a pattern of behavior by the respondent.
- o The hearing panel may consider statements made by parties or witnesses, even if those parties or witnesses do not participate in cross-examination at the live hearing, in reaching a determination regarding responsibility.
- o The Institute will not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.
- o Live hearings may be conducted with all parties physically present in the same geographic location or, at the Institute's discretion, any or all parties, witnesses, and other participants may appear at the live hearing virtually, with technology enabling participants to see and hear each other simultaneously.

The Institute will create an audio or audiovisual recording, or transcript, of any hearing and make it available to the parties for inspection and review. The panelists may request a copy or transcript of the recording. Cell phones and recording devices may not be used in the hearing room(s) unless approved by the panel in advance.

Panel Determinations/Standard of Proof

The hearing panel will issue a written determination regarding responsibility. The panel will use "preponderance of the evidence" as the standard of proof to determine whether a violation of the Policy occurred. Preponderance of the evidence means that a panel must be convinced based on the information it considers that the respondent was more likely than not to have engaged in the conduct at issue in order to find the respondent responsible for violating the Policy. The panel will find a student responsible, or not responsible, based on a majority vote. The panel will generally render a written determination within 10 calendar days after the conclusion of a hearing.

The panel's written determination will include:

- a) Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment;
- b) A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;
- c) Findings of fact supporting the determination;
- d) Conclusions regarding the application of the Institute's code of conduct to the facts;
- e) A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the Institute imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the Institute's education program or activity will be provided by the Institute to the complainant; and
- f) The Institute's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.

The parties will be informed of the results of the adjudication hearing by simultaneous written notice to both parties of the outcome of the formal complaint. The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that the Institute provides the parties with the written determination of the result of the appeal, if an appeal is filed, or if an appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

10. Sanctions and Other Remedies

The hearing panel shall be responsible for imposing sanctions that are:

- Fair and appropriate given the facts of the particular case;
- Consistent with the Institute's handling of similar cases;
- Adequate to protect the safety of the campus community; and
- Reflective of the seriousness of sexual harassment.

No disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures will be imposed against a respondent until the completion of the Institute's grievance procedures, including any applicable appeal.

The hearing panel will consider relevant factors, including if applicable: (1) the specific sexual harassment at issue (such as penetration, touching under clothing, touching over clothing, unauthorized recording, etc.); (2) the circumstances accompanying the lack of consent (such as force, threat, coercion, intentional incapacitation, etc.); (3) the respondent's state of mind (intentional, knowing, bias-motivated, reckless,

negligent, etc.); (4) the impact of the offense on the complainant; (5) the respondent's prior disciplinary history; (6) the safety of the Institute community; and (7) the respondent's conduct during the disciplinary process. The sanctioning decision will be communicated in writing to the complainant and the respondent as part of the hearing panel's written determination.

The Institute may impose any one or more of the following sanctions on a student determined to have violated the Policy:

- Reprimand/warning;
- Changing the respondent's academic schedule;
- Disciplinary probation;
- Restricting access to Institute facilities or activities;
- Community service;
- Issuing a "no contact" order to the respondent or requiring that such an order remain in place;
- Dismissal or restriction from Institute employment;
- Suspension (limited time or indefinite); and
- Expulsion.

In addition to any other sanction (except where the sanction is expulsion), the Institute may require any student determined to be responsible for a violation of the Policy to receive appropriate education and/or training related to the sexual harassment violation at issue. The Institute may also recommend counseling or other support services for the student.

Whatever the outcome of the hearing process, a complainant may request ongoing or additional supportive measures and the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether such supportive measures are appropriate. Potential ongoing supportive measures include:

- Providing an escort for the complainant;
- Changing the complainant's academic schedule;
- Allowing the complainant to withdraw from or retake a class without penalty; and
- Providing access to tutoring or other academic support, such as extra time to complete or re-take a class.

The Institute may also determine that additional measures are appropriate to respond to the effects of the incident on the Institute community. Additional responses for the benefit of the Institute community may include:

- Increased monitoring, supervision, or security at locations or activities where the harassment occurred;
- Additional training and educational materials for students and employees;
- Revision of the Institute's policies relating to sexual harassment; and
- Climate surveys regarding sexual harassment.

11. Appeals

Either the respondent or the complainant or both may appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, and from a recipient's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

1. A procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
2. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time of the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
3. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or hearing panel member(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

Disagreement with the finding or sanctions is not, by itself, grounds for appeals.

The decision maker(s) for the appeal may not be the same person as the hearing panel members, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator. The appealing party must submit the appeal in writing to the Institute within seven calendar days after receiving the written determination regarding responsibility. If either the complainant or respondent submits an appeal, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the other that an appeal has been filed and the grounds of the appeal. The non-appealing party may submit a written response within seven days after notice of an appeal.

If the decision-maker concludes that a change in the hearing panel's determination is warranted, the Institute may enter a revised determination, reconvene the panel to reconsider the determination, or return the matter for additional investigation. If both the complainant and respondent appeal, the appeals will be considered concurrently.

The decision maker will issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result, and provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties. Appeals decisions will be rendered within 15 calendar days after the receipt of the written appeal. All appeal decisions are final.

12. Records Disclosure & Recordkeeping

Disciplinary proceedings conducted by the Institute are subject to the Family Educational Records and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law governing the privacy of student information. FERPA generally limits disclosure of student information outside the Institute without the student's consent, but it does provide for release of student disciplinary information without a student's consent in certain circumstances.

Any information gathered in the course of an investigation may be subpoenaed by law enforcement authorities as part of a parallel investigation into the same conduct or required to be produced through other compulsory legal processes.

Additional information about FERPA can be found on the Institute's website at www.avenuefive.edu.

The Institute will, upon written request, disclose to the alleged victim of a crime of violence (as that term is defined in Section 16 of Title 18, United States Code), or a non-forcible sex offense, a report on the results of any disciplinary proceeding conducted by the Institute against a student who is the alleged perpetrator of such crime or offense. If the alleged victim is deceased as a result of such crime or offense, the next of kin of such victim shall be treated as the alleged victim for purposes of this paragraph.

The Institute will maintain for a period of not less than seven years records of:

- a) Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility; any audio, audiovisual recording, or transcript from a hearing conducted in response to a formal complaint; any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent; and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the Institute's education programs or activities;
- b) Any appeal and the result therefrom;
- c) Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and
- d) All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, hearing panel members, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The Institute will make these training materials publicly available on its website.

The Institute will create and maintain for a period of not less than seven years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. In each instance, the Institute will document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the Institute's education program or activity. If the Institute does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the Institute will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the Institute in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.

13. Education and Prevention Programs

As set forth in Section 3 of this Policy statement, sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking are all forms of prohibited conduct.

The Institute is committed to offering educational programs to promote awareness and prevention of prohibited conduct. Educational programs include an overview of the Institute's policies and procedures; relevant definitions, including prohibited conduct; discussion of the impact of alcohol and illegal drug use; consent; safe and positive options for bystander intervention; review of resources and reporting options available for students, faculty, and staff; and information about risk reduction. Incoming students and new employees will receive primary prevention and awareness programming as part of their orientation.

As part of the Institute's commitment to provide an educational and work environment free from prohibited conduct, this Policy will be disseminated widely to the Institute community through e-mail communication, publications, websites, new employee orientations, student orientations, and other appropriate channels of communication.

The Title IX Coordinator, investigators, hearing panel members, and anyone else who is involved in responding to, investigating, or adjudicating sexual harassment will receive annual training from experts in the field. In addition to training on how the adjudicatory process works, the training will include specific instruction about how to approach students about sensitive issues that may arise in the context of sexual harassment.

Definitions of Sexual Harassment under Texas Law

Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 51.281(4)(B).
"Sexual harassment" means unwelcome, sex-based verbal or physical conduct that: . . . is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct interferes with a student's ability to participate in or benefit from educational programs or activities at a postsecondary educational institution.

Tex. Penal Code Ann. § 22.011.
Sexual Assault: (a) A person commits an offense if:
(1) the person intentionally or knowingly:
(A) causes the penetration of the anus or sexual organ of another person by any means, without that person's consent;
(B) causes the penetration of the mouth of another person by the sexual organ of the actor, without that person's consent; or

(C) causes the sexual organ of another person, without that person's consent, to contact or penetrate the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of another person, including the actor; or

(b) A sexual assault under Subsection (a)(1) is without the consent of the other person if:
(1) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by the use of physical force, violence, or coercion;
(2) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by threatening to use force or violence against the other person or to cause harm to the other person, and the other person believes that the actor has the present ability to execute the threat;

- (3) the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unconscious or physically unable to resist;
- (4) the actor knows that as a result of mental disease or defect the other person is at the time of the sexual assault incapable either of appraising the nature of the act or of resisting it;
- (5) the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unaware that the sexual assault is occurring;
- (6) the actor has intentionally impaired the other person's power to appraise or control the other person's conduct by administering any substance without the other person's knowledge;
- (7) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by threatening to use force or violence against any person, and the other person believes that the actor has the ability to execute the threat;

Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 71.004.

"Family violence" means:

- (1) an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself;
- (2) abuse, as that term is defined by Sections 261.001(1)(C), (E), (G), (H), (I), (J), (K), and (M), by a member of a family or household toward a child of the family or household; or
- (3) dating violence, as that term is defined by Section 71.0021.

Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 71.0021.

- (a) "Dating violence" means an act, other than a defensive measure to protect oneself, by an actor that:
 - (1) is committed against a victim or applicant for a protective order:
 - (A) with whom the actor has or has had a dating relationship; or
 - (B) because of the victim's or applicant's marriage to or dating relationship with an individual with whom the actor is or has been in a dating relationship or marriage; and
 - (2) is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the victim or applicant in fear of

imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault.

(b) For purposes of this title, "dating relationship" means a relationship between individuals who have or have had a continuing relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on consideration of:

- (1) the length of the relationship;
 - (2) the nature of the relationship; and
 - (3) the frequency and type of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
- (c) A casual acquaintanceship or ordinary fraternization in a business or social context does not constitute a "dating relationship" under Subsection (b).

Tex. Penal Code Ann. § 42.072.

Stalking: (a) A person commits an offense if the person, on more than one occasion and pursuant to the same scheme or course of conduct that is directed specifically at another person, knowingly engages in conduct that:

- (1) constitutes an offense under Section 42.07, or that the actor knows or reasonably should know the other person will regard as threatening:
 - (A) bodily injury or death for the other person;
 - (B) bodily injury or death for a member of the other person's family or household or for an individual with whom the other person has a dating relationship; or
 - (C) that an offense will be committed against the other person's property;
- (2) causes the other person, a member of the other person's family or household, or an individual with whom the other person has a dating relationship to be placed in fear of bodily injury or death or in fear that an offense will be committed against the other person's property, or to feel harassed, annoyed, alarmed, abused, tormented, embarrassed, or offended; and
- (3) would cause a reasonable person to:
 - (A) fear bodily injury or death for himself or herself;
 - (B) fear bodily injury or death for a member of the person's family or household or for an individual with whom the person has a dating relationship;
 - (C) fear that an offense will be committed against the person's property; or
 - (D) feel harassed, annoyed, alarmed, abused, tormented, embarrassed, or offended.

Bystander Intervention

The Institute's primary prevention and awareness program includes a description of safe and positive options for bystander intervention. Active bystanders take the initiative to help someone who may be targeted for a sexual assault. They do this in ways that are intended to avoid verbal or physical conflict. Active bystanders also take the initiative to help friends, who are not thinking clearly, from becoming offenders of crime. Intervention does not mean that you directly intervene to stop a crime in progress; rather, these steps are "early intervention" – before a crime begins to occur. There are three important components to consider before taking action that we refer to as the ABCs:

- **Assess for safety.** Ensure that all parties are safe, and whether the situation requires calling authorities. When deciding to intervene, your personal safety should be the #1 priority. When in doubt, call for help.

- **Be with others.** If it is safe to intervene, you are likely to have a greater influence on the parties involved when you work together with someone or several people. Your safety is increased when you stay with a group of friends that you know well.
- **Care for the person.** Ask if the target of the unwanted sexual advance/attention/behavior is okay – does he or she need medical care? Ask if someone they trust can help them get safely home.

Risk Reduction

The Institute's primary prevention and awareness program includes information on risk reduction. This includes:

Avoiding Dangerous Situations. While you can never completely protect yourself from sexual assault, there are some things you can do to help reduce your risk of being assaulted.

- Be aware of your surroundings. Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you to find a way to get out of a bad situation.
- Try to avoid isolated areas. It is more difficult to get help if no one is around.
- Walk with purpose. Even if you don't know where you are going, act like you do.
- Trust your instincts. If a situation or location feels unsafe or uncomfortable, it probably isn't the best place to be.
- Try not to load yourself down with packages or bags as this can make you appear more vulnerable.
- Make sure your cell phone is with you and charged and that you have money for transportation.
- Don't allow yourself to be isolated with someone you don't trust or someone you don't know.
- Avoid putting headphones in or on both ears so that you can be more aware of your surroundings, especially if you are walking alone.

Safety Planning. Things to think about:

- How to get away if there is an emergency? Be conscious of exits or other escape routes. Think about options for transportation (car, bus, subway, etc.).
- Who can help? Friends and/or family, or support centers in your area. Please see Section 4 of this Policy for a list of support organizations.
- Where to go? Options may include a friend's or relative's house, or you may consider going to a domestic violence or homeless shelter. You may also go to the police. **Important Safety Note:** If the dangerous situation involves a partner, go to the police or a shelter first.
- What to bring? This may include important papers and documents such as a birth certificate, social security card, license, passport, medical records, lease, bills, etc. This will also include house keys, car keys, cash, credit cards, medicine, important numbers, and your cell phone. If you are bringing children with you, remember to bring their important papers and legal documents. You can keep all of these things in an emergency bag. You should hide the bag—it is best if it is not in your house or car. If the bag is discovered, you can call it a "tornado" or "fire" bag.

Protecting Your Friends. You have a crucial role to play in keeping your friends safe. No matter what the setting, if you see something that doesn't feel quite right or see someone who might be in trouble, there are some simple things you can do to help out a friend.

- Distract. If you see a friend in a situation that doesn't feel quite right, create a distraction to get your friend to safety. This can be as simple as joining or redirecting the conversation: suggest to your friend that you leave the party, or ask them to walk you home. Try asking questions like: "Do you want to head to the bathroom with me?" or "Do you want to head to another party – or grab pizza?"
- Step in. If you see someone who looks uncomfortable or is at risk, step in. If you feel safe, find a way to de-escalate the situation and separate all parties involved. Don't be shy about directly asking the person if they need help or if they feel uncomfortable.
- Enlist others. You don't have to go it alone. Call in friends or other people in the area as reinforcements to help defuse a dangerous situation and get the at-risk person home safely. There is safety in numbers.
- Keep an eye out. Use your eyes and ears to observe your surroundings. If you see someone who has had too much to drink or could be vulnerable, try to get them to a safe place. Enlist friends to help you. Even if you weren't around when the assault occurred, you can still support a friend in the aftermath.

Social Situations. While you can never completely protect yourself from sexual assault, there are some things you can do to help reduce your risk of being assaulted in social situations.

- When you go to a social gathering, go with a group of friends. Arrive together, check in with each other throughout the evening, and leave together. Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you to find a way out of a bad situation.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel unsafe in any situation, go with your gut. If you see something suspicious, contact law enforcement immediately.
- Don't leave your drink unattended while talking, dancing, using the restroom, or making a phone call. If you've left your drink alone, just get a new one.
- Don't accept drinks from people you don't know or trust. If you choose to accept a drink, go with the person to the bar to order it, watch it being poured, and carry it yourself. At parties, don't drink from the punch bowls or other large, common open containers.
- Watch out for your friends, and vice versa. If a friend seems out of it, is way too intoxicated for the amount of alcohol they've had, or is acting out of character, get him or her to a safe place immediately.
- If you suspect you or a friend has been drugged, contact law enforcement immediately. Be explicit with doctors so they can give you the

correct tests (you will need a urine test and possibly others).

Information on Risk Reduction was provided by RAINN: Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network: www.rainn.org.

14. Amendments

The Institute may amend the Policy or the Procedures from time to time. Nothing in the Policy or Procedures shall affect the inherent authority of the Institute to take such actions as it deems appropriate to further the educational mission or to protect the safety and security of the Institute community.

Avenue Five Institute
Sexual Harassment Policies & Grievance Procedures

Definitions of Key Terms

- Sexual Harassment - means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:
 - 1) An employee of the Institute conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the Institute on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
 - 2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the Institute's education programs or activities; or
 - 3) "Sexual assault," "dating violence," "domestic violence," or "stalking" as defined herein.
- Sexual Assault - An offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest, or statutory rape as used in the FBI's Unified Crime Reporting ("UCR") program.
 - o Rape - The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.
 - o Sex Offenses - Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.
 - Fondling—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.
 - Incest—Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
 - Statutory Rape—Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.
- Domestic Violence - A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed (i) by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; (ii) by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; (iii) by a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; (iv) by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred, or (v) by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.
- Dating Violence - Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. For the purpose of this definition dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence.
- "Education program or activity" includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the Institute exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs. It includes all of the academic, educational, extra-curricular, and other programs of the Institute, whether they take place in the facilities of the Institute, at a class or training program sponsored by the Institute at another location, or elsewhere. An instructor's alleged sexual harassment of a student would likely constitute sexual harassment in the Institute's education programs or activities even if the alleged harassment occurs off campus. The Institute's education programs and activities may also include computer and internet networks, digital platforms, and computer hardware or software owned or operated by, or used in the operations of, the Institute.
- Prohibited Conduct – The Institute prohibits Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking as defined in these Definitions of Key Terms.
- Stalking - Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress. Course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property. Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling. Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.
- Retaliation – The Institute shall not, and no individual shall, intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under Title IX and/or this

Policy. The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation. Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding does not constitute retaliation; provided, however, that a determination regarding responsibility alone is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

- Consent is a voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity.
 - Past consent does not imply future consent.
 - Silence or an absence of resistance does not imply consent.
 - Consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not imply consent to engage in sexual activity with another.
 - Consent can be withdrawn at any time.
 - Coercion, force, or threat of either invalidates consent.

Someone who is incapacitated cannot consent. Incapacitation refers to a situation in which a person is not capable of providing consent because the person lacks the ability to understand her or his decision. This situation may occur due to the use of drugs or alcohol, when a person is asleep or unconscious, or because of an intellectual or other disability that prevents the student from having the capacity to give consent.

- Complainant – means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- Respondent – means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.