MERCER UNIVERSITY

POLICY PROHIBITING OTHER DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT
(Updated 8/2016)

Harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, veteran status, gender (i.e. gender-based harassment that is non-sexual in nature), sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, age or religion constitutes discrimination in employment and as such violates the University's equal opportunity policy as well as federal and state laws.

Definition

Harassment is defined as verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his or her race, color, national origin, disability, veteran status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, age or religion, or that of his or her relatives, friends or associates, and that:

(a) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment;

(b) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance; or

(c) otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment opportunities.

Examples

Examples of conduct prohibited by this policy include, but are not limited to:

(a) epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, or threatening, intimidating or hostile acts that relate to race, color, national origin, disability, veteran status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, age or religion; and

(b) written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group because of race, color, national origin, disability, veteran status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, age or religion and that is placed on walls, bulletin boards, or elsewhere on University premises or is circulated in the workplace.

The standard for determining whether conduct relating to race, color, national origin, disability, veteran status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic
information, age or religion is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create a hostile or abusive work environment is whether a reasonable person in the same or similar circumstances would find the conduct intimidating, hostile or abusive. This standard includes consideration of the perspective of persons of the alleged victim's race, color, national origin, disability, veteran status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, age or religion.

The responsibilities of members of the University community to prevent and eliminate harassment on these bases; the procedures for counseling, advice and informal resolution; and formal grievance procedures are the same as those described under the Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence Policy.