
BIAS CRIME POLICY

Category: Equity and Campus Diversity
Responsible Office: Equity and Campus Diversity Office

Date Established: 1990
Date Last Revised: 2012
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POLICY SUMMARY

The Office of University Police at Buffalo State is mandated to protect all members of the campus community by preventing and prosecuting bias or hate crimes that occur within the campus's jurisdiction.

POLICY**Policy Statement**

Hate crimes, also called bias crimes or bias-related crimes, are criminal activity motivated by the perpetrator's bias or attitude against an individual victim or group based on perceived or actual personal characteristics, such as their race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

Background

Hate/bias crimes have received renewed attention in recent years, particularly since the passage of the federal Hate/Bias Crime Reporting Act of 1990 and the [New York State Hate Crimes Act of 2000 \(Penal Law Article 485\)](#). Copies of the New York law are available from the Office of University Police, Chase Hall.

Applicability

Penalties for bias-related crimes are very serious and range from fines to imprisonment for lengthy periods, depending on the nature of the underlying criminal offense, the use of violence or previous convictions of the offender. Perpetrators who are students will also be subject to campus disciplinary procedures where sanctions including dismissal are possible.

Definitions

In addition to preventing and prosecuting hate/bias crimes, the Office of University Police at Buffalo State College also assists in addressing bias-related activities that do not rise to the level of a crime. These activities, referred to as bias incidents and defined by the University as acts of bigotry, harassment, or intimidation directed at a member or group within the Buffalo State community based on national origin, ethnicity, race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, color, creed, or marital status, may be addressed through the College's Complaint Procedure for Review of Allegations of Unlawful Discrimination/Harassment or the [Code of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities for Students](#).

Responsibility

Bias incidents can be reported to University Police, Chase Hall, as well as to the Equity and Campus Diversity Office, Cleveland Hall, room 415. If you are a victim of, or witness to, a hate/bias crime on campus, report it to University Police by calling (716) 878-6333 or by stopping by the Office of University Police in Chase Hall. University Police will investigate and follow the appropriate adjudication procedures. Victims of bias crime or bias incidents can avail themselves of appropriate counseling and support services by contacting the Equity and Campus Diversity Office, Cleveland Hall, room 415, telephone (716) 878-6210 and/or the College Counseling Center, 2nd floor, Weigel Health Center, telephone (716) 878-4436.

Procedure

For general information on security procedures at Buffalo State College, refer to the [Code of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities for Students](#) in the Student Handbook, or visit the website for the [University Police Department](#). More information about bias-related and bias crimes, including up-to-date statistics on bias crimes, is available from the Office of University Police in Chase Hall.

RELATED INFORMATION

Documents and Forms:

[Bias Crime Prevention](#)

[Code of Student Rights, Freedoms, and Responsibilities and Sexual Violence Addendum](#)

Related Links:

[Equity and Campus Diversity Office](#)

[Counseling Center](#)

[University Police Department](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Equity and Campus Diversity Office
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REVISION HISTORY

Date of change: 7/20/2015

Brief description of edit: Updated to new administrative policy format

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Brief description of edit: Reformatted to standard template

APPROVAL

State University of New York Office of General Counsel