

BIAS CRIMES POLICY

Division: Equity and Campus Diversity
Responsible Office: Equity & Campus Diversity Office

Date Established: 1990
Date Last Revised: 04/15/26
Date Posted to Library: 06/27/2016

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 STATEMENT

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

DEFINITIONS

In addition to preventing and prosecuting hate/bias crimes, the Office of University Police at Buffalo State University 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 [University's Complaint Procedure for Review of Allegations of Unlawful Discrimination/Harassment](#) or the [Code of Rights, Freedoms, and Responsibilities for Students](#).

SCOPE & PURPOSE

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, Karner Hall 100.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Bias incidents can be reported to University Police, Karner Hall 100, as well as to the Equity and Campus Diversity Office, Cleveland Hall, room 204. 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 stopping by the Office of University Police in Karner Hall 100. 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 204, telephone (716) 878-6210 and/or the University Counseling Center, 2nd floor, Weigel Health Center, telephone (716) 878-4436.

APPLICABILITY

BIAS CRIMES POLICY

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.

RELATED PROCEDURES

For general information on security procedures at Buffalo State University, refer to the Code of Rights, Freedoms, and Responsibilities for Students in the Student Handbook or visit the website of 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 Karner Hall 100.

APPENDIX/AUTHORITY

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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APPROVAL

State University of New York Office of General Counsel

REVISION HISTORY

Date of change: 7/20/2015

Brief description of edit: Updated to new administrative policy format

Date of change: 06/27/2016

Brief description of edit: Reformatted to a standard template.

Date of change: 03/14/2023

Brief description of edit: Updated campus designation of the university and reformatted to a standard template.

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