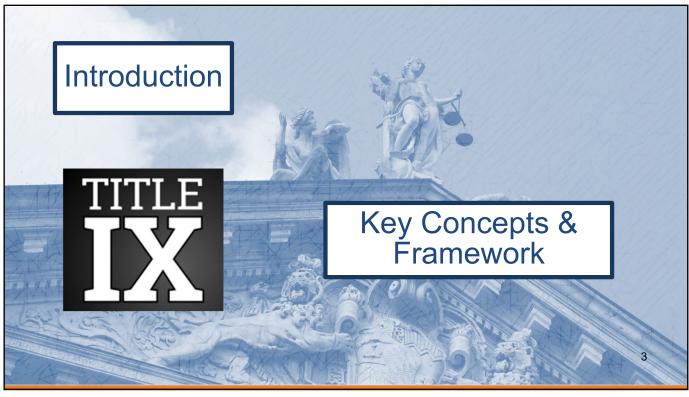
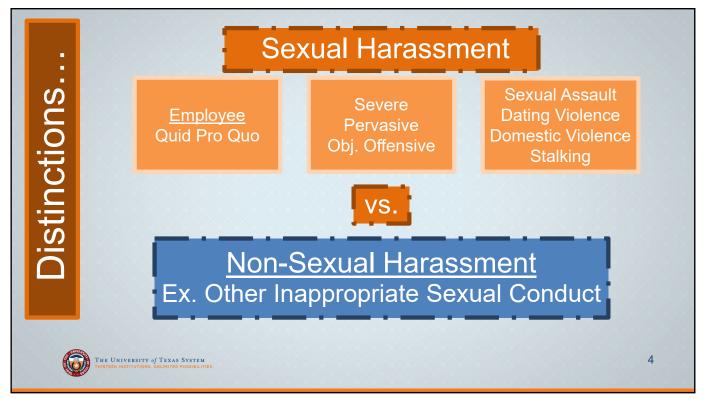


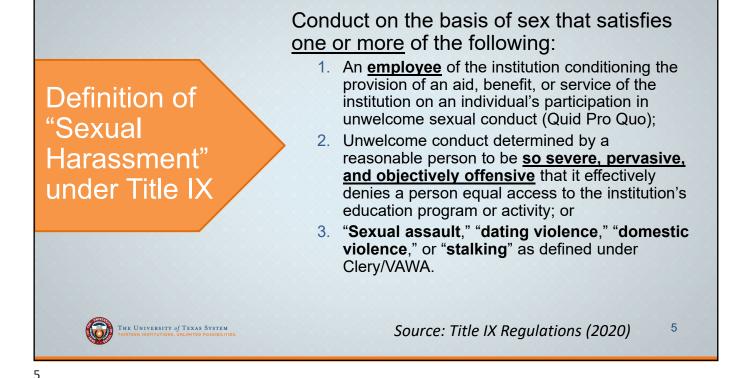
Krista Anderson, Systemwide Title IX Coordinator Sean Flammer, Associate General Counsel Spring 2025

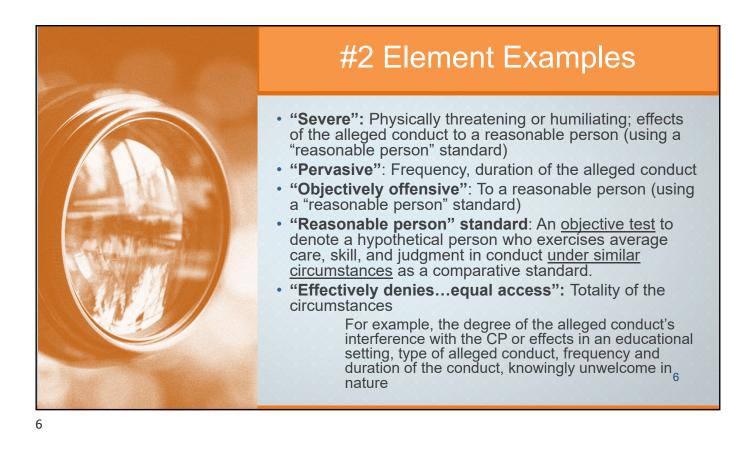
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"Education program or activity" under Title IX

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Includes <u>locations</u>, <u>events</u>, <u>or</u> <u>circumstances</u> over which the institution exercises **substantial control** over both the respondent and the context in which the alleged sexual harassment occurs, and also includes <u>any building owned or</u> <u>controlled by a student organization</u> that is officially recognized by the institution.

 Example of a "building owned or controlled by a student organization": Fraternity or sorority house that is occupied by students of the organization, and the student organization is a recognized organization with the institution.

Source: Title IX Regulations (2020)

Definition of "Other Inappropriate Sexual Conduct" Conduct on the basis of sex that does not meet the definition of "sexual harassment" (under the Model Policy), but is prohibited inappropriate or unprofessional sexual conduct.

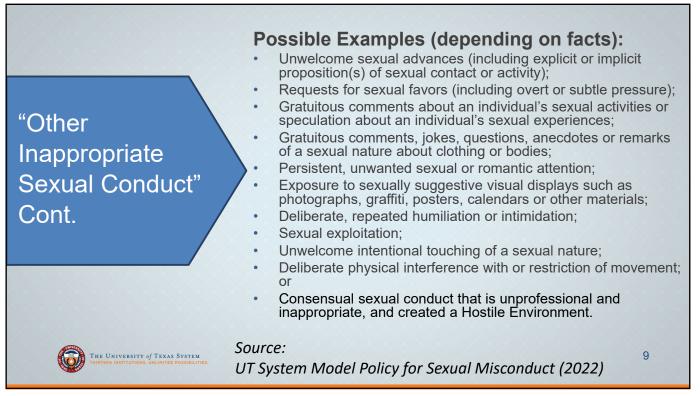
Such conduct is:

- Verbal conduct (including through electronic means), unwanted statements of a sexual nature intentionally stated to a person or group of people, that are objectively offensive to a reasonable person and also so <u>severe or pervasive</u> that it created a Hostile Environment.
- Physical conduct that is objectively offensive to a reasonable person and also so <u>severe or</u> <u>pervasive</u> that it created a Hostile Environment.

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Source:

UT System Model Policy for Sexual Misconduct (2022)



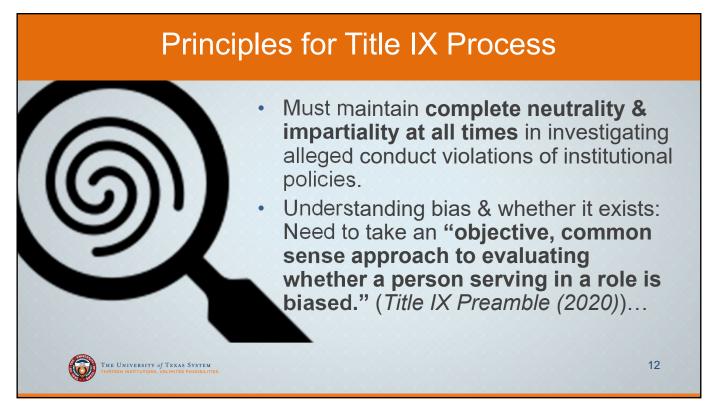
Key Pillars: Title IX Process



Serving Impartially in Your Role

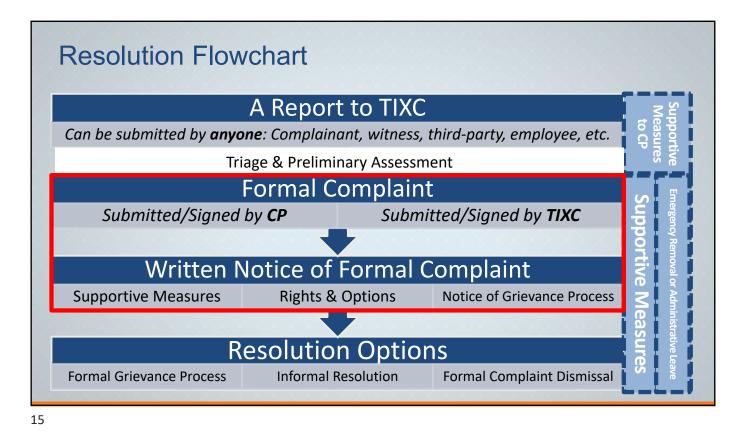
- Must avoid **prejudgment** of the facts at issue
- Must avoid conflicts of interest
- Must avoid bias

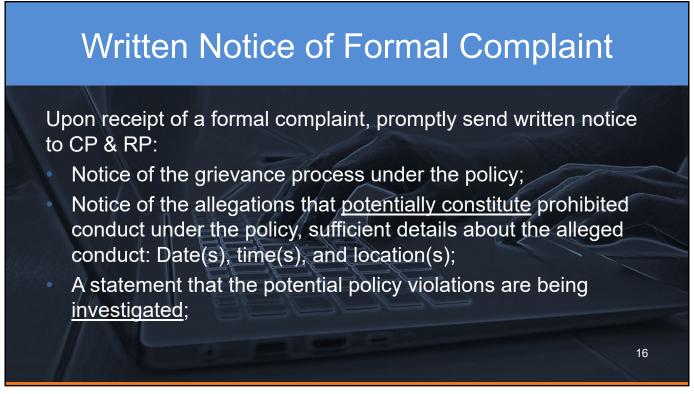












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Written Notice (Continued)

- A statement that the RP is <u>presumed not responsible</u> for the alleged conduct and that the determination regarding responsibility will be made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
 - Both parties may have an <u>advisor of choice</u>, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review all evidence;
 - A statement that the parties may review evidence gathered as part of the any investigation;

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Written Notice (Continued)

- A provision of the policy that knowingly making <u>false</u> <u>statements</u> or knowingly submitting <u>false information</u> during the grievance process is <u>prohibited</u> and subject to disciplinary action;
- Any other relevant information for the written notice; and
- A statement that <u>retaliation is prohibited</u> under the policy. (recommended)

Other **resources** to include with the written notice:

- 1. Supportive measures available for both parties
- 2. Campus & local resources or services
- 3. Rights & options of both parties
- 4. A copy of the grievance process & policy
- 5. Title IX Coordinator & Investigator(s) contact information

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Party's Rights

A **Complainant** and **Respondent** have the following rights during a grievance process:

Information and Support

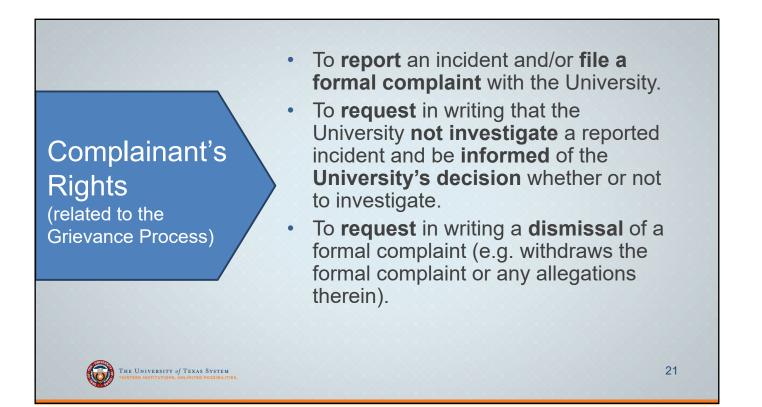
- To be informed of and have access to counseling, medical, academic, and other applicable support services, including confidential resources.
- To be informed of the importance of a victim going to a **hospital for treatment** and the **preservation of evidence**, if applicable, as soon as practicable after an alleged incident.
- To be informed of a **notice of formal complaint** to the University, whether filed by a CP or the TIXC.
- To receive information and ask questions about the formal and informal processes.

Equal Opportunity and Representation

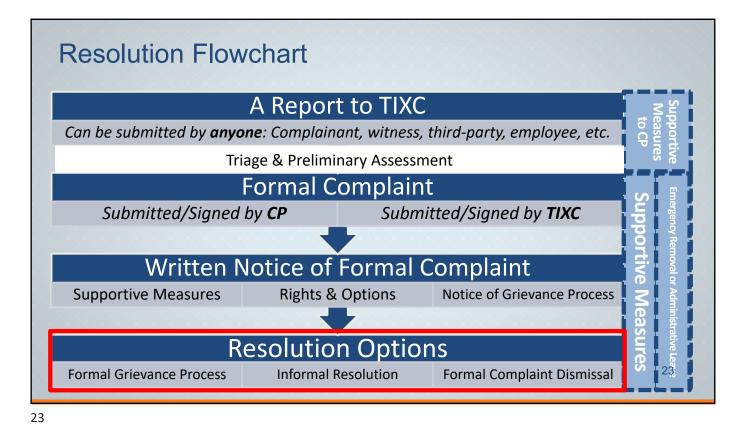
- To receive a prompt, fair, equitable, and impartial grievance process
- To be given equal chance to participate in a grievance process, including the
 opportunity to identify witnesses and other relevant evidence and to
 choose <u>not</u> to actively participate in the grievance process, if desired.
- To have an **advisor of choice** present during all meetings and grievance proceedings.
- To have an advisor provided for a party at a hearing under the Title IX/SH grievance process, if an advisor of choice is not present.
- To have access and equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation, and to receive a copy of the completed investigation report.
- To be equally informed of any determinations regarding responsibility, dismissals of formal complaints, and/or a party's filing of an appeal.
- To **appeal** a <u>determination</u> regarding responsibility and/or <u>dismissals</u> of formal complaints.
- To file a report with local and/or campus law enforcement authorities.

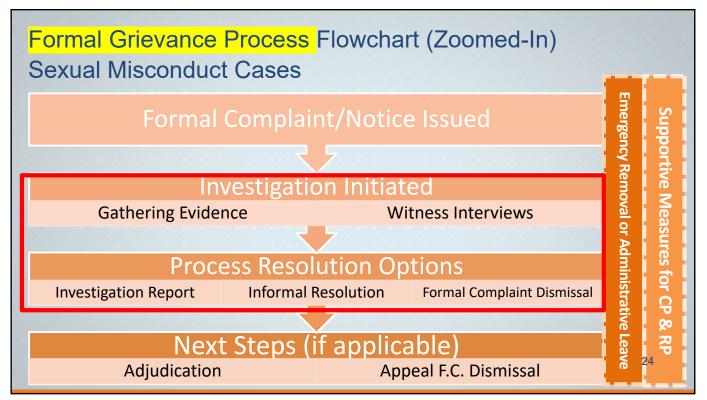
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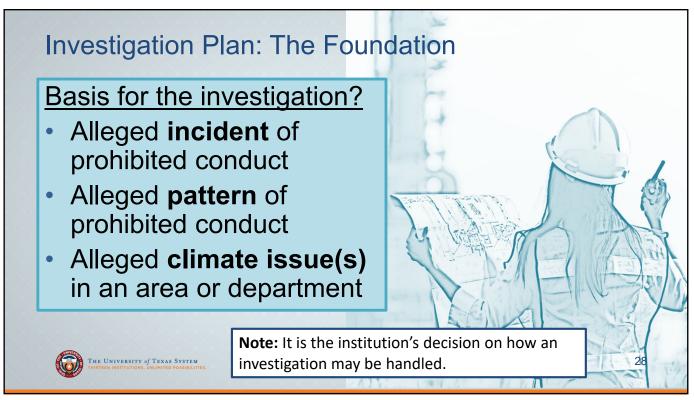


Investigative Framework

- Establish facts & timeline(s).
- Understand each party's perception & experiences of the alleged incident(s).
- Elicit details & descriptions of the alleged incident(s) from the parties & witnesses.
- Address disputed facts or conflicting evidence (if any) & seek responses from the parties (if applicable).
- Gather **sufficient information available** for a determination of facts, importance, & relevance to the formal complaint.







Look at the provision(s) at Issue:
Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress.
End the purposes of this definition:
• 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.

- Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.
- **Substantial emotional distress** means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

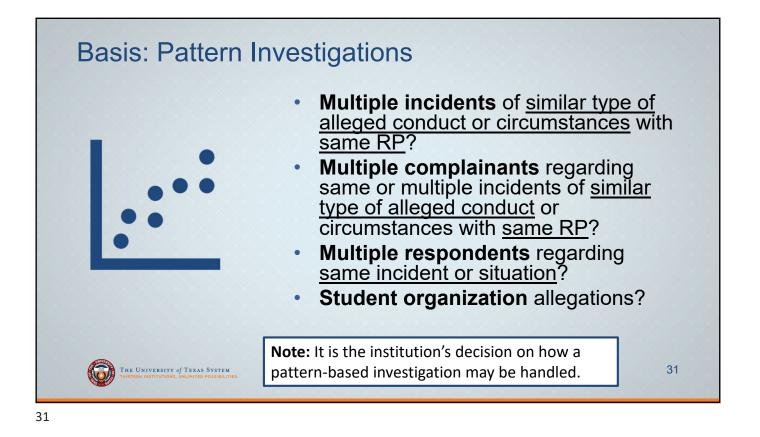
Look at the Provision(s) at Issue:

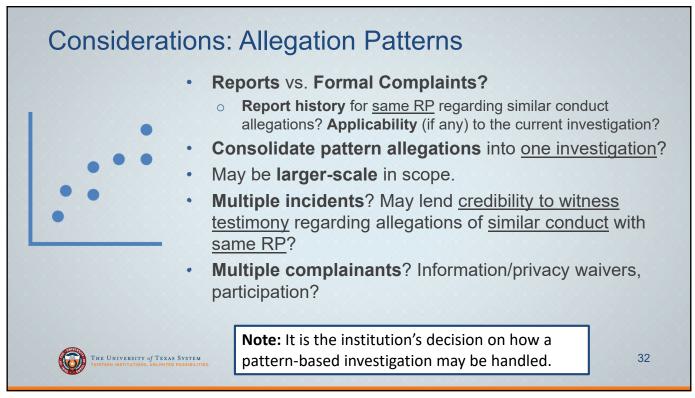
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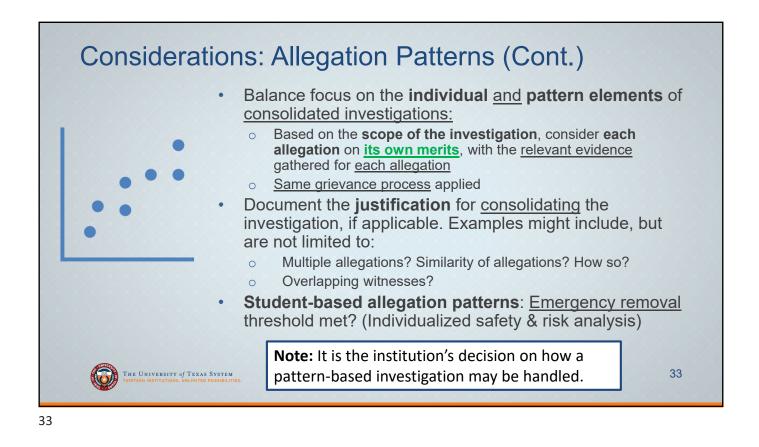
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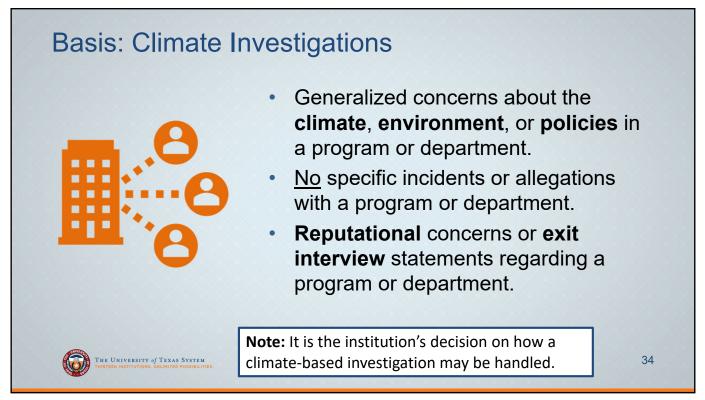
Engaging in a (1) course of conduct (2) directed at a specific person that would (3) cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress.

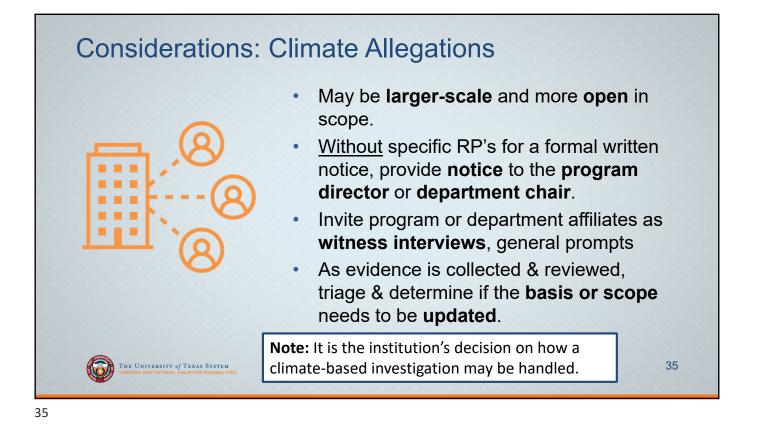
- For the purposes of this definition:
 - **Course of conduct** means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property.
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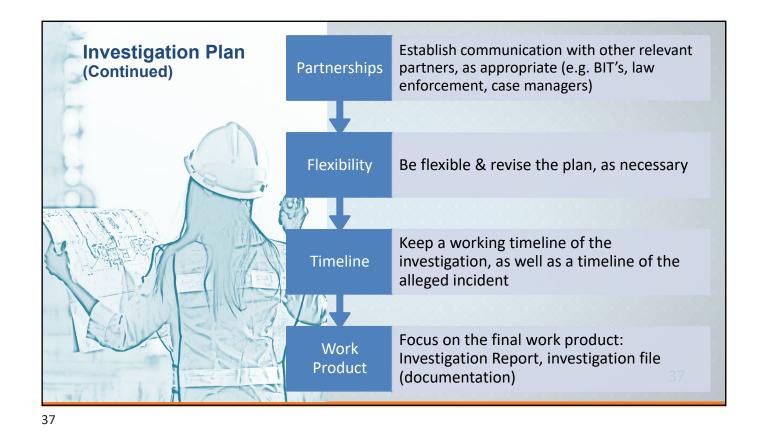


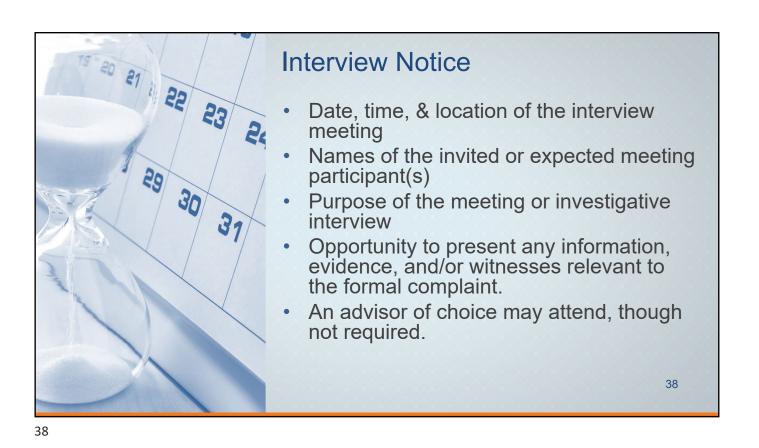


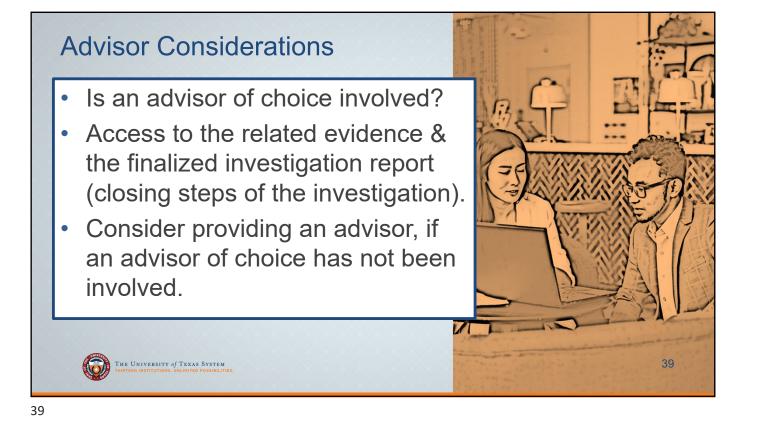












Evidence Collection

- Available body of facts or information:
 - 1. Tangible objects (real items)
 - 2. Demonstrative (modeling)
 - 3. Documentary (written materials)
 - 4. Testimonial (statements)

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...that indicates whether a claim, belief, or proposition may be true or valid.



 Relevant evidence
 Evidence included in the Investigation Report

 Evidence directly related to the allegations
 Evidence provided to the parties & advisors for inspection & response

Medical Records Evidence



<u>Cannot</u> access, consider, disclose, or use a party's **medical** or **mental health records** as evidence unless the party provides <u>voluntary, written</u> <u>consent</u> to the institution for the grievance process.

HIPAA vs. FERPA

The **medical or mental health record** is protected by **HIPAA**, and retained by the healthcare enterprise.

A copy of a medical or mental health record that is submitted to the investigation by the record holder (with <u>voluntary</u>, written consent) becomes protected under **FERPA** (students) and **privacy** provisions of the institution's policies. The documentation is eligible for **access to evidence** by both parties (and their advisors).

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Access to Evidence

Equal opportunity to both parties (& the advisors) to **inspect & review any evidence obtained** that is <u>directly related to the</u> <u>allegations</u> in the formal complaint.



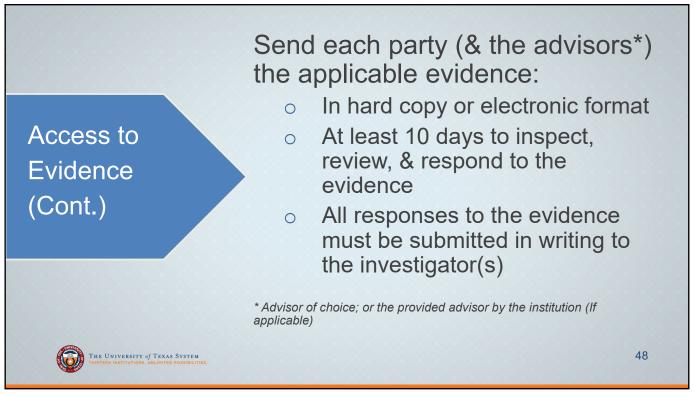


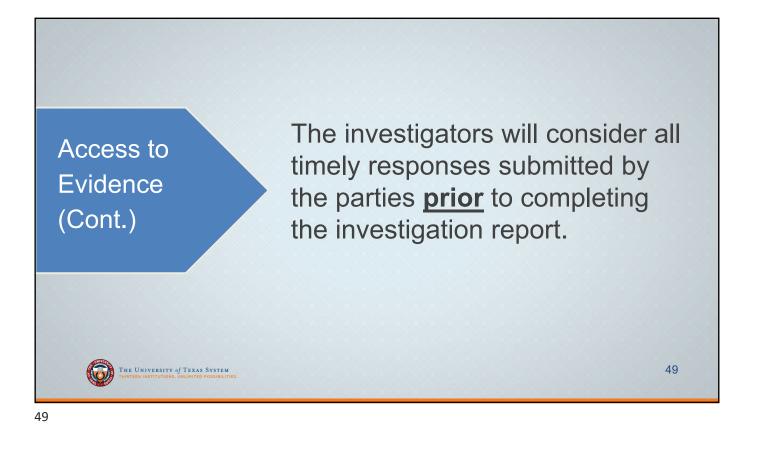
Access to Evidence: When?

- Upon request from a CP, RP, or an Advisor?
- At the end of the investigation?

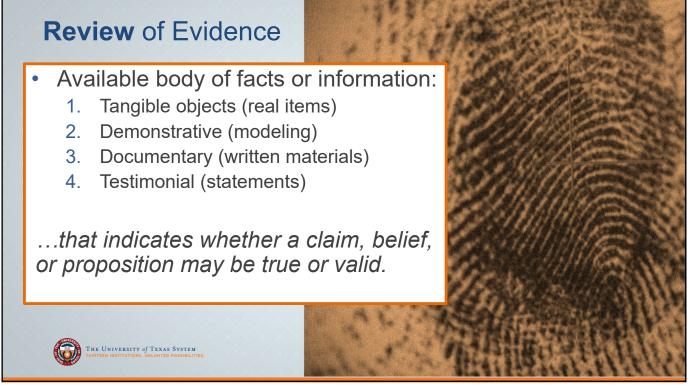
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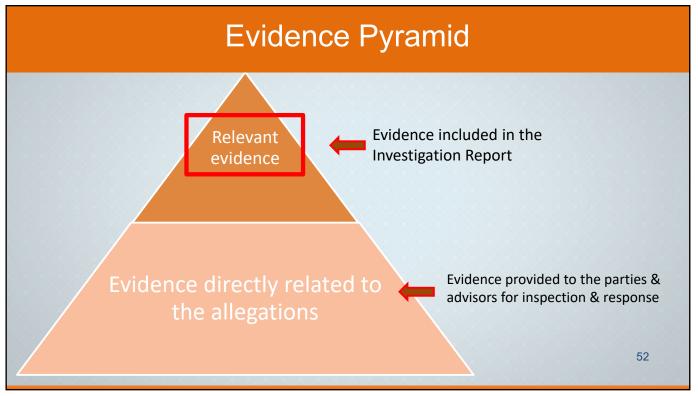


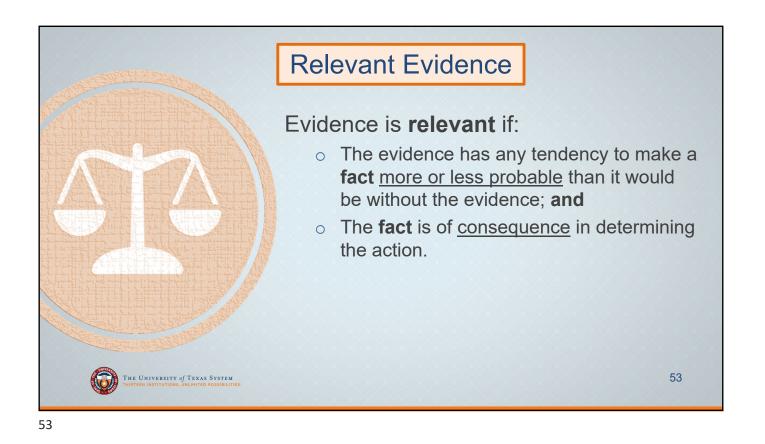














Relevant Evidence

Another way to frame it:

- **Exculpatory evidence**: Evidence tending to excuse, justify, or absolve the person of the alleged conduct.
- Inculpatory evidence: Evidence that places responsibility on the person of the alleged conduct.

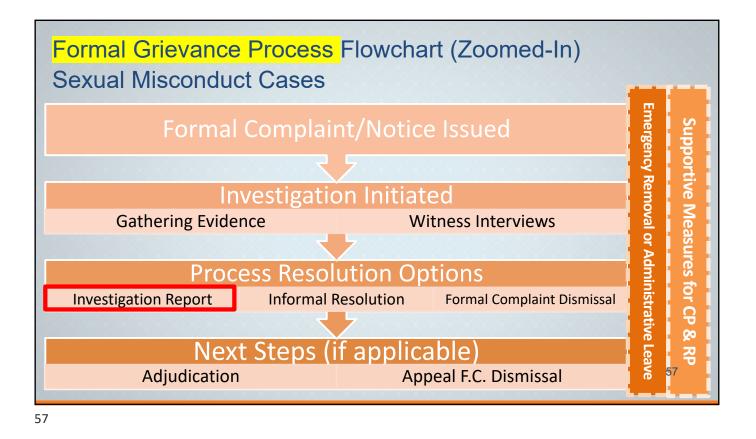
"Reasonable Person" Standard

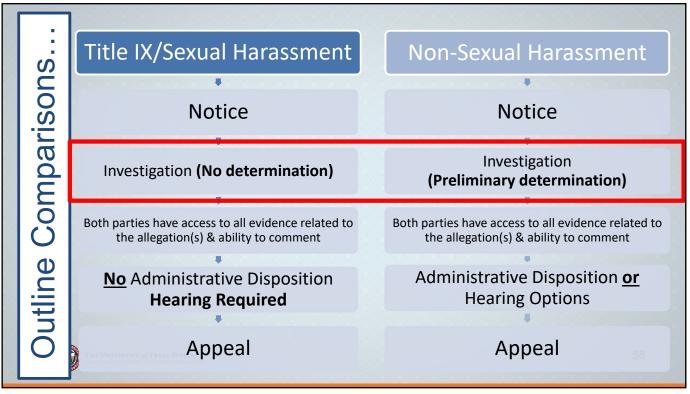


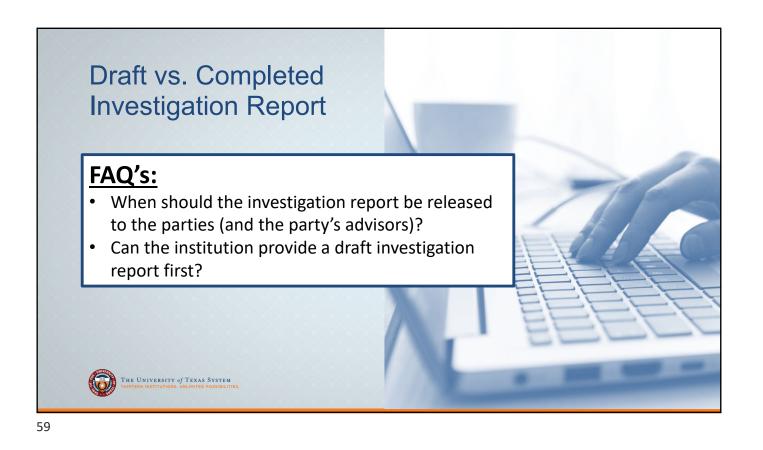
Use a "**reasonable person**" standard for weighing all of the evidence:

 An <u>objective test</u> to denote a hypothetical person who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct <u>under similar</u> <u>circumstances</u> as a comparative standard.





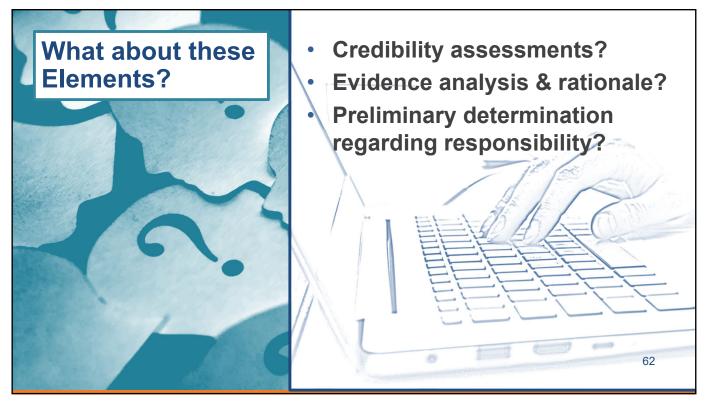


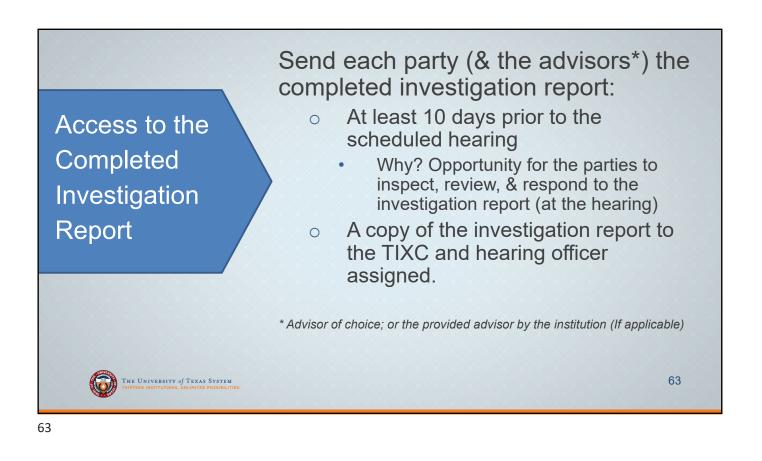


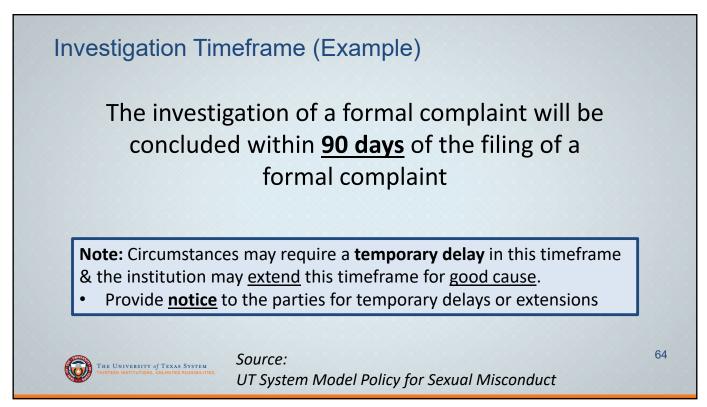
Completed Investigation Report: Sexual Harassment Cases

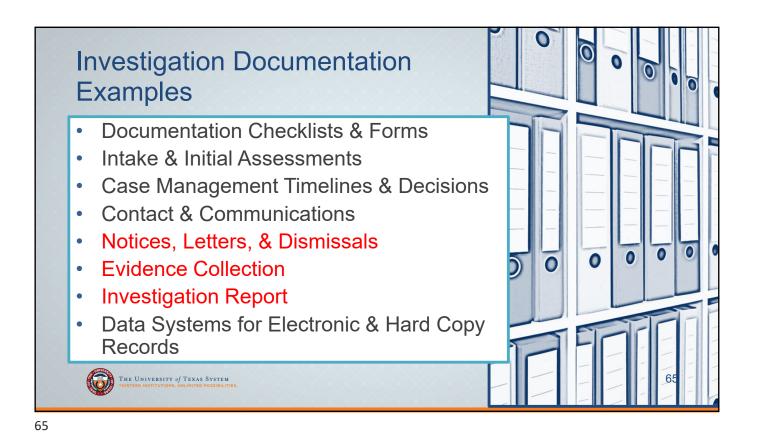
- 1. Outline each of the **allegations** that potentially constitutes prohibited conduct under the Policy (required by the Title IX regulations).
- 2. Provide a **timeline** (e.g. procedural steps) of the investigation. (recommended)
- **3. Fairly summarize** <u>relevant evidence</u>, participate statements, and responses to questions (required by the Title IX regulations).
 - **Exculpatory**: Evidence tending to excuse, justify, or absolve the person of the alleged conduct.
 - **Inculpatory**: Evidence that places responsibility on the person of the alleged conduct.

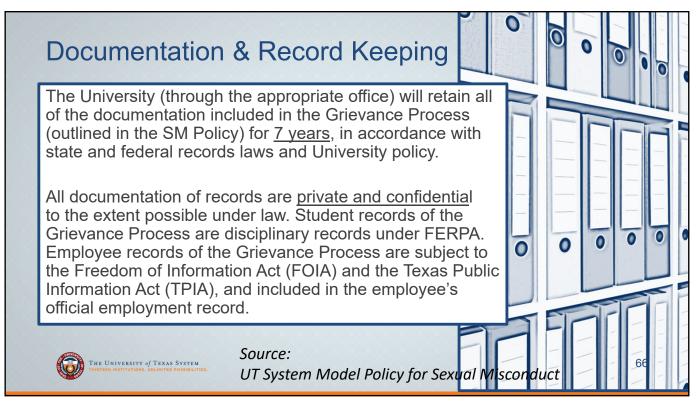
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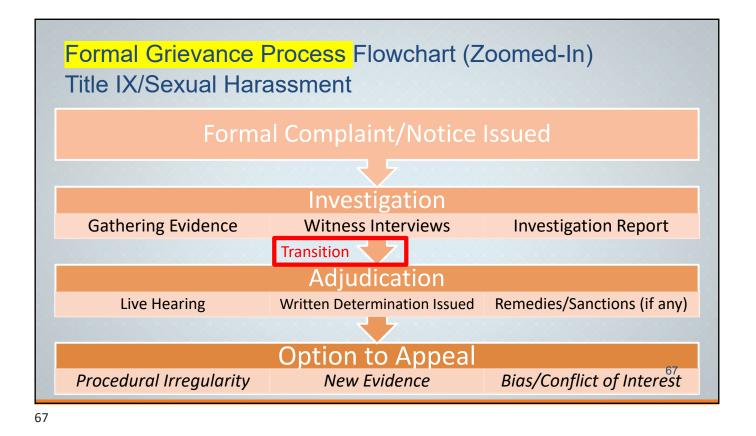


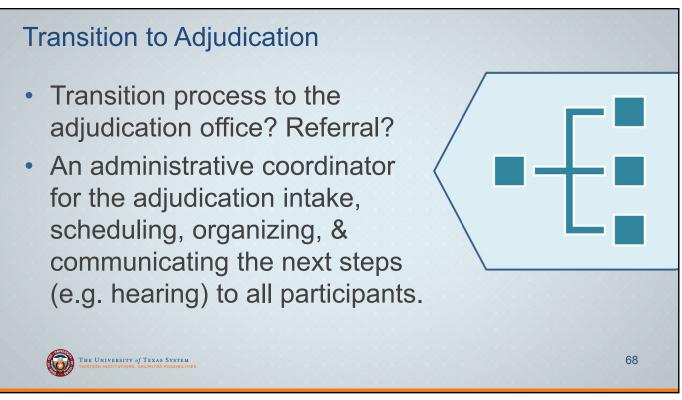












 Referral Type (RP)	Adjudication Office (Examples)
Student	Student Conduct
Faculty	Provost
Staff	Human Resources



Contact	Information
Contact	mormation

Krista Anderson	Sean Flammer
Systemwide Title IX Coordinator	Associate General Counsel
Office of Systemwide Compliance UT System (Austin, TX)	Office of General Counsel UT System (Austin, TX)
Phone: 512-664-9050	Phone: 512-579-5106
Email: kranderson@utsystem.edu	Email: <u>sflammer@utsystem.edu</u>

