



Title IX Myths

TITLE IX VIDEO SERIES

I know that there are some myths out there about our Title IX process, so I want to make sure I provide you with accurate information.

MYTH #1: REPORTING REQUIRES A FORMAL INVESTIGATION.

This is just not true. Most of our reports do not lead to a formal investigation. I want you to know that I seek to respect the reporting person's wishes for how the University responds to the report. There are a few exceptions to this, such as a concern of safety for the campus community or a particular person, if the allegations are about an employee, or we see a pattern of harm, then we do need to act to make sure our campus is safe. Even in those cases, the reporting person can choose to not participate in the process.

MYTH #2: REPORTING LEADS TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

A student may feel reluctant to file a report or provide information about an incident because the student or someone else was breaking an aspect of our student handbook. In these situations, the University offers amnesty. This means that when the violation of the code of conduct is discovered because of good faith cooperation with a report or investigation of a potential Title IX incident, it will not result in dismissal for the parties or witnesses, provided that the health and safety of the individuals involved is not jeopardized. We offer this because Cedarville wants to lower barriers to reporting harassment or violence.

MYTH #3: "I NEED TO BE SURE TO REPORT"

Another thing my department hears is that students are unsure what can or should be reported to the Title IX Office. I want to let you know that if you're in doubt about something, you can make the report or stop by for a conversation about it. If the situation doesn't rise to the level of harassment or discrimination that our Title IX policy covers, I will let you know and offer other options about how it can be addressed.

MYTH #4: TITLE IX IS ONLY FOR WOMEN.

I often hear people refer to the Title IX Office as something that only relates to females on our campus. In reality, Title IX is about equity and is just as available for men who have been discriminated against or are victims of sexual and relational violence. Our Title IX process is a tool we use to respond to, and if necessary, resolve allegations of misconduct and provide remedies to support our students and staff. Title IX should be about seeking justice and support, not as a means to threaten or seek revenge.

It is our desire that we be a place free from all forms of harassment and discrimination and is reflective of our commitment to love God and love others. We hope that you don't ever need to access the resources or processes of the Title IX Office, but if so, please know that we are here to help and to walk alongside you.