

University of Missouri-Kansas City

2015 Title IX Report

February 1, 2015 – October 31, 2015



OFFICE OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

November 20, 2015

Dear Members of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Community:

The Office of Affirmative Action invites you to review the first UMKC Title IX Report. The Report describes sex, gender, pregnancy, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation discrimination reported to the Office of Affirmative Action from February 1, 2015 to October 31, 2015. The Report helps establish baseline information that the University can use in future years to begin to identify trends. We have an opportunity and an obligation to use this information to improve campus culture and reduce sex discrimination.

The reality is that sex discrimination – including sex-based violence – happens at UMKC and on college campuses across the country. We wish that no one had to endure these types of behaviors, but we are encouraged that the UMKC community is regularly engaging with the Office of Affirmative Action when sex discrimination does occur.

For the past several months, our office has worked closely with many departments and offices on campus to stop sex discrimination and prevent its occurrence and/or recurrence. The Office of Affirmative Action has responded to allegations of sex discrimination through educational panels, presentations, disciplinary proceedings and conflict resolution. We have provided numerous students with the resources, support and accommodations they need to stay in school.

This report is intended to provide you with data and contextual information regarding the number of reports received by the Office of Affirmative Action and the process by which reports are resolved. As you read the Report, please be aware that we have an obligation to balance transparency with our commitment to respecting the privacy of those involved as well as our duty to keep confidential information that is protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).¹

If you have any feedback regarding the Report, please email me at thompsonmikah@umkc.edu. If you would like to make a report of sex discrimination, learn more about campus and community resources, or if you are in need of accommodations, please call the Office of Affirmative Action at (816) 235-6910.

Thank you for your interest in the University's Title IX work and your commitment to creating a more equitable, safe and inclusive UMKC.²

¹ See 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and 34 CFR Part 99 (a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records).

² The Office of Affirmative Action would like to thank Ellen Eardley, Title IX Administrator and Assistant Vice Provost at the University of Missouri, and Salama Gallimore, Lead Title IX Investigator at the University of Missouri, for allowing UMKC to utilize the University of Missouri's Annual Title IX Report as a model.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mikah K. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mikah K. Thompson
Director of Affirmative Action and Title IX Coordinator

GUIDE TO THE 2015 REPORT

History of the UMKC's Title IX Efforts

The University of Missouri System (“UM System”) has taken a number of proactive steps over the past two years to advance gender equity throughout campus. The UM System revised its policies prohibiting sex discrimination and required all employees to report incidents of sex discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator on each of the four UM System campuses.³ The Office of Affirmative Action (“OAA”) at UMKC is charged with handling complaints of gender discrimination and overseeing the University’s Title IX compliance efforts. On February 9, 2015, Mikah K. Thompson was hired as UMKC’s Director of Affirmative Action and Title IX Coordinator.

Over the summer of 2014, the UM System adopted new procedures that describe the process the University uses when it receives notice that a student has allegedly violated the University’s anti-discrimination policies.⁴ These procedures are utilized when the Respondent (accused person, persons or entity) is a student or a student organization. In cases in which a student allegedly experiences discrimination and the Respondent is unknown, undisclosed or not affiliated with the University, the OAA focuses its response on supporting the student. In all cases, the OAA is available to provide the student Complainant (alleged victim of discrimination) with resources, interim remedies and accommodations.

Over the last year, the OAA has worked with the Provost’s Office and Human Resources to address reports of sex discrimination in which a faculty or staff member is the Respondent. On Feb. 5, 2015, the UM System adopted new procedures regarding the investigation of complaints against faculty and staff.⁵ The OAA continues to educate the community about these new procedures.

³ [Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct in Education/Employment Policy](#), UM System Collected Rules and Regulations Section 600.020.

⁴ [Equity Resolution Process for Resolving Complaints of Harassment, Sexual Misconduct and other Forms of Discrimination against a Student or Student or Student Organization](#), UM System Collected Rules and Regulations Section 200.025.

⁵ [Equity Resolution Process for Resolving Complaints of Harassment, Sexual Misconduct and other Forms of Discrimination against a Faculty Member](#), UM System Collected Rules and Regulations Section 600.040; [Equity Resolution Process for Resolving Complaints of Harassment, Sexual Misconduct and other Forms of Discrimination against a Staff Member](#), UM System Collected Rules and Regulations Section 600.050.

Types of Reports

This Report presents information about alleged sex, gender and sexual orientation discrimination reported to the OAA and the actions taken by the OAA in response. More specifically, this document includes descriptions of all reports brought forward between February 1, 2015, and October 31, 2015 (Reporting Period).⁶

The next report generated by the OAA will be a report reflecting the period from August 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016 to coincide with the academic calendar. The reporting period for all reports thereafter will be August 1st to July 31st of each year.

Information regarding the reports of discrimination received by the OAA are communicated in both statistical and narrative formats. Reports of sex discrimination are assigned to general categories such as “sexual harassment” and “sexual misconduct” as defined by the UM System policies, which cover a multitude of prohibited behaviors.

Additionally, some reports are classified as “not Title IX” to indicate that the behavior reported does not violate the University’s anti-discrimination policies with regard to *sex-based* discrimination. Other reports are described as “too vague to classify” to indicate that, with the information reported, we were unable to further classify the report as a more specific form of sex discrimination.

This Report presents information about the **108** individuals who were reported to have experienced sex, gender or sexual orientation discrimination; three of these individuals reportedly experienced more than one incident of discrimination. Thus, the OAA actually received **111** reports of discrimination during the Reporting Period. The **111** incidents reported to the OAA were classified into **114** alleged policy violations, as some Complainants indicated that they experienced more than one policy violation during an incident of discrimination.

Please read the Report carefully and take time to click on hyperlinks to [key definitions](#), which will provide you with detailed descriptions of terms used by the OAA. These terms are critical to understanding the Report:

- **Complainant**- alleged victim of the University’s anti-discrimination policies
- **Respondent**- person who allegedly violated the University’s anti-discrimination policies (sometimes called the “Accused”)
- **Report**- information received by the OAA stating that an individual has or may have experienced sex, gender or sexual orientation discrimination⁷
- **Policy Violation**- the classification of a report into a specific behavior prohibited by the University’s anti-discrimination policies

⁶ Not all incidents reported to the OAA between February 1, 2015, and October 31, 2015, occurred during this same time period. For instance, a report that was received between February 1, 2015 and October 31, 2015 may have described incidents that occurred in May 2014.

⁷ The OAA distinguishes between a report (which is information regarding an alleged violation of policy) from a formal complaint (which triggers the formal investigation and disciplinary process). Not all reports of alleged discrimination proceed to formal complaints.

Additionally, please read the footnotes within the Report as they contain helpful contextual information. While intended to be descriptive, this Report has limitations, such as the inability to convey the complexity of each incident that has been shared with the OAA. It also remains a challenge to draw conclusions about patterns, trends and reporting because this is the Office's first Report. We recognize that many incidents that impact our community members are not reported. As the OAA becomes more established and people become more aware of its purpose, we would not be surprised to see a reporting increase in future years.

I. How Does the OAA Receive Reports of Alleged Sex Discrimination?

Required Reports:

Employees Must Connect Potential Victims of Discrimination with the Title IX Coordinator

University policy requires any employee of the University who becomes aware of sex discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking on the basis of sex, dating/intimate partner violence or sexual exploitation) to share that information with the Title IX Coordinator, regardless of whether the recipient of the behavior is a student, employee, volunteer or visitor of the University. This is sometimes called the “Mandated Reporter” policy. In practice, when employees make a required report, they are simply connecting students and colleagues to resources that can support them during a potentially difficult time in their lives.

The Title IX Coordinator receives most reports of sex discrimination from employees of the University who express sincere concerns about their colleagues and students. The Office of Residential Life, faculty members and course instructors, academic advisors and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Police Department were the primary sources of reports during the time period covered by this Report.

Exceptions to Required Reports:

Confidential Resources Are Not Required to Refer Potential Victims to the Title IX Coordinator

Employees with a legal obligation or privilege of confidentiality (including health care providers, counselors, and their associated staff) are not required to share information regarding sex discrimination with the Title IX Coordinator when the information is learned in the course of a confidential communication. This also means that the employee seeking the exemption is employed by the University *for that specific purpose* and was acting *in that capacity* when the confidential disclosure was made. If the information about alleged sex discrimination is not learned in the course of confidential communication (for example, behavior is observed in class), then the employee must disclose the information to the Title IX Coordinator.

Confidential Resources include mental and/or physical health care providers working in that capacity at:

- The [UMKC Counseling Center](#)
- The [Student Health and Wellness Center](#)
- The [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#)

Self Reports

A number of people come to the OAA seeking resources on their own. The Title IX Coordinator will connect them to resources, explain their rights and options, and help them decide next steps. Students, employees, volunteers and visitors of the University who have experienced any form of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment or sexual misconduct, are encouraged to promptly report any incident of sex discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator, Mikah K. Thompson, at (816) 235-6910 or thompsonmikah@umkc.edu. While everyone is encouraged to make a report, victims of discrimination are not required to share the incident with the Title IX Coordinator.

II. What is Retaliation?

Retaliation is any adverse action taken against a person because of that person's participation in a protected activity. **The University strictly prohibits retaliation against any person for making any good faith report or for filing, testifying, assisting or participating in any investigation or proceeding involving allegations of discrimination in violation of the University's Equal Employment/Education Opportunity Policy.** Individuals who retaliate will be subject to discipline.

III. False Reporting

The University's Sex Discrimination Policy, CRR Section 600.020.M, prohibits false reporting. False reporting is a serious offense subject to appropriate disciplinary action ranging from probation up to and including expulsion or termination. A false report is a report made in bad faith that is intentionally false.

A determination that a report of sex discrimination is false can be made only if the evidence establishes that the report was intentionally false and no act of discrimination was either committed or attempted. The Title IX Coordinator can only make a determination that a report of sex discrimination is false after conducting a thorough investigation. Erroneous reports made in good faith are not considered false reports.

Failure to find that a policy violation occurred does not mean the complaint was false. In other words, simply because the University finds that an individual is not responsible for an alleged policy violation does not mean that the underlying complaint was false. The determination that a report is false must be supported by evidence that discrimination did not occur.

The OAA received one false reporting allegation within the Reporting Period (February 1, 2015 to October 31, 2015).

IV. What Happens After the Title IX Coordinator Receives a Report?

After receiving a report of alleged sex discrimination, a staff member of the OAA will contact the Complainant (or alleged victim) by phone or email to inquire about the individual's safety, inform them of their [rights](#), and connect the individual with [campus and community resources](#).

The OAA staff member also will offer the Complainant interim remedies and accommodations,⁸ such as campus housing support, class schedule accommodations, academic support and work accommodations. ***It is the Complainant's right to receive accommodations whether or not s/he chooses to file a formal Complaint or pursue an investigation.***

The Title IX Coordinator will not provide the information received in reports to law enforcement agencies (except where campus and community safety is at risk); however, if a Complainant expresses the desire to make a report to a law enforcement agency, the Title IX Coordinator can facilitate a meeting with the Complainant and a law enforcement officer.

⁸ See UM Collected Rules and Regulations Section 200.025.D for more examples of interim remedies and accommodations.

It is the Complainant's right to file a formal complaint with the Title IX Coordinator and pursue an investigation and disciplinary action against the Respondent. Complaints against students, faculty or staff of the University of Missouri-Kansas City are resolved using one of the Equity Resolution Processes.

Requests for Confidentiality

The Title IX Coordinator makes every attempt to protect the privacy of Complainants and Respondents. Information is kept private and OAA staff members only share information on a need-to-know basis. Further, the Title IX Coordinator and Title IX investigators request the consent of Complainants before beginning a preliminary investigation.

If a Complainant requests confidentiality or that the Title IX Coordinator not conduct an investigation or pursue discipline against the Respondent, the Title IX Coordinator is generally able to honor that request. The Title IX Coordinator takes a trauma-informed approach to requests for confidentiality and requests that investigations not proceed.

It is possible, however, that the Title IX Coordinator may need to move forward with an investigation, despite the Complainant's wishes, in order to provide a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all students. In considering a Complainant's request that an investigation not proceed, the Title IX Coordinator also considers other steps, such as education and training, to limit the effects of the reported discrimination, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects on the Complainant and the University community.

During the Reporting Period, there were no occasions in which the Title IX Coordinator proceeded with an investigation and resolution without the Complainant filing a formal complaint.

V. What is Sex Discrimination?

The following definitions of sex discrimination are closely based on the definitions indicated in the UM System Collected Rules and Regulations Section 200.010 (Standard of Conduct) and Section 600.020 (Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct in Education/Employment Policy). However, in some cases, the OAA has added more information to promote understanding.

Please note that the definitions in this Report differ from criminal offenses described in the Missouri Revised Statutes. Additionally, this Report is not meant to be a substitute for the University's Annual Clery Security Report. The definitions used by the OAA differ from the crime definitions and classifications required under the Clery Act.⁹

The OAA does not conduct criminal investigations and this Report does not classify criminal behavior. Rather, the OAA investigates and responds to reports of potential violations of the University's prohibition against sex discrimination.

⁹ See 34 CRF 668.46(c)(7) and The Federal Bureau of Investigation's *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook* (UCR).

Sexual Orientation Discrimination occurs when a person has been treated inequitably based on his or her sexual orientation.

Sex Discrimination occurs when a person has been treated inequitably based on sex or gender and includes discrimination on the basis of pregnancy. Sex discrimination includes the following types of discrimination:

- Gender Identity Discrimination occurs when a person has been treated inequitably based on their gender identity.
 - Gender Identity is one's internal, personal sense of being a man, a woman (or boy or girl), neither, or both.
 - A person may identify as a gender that does or does not appear to correspond to the sex assigned to that person at birth, or the person may not identify as either a man or woman (or boy or girl).
 - For example, it would be inappropriate for a student organization to withhold membership from a qualified and interested student who is transitioning their gender because members of the organization are uncomfortable with this change.
- Gender Expression Discrimination occurs when a person has been treated inequitably based on how they express their gender identity.
 - Gender expression is the external manifestation of one's gender identity, usually expressed through "masculine," "feminine" or gender variant behavior, i.e., clothing, voice, haircut or body characteristics.
- Pregnancy Discrimination occurs when a woman (student or employee) is treated inequitably because of pregnancy, childbirth or medical condition related to pregnancy and childbirth.
- Sexual Harassment includes:
 - Unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual activity by a person or persons in a position of power or authority to another person, or
 - Other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature by a person to another person, when:
 - Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used explicitly or implicitly as a condition for academic or employment decisions; or
 - Such conduct creates a hostile environment by being sufficiently severe or pervasive and objectively offensive that it interferes with, limits or denies the ability of an individual to participate in or benefit from educational programs or activities or employment access, benefits or opportunities.

- [Sexual Misconduct](#) includes the following:
 - Nonconsensual Sexual Intercourse (NCSI) is nonconsensual vaginal, oral and anal penetration. This conduct is sometimes referred to in common usage as **rape or sexual assault**.
 - Nonconsensual Sexual Contact (NCSC) involves the nonconsensual sexual touching of the genitals, breast or anus of another person or the nonconsensual sexual touching of another with one's own genitals whether directly or through the clothing. This conduct is sometimes referred to in common usage as **sexual assault**.
 - Exposing One's Genitals to another under circumstances in which he or she should reasonably know that his or her conduct is likely to cause affront or alarm.

- [Sexual Exploitation](#) occurs when one person takes nonconsensual or abusive sexual advantage of another person for his/her own advantage or benefit or for the advantage or benefit of anyone other than the person being exploited and the behavior does not constitute any other form of sexual misconduct. Examples of sexual exploitation include, but are not limited to, the following activities done without the consent of all participants:
 - Invasion of sexual privacy;
 - Prostituting another person;
 - Taping or recording of sexual activity;
 - Going beyond the boundaries of consent to sexual activity (e.g., letting friends hide to watch individuals engaging in sexual activity);
 - Engaging in voyeurism;
 - Knowingly transmitting an STI, STD, venereal disease or HIV to another person;
 - Inducing another to expose their genitals.

- [Stalking on the Basis of Sex](#) is following or engaging in a course of conduct on the basis of sex with no legitimate purpose that puts another person reasonably in fear for his or her safety or would cause a reasonable person under the circumstances to be frightened, intimidated or emotionally distressed. Stalking behaviors can include, but are not limited to:
 - Following the victim;
 - Showing up uninvited at places the victim is present;
 - Repeated and unwanted calling, texting or emailing;
 - Sending unwanted gifts;
 - Damaging the victim's property.

- [Dating/Intimate Partner Violence](#) is violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the recipient of the violent behavior, including a pattern of violence in any intimate relationship where one person inflicts physical or emotional pain on their partner in order to control them. Examples include:
 - Threatened or completed violence towards a person's body, possessions, pets or children;
 - Intimidation through words, threats or acts of violence;

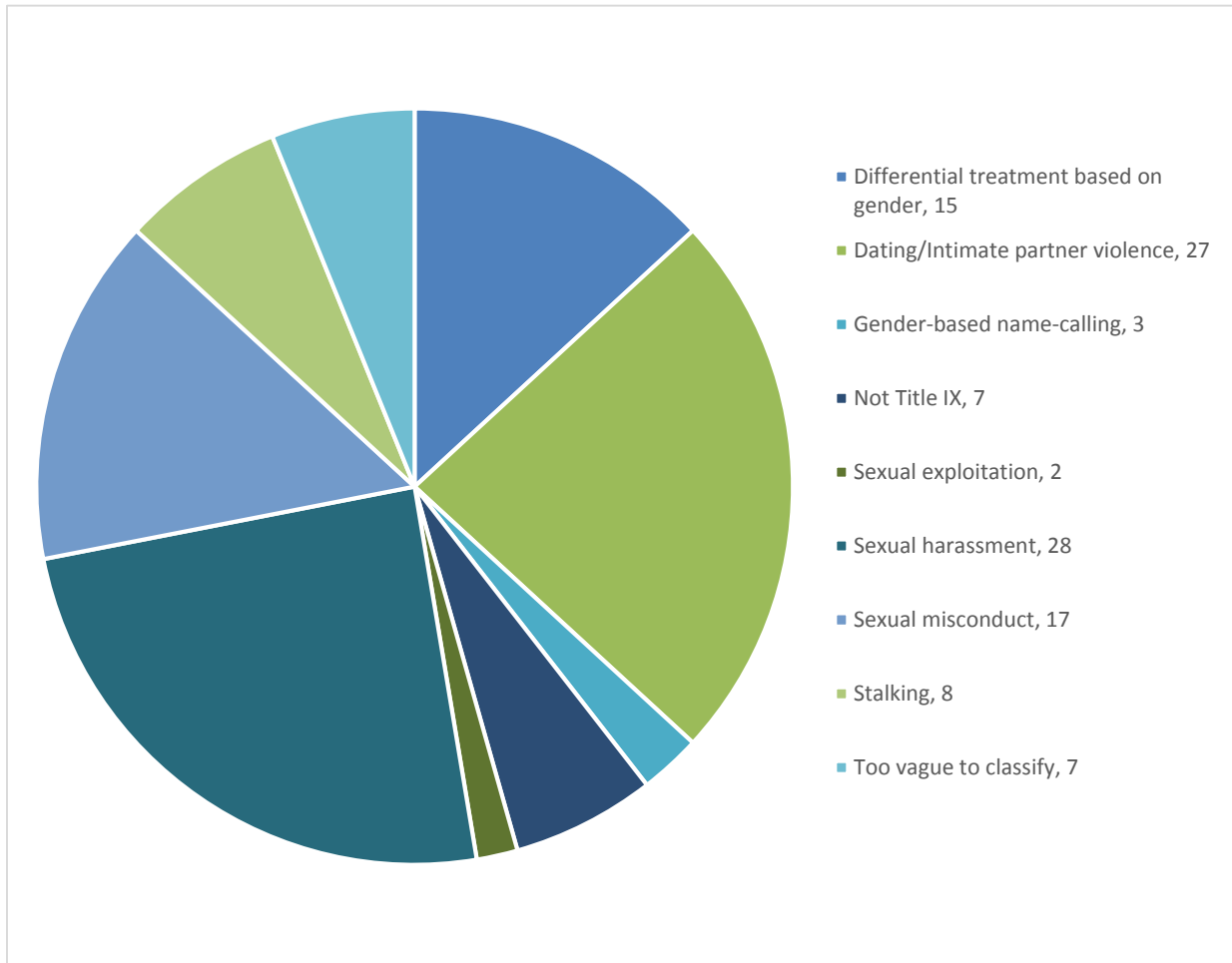
- Isolating the victim from family and friends;
 - Insisting on sex or forcing a partner to have sex.
- [Bullying](#) (on the basis of sex) is defined as repeated and/or severely aggressive behavior likely to intimidate or intentionally hurt, control or diminish another person, physically or mentally, on the basis of actual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

[Consent to Sexual Activity](#), as defined by University policies, is knowing and voluntary. Silence or absence of resistance does not establish consent. Consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to other forms of sexual activity. Consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not imply consent to engage in sexual activity with another. Consent must be obtained at the time of the specific activity and can be withdrawn at any time. Lack of consent or withdrawal of consent may be communicated by words or non-verbal acts. Coercion and force, or threat of either, invalidates consent.

An individual who is incapacitated lacks the capacity to give knowing consent. Incapacitation can be due to the use of drugs or alcohol, when a person is asleep or unconscious, or because of an intellectual or other disability that prevents the individual from having the capacity to give consent.

VI. Reports of Potential Sex Discrimination

114 Allegations of Sex Discrimination – Sorted by Type of Incident



The reports received by the Title IX Coordinator indicated that **108** individuals reportedly experienced sex, gender and sexual orientation discrimination; three of these individuals reportedly experienced more than one incident of discrimination. Thus, the Title IX Coordinator actually received **111** reports of discrimination during the Reporting Period. The **111** incidents reported to the Title IX Coordinator were classified into **114** alleged policy violations, as some Complainants indicated that they experienced more than one policy violation during an incident of discrimination. For example, dating/intimate partner violence was often reported in conjunction with stalking, and, in some cases, sexual misconduct was reported in addition to sexual exploitation.

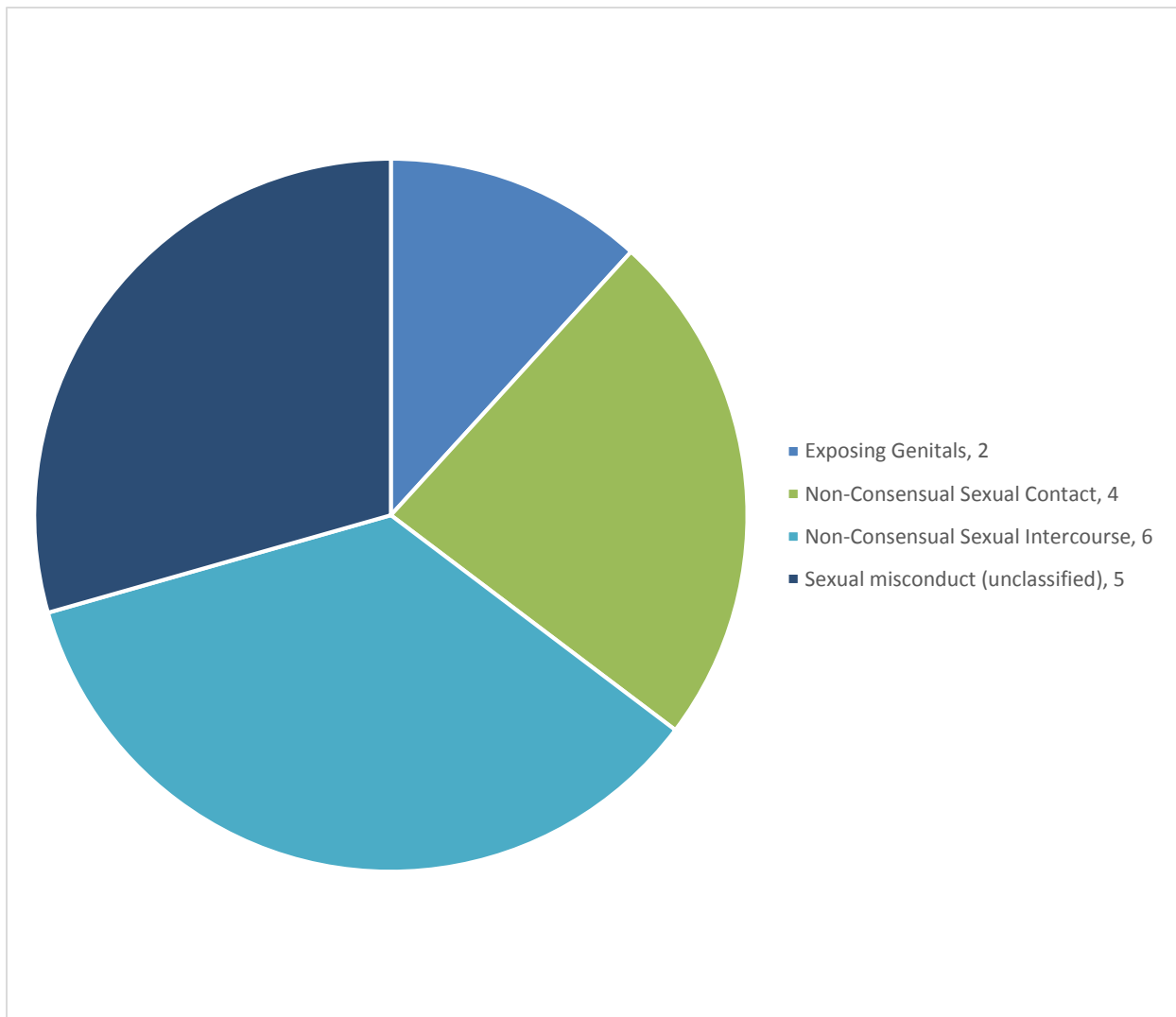
Sexual harassment was the most common violation (24%), followed by dating or intimate partner violence (24%), sexual misconduct (15%), differential treatment based on gender (13%), stalking (7%), sexual exploitation (2%), and gender based name calling or bullying (3%). Lastly, the Title IX Coordinator received one report of pregnancy discrimination (reported as differential treatment based on gender), one report of kidnapping (which was found not to be under the jurisdiction of

the Title IX Coordinator), one report of retaliation, and no reports of gender identity or gender expression discrimination.

The Title IX Coordinator determined that **seven (7)** reports were made that were found to not fall under the jurisdiction of the Title IX Coordinator—“not Title IX.” Reports that cannot be classified as Title IX include reports from individuals who experienced harassment that was not sex-based.

There were **seven (7)** reports of alleged discrimination that were “too vague to classify.” In these vague instances, the Title IX Coordinator may have received information that an individual was working with UMKC’s Violence Prevention and Response Office, or that the individual was “assaulted” with no further details provided.

Reports of Sexual Misconduct (excluding Sexual Exploitation)



There were 17 reports of sexual misconduct during the Reporting Period; **six (6)** reports of non-consensual sexual intercourse (35%) during the Reporting Period, **four (4)** reports of non-consensual sexual contact (24%), **two (2)** reports of someone exposing their genitals to another

person (12%) and **five (5)** reports of sexual misconduct which was unable to be classified (29%). Examples of unclassifiable reports include reports in which the Complainant states, or is reported to have stated, “I experienced a sexual assault,” “I was sexually violated,” or “someone forced him/herself on me.” Therefore, the “unclassified” reports could include vaginal, anal, oral penetration or nonconsensual sexual contact.

Reports of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment was the most reported category during the Reporting Period. Most reports received by the Title IX Coordinator detailed situations in which the Complainant alleged that a Respondent’s actions made them feel uncomfortable, scared or disrespected in their working, learning or living environment. Usually, sexual harassment was reported to have occurred when individuals received unwanted communication of a sexual nature, including unwelcome sexual advances and requests for sexual activity. However, some reports of sexual harassment consisted of an individual making an offensive comment about a person’s sex. Sexual harassment was also reported when individuals made offensive comments about women or men generally; e.g., an individual using an offensive slang term to describe all women or men. The majority of reports of sexual harassment, 17 of 28, or **60%**, occurred on campus.

Reports of Dating or Intimate Partner Violence

Dating or intimate partner violence ranked as the second most reported category. Most of these incidents, 13 of 24 reports, or **54%** of reports, occurred on campus. Reports primarily involved female students (Complainants) who were in romantic relationships with male Respondents. Since the OAA staff is aware that some people who endure intimate partner violence may still be in a relationship with the Respondent at the time a report is made to the Title IX Coordinator, staff members proceed with caution in these situations when contacting the Complainant. Additionally, staff members understand that it may not be safe for the Complainant to pursue a complaint or investigation. These factors, including any requests for confidentiality, inform how the Office proceeds when dating or intimate partner violence is reported.

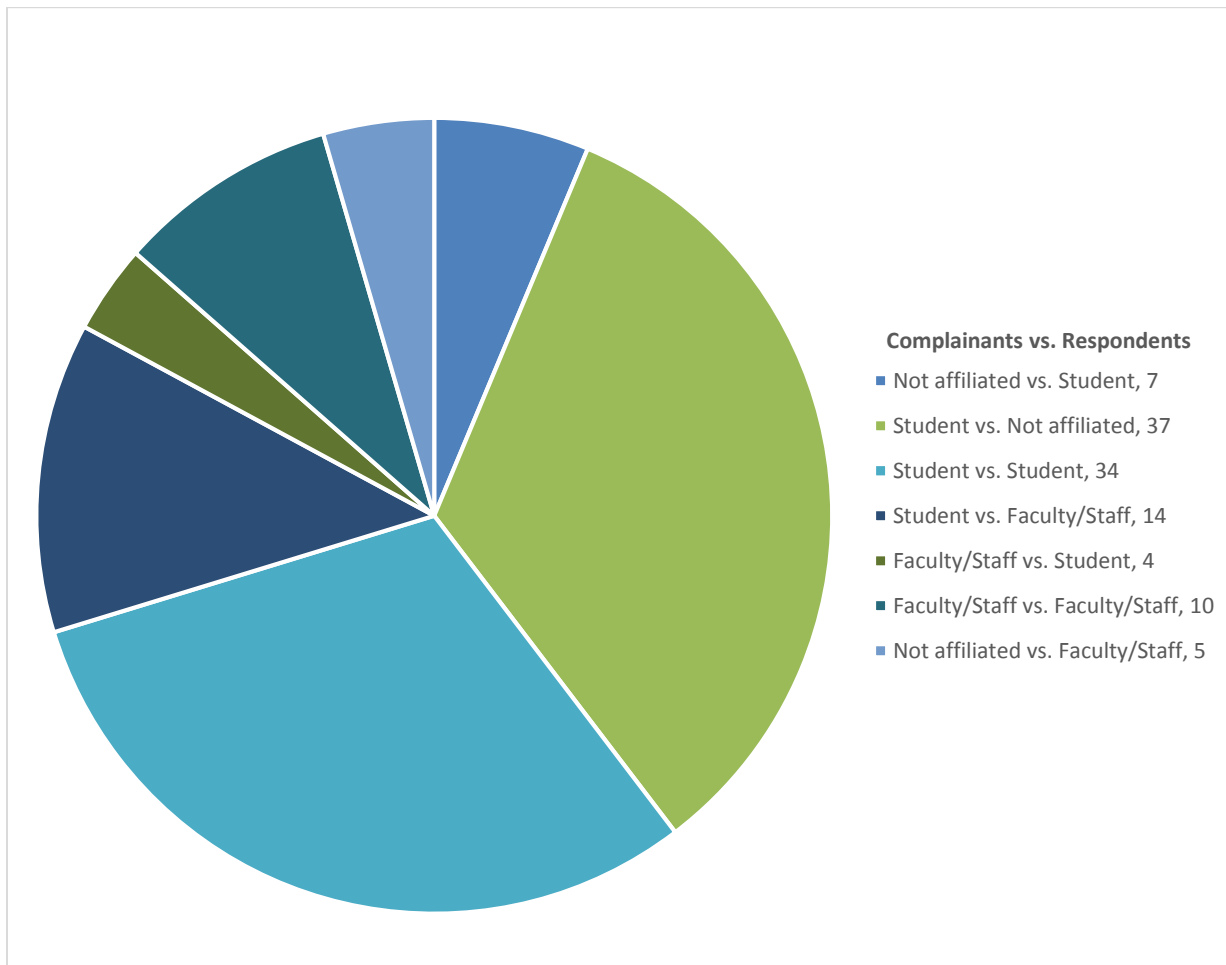
Reports of Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation occurs when one person takes nonconsensual or abusive sexual advantage of another person for his/her own advantage or benefit or for the advantage or benefit of anyone other than the person being exploited and which the behavior does not constitute any other form of sexual misconduct.

The Title IX Coordinator received two (2) reports of sexual exploitation during the Reporting Period. Under University policy, sexual exploitation includes allegations of predatory drugs used against a Complainant. Examples of predatory drugs include: alcohol, gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), Rohypnol, Ketamine, MDMA-Ecstasy, anxiety medications and prescription sleep pills. The Title IX Coordinator received one report involving predatory drugs. In the instance reported, the individual recalled knowingly drinking a beverage (both alcoholic and nonalcoholic). The individual subsequently experienced nausea, vomiting and dramatic changes in consciousness and motor skills, which seemed abnormal after drinking a nonalcoholic beverage or a small amount of alcohol (e.g., one beer or glass of wine).

The other instance of sexual exploitation reported was invasion of sexual privacy. Invasion of sexual privacy is a violation of the University’s policy prohibiting sex discrimination.

VII. University Affiliation of the Complainant and Respondent



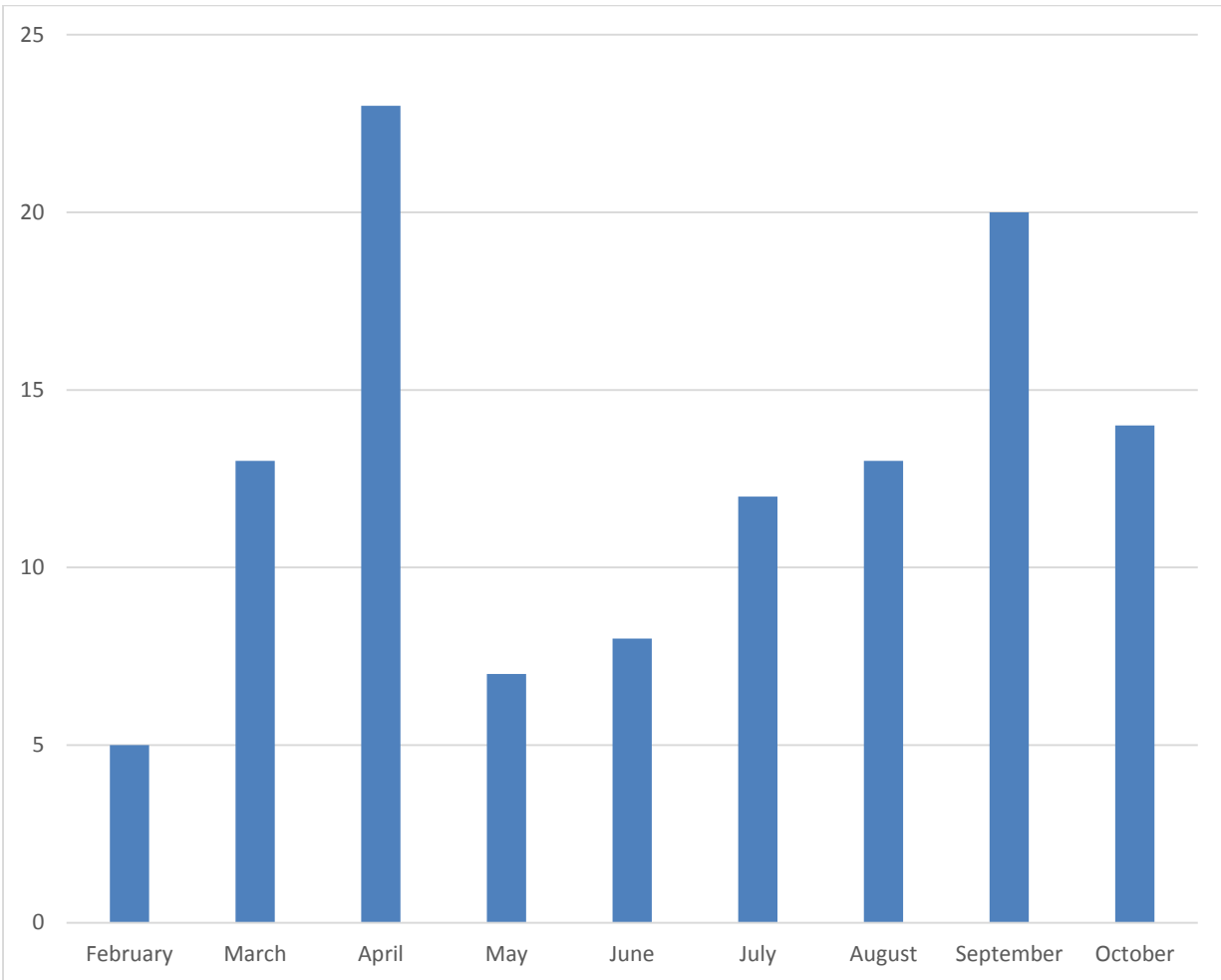
The Title IX Coordinator kept record of how Complainants and Respondents were affiliated with the University. Nearly all of the reports involved students; however, there were **ten (10)** reported incidents between faculty and staff members and **five (5)** reports where a faculty or staff member was named as the Respondent but the Complainant was not affiliated with the University. There were **ninety-six (96)** reports where a student was identified as a Complainant or Respondent. Guests of students and persons whose affiliation with UMKC could not be determined were counted as “not affiliated”.

Students were most likely to be the Complainant, accounting for **eighty-five (85)** of the cases. Of these cases, **thirty-seven (37)** alleged that the Respondent was not affiliated with UMKC, **thirty-four (34)** alleged that the Respondent was a student at UMKC, and **fourteen (14)** alleged that the Respondent was a faculty or staff member.

Students were named as the Respondent in **forty-four (44)** cases. Of these cases, **seven (7)**

Complainants were not affiliated with UMKC, **four (4)** Complainants were faculty or staff members, and **thirty-three (33)** complaints were made by students against fellow students.

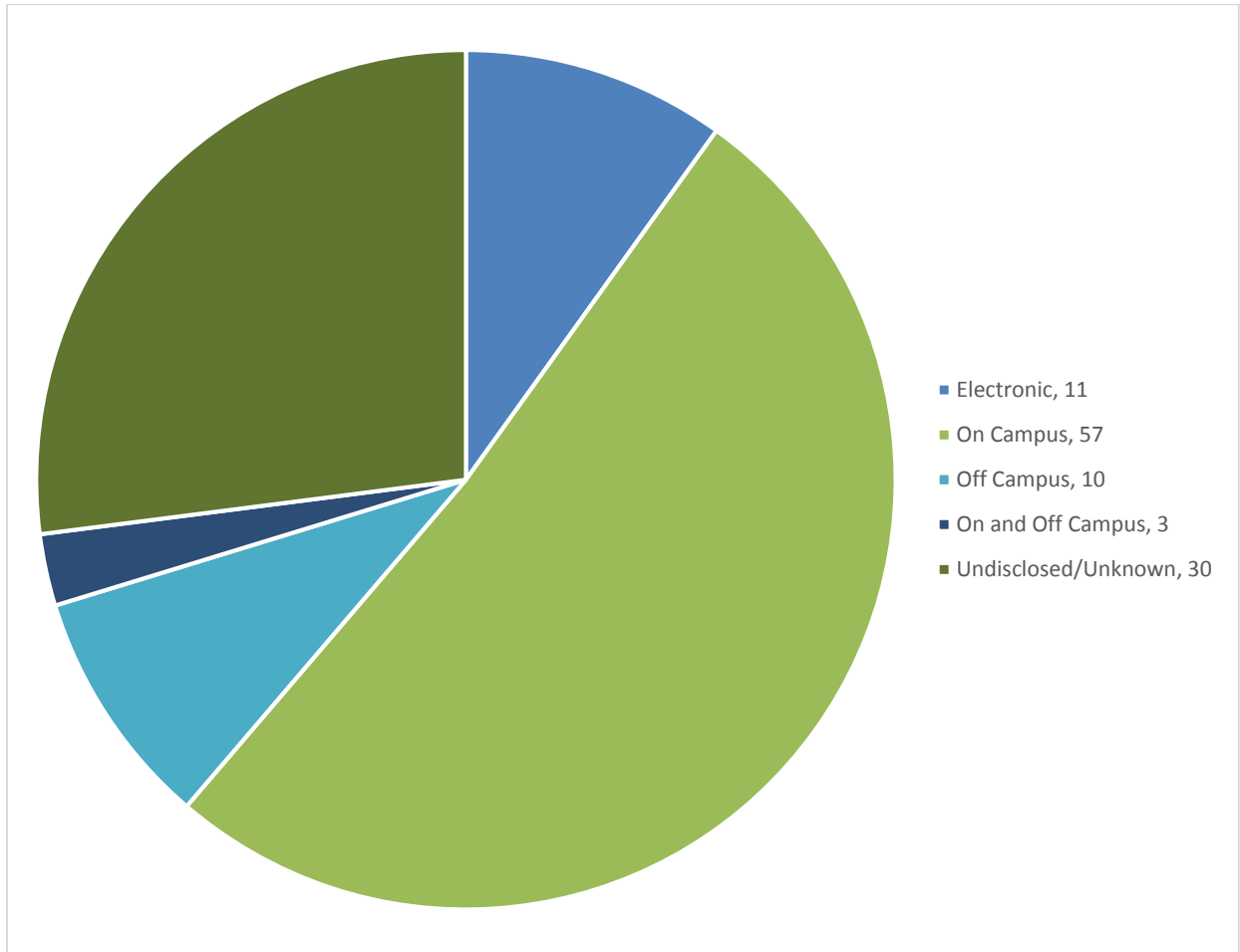
VIII. Reports to the Title IX Coordinator by Month



The above diagram shows the numbers of reports the Title IX Coordinator received each month. This does not mean that the alleged incidents necessarily occurred during the same month. The Title IX Coordinator received the largest number of reports during the month of April (20% of the reports during the Reporting Period).

The diagram indicates that reporting dropped dramatically in May 2015, likely because many students left campus after the Spring 2015 semester ended. The new academic year began at the end of August 2015, and the number of reported incidents increased as students returned to campus.

IX. Location of Complainant When Reported Discrimination Occurred



Fifty-seven (57) Complainants (51%) reported that they experienced discrimination while on campus. **Thirty (30)** reports were made where the location of the Complainant at the time the discrimination occurred was unknown or undisclosed (27%). This group includes Complainants whose reports were found not to fall under the jurisdiction of the Title IX Coordinator. **Ten (10)** incidents occurred off campus (9%), and **three (3)** Complainants reported discrimination occurring on and off campus (3%). The “electronic” category refers to Complainants who experienced discrimination electronically, by phone calls, text message or in cyberspace (via email, and social networking websites), rather than in a physical, static location. During the Reporting Period, **eleven (11)** Complainants reported experiencing discrimination carried out by purely electronic means (10%). Typically, violations such as stalking, sexual exploitation and sexual harassment were reported to have been carried out electronically. However, bullying, retaliation, and sex discrimination also can be carried out through electronic means. Additionally, three Complainants experienced some form of discrimination both on and off campus.

X. How Reports of Sex, Gender, and Sexual Orientation Discrimination Were Resolved When No Formal Complaint or Investigation Was Pursued

When a report of alleged discrimination is made by someone other than the person affected by the discrimination (Complainant), the OAA reaches out and contacts the Complainant. The goal of the initial contact is to provide Complainants with a statement of their rights and inform Complainants that they can receive accommodations and utilize campus resources. There were 114 incidents of discrimination reported during the Annual Reporting Period, which identified 111 Complainants.

Complainants are not required to communicate with the Title IX Coordinator; however, 66 Complainants received accommodations after speaking with the Title IX Coordinator. Each of the 66 Complainants who received accommodations communicated with the Title IX Coordinator by email, phone or in person in order to arrange the specific accommodation requested.

An additional 22 Complainants spoke to the Title IX Coordinator by phone or in person; however, these individuals did not request accommodations or an investigation. Individuals falling into this category often communicated with the Office to provide additional information, for example:

- I do not want to file a complaint or have an investigation
- The Respondent's name is _
- I do not wish to disclose the identity of the Respondent
- I feel safe, and I do not need resources or accommodations
- The accused is not affiliated with UMKC
- There is no longer a problem
- The incident did not occur on campus
- I took care of the situation myself
- I did not experience discrimination
- I am seeking counseling and do not wish to discuss the report

The Title IX Coordinator strives to identify trends and patterns of behavior; hence, any information shared will be added to our private database and used to prevent future discrimination if possible. Even if Complainants do not wish to pursue an investigation when an incident is reported, the Title IX Coordinator is willing and able to document information that can be used if the Complainant requests an investigation at a future date.

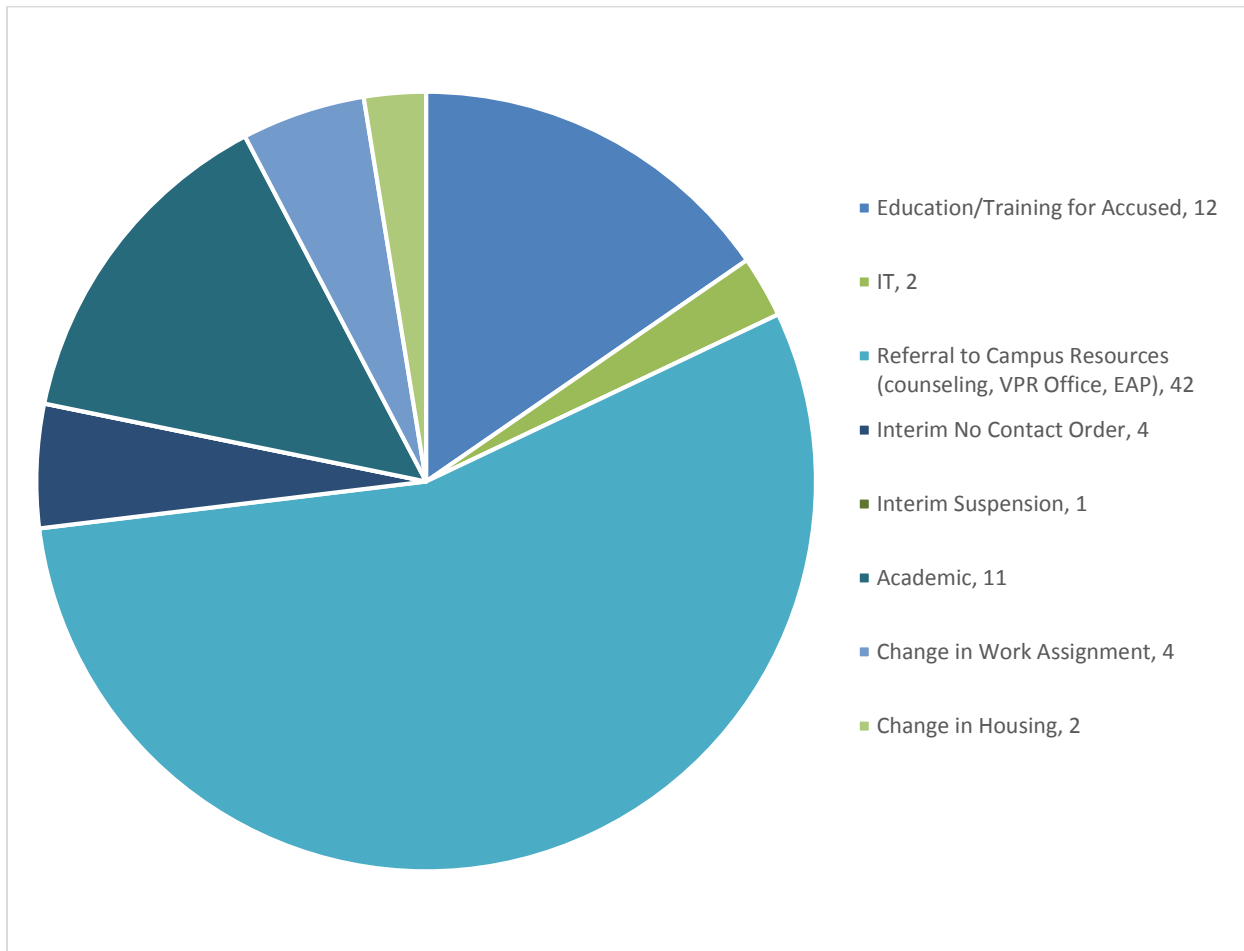
Lastly, 17 Complainants chose not to respond to communications from the Title IX Coordinator (phone calls and emails). However, these Complainants still received information regarding their rights, copies of University anti-discrimination policies, and an invitation to meet with a Title IX staff member at any future time.

○ **Interim Remedies and Accommodations**

When the Title IX Coordinator receives information about a potential violation, the first step is to reach out to the Complainant who reportedly experienced sex-based discrimination, harassment or violence. The goal is to connect individuals, based on their specific needs and preferences, with resources on campus, including the Violence Prevention and Response (VPR) Office, the UMKC Police Department, the Counseling Center, the Women's Center, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and the Student Health and Wellness Center. The OAA also supports

Complainants by arranging accommodations, which could be academic in cases where the student has missed classes or assignments, has been academically dismissed, or needs assistance speaking with faculty or course instructors. Students can also request alternative attendance procedures or on-campus housing changes, in addition to parking and transportation accommodations where applicable. Employees (including student-employees) seeking accommodations may receive changes in work assignments, transfers or implementation of safety precautions while at work. Accommodations can be provided regardless of whether an individual decides to make a formal complaint and regardless of whether there is a formal investigation.

XI. Number of Complainants Receiving Each Type of Accommodation



A total of **sixty-six (66)** complainants received accommodations during the Reporting Period. Many Complainants received more than one type of accommodation, and some Complainants did not receive an accommodation, so the number of accommodations performed does not match the number of Complainants identified during the Reporting Period. The most common type of accommodation was referring the Complainant to campus resources, such as the Counseling Center or the VPR Office. The OAA provides training to the campus community upon request and when Title IX staff members determine that training may be necessary to disrupt a potential or actual discriminatory environment within an organization, group or department. Title IX staff also meet with students, faculty and staff members on a one-on-one basis to discuss and correct discriminatory behavior. This was the second most common accommodation with **twelve (12)**

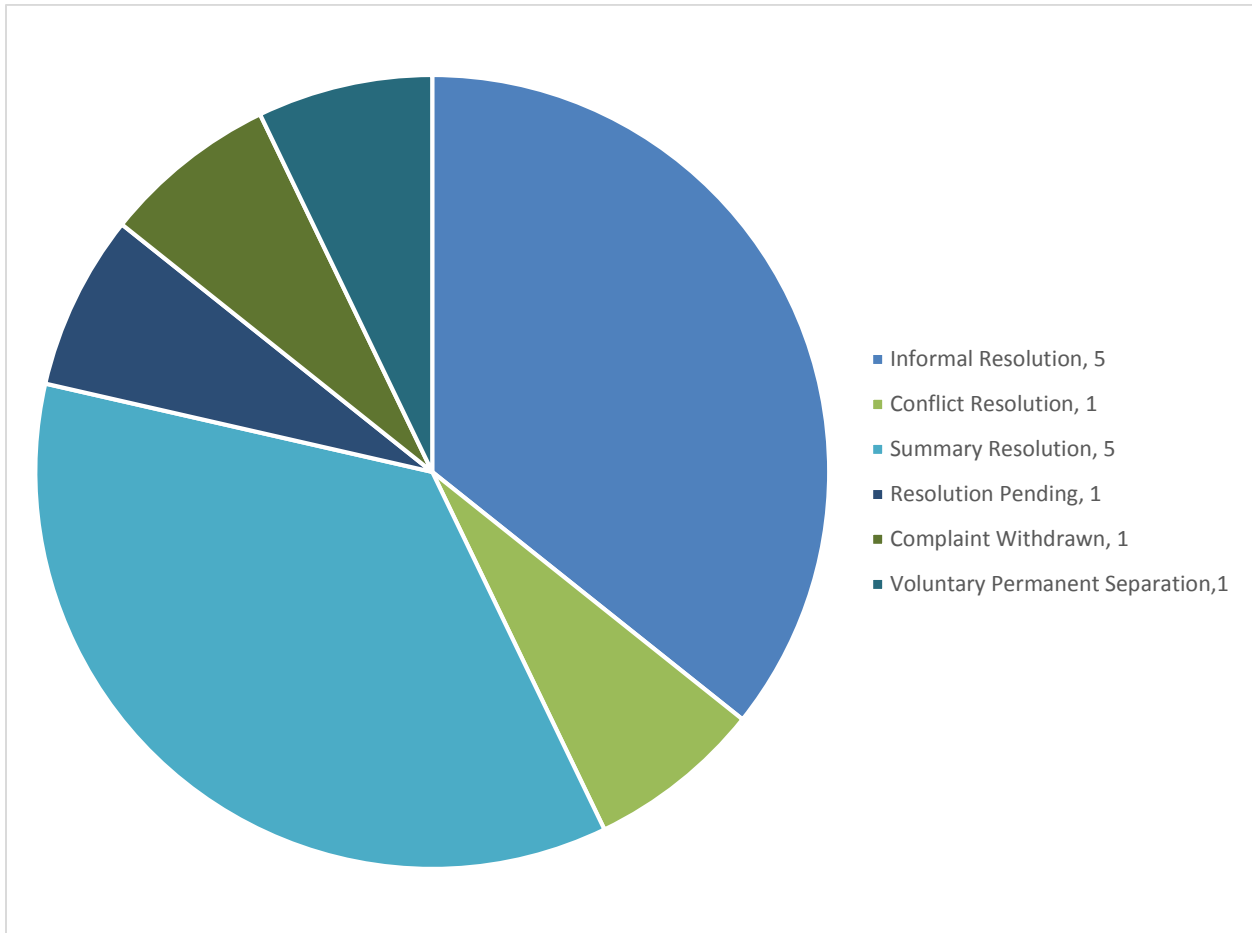
instances (15%). **Eleven (11)** Complainants requested academic accommodations during this period (14%). Academic accommodations included working with faculty and instructors so that a student could make up missed assignments, participation and attendance points; altering final exam schedules; and granting alternate class attendance and participation. Students who experience sexual and relationship violence sometimes experience anxiety and depression that may make it difficult to attend classes and take exams. Additionally, when Complainants experience discrimination by another student, they are often unable to attend classes in which the Respondent may be present, and the Complainant may request a No Contact Order.¹⁰ (Although No Contact Orders were issued by the Title IX Coordinator, they were issued as part of an investigation rather than in lieu of investigation). Students also request that the Title IX Coordinator facilitate housing changes if the Complainant feels unsafe in his or her on-campus housing as a result of the reported discrimination. This accommodation was made twice, accounting for 3% of the accommodations.

The Title IX Coordinator also connects both Complainants *and* Respondents to services. Most frequently, the Title IX Coordinator refers Complainants to the VPR Office where members of the UMKC community can receive crisis intervention and advocacy services. If a Complainant or Respondent expresses the desire to seek mental healthcare, the Office refers individuals to ongoing mental healthcare providers, including the Counseling Center and the Employee Assistance Program. The Title IX Coordinator, through the VPR Office, has also facilitated meetings between law enforcement officers and individuals seeking to make police reports. **Forty-two (42)** referrals were made, accounting for 55% of the accommodations made by the office.

¹⁰ A No Contact Order is a letter issued by the Title IX Coordinator to the Complainant and Respondent which mandates the parties to cease all contact (in person, physical, electronic). The directive also warns the recipient that any contact in violation of the letter could be considered a violation under University policy.

XII. The Equity Resolution Process

How Reports of Sex Discrimination Were Resolved When the Complainant Pursued a Formal Complaint



o Formal Complaints

After information is reported to the Title IX Coordinator, the alleged victim must decide whether s/he wishes to move forward with a formal complaint pursuant to the University's Equity Resolution Process. A complaint provides the University with notice of a violation of the University's anti-discrimination policies, and officially requests the University to conduct an investigation into an alleged violation of University policy.

Formal complaints may contain the following elements:

- A statement of the alleged policy violation;
- Name of the accused student or student organization;
- Date the alleged policy violation occurred;
- Request for a specific resolution process (informal, formal or conflict resolution); and
- A list of witnesses.

There is no requirement that an alleged victim pursue a formal complaint. However, the University reserves the right to pursue a complaint even when an alleged victim chooses not to initiate an investigation or participate in the Equity Resolution Process.¹¹ As a result, the Title IX Coordinator may elect to pursue an investigation when a Complainant has not filed a complaint or requested an investigation. In these circumstances, the Title IX Coordinator deliberates thoroughly prior to initiating an investigation and will only do so when an investigation is necessary to:

- Protect the University community or others; and
- Provide a safe and non-discriminatory environment for all students, faculty and staff.

Even if an investigation is not pursued, the Title IX Coordinator endeavors to take steps to limit the effects of the alleged discrimination and prevent its recurrence, such as training and education.

When the Title IX Coordinator receives a formal complaint, or the Title IX Coordinator elects to pursue an investigation, one or two Title IX investigators are promptly assigned to conduct an impartial investigation. ***During the Reporting Period, the Office received 15 formal complaints. The Title IX Coordinator did not proceed with an investigation and resolution without an individual filing a formal complaint.***

○ **Preliminary Investigation and Investigation**

Upon receipt of a report, a Title IX Coordinator conducts a preliminary investigation to gather enough information to refer the matter to an appropriate resolution process, provide interim remedies as needed, address any concerns regarding confidentiality, and assess any requests that an investigation not be pursued. If a Complainant or the University wishes to pursue further investigation, then such investigation will continue until all relevant information is obtained.

Title IX investigators are committed to conducting thorough, reliable and impartial investigations, which include relevant physical and electronic evidence, as well as detailed interviews with relevant parties and witnesses. The parties are allowed to have an advisor of their choice present with them for all Equity Resolution Process interviews, meetings and proceedings, and each party has an equal opportunity to present a list of potential witnesses and evidence.

Investigations of reported misconduct are typically completed within 30 business days of notice to the Title IX Coordinator, though investigations may take longer in complex cases. Additionally, in cases where criminal charges are being pursued for the same behaviors, the University may undertake a short delay in its investigation. When an allegation of sex or gender discrimination is reported to the Title IX Coordinator that also alleges a violation of the Standard of Conduct (200.010), the Title IX investigators also will investigate and resolve the related conduct violations. For example, if the Title IX Coordinator receives a report of stalking on the basis of sex and vandalism, and the vandalism is related to the stalking allegations, then the Title IX Coordinator will investigate the related vandalism. ***As of October 31, 2015, there was one ongoing Title IX investigation.***

¹¹ See Section 200.025.C of the University of Missouri Collected Rules and Regulations.

○ **Summary Resolution**

After the Title IX investigators complete an investigation, the Title IX Coordinator reviews the investigation and may meet with the investigators for clarification regarding information gathered during the investigation.

Next, the Title IX Coordinator makes a decision on whether, based on the evidence gathered, the complaint should move to the resolution phase. The Title IX Coordinator will direct the complaint to move to the resolution phase if a **reasonable person** could, based on the evidence gathered, find the accused individual responsible for violating University policy. The Title IX Coordinator will use the **preponderance of the evidence standard**, which means that the Coordinator determines that it is more likely than not that a reasonable person could find the Respondent responsible (culpable) for violating University policy. If the Title IX Coordinator determines that the complaint should move to the resolution phase, the complaint will be resolved through one of three processes: conflict resolution, informal resolution, or formal resolution.

On three occasions during the Reporting Period, the Title IX Coordinator determined, after evaluating the respective investigation, that a complaint should not move forward to the resolution phase. It should be noted that each of these Summary Resolutions involved complaints by faculty members, staff members or applicants for employment against UMKC faculty and staff members. On these occasions, the Complainant still received accommodations from the OAA and was referred to on-campus resources and services. The Title IX Coordinator has not issued a Summary Resolution in any cases involving student complaints.

○ **Conflict Resolution**

This method of resolution is often used for less serious, yet inappropriate behaviors. Complaints may be resolved using the conflict resolution process if the parties agree. The conflict resolution process consists of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation, facilitated dialogue or restorative justice. Conflict resolution will only be utilized if the Title IX Coordinator or investigator determines that conflict resolution is appropriate. In making a determination of appropriateness, the Title IX Coordinator or investigator considers:

- The willingness of the parties;
- The nature of the conduct at issue;
- The susceptibility of the conduct to conflict resolution;
- That mediation is never utilized in cases involving allegations of nonconsensual sexual intercourse or nonconsensual sexual contact; and
- That conflict resolution is typically not the primary resolution mechanism used to address complaints of sexual misconduct or violent behavior of any kind, or in other cases of serious violations of policy.

Sanctions and appeals are not possible as a result of a conflict resolution process, though the parties may agree to appropriate remedies. The OAA keeps records of any resolution that is reached, and failure to abide by the resolution can result in appropriate responsive actions, which could be disciplinary actions or agreed upon sanctions.

It is not necessary to pursue conflict resolution prior to pursuing either informal or formal resolution, and either party can stop the conflict resolution process at any time and request either the informal or the formal resolution process. ***The Title IX Coordinator utilized conflict resolution to address one (1) report during the Reporting Period.***

XIII. Outcomes of Formal and Informal Resolutions

From February 1, 2015, through October 31, 2015, five complaints of sex discrimination against students were resolved using the University's informal or formal resolution processes. These processes are described in greater detail below. No complaints of sex discrimination against faculty or staff members were resolved using the University's informal or formal resolution processes.

○ Informal Resolution

The informal resolution process can be used only if both the Complainant and Respondent agree to this form of resolution. In the informal process, the Title IX Coordinator will make a decision of responsibility after reviewing the entire investigation, reading a written investigative report, and reviewing exhibits prepared by the Title IX investigators. The investigative report summarizes statements made by witnesses and evidence collected through an impartial investigation.

If, during the informal process, one of the parties requests the formal process (which utilizes a hearing panel), the complaint will be resolved using the formal process. After the Title IX Coordinator makes a determination of responsibility, the parties are promptly informed of the decision. ***During the Reporting Period, five complaints were resolved by informal resolution.***

○ Formal Resolution

In the formal resolution process, an Equity Resolution Hearing Panel (composed of three trained faculty and/or staff members) will conduct a formal hearing on campus. During the hearing, the Title IX investigators assigned to the case will serve as the main witnesses, presenting a report of the investigation to the panel. Both the Complainant and Respondent may serve as witnesses and/or call additional witnesses at the discretion of the Hearing Panel chair. The chair may ask questions of any witnesses and each party.

Complainants and Respondents may direct questions to each other through the chair. Both the Complainant and Respondent may have an advisor present with them during the hearing. If a Complainant or Respondent does not wish to attend the hearing in person, he or she can request alternative arrangements such as attendance by videoconference.

After the hearing, the Hearing panelists will make a finding of responsibility for each charged policy violation and prepare a written report detailing their findings, how each member voted, and the information cited by the Panel in support of its determination. ***During the Reporting Period, there were no instances of the formal resolution process being used.***

○ Appeals

Both parties are allowed to appeal the decision of the Equity Resolution Panel and the Title IX Coordinator, but only for the following reasons:

1. A procedural error that significantly impacted the outcome of the formal resolution, such as substantiated bias or material deviation from the established procedure;
2. To consider new evidence, unavailable during the original hearing that could substantially impact the original finding or sanction; or
3. The sanctions fall outside the range typically imposed:
 - For the offense (as determined by the appellate officer), or
 - For the cumulative conduct record of the accused.

All requests for appeal must be in writing and submitted to the appellate officer within three business days of the delivery of a written finding.

The appellate officer for the Student as Accused process is Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Mel Tyler. The appellate officer for the Staff as Accused process is Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Carol Hintz. The appellate officer for the Faculty as Accused Process is Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development Lawrence Dreyfus, and the alternate appellate officer for the Faculty as Accused process is Ellen Suni, Dean of the UMKC School of Law.

During the Reporting Period, the appellate officers did not overturn any findings of responsibility made by the Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, no students were expelled as a final result of the Equity Resolution Process.¹² When found responsible, Respondents were sanctioned by suspension from the University or other discretionary sanctions.

¹² One student did agree to voluntarily withdraw from the University of Missouri System on a permanent basis.

XIV. Conclusion

More Than Investigations – Accommodations, Education, and Prevention

We hope that this information is helpful to the UMKC Community in understanding the work of the Title IX Coordinator and the Office of Affirmative Action. During investigations and throughout the adjudication of matters, we make every effort to provide a fair process for everyone. The dispositions of the investigations undertaken during the Reporting Period reflect these efforts.

While investigation is an important responsibility of the OAA, Title IX staff members also work to provide Complainants with support, interim remedies, and accommodations. For students, this means that we help with their housing, academics or employment needs. For employees, we can provide support related to the workplace. We also refer individuals to relevant campus and community resources, including advocacy, counseling, and medical resources.

In addition to providing accommodations, the OAA and the Violence Prevention and Response (VPR) Office are committed to proactively engaging in prevention and education efforts to help stop sex discrimination and sex-based violence from occurring in the first place. Through these efforts, we have the opportunity to help change campus culture.

During the Reporting Period, the OAA and VPR Office gave more than 40 presentations, workshops or seminars, reaching at least 4,000 individuals, including key student, faculty and staff leaders. These presentations focused on sex-based violence, bystander intervention, students' rights and options, and the resources available on campus. We are continuing to provide programming throughout campus, including programs for Residential Life, Greek Life, Athletics, diverse student organizations, New Student Orientation, faculty and staff.

The OAA also forged partnerships and developed strong working relationships with other campus stakeholders who play lead roles in education and prevention efforts, such as the VPR Office and the Women's Center. We have partnered with the VPR Office on a number of presentations and events and are supportive of the VPR Office's bystander intervention education program – Green Dot. Further, the University required all employees to complete an online module describing employees' responsibility to report sex discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator – in other words, their obligation to connect students with a central campus resource. More than 90 percent of UMKC employees have completed the online module.

During the Spring 2015 semester, the OAA and the VPR Office selected a new video-based program for UMKC called *Not Anymore*, which provides baseline education to students on sexual assault, consent, intimate partner violence, stalking and bystander intervention techniques. Starting in the Spring of 2015, all students were required to take the *Not Anymore* training. As of the end of the Reporting Period, more than 72 percent of UMKC students had completed the training. Both the OAA and the VPR Office are facilitating follow-up, in-person discussions about *Not Anymore* with students across campus.

Our education and prevention efforts are ongoing. Through our outreach, we strive to help make UMKC a safer, more inclusive community. We encourage you to invite the OAA and/or VPR Office to meet with your organization, class, department or division.