



Policy of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina Concerning Improper Relationships between Students and Employees

The University of North Carolina does not condone amorous relationships between students and employees. Members of the University community should avoid such liaisons, which can harm affected students and damage the integrity of the academic enterprise. Further, sexual relationships between unmarried persons can result in criminal liability. In two types of situations, University prohibition and punishment of amorous relationships is deemed necessary: (1) when the employee is responsible for evaluating or supervising the affected student, (2) when the student is a minor as defined by North Carolina law.

The following policies shall apply to all employees and students of the seventeen constituent institutions.

A. Prohibited Conduct

1. It is misconduct, subject to disciplinary action, for a University employee, incident to any instructional, research, administrative, or other University employment responsibility or authority, to evaluate or supervise any enrolled student of the institution with whom he or she has an amorous relationship or to whom he or she is related by blood, law, or marriage.
2. It is misconduct, subject to disciplinary action, for a University employee to engage in sexual activity with any enrolled student of the institution, other than his or her spouse, who is a minor below the age of 18 years.

B. Definition of Terms

1. "Amorous relationship." An amorous relationship exists when, without the benefit of marriage, two persons as consenting partners (a) have a sexual union or (b) engage in a romantic partnering or courtship that may or may not have been consummated sexually.
2. "Related by blood, law, or marriage" means:
 - a. Parent and child
 - b. Brother and sister
 - c. Grandparent and grandchild
 - d. Aunt and/or uncle and niece and/or nephew
 - e. First cousins
 - f. Step-parent and step-child
 - g. Husband and wife
 - h. Parents-in-law and children-in-law
 - i. Brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law
 - j. Guardian and ward

3. "Evaluate or supervise" means

- a. To assess, determine, or influence (1) one's academic performance, progress, or potential or (2) one's entitlement to or eligibility for any institutionally conferred right, benefit, or opportunity
- b. To oversee, manage, or direct one's academic or other institutionally prescribed activities

C. Corrective Action

Violations of the provisions of Section A shall be addressed in accordance with remedial measures prescribed by each constituent institution; if disciplinary action is brought against an affected employee, it shall be conducted in accordance with existing institutional policies and procedures prescribed for prosecuting misconduct charges against members of the class of employment of which the affected employee is a member.

Any act by a University employee or student of reprisal, interference, restraint, penalty, discrimination, coercion, retaliation, or harassment against an employee or student for using the applicable policies responsibly interferes with free expression and openness and violates University policy. Accordingly, members of the University community are prohibited from acts of reprisal and/or retaliation against those who file complaints, are involved as witnesses, or otherwise try to responsibly use University policies.

Any person having a complaint or inquiry regarding the Board of Governor's Policy of the University of North Carolina Concerning Improper Relationships Between Students and Employees should contact LaKesha Alston, Associate Provost for Equity and Diversity and Title IX Coordinator, in the Office for Equity and Diversity, Suite G-406 Old Cafeteria Building. Telephone: 252-328-6804. Internet: www.ecu.edu/oed.