

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE OFFICE FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

In the wake of the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights' withdrawal of its 2016 Transgender Dear Colleague Letter, its 2011 Sexual Violence Dear Colleague Letter, and its 2014 Question and Answer document on Sexual Violence, members of our community may understandably be concerned what the practical effect of these actions are for transgender students and employees here at the University of Virginia. **The University's Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights (EOCR), which includes the University's Title IX team, wants to reassure transgender students and employees that you are welcomed and valued members of our community. Most importantly, the withdrawal of these documents did NOT change existing University policy,** which clearly provides that discrimination or harassment based on sex/gender or gender identity, including such actions taken against transgender members of our community, runs directly counter to our University's values of respect, diversity, and inclusion and violates University policy.

For questions regarding the University's Notice of Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Statement or Preventing and Addressing Discrimination and Harassment Policy (the PADH Policy), please contact EOCR staff at (434) 924-3200 or by email to uvaeocr@virginia.edu. For questions regarding the University's Policy on Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence Policy (the Title IX Policy), please contact EOCR Title IX staff at (434) 297-7988 or by email to titleixcoordinator@virginia.edu. More information about these policies, which are specifically designed to protect students and employees, including those who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Questioning, can be found at <http://eocr.virginia.edu>.

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