

International Students FAQs

For International Students Studying in Oklahoma

- U.S. customs, rules and policies may differ from the customs of your nation. Some helpful advice and tips concerning gender-related issues and University policies for students studying at the University of Oklahoma may be found at:
 - <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs-for-students.html>
- All students, including international students, must complete the sexual misconduct on-line training addressing the University's Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination and Harassment Policy:
 - <https://onpoint.ou.edu> for Norman based programs
 - <https://onpoint.ouhsc.edu> for HSC based programs
- Some specific scenarios related to international students may also prove helpful to you in understanding the University's policy. Please see:
<http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs-for-students.html>
- What issues arise with respect to international students and undocumented students who experience sexual violence?

Answer: Title IX protects all students at recipient institutions in the United States regardless of national origin, immigration status, or citizenship status. Title IX's protections include protection from any form of gender-based discrimination, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault/misconduct, nonconsensual sexual contact, stalking, dating/domestic violence, discrimination based on gender, and discrimination based on sexual orientation. Title IX also protects individuals who file a complaint or are a witness to a complaint from any form of retaliation. Additionally, individuals who are pregnant and have pregnancy-related issues may receive reasonable adjustments to their coursework similarly to those individuals who have temporary disabilities. Please see the policies and FAQ's noted on www.ou.edu/eoo for more information or contact the Title IX Office at 405-325-2215 or email at ieo@ou.edu if you need any further assistance.

Immigration Status for Victims:

- U Nonimmigrant Status:** The U nonimmigrant status is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse as a result of the crime and where the victim cooperates with law enforcement in investigating/prosecuting the crime.
- T Nonimmigrant Status:** The T nonimmigrant status is available for victims of severe forms of human trafficking who generally comply with a law enforcement agency's investigation/prosecution of the crime and who would suffer extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm if they were removed from the United States.
- Student Visas:** Most student visas require the student to retain a full-time course load (generally at least 12 credit hours per semester). If a student who has experienced sexual assault attempts to drop his/her course load below 12 credit hours without prior approval from the International Student Services Designated School Official, his/her visa status could be revoked. If

- What issues arise if an international student is found responsible for violating University policy?
Answer: It is important to note that the University has policies against gender-based discrimination, including but not limited to gender-based harassment (online or in person), discrimination based on sexual orientation, stalking (online or in person), domestic/dating violence, sexual assault/misconduct, and nonconsensual sexual contact. These policies are separate and distinct from any criminal penalties or charges to which the accused student could be subject. The University investigates claims of gender-based harassment/sexual misconduct from an administrative perspective and determines whether more likely than not a policy violation has occurred. If a policy violation is found, the accused individual can receive a sanction up to and including suspension or expulsion. The suspension/expulsion commences once the accused student have been found responsible for the incident and could result in your visa being jeopardized. Please contact International Student Services for more information 405-325-3337.

- So long as you have a University of Oklahoma affiliation or intend to return to the University of Oklahoma, the University's policies, including its Student Code of Conduct, Professionalism Code, and Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination and Harassment Policy apply to you even when you are studying abroad.
- All students must complete the University's sexual misconduct on-line training at:
 - <https://onpoint.ou.edu> for Norman based programs
 - <https://onpoint.ouhsc.edu> for HSC based programs
- Students are encouraged to review the tips and guidelines noted by the U.S. Department of State for students studying abroad. Very different customs may be associated with a variety of issues U.S. citizens take as the norm. For example, ensuring you have a full understanding of what consent is for consensual relations in different countries.
 - Please see <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/> for more information and discussion of customs and norms as well as recommendations on how to keep yourself safe when abroad.
- Students are encouraged to consult the U.S. Embassy website for the country in which they are traveling for helpful information assistance and resources if they are a victim of a crime.
www.usembassy.gov