

Title IX Compliance Reviews – NSF FAQ

1. Is the NSF conducting Title IX compliance reviews?
 - The GAO report on Title IX (2004) recommended that NASA, Energy, Education and NSF take actions to ensure that compliance reviews of grantees are conducted as required by Title IX.
 - See highlights of the report (GAO-04-639) at: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04639high.pdf>
 - NSF is currently participating in an effort to develop procedures for the coordination of compliance reviews amongst the other science agencies covered in the report (i.e., Department of Education, Department of Energy, and NASA). We take our responsibilities under Title IX seriously, and are confident that our efforts in this regard will continue to promote the participation of women in the sciences.
2. What is Title IX and does it apply to the sciences?
 - Title IX of the Education Amendments was enacted in 1972. Since then, all institutions receiving federal assistance for educational programs or activities have been obligated to protect against discrimination on the basis of sex. The law has mostly been applied to equity in sports. However, its text addresses all educational resources, programs and activities.
 - For more information, see the Title IX page of the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Coordination and Review Section at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/cor/coord/titleix.htm>
 - The text of the law is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/cor/coord/titleixstat.htm>
3. What is a compliance review?
 - Federal agencies, including NSF, are required to maintain an effective program of compliance reviews to ensure that institutions receiving federal funding are complying with federal civil rights laws, including Title IX.
 - Compliance reviews can be large and complex, or more limited in scope. They are a type of investigation that proceeds according to some kind of investigatory plan. A limited review might be comprised of an agency requesting written information and records from a federal grant recipient. A larger or more complex review might be comprised of an agency actually visiting the grant recipient's site and interviewing students, employees and administrators.
4. Is there an agency working group? Who is on the working group? Does the public have input to this process?
 - The Department of Justice Civil Rights Division's Coordination and Review Section operates a comprehensive, government wide program of technical and legal assistance, training, interagency coordination, and regulatory, policy, and program review, to assure that federal agencies consistently and effectively enforce various landmark civil rights statutes and related Executive Orders that prohibit discrimination in federally assisted programs and in the federal government's own programs and activities. See the Department of Justice web site, Division of Civil Rights, for more information: <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/>

- NSF is currently participating in an effort to develop procedures for the coordination of compliance reviews amongst the other science agencies covered in the report (i.e., Department of Education, Department of Energy, and NASA).
 - All compliance reviews are conducted confidentially. The review process is not public.
 - For more information see DOJ's Title IX FAQ's at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/cor/coord/TitleIXQandA.htm>
5. When will there be an actual review? How can I find out what will happen to institutions that are reviewed?
- Like any other compliance review, the details are confidential.
 - Records pertaining to on-going reviews are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Post-review documentation, however, may be publicly available subject to applicable exemptions under the FOIA.
6. Are there statistics available about the status of women in science and engineering?
- Since 1981, NSF has collected and published statistics on the science and engineering workforce. (The Equal Opportunities for Women and Minorities Act of 1981 mandated that NSF report statistics on under-represented groups and initiate programs that foster more proportionate representation.)
 - See NSF's web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/> for reports, charts, tables, and a searchable database.
 - Another good source: National Center for Education Statistics, US Dept. of Education. 2000. Entry and Persistence of Women and Minorities in College Science and Engineering Education. NCES 2000-601 www.ed.gov

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