



## Budget Request Form FY2016

*Department should complete one form for each individual request*

**Department:** Offices of the Dean of Student Life (ODSL)

SAFAB Use Only	
YES	NO

**Program, Service, or Operation Requested**

*Title IX/Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Education and Prevention Student Development Specialist II – Student Conduct Investigator/Officer*

**General Description:**

This position would serve as an “expert investigator” responsible for the investigations of incidents involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Investigations involving these types of violations require specific procedures and specialized skills. This position will also be used to handle common, low level violations of the Student Conduct Code to alleviate caseloads of the full time Student Conduct staff and afford them the time needed for the more time-consuming panel conferences.

**Request Type:**     Full     Increase     One-Time     Partial/Matching

**Type of Funds Requested**     UAF     Other

**General Questions:**

***Why is this important to your department? How does this increase impact students, and what motivated this request?***

This request is important to ODSL given the Dean of Students’ role in being the point of contact for all student complaints and reports related to Title IX and VAWA issues and the individual who initiates investigations into incidents of sexual harassment and violence; ODSL is also the home of the Student Conduct Office which adjudicates the cases involving sexual harassment and sexual violence. A number of reports addressing the issue of sexual violence on college campuses (e.g., White House Sexual Assault Task Force: Not Alone) recommend the improvement of investigative and adjudicative protocols. In acquiring some of the responsibilities for these federal requirements where it comes to students, the ODSL wishes to not only meet the bare minimum but to truly adopt these initiatives.

***Is it part of your strategic plan? What will be the impact if it is not funded?***

This initiative is in line with every purpose statement in the Offices of the Dean of Student Life strategic plan:

- Providing space and resources for individual student populations.
- Providing programs and services for students at any time during their university experience.

- Educating families on how to support their students.
- Equipping students with knowledge and skills to make responsible decisions.
- Producing and distributing specialized publications.
- Providing individualized assistance and support for students and families in times of need.
- Collaborating and consulting with faculty/staff to address student issues.
- Establishing and maintaining relationships with internal and external stakeholders.

Should this position not be funded, the University runs the risk of failing to meet the expectations of Title IX and VAWA. Consequences for failing to be compliant with the guidelines not only jeopardize the University's budget through potential loss of federal funding and/or fines, but could also be damaging to students directly by not providing adequate services.

***How do other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered? Please explain.***

The federal mandates of Title IX and VAWA legislation have been unfunded and ODSL has been working to fulfill the mandates the first couple of years, since the release of the Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) of April 4, 2011, with our own resources—both financial and human. The office of the University's Title IX Coordinator had been approached for funding for educational materials within the past academic year but no specific funding has been allotted to ODSL at this time. There is some preliminary, informal discussion of returning to the Title IX Coordinator's Office and the Office of the President to request the allocation of funds for these mandates.

***What sort of input did you receive (student, faculty, staff, other) to determine this need?***

There is currently a committee, The Sexual Assault Survivors Services committee, composed of students, staff, and faculty. This committee has determined a number of needs regarding requirements and best practices related to these issues. Furthermore, administrative input has been sought primarily from the perspective that University and Student Affairs administrators have been supportive of the work and know the legal underpinnings that drive it. These administrators are also aware of the everyday work that ODSL performs to support students in all other areas of their lives thereby understanding the need for additional resources to accomplish current mandates.

Staff who currently work to support students, who find themselves involved in situations involving sexual harassment and sexual violence, are a constant and valuable source of feedback/input.

***What actions have you implemented internally to address the identified need?***

ODSL staff from various offices have all come together to provide the resources to fulfill the legislative guidance and mandates since April 4, 2011. Additionally, we have used staff from across the Division of Student Affairs to assist in the investigative process of these matters. We have used current staff and current financial resources to fill in the gaps over the past three years but each year requires more support from each area.

***Generally, what assessment tools will you use to evaluate this program/service?***

At this point, the Sexual Assault Survivors Services Committee has already implemented a climate survey related to sexual violence. The committee will be implementing a climate survey on an annual basis. Additionally, there will be assessment implemented for programs and services.

During investigator training and conduct panel member training (that we provide in-house), we ask for and receive feedback from the staff who conduct the investigations and those who use the investigative reports. Most recently, we have discussed the idea of soliciting feedback from students who have been directly involved in an incident of sexual harassment or violence with regard to the complaint, investigative and adjudication processes.

**Funding Description:**

	Dollar Amount
<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	
Student Conduct Investigator/Officer - SDS II (w/benefits)	\$47,500
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if applicable)</i>	
<b>TOTAL UAF INCREASE REQUEST</b>	<b>\$47,500.00</b>

SAFAB Comments/Notes: