



**CAMPUS SECURITY REPORT
2025**

Reporting Period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Murfreesboro
1303 Old Fort Parkway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

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The following is the annual Campus Security Report for Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Murfreesboro (TCAT-MURF) for calendar year 2023. The Student Services Office prepares this report to comply with the *Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act*. The report can also be accessed on the TCAT's web page at <https://tcatmurfreesboro.edu/about/safety-and-security>. This report contains security policies, procedures, and guidelines. Crime statistics for calendar years 2020-2022 are included in the report as Appendices A-C. These statistics are based on incidents reported at two (2) campus locations. You may request a paper copy of this report from the Student Services Office on the TCAT campus located at 1303 Old Fort Parkway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129.

Statement Concerning Law Enforcement (All Campuses)

Motlow State Community College Police Department assumed jurisdiction over the TCAT on July 17, 2023. Officers employed by the Motlow State Community College Police Department are commissioned officers with full police powers on the TCAT campus and certain other areas. Security officers, unless they are off-duty police officers, are not armed and do not have arrest authority. The contact information for the Motlow State Community College Police Department is (931) 393-1737; 6015 Ledford Mill Road, Tullahoma, TN 37388.

Prior to the Motlow State Community College Police Department assuming jurisdiction, the local law enforcement agency listed below had jurisdiction over the TCAT. The TCAT maintains a close working relationship with local law enforcement agencies and may work with such agencies as deemed necessary in the event that criminal activity occurs or is suspected. The following is a list of TCAT campuses along with the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over each one:

TCAT – Murfreesboro – Main Campus	TCAT – Murfreesboro – Smyrna Campus
Murfreesboro Police Department 1004 North Highland Avenue Murfreesboro, TN 37130 (615) 893-1311	Smyrna Police Department 400 Enon Springs Road East Smyrna, TN 37167 (615) 459-6644

How to Report Criminal Offenses [34 CFR §668.46(b)(2)] (All Campuses)

To report an emergency, always dial 911. To report a crime to the Motlow State Community College Police Department, call (931) 393-1737. You may also contact the local law enforcement agency at the phone numbers listed below depending on your campus location. Any suspicious activity or person seen in the parking lots or loitering around vehicles and inside buildings may also be reported to one of the Campus Security Authorities listed below.

The TCAT will, to the extent possible, complete publicly available record-keeping, including Clery reporting, without providing personally identifying information about the victim.

Local Law Enforcement Agency Contacts by Campus Location:

Murfreesboro Campus	Murfreesboro Police Department	(615) 893-1311
Smyrna Campus	Smyrna Police Department	(615) 459-6644

Campus Security Authorities:

In addition to reporting crimes to the Motlow State Community College Police Department or local law enforcement, a crime may be reported to a college campus security authority (CSA). The CSAs for the TCAT are listed below:

Murfreesboro Campus & Smyrna Campus

Deltra Fowlkes, Human Resources Coordinator, deltra.fowlkes@tcatmurfreesboro.edu, 615-898-8010, ext. 121

Erica Geisler, Student Services Specialist, erica.geisler@tcatmurfreesboro.edu, 615-898-8010, ext. 131

Emergency Notifications and Timely Warning Notices [34 CFR §668.46(b)(2)(i)] (All Campuses)

The TCAT will issue an emergency notification in the event of an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees occurring on campus. Examples include a building fire, hazardous material spill affecting a large area, tornado or other severe weather event, or an active shooter on campus.

The TCAT will issue a timely warning notice to the campus community in a timely manner of specific crimes that occurred on campus. The purpose of a timely warning notice is to offer safety tips and information to aid in the prevention of similar crimes. A timely warning notice will not be issued for the circumstances that led to issuance of an emergency notification.

Process for Confirmation

The President of the institution (or designee in the President's absence) is responsible for confirming emergencies or dangerous situations after receiving input from knowledgeable sources pertaining to the situation at hand. Once confirmed, the President will issue orders to release emergency notifications and/or timely warning notices as needed. In addition to the President, the following individuals may be involved in the decision whether to issue timely warning notifications and/or emergency notifications, as well as the preparation and dissemination of the notifications.

Ray Higginbotham, Director of Public Safety, Motlow State Community College

All employees have the ability to contact the President directly with information related to emergencies and dangerous situations, or information may be submitted to the CSAs identified above.

Decisions to Notify Certain Campuses

The TCAT will notify students, employees, and staff based on the assessed need. In the case of large segments of the TCAT population being affected, notifications may be made to all campuses. Notifications may be made to individual campuses when conditions causing the notice are localized; however, a continuing assessment of situations may warrant additional notifications to other segments of the community.

Content of Notifications

The President or the President's senior staff designee will determine what information will be contained in notifications; depending on the segments being affected, notifications may vary between targets.

Means of Communication

Notifications will be disseminated using methods likely to reach members of the campus community. Those include electronic communication (email, text, cell), public address systems, or via alarms based on the timeliness of need for the message being communicated.

Timeliness

The TCAT will inform the community of a confirmed significant emergency or dangerous situation in a timely manner (as soon as pertinent information is available). The institution will take into consideration the safety of the community, will determine the content of any notifications, and will initiate the notification system. The institution may withhold a notification in situations where the professional judgment of responsible authorities indicates that issuing a notification will compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency.

Emergency Response and Evacuation Procedures [34 CFR §668.46(b)(13)]

The TCAT maintains at least one version of an Emergency Preparedness Response Guide. The plan is easily recognizable in a red flip book located in a centralized area for faculty, staff, and student access. The Guide contains Emergency Response Plans, Emergency Notifications, Medical Emergency Plan, Active Shelter Protocol, Floor Plans, Evacuation Routes and Safe Places.

The Guide is also available on at <https://tcatmurfreesboro.edu/about/safety-and-security>.

In the event of a serious incident that poses an immediate threat to members of the TCAT community, the TCAT has various systems in place for communicating information quickly. Some or all of these methods of communication may be activated in the event of an immediate threat to

the campus community. These methods of communication include text, phone, email, TCAT website, and social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn).

The TCAT will, taking into account the safety of the community, determine the content of the notification and initiate the notification system, unless issuing a notification will, in the professional judgment of responsible authorities, compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency.

The TCAT conducts emergency preparedness drills to test the emergency response and evacuation procedures of each facility at all campuses on an annual basis. The results of each of these drills are recorded documenting the date, time, and whether it was an announced or unannounced drill.

Preparation of Disclosure of Crime Statistics [34 CFR §668.46(b)(1) and (b)(2)(ii)] (All Campuses)

The Student Services Office prepares this report to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act. Copies of the crime statistics for the reporting period covered under this report have been included as Appendix A-C of this report. The statistics contained in this report are prepared in cooperation with the Motlow State Community College Police Department and local law enforcement agencies surrounding our main campus and alternate sites. Campus crime, arrest, and referral statistics include those reported to the campus security authorities and local law enforcement agencies when reported to the TCAT. Upon completion of the Annual Security Report, an e-mail notification is made to all enrolled students, faculty and staff that provide the website to access this report. Copies of the report may also be obtained from the Student Services Office, 1303 Old Fort Parkway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129; 615-898-8010.

Voluntary Confidential Reporting of Crimes [34 CFR §668.46(b)(2)(iv)] (All Campuses)

The TCAT encourages anyone who is the victim or witness or has knowledge of any crime to promptly report the incident to one of the Campus Security Authorities described above. The confidentiality of persons reporting criminal activity can be requested and will be respected when possible but cannot be assured, as police reports for closed cases are generally available under the Tennessee Public Records Act. The annual crime statistics do not include personally identifiable information.

Security and Access [34 CFR §668.46(b)(3)] (All Campuses)

During business hours, the college will be open to students, parents, employees, contractors, guests and invitees. During non-business hours access to all college facilities is by key or access card, if issued. Some facilities may have individual hours, which may vary at different times of the year. In these cases, the facilities will be secured according to schedules developed by the person responsible for the facility. Emergencies may necessitate changes or alterations to any posted schedules.

The TCAT examines security issues such as landscaping, locks, alarms, lighting, and communications. Any maintenance needs are reported to the Mark Gendreau, Facilities Coordinator. Any identified security concern will be evaluated by Mike Simmons, Safety Officer.

Memorandum of Understanding/Mutual Aid Agreement with Local Law Enforcement [34 CFR §668.46(b)(4)(i and ii)] (All Campuses)

The Motlow State Community College Police Department and TCAT staff at each campus location maintains a close working relationship with their local law enforcement agencies. There is not a written memorandum of understanding between the TCAT and law enforcement agencies.

Encouragement of Accurate and Prompt Crime Reporting [34 CFR §668.46(b)(4)(iii)] (All Campuses)

The campus community (students, faculty and staff), as well as others, are encouraged to report any criminal behavior or suspected criminal acts promptly to the Motlow State Community College Police Department, to a local law enforcement agency identified above, or to a Campus Security Authority identified above. In the event an emergency is occurring, call 911 to obtain immediate assistance from local law enforcement, and then contact a CSA. It is a core objective of the TCAT to maintain a safe environment for the entire campus population and visitors. To help achieve this goal, each person is encouraged to promptly and accurately report criminal activity.

Security Awareness Programs for Students and Employees [34 CFR §668.46(b)(5) and (6)] (All Campuses)

During orientation, staff and students are informed of the need to exercise personal safety and help maintain security at the TCAT. Once enrolled in class, all students receive a program orientation that promotes personal security and safety. Using common sense safety practices such as walking in groups, reporting suspicious activities, keeping money, books and other personal items protected, locking car and office doors when leaving, observing speed limits and generally being alert to personal welfare will ensure personal safety on and off campus.

TCAT Murfreesboro faculty, staff, and students participate in shelter in place drills every other trimester and fire drills in the alternate trimesters. Further, TCAT Murfreesboro faculty and staff participate in annual Active Shooter training.

The TCAT provides information on how to prevent crime through a prevention of workplace violence policy, firearms and other weapons policy, bystander intervention strategies, and risk reduction strategies. These resources are available on the school's web site or through training available on the website.

Monitoring Off-campus Student Organizations [34 CFR §668.46(b)(7)] (All Campuses)

The TCAT does not have officially recognized student organizations with off-campus locations.

Alcohol Awareness and Illegal Drugs [34 CFR §668.46(b)(8) & (b)(9)] (All Campuses)

TCAT students and employees are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, use of or being under the influence of illicit drugs as defined in the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 812 and/or alcohol on any TCAT campus, property owned or controlled by the TCAT, or as part of any TCAT activity. The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on property owned or controlled by the college is prohibited, except as provided in TBR Policy 1.07.00.05, General Policy on Alcoholic Beverages. Students are subject to TBR Policy 3.02.00.01, General Policy on Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions.

Violation of TCAT policies is grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including discharge of an employee and permanent dismissal of a student. Federal and state laws provide additional penalties for such unlawful activities, including fines and imprisonment, as do some local ordinances. See 21 U.S.C. § 812, T.C.A. § 39-6-401 et seq.

It is unlawful for any person under the age of twenty-one (21) to buy, possess, transport (unless in the course of his or her employment), or consume alcoholic beverages, wine or beer, such offenses being classified as Class A misdemeanors punishable by imprisonment for not more than 11 months, 29 days, or a fine of not more than \$2,500, or both. (T.C.A. § 1-3-113 and T.C.A. § 57-5-301). It is further an offense to provide alcoholic beverages to any person under the age of twenty-one (21), such offense being classified a Class A misdemeanor. (T.C.A. § 39-15-404). The offense of public intoxication is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of not more than 30 days or a fine of not more than \$50, or both. (T.C.A. § 39-17-310).

Policy Statement Addressing Substance Abuse Education [34 CFR §668.46(b)(10)]

A. General

Drug and Alcohol Awareness

The TCAT is committed to raising the awareness of students and employees of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol.

A synopsis of those health risks is presented below.

B. Alcohol

Alcoholism is a complex, progressive disease that interferes with health, social and economic functioning. Untreated alcoholism results in physical incapacity, permanent mental damage and/or premature death. Alcohol is involved in one-third of all

suicides, one-half of all traffic accidents and one-fourth of all other accidents and is involved in over 50% of all arrests. Alcohol is the third leading cause of birth defects involving mental retardation. Use during pregnancy may cause spontaneous abortion, various birth defects or fetal alcohol syndrome. Drinking is implicated in cancer, heart disease, gastrointestinal disease and other illnesses. Alcoholism has been estimated to reduce life expectancy by twelve years. Alcohol Beverage can damage all body organs, leading to liver, heart and digestive problems, circulatory system interference, change in personality, reproductive problems and central nervous system disorder such as poor vision, loss of coordination, memory loss, loss of sensation, mental and physical disturbances and permanent brain damage. The physical and psychological changes that occur as a result of addiction to alcohol can pave the way for addiction to pharmacologically similar drugs.

C. Illicit Drugs

The use of illicit drugs results in many of the health risks that are involved with alcohol use. Illicit drug use increases the risk of mental deterioration, death from overdose, physical and mental dependence or addiction, hepatitis and skin infections from needle use, psychotic reactions, inducement to take stronger drugs, brain damage, danger of flashback phenomenon, hallucinations, unconsciousness, deep depression, distortion of time and space, permanent damage to lungs, brain, kidneys and liver, death from suffocation or choking, anemia, amnesia, AIDS and other infections. If used excessively, the use of alcohol and drugs singly or in certain combinations may cause death.

D. Counseling, Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs

The Student Services Coordinator (for students) and the Human Resources Coordinator (for employees) will assist students and/or employees by providing information concerning treatment resources in the surrounding area and assisting individuals in making initial contact with treatment providers. Regular employees may also use the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) by calling 1-855-437-3486 or on the web at <https://Here4TN.com>. Information concerning the EAP is available from Human Resources.

Sexual Misconduct [34 CFR §668.46(b)(11)] (All Campuses)

Sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. The TCAT is committed to eliminating any and all acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination on its campuses. A copy of the Sexual Misconduct Policy is contained in Appendix D and may also be found in the TCAT Handbook at <https://tcatmurfreesboro.edu/student-handbook/?page-id=4000>.

Sexual Misconduct Educational Programs And Campaigns [34 CFR §668.46(b)(11)(i)]

The TCAT engages in comprehensive online educational programming to prevent sexual misconduct. Educational programming consists of primary prevention and awareness programs for all incoming students and new employees and ongoing awareness and prevention campaigns for students, staff, and faculty that:

1. Identifies domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking as prohibited conduct;
2. Defines what behavior constitutes domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking;
3. Defines what behavior and actions constitute consent to sexual activity;
4. Provides safe and positive options for bystander intervention that may be carried out by an individual to prevent harm or intervene when there is a risk of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking against a person other than the bystander;
5. Provides information on risk reduction so that students and employees may recognize warning signs of abusive behavior and how to avoid potential attacks.

New students participate in online training through Catharsis Productions, and faculty and staff participate in Report = Support training annually through Catharsis Productions.

Assistance for Victims of Sexual Misconduct: Rights and Options

A. Regardless of whether a victim elects to pursue a criminal complaint or whether the offense occurred on or off campus, the College will assist victims of sexual misconduct and will provide each victim with a written explanation of her/his rights as a member of the College.

B. Additionally, in the Tennessee court system, a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking has the following rights: the right to confer with the prosecution, right to be free from intimidation, harassment and abuse throughout the criminal justice system, the right to be present at all proceedings where the defendant has the right to be present, the right to be heard, when relevant, at all critical stages of the criminal justice process as defined by the General Assembly, the right to be informed of all proceedings, and of the release, transfer or escape of the accused or convicted person, the right to a speedy trial or disposition and a prompt and final conclusion of the case after the conviction or sentence, the right to restitution from the offender and the right to be informed of each of the rights established for victims. Information related to these rights may be found at <https://www.tn.gov/correction/redirect-agency-services/redirect-victim-services/tennessee-crime-victims--bill-of-rights/>

C. Protection from abuse orders may be available through <http://www.tncourts.gov/programs/self-help-center/forms/order-protection-forms> and additional information related to such orders may be found at <https://tncoalition.org/get-help/legal-services/>

D. The College does not publish the name of crime victims nor maintain identifiable information regarding victims in the Daily Crime Log or in the release of timely warnings.

Resources for Victims of Sexual Misconduct

The resources listed below are not exhaustive or limited to victims who wish to make an official report or participate in an institutional hearing, police investigation or criminal prosecution. However, in cases where a victim wishes to maintain complete confidentiality, the victim should review carefully the section “Reporting Confidentially” below related to the limits on the College’s ability to maintain confidentiality. Victims can seek information on treatment for injuries, preventative treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, and where and how to get a rape kit or find a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) from the resources listed in this section.

On campus resources

Erica Geisler Student Services Specialist, barry.owens@tcatmurfreesboro.edu, 615-898-8010, ext. 131, 1303 Old Fort Parkway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

On-line Resources

<http://tncoalition.org/> - State Coalition Against Rape

<http://tncoalition.org/> - State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

<http://www.thehotline.org/> - National Domestic Violence Hotline for victims of sexual or domestic violence, including support for women, LGBTQ, and minority individuals.

<http://www.rainn.org> – Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/information-victims-sexual-assault> -- Department of Justice

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html> -- Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights

Phone Number Resources:

Free National Resources

National Domestic Violence Hotline ----- 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

National Sexual Assault Hotline ----- 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

National Stalking Resources ----- 1-800-FYI-CALL (1-800-394-2255)

National Teen Dating Abuse ----- 1-866-331-9474

Local Resources

Crisis Pregnancy Support Center – 615-893-0228

Rape Recovery and Prevention Center – 615-494-9262 OR 615-494-9881

The Guidance Center – 615-893-0770 EMERGENCY 1-800-704-2651

Suicide Prevention and Crisis Prevention – 615-244-7444

Reporting Confidentially

If a victim chooses to report an incident of sexual misconduct in a confidential manner, the victim can report the incident to the following agency who employs licensed counselors and is required by Tennessee state law to maintain confidentiality of a victim:

Sexual Assault Center, Counseling & Education

101 French Landing Dr., Nashville, TN 37228; (615) 259-9055
24-hour hotline 1-866-811-7473.

1725-I Wilma Rudolph Blvd., Clarksville, TN 37040; (931) 241-4143
www.sacenter.org

Counselors and health care providers not affiliated with the institution will generally maintain confidentiality and not share information with the institution unless the Complainant requests the disclosure and signs a consent or waiver form. However, these resources may have reporting obligations under state or federal law. For example, healthcare providers and certain other individuals are required to notify law enforcement when a person seeks treatment for injuries related to a violent crime, including injuries resulting from Sexual Misconduct or abuse of a minor.

Additional information about confidential reporting of sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking can be found in the Sexual Misconduct Policy attached as Appendix D and available at <https://tcatmurfreesboro.edu/student-handbook/?page-id=4000>.

Role of Title IX Coordinator

A. The College's Title IX Coordinator is responsible for overseeing all Title IX incidents reported to the institution and for implementation of this policy, including but not limited to, identifying and addressing any systemic gender-based harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. The Title IX Coordinator's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Investigation or oversight of investigations of allegations related to Title IX;
2. Coordination and oversight of educational programs including mandatory training for new students and employees and awareness campaigns for current students and employees;
3. Coordination with local law enforcement on matters related to allegations related to sexual misconduct;

4. Coordination and oversight of training for anyone involved in responding to, investigating, or adjudicating sexual misconduct;
5. Coordination and oversight of training for employees related to their responsibility when they are aware of sexual misconduct;
6. Coordination and oversight of annual training for investigators, decision makers, hearing officers and hearing committee members on the issues related to sexual misconduct and on how to conduct an investigation and hearing process that protects the safety of Complainants and promotes accountability; and
7. Attending appropriate training annually on topics related to responding to or investigating allegations of sexual misconduct.

B. The Title IX Coordinator may designate deputies and investigators (“designees”) to assist in carrying out any of the responsibilities related to implementing this policy.

The Title IX Coordinator shall report at the beginning of each new school year, or any time there is a change in the assignment, to the System Office the name of and contact information for the College’s Title IX Coordinator.

Bystander Intervention and Risk Reduction

Helping prevent sexual harassment is everyone’s responsibility. Bystander intervention is one means of prevention and reducing risks. Bystander intervention essentially means interrupting problematic behavior. Bystanders can help prevent sexual harassment in a safe way by being involved before, during, or after a situation where an individual may make inappropriate jokes or comments, may make threats, or may behave in a way that is harmful to another person. Individuals are encouraged to review bystander tips and strategies published by national resources.

[Prevention Links | National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#)

<https://www.rainn.org/articles/practicing-active-bystander-intervention>
[Prevention Strategies | Violence Prevention | Injury Center | CDC](#)

Definitions [34 CFR §668.46(j)]

The TCAT prohibits Sexual Misconduct, which includes rape, fondling, incest, statutory rape, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Those terms are defined in the Sexual Misconduct policy (Appendix D) in accordance with federal Title IX and Clery Act regulations. The crime statistics reported in Appendices A-C are based on the Clery Act.

Crimes as defined by the Tennessee criminal code differ from the definitions in the Clery Act (and are not used for purposes of Clery Act reporting). Tennessee's criminal code includes the following definitions.

Stalking (T.C.A. § 39-17-315) is a willful course of conduct involving repeated or continuing harassment of another individual that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested, and that actually causes the victim to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested.

- A "Course of conduct" means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of two or more separate, noncontinuous acts evidencing a continuity of purpose, including, but not limited to, acts in which the defendant directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to a person, or interferes with a person's property.
- "Emotional distress" means significant mental suffering or distress that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.
- "Harassment" means conduct directed toward a victim that includes, but is not limited to, repeated or continuing unwanted contact that would cause a reasonable person to suffer emotional distress, and that actually causes the victim to suffer emotional distress. Harassment does not include constitutionally protected activity or conduct that serves a legitimate purpose.
- "Unwanted contact" means any contact with another person that is initiated or continued without that person's consent, or in disregard of that person's expressed desire that the contact be avoided or discontinued. Unwanted contact includes, but is not limited to, any of the following: (1) following or appearing within the sight of that person; (2) approaching or confronting that person in a public place or on private property; (3) appearing at that person's workplace or residence; (4) entering onto or remaining on property owned, leased, or occupied by that person; (5) contacting that person by telephone; (6) sending to that person mail or any electronic communications, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, text messages, or any other type of electronic message sent using the Internet, web sites, or a social media platform; or (7) placing an object on, or delivering an object to, property owned, leased, or occupied by that person.
- "Victim" means an individual who is the target of a willful course of conduct involving repeated or continuing harassment.

Sexual Assault is not specifically defined in the Tennessee Code, but several sexual offenses are defined.

- **Rape** (T.C.A. § 39-13-503) is the unlawful sexual penetration of a victim by the defendant or of the defendant by a victim accompanied by any of the following circumstances: (1) Force or coercion is used to accomplish the act; (2) The sexual penetration is accomplished without the consent of the victim and the defendant knows or has reason to know at the time of the penetration that the victim did not consent; (3) The defendant knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated or physically helpless; or (4) The sexual penetration is accomplished by fraud.
- **Sexual Battery** (T.C.A. § 39-13-505) is unlawful sexual contact with a victim by the defendant or the defendant by a victim accompanied by any of the following circumstances: (1) force or coercion is used to accomplish the act; (2) the sexual contact is accomplished without the consent of the victim and the defendant knows or has reason to know at the time of the contact that the victim did not consent; (3) the defendant knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated or physically helpless; or (4) the sexual contact is accomplished by fraud.
- **Statutory Rape** (T.C.A. § 39-13-506) is the unlawful sexual penetration of a victim by the defendant or of the defendant by the victim when: (1) the victim is at least thirteen but less than fifteen years of age and the defendant is at least four years but less than ten years older than the victim; or (2) the victim is at least fifteen but less than eighteen years of age and the defendant is more than five but less than ten years older than the victim.
- **Incest** (T.C.A. § 39-15-302) is sexual penetration as defined in T.C.A. § 39-13-501, with a person, knowing the person to be, without regard to legitimacy: (1) the person's natural parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, stepparent, stepchild, adoptive parent, adoptive child; or (2) the person's brother or sister of the whole or half-blood or by adoption.
- **Other sexual offenses** are included in T.C.A. § 39-13-501 through § 39-13-511.

Domestic Violence and **Dating Violence** are not defined in the Tennessee criminal code, but the **Domestic Assault** and domestic abuse victim (T.C.A. § 39-13-111) are defined as any person who falls within the following categories: (1) adults or minors who are current or former spouses; (2) adults or minors who live together or who have lived together; (3) adults or minors who are dating or who have dated or who have or had a sexual relationship, but does not include fraternization between two individuals in a business or social context; (4) adults or minors related by blood or adoption; (5) adults or minors who are related or were formerly related by

marriage; or (6) adult or minor children of a person in a relationship that is described in subdivisions (1)-(5).

- For purposes of these definitions, as defined in T.C.A. § 39-13-101 a person commits **Assault** who: (1) intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to another; (2) intentionally or knowingly causes another to reasonably fear imminent bodily injury; or (3) intentionally or knowingly causes physical contact with another and a reasonable person would regard the contact as extremely offensive or provocative.
- **Abuse** (T.C.A. § 36-3-601) means inflicting, or attempting to inflict, physical injury on an adult or minor by other than accidental means, placing an adult or minor in fear of physical harm, physical restraint, malicious damage to the personal property of the abused party, including inflicting, or attempting to inflict, physical injury on any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by an adult or minor, or placing an adult or minor in fear of physical harm to any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by the adult or minor.
- **Adult** means any person eighteen (18) years of age or older, or who is otherwise emancipated.

Consent is not specifically defined in the Tennessee criminal code, but with respect to most criminal offenses relating to sexual activity, sexual activity is criminal if: (1) the activity was accomplished without the consent of the victim and the defendant knows or has reason to know at the time of the activity that the victim did not consent; (2) force or coercion is used to accomplish the activity; (3) the defendant knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless; or (4) the sexual activity is accomplished by fraud.

- “Coercion” (T.C.A. § § 39-13-501(1)) means a threat of kidnapping, extortion, force, or violence to be performed immediately or in the future.
- “Mentally defective” (T.C.A. § § 39-13-501(3)) means that a person suffers from a mental disease or defect which renders that person temporarily or permanently incapable of appraising the nature of the person's conduct.
- “Mentally incapacitated” (T.C.A. § 39-13-501(4)) means that a person is rendered temporarily incapable of appraising or controlling the person's conduct due to the influence of a narcotic, anesthetic or other substance administered to that person without the person's consent, or due to any other act committed upon that person without the person's consent.
- “Physically helpless” (T.C.A. § 39-13-501(5)) means that a person is unconscious, asleep or for any other reason physically or verbally unable to communicate unwillingness to do an act.
- Consent is not relevant to sexual activity with a person under the age of eighteen (18) years of age because under Tennessee law a minor is not capable of consenting to sexual activity. Tennessee law, however, provides a close-in-age exception that allows minors

who are at least thirteen (13) and less than eighteen (18) to give consent to sexual acts with another person who is less than four (4) years older than the minor.

Sex Offender Registration [34 CFR §668.46(b)(12)] (All Campuses)

In accordance to the *Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act of 2000*, which amends the *Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act*, the *Jeanne Clery Act* and the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974*, the TCAT is providing a link to the Tennessee State Sex Offender Registry. This act requires institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement information provided by a State concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. It also requires sex offenders already required to register in a state to provide notice of each institution of higher education in that state at which the person is employed, carries a vocation, or is a student. Members of the campus community may obtain the most recent information received from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) concerning sex offenders employed, enrolled, or volunteering at this institution from the State of Tennessee's website listing of sex offenders located at <https://sor.tbi.tn.gov/home>.

Unlawful use of the information for purposes of intimidating or harassing another is prohibited and willful violation shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Appendix A: On-Campus Crime Statistics - Murfreesboro

	Location: Murfreesboro		
OFFENSE	2024 ON-CAMPUS PROPERTY	2023 ON-CAMPUS PROPERTY	2022 ON-CAMPUS PROPERTY
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	0
Arrests: Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals: Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Arrests: Drug Abuse Violations	2	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals: Drug Abuse Violations	0	0	0
Arrests: Liquor Law Violations	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals:	0	0	0

Liquor Law Violations			
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Appendix A: On-Campus Crime Statistics – Smyrna

	Location: Smyrna		
OFFENSE	2024 ON-CAMPUS PROPERTY	2023 ON-CAMPUS PROPERTY	2022 ON-CAMPUS PROPERTY
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0
Burglary	1	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	0
Arrests: Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals: Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Arrests: Drug Abuse Violations	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals:	0	0	0

Drug Abuse Violations			
Arrests:	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations			
Disciplinary Referrals:	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations			

Appendix B: Public Property Crime Statistics - Murfreesboro

	Location: Murfreesboro		
OFFENSE	2024 PUBLIC PROPERTY	2023 PUBLIC PROPERTY	2022 PUBLIC PROPERTY
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	1	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	0
Arrests: Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals: Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Arrests: Drug Abuse Violations	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals: Drug Abuse Violations	0	0	0
Arrests: Liquor Law Violations	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals:	0	0	0

Liquor Law Violations			
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Appendix B: Public Property Crime Statistics – Smyrna

	Location: Smyrna		
OFFENSE	2024 PUBLIC PROPERTY	2023 PUBLIC PROPERTY	2022 PUBLIC PROPERTY
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	0
Arrests: Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals: Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Arrests: Drug Abuse Violations	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals:	0	0	0

Drug Abuse Violations			
Arrests:	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations			
Disciplinary Referrals:	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations			

Appendix C: Non-Campus Crime Statistics - Murfreesboro

	Location: Murfreesboro		
OFFENSE	2024 NON-CAMPUS PROPERTY	2023 NON-CAMPUS PROPERTY	2022 NON-CAMPUS PROPERTY
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	0
Arrests: Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals: Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Arrests: Drug Abuse Violations	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals: Drug Abuse Violations	0	0	0
Arrests: Liquor Law Violations	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals:	0	0	0

Liquor Law Violations			
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Appendix C: Non-Campus Crime Statistics – Smyrna

	Location: Smyrna		
OFFENSE	2024 NON-CAMPUS PROPERTY	2023 NON-CAMPUS PROPERTY	2022 NON-CAMPUS PROPERTY
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0
Burglary	1	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	0
Arrests: Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals: Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Arrests: Drug Abuse Violations	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals:	0	0	0

Drug Abuse Violations			
Arrests:	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations			
Disciplinary Referrals:	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations			

Campus Sexual Misconduct Policy

TCAT Murfreesboro complies with [TBR Policy No. 6.03.00.00](#) regarding Sexual Misconduct. All other forms of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, are also strictly prohibited. Allegations that are not within the scope of this policy are subject to the procedures described in TBR Policies 6.01.00.00 & 6.02.00.00 and TBR Guideline P- 080 located at <https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/sexual-discriminationharassmentmisconduct>.

I. Prohibition of Sexual Misconduct and General Information

- A. Sexual Misconduct is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. TCAT Murfreesboro is committed to eliminating any and all acts of Sexual Misconduct. As set forth in this policy, Sexual Misconduct includes Title IX Sexual Harassment, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Sexual Assault. TCAT Murfreesboro strictly prohibits these offenses. For purposes of institutional policies, a reference to the institution includes the TBR System Office for any complaints, investigations, adjudications, and other proceedings that involve the TBR System Office.
 - 1. Because Sexual Misconduct is a subset of the broader category of sexual harassment, not all sexual harassment allegations will be handled according to this policy. Allegations of sexual harassment that do not fall within the more limited definition of Sexual Misconduct or otherwise do not meet the criteria for filing a Formal Complaint will be handled in accordance with TBR Guideline P-080 and institutional policy.
- B. With respect to allegations of Sexual Misconduct against faculty and staff in which a student is not the Complainant, additional laws and policies apply, most notably Title VII and anti-discrimination policies. In such situations and absent unusual circumstances, the Complainant may file a Formal Complaint pursuant to this policy or proceed pursuant to TBR Guideline P-080 and the appropriate institutional policy.
- C. With respect to allegations of Sexual Misconduct in which a student is either a Complainant or Respondent and meets the criteria for filing a Formal Complaint, absent unusual circumstances, pursuing a Formal Complaint pursuant to this policy will be the appropriate method of addressing the allegations.
- D. Upon receiving and assessing a report of Sexual Misconduct and/or sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will decide whether the criteria for proceeding under this policy are met and whether another policy may apply. If there is a possibility of proceeding pursuant to TBR Guideline P-080 and another institutional policy, the Title IX Coordinator will explain the options.
- E. In addition to conduct by students, faculty, and staff, this policy applies to conduct by third parties. An example of a third party is a vendor with whom the institution contracts to provide services.

- F. This policy applies to all students and employees, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. **Title IX Coordinator** Complaints of Sexual Misconduct (or any sexual harassment or sex discrimination) should be made to:

TCAT Murfreesboro Title IX Coordinator
Deltra Fowlkes
1303 Old Fort Pkwy., Murfreesboro, TN 37129
deltra.fowlkes@tcatmurfreesboro.edu
615-898-8010 ext. 121

A Deputy Title IX Coordinator has the same authority under this policy as the Title IX Coordinator.

II. Lack of Bias and Equitable Treatment

- A. Neither the Title IX Coordinator, any investigator, any decision-maker, any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process, nor anyone deciding an appeal will have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally, or against an individual Complainant or Respondent.
- B. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for appointing investigators, decision-makers, and appellate reviewers, and may appoint someone from another institution or someone not employed by a TBR institution in order to avoid potential bias or for other reasons. In the event of potential bias of the Title IX Coordinator, or if the Title IX Coordinator believes that another person should serve in that role for other reasons, the Title IX Coordinator should report the matter to TBR Central Office.
- C. TCAT Murfreesboro will provide a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation, adjudication, and, if applicable, disciplinary process. TCAT Murfreesboro will treat Complainants and Respondents equitably, which includes an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence, including both evidence that tends to prove or disprove the allegations.
- D. Credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.
- E. The investigation will proceed with a presumption that the Respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct unless and until a Determination of responsibility for a violation of this policy is made at the conclusion of the

decision-making process. The burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rests with the institution. The parties do not carry the burden of proof. It is the institution's responsibility to establish Sexual Misconduct by a preponderance of the evidence.

- F. The institution shall provide simultaneous written notification to the Parties of (1) any initial, interim, or final decision by an official authorized to resolve disciplinary matters, (2) any available appeal procedures for that decision, (3) any change to that decision, and (4) when that decision becomes final. The Parties will receive timely and equal access to information.

III. How to Report Sexual Misconduct

- A. TCAT Murfreesboro takes seriously all complaints of sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, and Sexual Misconduct. This section explains the various reporting, complaint, and confidential disclosure options available to enable individuals to make informed choices about where to turn should they experience sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, or Sexual Misconduct.
1. Sexual Misconduct should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator. Such a report can be made at any time, including during non-business hours, by using the telephone number or electronic mail address, or office mail address. The contact information for TCAT Murfreesboro's Title IX Coordinator is:

TCAT Murfreesboro Title IX Coordinator
Deltra Fowlkes
1303 Old Fort Pkwy., Murfreesboro, TN 37129
deltra.fowlkes@tcatmurfreesboro.edu
615-898-8010 ext. 121

 2. TCAT Murfreesboro recommends that reports and complaints of all Sexual Misconduct be made to the Title IX Coordinator so that the institution can respond appropriately. Although reports and complaints of Sexual Misconduct may be made at any time, reports should be made as soon as possible so that the institution is best able to address the allegation.
 3. TCAT Murfreesboro encourages anyone who witnesses, experiences, or has information about possible Sexual Misconduct to take reasonable actions to prevent or stop such actions. This may include speaking up while the behavior is taking place or immediately afterwards, reporting

the behavior (in accordance with the reporting options outlined in this policy), directly intervening when it is safe and reasonable to do so, contacting law enforcement, or other means. A person who has been subjected to any type of Sexual Misconduct need not confront the other Party. The appropriate process to address the conduct is through this or other applicable policy.

IV. Supportive and Interim Measures

- A. After receiving a report of potential Sexual Misconduct, whether or not the report is a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of Interim/Supportive Measures, inform the Complainant of their availability, and consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to potential Interim/Supportive Measures. The Title IX Coordinator will also explain the process for filing a Formal Complaint.
- B. The Title IX Coordinator, in conjunction with the appropriate department, may implement interim, supportive, or protective measures while assessing, investigating, and resolving the report. These Interim/Supportive Measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive, individualized services and are offered without fee or charge to the Complainant or Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Complaint or where no Formal Complaint has been filed. These measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the institution's programs or activities without unreasonably burdening the other Party and may include measures designed to protect the safety of all Parties or the institution's educational environment or deter Sexual Misconduct.
- C. These measures may include, but are not limited to: mutual no-contact directives; access to counseling services and assistance in setting up an initial appointment; changing schedules, assignments, or job/study locations to lessen or minimize contact; extensions of deadlines and course-related adjustments; limiting or barring an individual's or organization's access to certain institutional facilities or activities; providing an escort to ensure safe movement on campus; providing academic support services, such as tutoring; arranging for a Party to re-take a course or withdraw from a class without penalty; administrative leave; leave of absence; institution-imposed leave or physical separation from individuals or locations.
- D. TCAT Murfreesboro will attempt to maintain the confidentiality of such Interim/Supportive Measures, to the extent that it can do so without impairing its ability to effectuate the Interim/Supportive Measures or to investigate and adjudicate the complaint.

V. Formal Complaint

- A. Any person alleging to be a victim of Sexual Misconduct that took place within an education program or activity of TCAT Murfreesboro in the United States may file a Formal Complaint under this policy.

- B. A Complainant who wants TCAT Murfreesboro to conduct an investigation and take action in accordance with this policy must file a Formal Complaint alleging Sexual Misconduct.
- C. A Complainant must submit a written Formal Complaint in person, by mail, or via electronic mail to the Title IX Coordinator. The document must contain the Complainant's physical signature or a "digital signature." (A digital signature is information transmitted electronically that enables the Title IX Coordinator to determine that the Complainant is the person submitting the complaint, including, but not limited to, an email from their TCAT Murfreesboro institutional account or a typed version of the Complainant's name. A digital signature need not reproduce a written signature.) A Formal Complaint cannot be submitted anonymously. Only the Title IX Coordinator can submit a Formal Complaint on behalf of another person.
- D. Although TCAT Murfreesboro will attempt to consider the wishes of Complainants, including that no investigation be conducted, TCAT Murfreesboro will also consider their obligations under both TBR policy and applicable law, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Thus, when the Title IX Coordinator receives a report of Sexual Misconduct, and especially when the complaint involves an employee, the Title IX Coordinator may decide to investigate the matter pursuant to Guideline P-080 and institutional policy, even if the Complainant does not want the report investigated. If the Title IX Coordinator decides to file a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not a "Party" to any investigation, Determination or hearing process.
- E. Complainants should provide as much of the following information as possible: what happened, where, and when; names of all people involved, including witnesses (if any); supporting documentation (if any); and contact information. TCAT Murfreesboro encourages reporting of Sexual Misconduct even if some or all information is unavailable or cannot be provided. The Title IX Coordinator will explain their role, the options for reporting an incident, potential available Interim/Supportive Measures, and the available resources for assistance.

VI. Confidential Resources (who will not share information with Title IX Coordinator)

- A. TCAT Murfreesboro encourages victims of Sexual Misconduct to talk to someone about what happened, whether they want their report to be investigated or not, so that they can get the support they need. Some resources are confidential and should be considered if the Complainant does not want the institution to investigate the matter.
- B. TCAT Murfreesboro contracts with Recuro Health to provide virtual telehealth and mental health services. Should a victim choose to utilize such services, Recuro Health will not report any information about an incident to the Title IX Coordinator without the victim's permission. 855-6Recuro

- C. Counselors and health care providers not affiliated with TCAT Murfreesboro will generally maintain confidentiality and not share information with the institution unless the Complainant requests the disclosure and signs a consent or waiver form. However, these resources may have reporting obligations under state or federal law. For example, healthcare providers and certain other individuals are required to notify law enforcement when a person seeks treatment for injuries related to a violent crime, including injuries resulting from Sexual Misconduct or abuse of a minor.

VII. Reporting by Employees

- A. All employees who learn of Sexual Misconduct (or any form of sexual harassment or sex discrimination, or retaliation) are encouraged to report such matters to the Title IX Coordinator.
- B. Supervisors and managers who learn of Sexual misconduct (or any form of sexual harassment or sex discrimination, or retaliation) *must immediately* report such concerns to the Title IX Coordinator.

VIII. Anonymous and Third-Party/Bystander Reporting

- A. TCAT Murfreesboro encourages third parties to report incidents of Sexual Misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. TCAT Murfreesboro may not be able to move forward with third-party reports if the Complainant does not wish to file a Formal Complaint or cooperate with an investigation.
- B. After providing a report, third parties are not entitled to information about the institution's investigation and response due to privacy concerns and applicable federal and state laws.

IX. Abuse of Minors

- A. Tennessee law mandates reporting by any person who has knowledge of physical or mental harm to a child if: (1) the nature of the harm reasonably indicates it was caused by brutality, abuse, or neglect; or (2) on the basis of available information, the harm reasonably appears to have been caused by brutality, abuse, or neglect. Tennessee law also mandates reporting by any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been sexually abused, regardless of whether the child has sustained any apparent injury as a result of the abuse.
- B. In the event of a life-threatening emergency, a report of child abuse or child sexual abuse should be made by calling 911. In other cases, a report of child abuse or child sexual abuse must be made immediately to one of the following authorities:
 - 1. The Tennessee Department of Children's Services (the Central Intake Child Abuse Hotline is 1-877-237-0004);
 - 2. The sheriff of the county where the child resides;

3. The chief law enforcement official of the city where the child resides; or
 4. A judge having juvenile jurisdiction over the child.
- C. In addition, TCAT Murfreesboro employees shall make a report of child abuse or child sexual abuse in connection with an institutional program or activity to the Title IX Coordinator. Note that a report to TCAT Murfreesboro law enforcement or security agency is not sufficient to comply with state law.

X. Law Enforcement

- A. The following law enforcement agencies listed in this policy are available for emergency response, facilitating medical transport, investigating incidents of a criminal nature, referrals, and preserving evidence. Law enforcement may be required to report potential violations of this policy to the Title IX Coordinator and to report incidents of sexual assault and other criminal acts of a serious nature to other law enforcement authorities.

XI. Reporting Pursuant to the Nottingham Act.

- A. Unless the victim of a rape does not consent to the reporting of an offense, the chief security officer or chief law enforcement officer of each institution shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency with territorial jurisdiction over the institution if the officer is in receipt of a report from the victim alleging that any degree of rape has occurred on the property of the institution. The chief security officer or chief law enforcement officer shall designate one (1) or more persons who shall have the authority and duty to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency in the absence of the chief security officer or chief law enforcement officer. In the case of an alleged rape, the institution's law enforcement agency shall lead the investigation. After notifying the local law enforcement agency, the institution shall cooperate in every respect with the investigation conducted by the law enforcement agency. T.C.A. § 49-7-129.
- B. If the victim does not consent to the reporting, the Administration at TCAT Murfreesboro shall not report the offense to the local law enforcement agency. T.C.A. § 49-7-2207; T.C.A. § 49-7- 129.

XII. Additional Information

- A. No Retaliation
1. Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint, participates or assists in an investigation, encourages another to file a complaint, or opposes Sexual Misconduct (or any other form of discrimination prohibited by institutional policy) is prohibited. Individuals must not interfere with an investigation. Retaliation will result in disciplinary measures, up to and including termination or expulsion.
 2. In order to help prevent retaliation, TCAT Murfreesboro's policy is to keep confidential the identity of anyone who has made a report or complaint of

sex discrimination, including anyone who has filed a Formal Complaint of Sexual Misconduct, any Complainant, any Respondent, and any witness except as is required to carry out TCAT Murfreesboro's responsibilities under this policy, as permitted by FERPA, or as required by law.

3. Anyone who wishes to file a complaint of retaliation should contact the Title IX Coordinator.
- B. Emergency Removal/Administrative Leave
1. If it appears, based on an allegation of Sexual Misconduct, that a student may constitute an immediate and direct threat to the physical health or safety of another individual, TCAT Murfreesboro will conduct an individualized inquiry and risk analysis and may place the student on interim suspension on an emergency basis. If the institution implements an interim suspension, the student shall be given the opportunity at the time of the decision, or as soon thereafter as reasonably possible, to contest the interim suspension. Institutions shall follow the procedures set forth in TBR Policy 3.02.00.01-General Regulations on Student Conduct & Disciplinary Sanctions (and applicable institutional policies) before placing any student on interim suspension.
 2. TCAT Murfreesboro may place employees on administrative leave or similar action while addressing allegations of Sexual Misconduct.
 3. Visitors, vendors, and other third Parties may be removed from the premises consistent with applicable policies and procedures.
- C. Court Orders
1. Individuals may seek orders of protection, restraining orders, or other similar orders from a court of law.
- D. Participation in the Formal Complaint process by a Complainant, Respondent, institution, or other person does not waive applicable privileges, including attorney-client privilege, doctor-patient privilege, the peer review/quality improvement privilege, etc. The holder of a privilege may waive it in certain circumstances.

XIII. Investigation and Outcomes

- A. The Office of General Counsel shall always be consulted prior to investigation.
- B. Intake and Assessment of Formal Complaints
1. Where Formal Complaints involving more than one Complainant and/or more than one Respondent arise out of the same facts and circumstances, the Title IX Coordinator may consolidate Formal Complaints.
 2. As part of the assessment, the Title IX Coordinator or designee may contact the Complainant and ask for information about the allegations. Supporting documents, such as emails, photos, text messages, and any other evidence should be preserved. If witnesses were present or have relevant knowledge, it is important to identify them, state what they may know, and inform the investigator how they can be contacted.

3. The Title IX Coordinator will assess the nature of reports and Formal Complaints, including whether one or more allegations meet the criteria for the filing of a Formal Complaint (e.g., whether the allegations include conduct that, if proven, took place in the United States and will constitute Sexual Misconduct in an education program or activity by a participant or someone attempting to participate in the education program or activity). If a Formal Complaint includes some allegations that, if proved, constitute Sexual Misconduct and some that do not meet that definition, the Title IX Coordinator will decide whether all allegations will be investigated pursuant to this policy or whether the allegations will be investigated according to another policy or guideline. As appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator may initiate proceedings under another policy, refer the matter to another department, and/or inform the Complainant about the availability of other methods to address the allegations.
- C. Notice of Allegations
1. Upon receipt of a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will provide written notice to known Parties. (A Notice of Allegations will be provided even if the Formal Complaint is dismissed at the same time or shortly after the Notice of Allegations issues (e.g., the allegations if proven do not meet the definition of Sexual Misconduct)). The Notice of Allegations will enable both Parties to appeal the dismissal or to proceed under another policy.) The Notice of Allegations shall contain:
 - a. an explanation of the investigation and grievance process, including a copy of or link to TCAT Murfreesboro I policy, as well as any other applicable policies;
 - b. the availability of an informal resolution process;
 - c. explanation of the allegations potentially constituting Sexual Misconduct in sufficient detail and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. A Respondent will have at least three (3) business days after issuance of a Notice of Allegations prior to an initial interview, but depending on the nature of the allegations, additional time may be offered or requested;
 - d. the identity of the Parties involved in the incident, if known, and the date and location of the alleged incident;
 - e. a statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct unless and until a Determination of responsibility has been issued;
 - f. a statement that the Parties may have an advisor of their choice at meetings they are permitted to attend. The advisor may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. (Parties may hire their own attorneys. At a live hearing only, TCAT Murfreesboro will provide advisors to Parties who do not have their own);

- g. any statements in TBR institutional policies, procedures, or guidelines that prohibit knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the process; and
 - h. a statement that retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint, participates or assists in an investigation, encourages another to file a complaint, or opposes Sexual Misconduct is prohibited and will result in disciplinary measures, up to and including termination or dismissal.
 - 2. If, during the course of an investigation, TCAT Murfreesboro decides to investigate allegations about the Complainant or Respondent that are not included in the Notice of Allegations, TCAT Murfreesboro will provide additional written Notice of Allegations to known Parties.
- D. Dismissal of Formal Complaints
- 1. The Title IX Coordinator shall obtain advice from the Office of General Counsel before dismissing a Formal Complaint.
 - 2. If the Title IX Coordinator concludes that the Complainant was not participating in or attempting to participate in an institutional education program or activity at the time of the Formal Complaint or that the conduct alleged in a Formal Complaint would not constitute Sexual Misconduct even if proved, did not occur in an institution's education program or activity, or did not occur against a person while in the United States, the Title IX Coordinator shall dismiss the Formal Complaint.
 - 3. The Title IX Coordinator has discretion to dismiss a Formal Complaint or any allegations in it, if at any time during the investigation or hearing a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the Formal Complaint or any allegations in it; the Respondent is no longer enrolled by, employed by, or associated with a TBR institution; or specific circumstances prevent the TBR institution from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a Determination as to the Formal Complaint or allegations therein.
 - 4. The Title IX Coordinator may decide to dismiss a Formal Complaint of Sexual Misconduct and refer the matter for disposition pursuant to a different policy, guideline, or process when an allegation of Sexual Misconduct is dismissed or when a Formal Complaint ceases to include an allegation of Sexual Misconduct.
 - 5. Upon dismissal of a Formal Complaint for any reason, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly send written notice explaining the reasons for dismissal to the Parties. The dismissal notice will also explain whether TCAT Murfreesboro will investigate or respond to the allegations under another policy, guideline, or process and the availability of other methods to address the allegations.

XIV. Informal Resolution

- A. Because a full investigation and adjudication process may not be in the best interests of all concerned, the Title IX Coordinator may decide to offer an informal resolution process. The informal resolution process is designed to provide flexibility in crafting a resolution to a Formal Complaint that meets the needs of the Parties and TCAT Murfreesboro. Informal resolutions may include meetings facilitated by TCAT Athens or third parties, resolutions facilitated by the Title IX Coordinator without formal meetings, mediations, and/or restorative justice concepts. Disciplinary action may or may not be part of any informal resolution. Both Parties must agree in writing to participate in any informal resolution process that the Title IX Coordinator may offer.
- B. An informal resolution process is only available after the filing of a Formal Complaint and prior to a Determination regarding responsibility. If the Title IX Coordinator believes an informal resolution may be appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator will propose an informal resolution process in either the initial Notice of Allegations or a subsequent written document. The Title IX Coordinator may discuss with the Parties the details of how the process will work. The written notice will contain the allegations or refer to the Notice of Allegations, set out the informal resolution process, explain that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, the Complainant, Respondent, or TCAT Murfreesboro may withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the investigation and adjudication process under this policy, and identify any records that will be maintained or shared related to the process.
- C. The Title IX Coordinator will not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee engaged in Sexual Misconduct against a student.

XV. Investigation of Formal Complaints

- A. TCAT Murfreesboro will investigate all Formal Complaints, unless dismissed or resolved. During the investigation:
 - 1. TCAT Murfreesboro will not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a Party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional acting in the professional's capacity and made or maintained in connection with the treatment to the Party, unless the Party voluntarily consents in writing;
 - 2. The investigator will conduct an investigation that is appropriate under the circumstances. The investigation will include a review of documents and physical evidence, as well as interviews with the Parties and other witnesses, unless they decline to be interviewed. The investigator may request access to premises, records, and documents deemed relevant. As the investigation progresses, the investigator may seek clarification, including during a subsequent interview, from any person participating in the investigation regarding the incident or their statement. A Party who learns or remembers any additional information should notify the investigator immediately. The Parties will have an equal opportunity to

- provide evidence and to identify witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses. Parties are encouraged to provide, as soon as possible, any evidence that the Party believes to be relevant and wants the investigator to consider. If at all possible, all evidence should be provided in time for the investigator to make it available for inspection and review;
3. Although the Parties are encouraged to provide TCAT Murfreesboro with information and evidence related to the allegations, TCAT Murfreesboro is ultimately responsible for gathering evidence sufficient to reach a Determination regarding responsibility;
 4. TCAT Murfreesboro will not restrict the Parties from discussing the allegations under investigation or from gathering and presenting relevant evidence. Any restrictions on the ability of the Parties to discuss matters related to the proceeding but which are not under investigation will be explained in the Notice of Allegations;
 5. Each Party will have the opportunity to obtain and to be accompanied to a meeting or proceeding by an advisor of their choice, who may, but is not required to be, an attorney, in accordance with Section IV.H. below;
 6. When a Party is invited or expected to participate in a meeting, TCAT Murfreesboro will provide written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the meeting, interview, or hearing, with sufficient time for the Party to prepare to participate;
 7. Both Parties will have an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in a Formal Complaint, including evidence that is directly related to the allegations but upon which TCAT Murfreesboro does not intend to rely in reaching a Determination regarding responsibility. TCAT Murfreesboro will include both evidence that tends to prove and disprove the allegations, whether obtained from a Party or other source, so that each Party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation;
 8. Prior to the completion of an investigative report, TCAT Murfreesboro will send to each Party the evidence subject to inspection and review. Unless a Party requests that TCAT Murfreesboro not do so, TCAT Murfreesboro will also send the evidence to each advisor who has been identified. TCAT Murfreesboro may decide to provide access to evidence through electronic means that is not available for download. In such case, the Parties and their advisors are prohibited from, directly or indirectly, photographing or reproducing such evidence (unless the Party has access to the evidence independent of the portal, e.g., documents submitted by the Party or publicly available information); and
 9. TCAT Murfreesboro will provide at least ten (10) calendar days for the Parties to respond to the evidence provided for inspection and review. The investigator will share any written response with the other Party and

will consider any written response prior to completing the investigative report.

XVI. Investigation Report

- A. At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator will prepare a written report. The report shall:
 - 1. fairly summarize the relevant evidence.
 - 2. explain the procedural steps taken between receipt of the Formal Complaint and the conclusion of the investigation, including all notifications to the Parties, interviews with the Parties, interviews with other witnesses, dates of all interviews, any site visits, and the methods used to gather evidence; and
 - 3. identify relevant policies, guidelines, and other standards;
 - 4. identify the allegations;
- B. The written report shall not make findings of fact or conclusions regarding the application of facts to this policy.
- C. At least (ten) (10) calendar days prior to a hearing, the investigator will send to each Party the investigation report in either electronic or hard copy, for review and written response. Unless a Party requests that TCAT Murfreesboro not do so, TCAT Murfreesboro will also send the investigation report to an advisor whom the Party has been identified.
- D. The Parties should provide any written response as soon as possible, as the investigator may issue an amended investigation report if the investigator deems appropriate and if a Party provides comments in sufficient time for the investigator to do so. The Parties' written responses and any amended investigation report will be sent to the decision-maker.

XVII. Advisors

- A. Both the Complainant and the Respondent will be permitted to have an advisor of their choosing present during meetings where their attendance is permitted or expected. Nothing in this policy shall be read to require that TCAT Murfreesboro allow a Party to attend an interview of the other Party or of a witness.
- B. The advisor may accompany and confer privately with a Party, but the advisor may not interrupt, speak on behalf of a Party, or otherwise actively participate in any meeting, except for conducting cross-examination at a live hearing.
- C. An advisor's failure to comply may result in the termination of the meeting or the advisor no longer being permitted to be present.
- D. TBR and TCAT Murfreesboro personnel employed in the offices responsible for the disciplinary proceedings described in this policy, along with those in the chain of command, personnel employed by OGC, and others whose participation could create a conflict of interest with their duties are not eligible to serve as advisors. TCAT Murfreesboro shall not otherwise limit the choice of an advisor.

- E. If there is a question or concern about a possible advisor, the Title IX Coordinator should be consulted. A Party choosing to have an attorney present as an advisor must provide advance notice so that a member of OGC can attend any meeting at which an attorney will be present.

XVIII. Recordings

- A. Parties are not permitted to record any meeting conducted pursuant to this policy.
- B. When a live hearing is conducted, TCAT Murfreesboro will create an audio recording, audiovisual recording, or transcript and make it available to the Parties for inspection and review.

XIX. Past Relationships and Conduct

- A. Previous sexual relationships of the Complainant and Respondent with third parties generally are irrelevant.
- B. A past sexual relationship between the Complainant and Respondent may or may not be relevant. For example, past sexual encounters may provide insight on communication patterns for purposes of determining whether consent was present.
- C. Questions and evidence about a Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to Respondent and are offered to prove consent.

XX. Standard of Evidence

- A. In determining whether Respondent engaged in Sexual Misconduct, TCAT Murfreesboro uses the preponderance of the evidence standard of evidence in evaluating whether Sexual Misconduct occurred. A "preponderance of the evidence" means the greater weight of the evidence or that, according to the evidence, the conclusion sought by the party with the burden of proof is the more probable conclusion.
- B. The burden of proof will remain with TCAT Murfreesboro through the Determination.

XXI. Timeline

- A. Formal Complaints typically will be resolved (exclusive of any appeals) within 90 calendar days of filing.

- B. Appeals will be resolved within fifteen (15) calendar days of the filing of an appeal.
- C. Given the many variables and factors that may arise in such cases, additional time may be needed in some cases. Any departure from these time frames will be for good cause and communicated in writing or by email to both the Complainant and the Respondent simultaneously, along with a new timeline and explanation of the reasons. Good cause to extend the deadlines includes, but is not limited to, the absence of a Party, a Party's advisor, or witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or the accommodation of disabilities.
- D. Incompletion of the process within such time frames is not cause for dismissal of a Formal Complaint.

XXII. Parallel Investigations with Law Enforcement

- A. The filing of a police report or the pendency of civil or criminal proceedings does not preclude TCAT Athens from proceeding with its investigation and Determination.
- B. The investigation and Determination may be delayed until law enforcement has finished gathering evidence and indicated that TCAT Murfreesboro may proceed with an investigation, but TCAT Murfreesboro generally will not wait for the conclusion of any criminal proceeding.
- C. Civil or criminal proceedings are separate and distinct from internal TCAT Murfreesboro proceedings, and they may or may not run parallel to one another. However, TCAT Murfreesboro may be required by law to provide information in civil or criminal proceedings.
- D. TCAT Murfreesboro policies shall set forth parameters and clarify what information may and may not be shared during a parallel investigation with law enforcement (e.g., via a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement).

XXIII. Live Hearings

- A. TCAT Murfreesboro will conduct a live hearing of Formal Complaints not dismissed pursuant to this policy in order to make a Determination whether this policy has been violated. The decision-maker appointed by the Title IX Coordinator has the authority to maintain order at the hearing and make all decisions necessary for the fair, orderly, and expeditious conduct of the hearing. The decision-maker shall be the final decider concerning all aspects of the hearing, including prehearing matters and at the hearing, how evidence is examined and the order of witnesses.
- B. At the request of either Party, TCAT Murfreesboro will provide for the live hearing to be conducted with the Parties located in separate rooms with technology enabling the decision-maker and Parties to simultaneously see and hear the Party or the witness answering questions.

- C. In cases involving more than one Respondent, any Party may request separate hearings by submitting a request at least five (5) business days before the hearing. The Title IX Coordinator will decide whether to grant the request.
- D. Live hearings may be conducted with all Parties physically present in the same geographic location or, at TCAT Murfreesboro's discretion, any or all Parties, witnesses and other participants may appear at the live hearing virtually, with technology enabling participants simultaneously to see and hear each other.
- E. At least (ten) (10) business days prior to a live hearing, TCAT Murfreesboro will provide both Parties with written notice of the following:
 - 1. The time, place, date of the hearing, and electronic access information, if applicable;
 - 2. The name of each witness TCAT Murfreesboro expects to present or be present at the hearing and those TCAT Murfreesboro may present if the need arises;
 - 3. The right to request a copy of the investigative file (other than portions that are protected by law or privilege), which includes all of the evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the Formal Complaint;
 - 4. The right to request copies of all documents, copies of electronically stored information, and access to tangible evidence that TCAT Murfreesboro has in its possession, custody, or control and may use to support claims or defenses;
 - 5. The right to have an advisor of the Party's choice, who may be, but is not required to be an attorney, and that if the Party does not have an advisor present at the hearing, TCAT Murfreesboro will provide an advisor of TCAT Murfreesboro's choice, without fee or charge, to ask the other Party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions on behalf of that Party;
 - 6. Any Party in need of a TCAT Murfreesboro provided advisor must inform the Title IX Coordinator at least five (5) business days before the hearing;
 - 7. Any cross-examination of any other Party or witness must be conducted by the advisor; and
 - 8. Additional information may be included in the notice of hearing.
- F. When notice is sent by U.S. mail or courier service, the notice is effective on the date the notice is mailed or delivered to the courier service. When notice is hand-delivered by TCAT Murfreesboro, notice is effective on the date that the notice is delivered to a Party. When notice is sent by email, the notice is effective on the date that the email is sent to the Parties' TCAT Murfreesboro provided email account.
- G. The decision-maker may conduct a pre-hearing meeting or conference with the Parties and their advisors to discuss pre-hearing issues, including any technology to be used at the hearing and the general rules governing the hearing.

- H. The decision-maker may allow a temporary delay of the process or the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the Parties of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, considerations such as the absence of a Party, a Party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.
- I. If a Party fails to attend a hearing, the decision-maker may proceed without that Party's participation.
- J. During the hearing, the decision-maker will make evidence subject to review and inspection during the investigation phase available to give each Party equal opportunity to refer to that evidence, including for purposes of cross-examination.
- K. Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to provide that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent.
- L. Only relevant cross-examination and other questions may be asked of a Party or witness. Before a Complainant, Respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or question from someone other than the decision-maker, the decision-maker will first determine whether the question is relevant and explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.
- M. The decision-maker will not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding the privilege has waived the privilege.
- N. The decision-maker will permit each Party's advisor to ask the other Party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions, including those challenging credibility. Such cross-examination at the live hearing will be conducted directly, orally, and in real-time by the Party's advisor and never by a Party personally. Conducting cross-examination will be the advisor's only opportunity to speak. Advisors will not engage in other presentations of arguments or evidence, including opening statements, closing arguments, or direct examinations.
- O. If a Party does not have an advisor at the live hearing, TCAT Murfreesboro will provide without fee or charge to that Party an advisor. TCAT Murfreesboro will choose the advisor.
- P. This section is intentionally left blank.
- Q. For good cause shown, a decision-maker may permit the participation of witnesses who were not identified by the Party to the investigator, or the inclusion of evidence not provided by the Party to the investigator.

- R. TCAT Murfreesboro will create an audio or audiovisual recording, or transcript, of a live hearing and make it available to the Parties for inspection and review.
- S. The decision-maker may dismiss the Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the hearing a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, the Respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by TCAT Murfreesboro, or specific circumstances prevent TCAT Murfreesboro from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a Determination as to the Formal Complaint or allegations therein.
- T. If the decision-maker dismisses the Formal Complaint during the grievance process, the decision-maker will promptly notify the Title IX Coordinator, who will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and reasons therefore simultaneously to the Parties.

XXIV. Written Determination

- A. Within fifteen (15) business days of the hearing, the decision-maker will issue a written Determination, whether Respondent engaged in Sexual Misconduct based on a preponderance of the evidence standard, which will be provided to the Parties simultaneously.
- B. The Determination becomes final either on the date that TCAT Murfreesboro provides the Parties with a written result of an appeal, or if an appeal is available but not filed, the day after the deadline to appeal.
- C. The Determination will include:
 - 1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting Sexual Misconduct, as well as identification of any additional allegations that are being resolved but which do not constitute Sexual Misconduct;
 - 2. A description of the procedural steps taken between receipt of the Formal Complaint and the Determination, including all notifications to the Parties, interviews with Parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and any hearings held;
 - 3. Findings of fact supporting the Determination;
 - 4. Conclusions regarding the application of this policy, as well as any other relevant policy, guidelines, or code, to the facts;
 - 5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation before the decision-maker, including a Determination regarding responsibility;
 - 6. Any disciplinary action that the decision-maker imposes on the Respondent, including referral to another process,
 - 7. Any remedies that TCAT Murfreesboro will provide designed to restore or preserve equal access to the Complainant; and
 - 8. The permissible bases and procedures, including timelines, for appeals by the Parties.

XXV. Remedies and Disciplinary Action Following Determinations of Violations

- A. TCAT Murfreesboro will provide remedies where a Determination of responsibility for Sexual Misconduct has been made. TCAT Murfreesboro will follow this policy before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions for Sexual Misconduct that are not supportive/interim measures.
- B. Remedies will be designed to restore or preserve equal access to education programs and activities and will include discipline under the applicable policies and procedures. Remedies may include verbal warnings, written warnings, final written warnings, suspension, termination of employment (including of tenured faculty), non-renewal of appointment, or dismissal from TCAT Murfreesboro.
- C. Remedies should also consider improvements to the campus-wide environment. It is the intent of TBR that TCAT Murfreesboro consider the impact of an incident of Sexual Misconduct on the campus as a whole or specific groups or areas of campus. For example, specific training may be needed for a student group.
- D. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for ensuring effective implementation of the remedies.

XXVI. Appeals/Post-Determination Procedures

- A. Parties are permitted to appeal to the TCAT Murfreesboro's President (or other person appointed by the Title IX Coordinator) from a Determination regarding responsibility (or no responsibility) and from a dismissal of a Formal Complaint or of any allegations in a Formal Complaint on the basis of:
 - 1. procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
 - 2. new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the Determination or dismissal was made, but only if that new evidence could affect the outcome of the matter;
 - 3. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the individual Complainant or Respondent that affected the outcome.
 - 4. A Party wishing to appeal a Determination regarding responsibility or the dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein must file a written appeal with the Title IX Coordinator within seven (7) business days of the date of the Determination or the dismissal. The written appeal must identify the reasons for the appeal.
- B. As to all appeals, the Title IX Coordinator will:
 - 1. Notify the other Party in writing when an appeal is filed;
 - 2. Provide each Party five (5) business days to provide a written statement in support of, or challenging, the Determination.

3. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is not the same person as the investigator, the decision-maker, or Title IX Coordinator;
 4. Implement appeal procedures equally for both Parties;
- C. The decider of the appeal will issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result, and will provide the written decision simultaneously to the Parties.

XXVII. Victim Services

- A. The resources listed below are not exhaustive or limited to victims who wish to make an official report or participate in an institutional hearing, police investigation or criminal prosecution. However, in cases where a victim wishes to maintain complete confidentiality, the victim should carefully review Section II above related to the limits on the College's ability to maintain confidentiality.

XXVIII. On-Campus Resources

XXIX. **TCAT Murfreesboro Title IX Coordinator**
Deltra Fowlkes
1303 Old Fort Pkwy., Murfreesboro, TN 37129
deltra.fowlkes@tcatmurfreesboro.edu
615-898-8010 ext. 121

Student Services Specialist
Erica Geisler
1303 Old Fort Pkwy., Murfreesboro, TN 37129
erica.geisler@tcatmurfreesboro.edu
615-898-8010 ext.132

XXX. Online Resources

- A. <http://tncoalition.org/>- State Coalition Against Rape
- B. <http://tncoalition.org/>- State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- C. <http://www.thehotline.org/>- Website for LGBTQ survivors of sexual or domestic violence and minority women survivors of sexual or domestic violence
- D. <http://www.pandys.org/> Website providing information, support and resources to survivors of rape and sexual abuse
- E. <http://www.rainn.org> – Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network
- F. <http://www.justice.gov/ovw> - Department of Justice
- G. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html> - Department of Education Office for Civil Rights

XXXI. Victim Services Policy

- A. The following individuals may be able to assist in the event of an emergency
1. On-Campus

TCAT Murfreesboro Title IX Coordinator
Deltra Fowlkes
1303 Old Fort Pkwy., Murfreesboro, TN 37129
deltra.fowlkes@tcatmurfreesboro.edu
615-898-8010 ext. 121

2. Off-Campus:
 - a. Murfreesboro Police Department, 615-849-2MPD
 - b. Smyrna Police Department, 615-459-6644
 - c. The following health care options are available to seek treatment for injuries, preventative treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, and where and how to get a rape kit or find a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE).
 - St. Thomas Rutherford
 - Tri Star Stonecrest Medical Center
 - Rutherford County Health Department
 - Availability of a rape kit and location of a SANE (https://f62034bb-6cd2-4e27-a3c9-125b86bc97ef.filesusr.com/ugd/40dfdf_a13931824aba475b983e7cacbcd51c3.pdf)
 - Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence at 615-386-9406.
 - Sexual Violence Hotline at 1-800-273-87125.
 - National Helpline at 1-800-211-7996
- B. It is very important for the Complainant to seek medical attention immediately so that the Complainant can be screened for sexually transmitted diseases/pregnancy/drugs that may have been used to incapacitate, obtain emergency contraception, and receive treatment for any injuries. Valuable physical evidence can be obtained from the Complainant and the Complainant's clothing. Even those who are unsure whether to make a police report or take action may wish to have a forensic examination, which will facilitate the identification and preservation of physical evidence;

1. To help preserve evidence in the event of a sexual assault, it is important for the Complainant not to change clothes or bedding and not take a shower, douche, use the toilet, brush their teeth, or clean up until police have had a chance to gather evidence. However, if a Complainant has already changed clothes or cleaned up/showered, evidence may still be collected. The Complainant should leave any clothes or bedding unfolded and undisturbed, if possible. If clothing or bedding must be moved, items should be kept separate to prevent transfer of body fluids or other trace evidence. Parties should not delete or destroy any text messages, social media, emails, voicemails, written notes, or any other documents that may be relevant.
2. The following sources are available to accompany a victim to the hospital or health provider; These services are available for victims of Sexual Misconduct whether or not a victim chooses to make an official report or participate in the institutional disciplinary or criminal process.

XXXII. Education, Training, and Awareness

- A. TCAT Murfreesboro offers educational programming and training to their students, faculty, and staff that are intended to end Sexual Misconduct.
- B. TCAT Murfreesboro utilizes the student handbook to provide user-friendly materials to explain the policy and how victims can get help, and provides these online and through other strategies appropriate for the campus. TCAT Murfreesboro provides online training for sexual assault and misconduct prevention education to incoming students to promote awareness of rape, acquaintance rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This education also includes information on how to prevent sexual assault, such as information on bystander intervention, as well as how to recognize abusive behavior and avoid potential abusive relationships. Within this training, students are given information the procedures for filing a report, as well as procedures for institutional disciplinary action in cases of alleged sexual violence. The training also informs students of the sanctions and protective measures that the institution may impose once a report of sexual violence has been made.
- C. This policy is effective August 16, 2021, at community colleges and August 26, 2021, at TCATs.
- D. If any provision of the Title IX regulations on which this policy is based is enjoined or held invalid as it applies to the TBR institution or the Title IX regulations' application to any person, act, or practice is enjoined or held invalid as it applies to the TBR institution, the remainder of this policy or the application of its provisions to any person, act, or practice shall not be affected thereby.
- E. For conduct that occurs across multiple versions of this policy, complaints of Sexual Misconduct will be addressed utilizing the procedures outlined in the version of this policy in effect as of the date of the Notice of Allegations. The "Definitions" and "Clarifications" sections of the policy in effect as of the date of

the alleged incident will be used. Complaints and reports of conduct spanning more than one version of the policy will be addressed using the “Definitions” and “Clarifications” sections in the version of the policy in effect at the time of the most recent alleged incident.

XXXIII. Clarifications

A. Consent

1. Consent means an active agreement to participate in sexual activity. An active agreement is words and/or conduct that communicates a person’s willingness to participate. The following individuals cannot give valid Consent:
 - a. A person who is under the age of eighteen (18), unless the person giving Consent is at least the age of thirteen (13) and the other person is less than four (4) years older than the person giving Consent.
 - b. A person who is Forced; or
 - c. A person who is Incapacitated, if either the person claiming to have obtained Consent knows that the other person is Incapacitated or a reasonable person would know that the other person is Incapacitated;
2. During a sexual encounter, each person has responsibility for obtaining Consent from the other person. During an investigation, the institution has the burden of obtaining evidence whether Sexual Misconduct occurred without Consent. During any hearing, the institution has the burden of proving that Sexual Misconduct occurred without Consent. (In other words, it is not a Respondent’s burden to prove Consent during an investigation or hearing). Whether a person has communicated Consent generally is evaluated from the perspective of what a reasonable person who perceived the individual’s words and/or nonverbal conduct would have understood; however, in the context of a relationship that has involved sexual activity and a pattern of communicating Consent, whether Consent has been communicated may be evaluated based on a subjective standard (i.e., what did the specific person who initiated the sexual activity conclude based on the pattern of communication?).
3. A verbal “no” (or words equivalent to “no”) or the nonverbal communication of “no,” even if it sounds or appears insincere or indecisive, means that Consent has not been communicated, or if previously communicated, has been withdrawn. The absence of a verbal “no” or the absence of a nonverbal communication of “no” does not necessarily mean that Consent has been communicated.
4. Consent must exist from the beginning to the end of each sexual encounter and for each sexual act that occurs during a sexual encounter. A person has a right to change their mind; thus, Consent may be withdrawn at any time. A withdrawal of Consent is communicated

through clear words and/or conduct that indicate that a person no longer agrees to participate in sexual activity. Once a person's withdrawal of Consent has been communicated, the other person must cease the sexual act for which Consent was withdrawn and must obtain Consent before reinitiating that sexual act. Consent is automatically withdrawn when a person becomes incapacitated or is forced to participate in sexual activity.

5. Consent to one type of sexual activity (e.g., oral sex) does not constitute or imply Consent for another type of sexual activity (e.g., vaginal intercourse), whether during a sexual encounter or based on a previous sexual encounter.
6. The following do not communicate a person's willingness to participate in sexual activity:
 - a. Silence, unless accompanied by non-verbal conduct conveying a willingness to participate in sexual activity;
 - b. Consent communicated by the person on a previous occasion;
 - c. Consent communicated to a third person;

XXXIV. Force

- A. The person's failure to resist physical force (however, for purposes of the Policy, the person's resistance to physical force will be viewed as a clear demonstration that the person has not communicated Consent);
- B. A current or previous dating, romantic, intimate, or sexual relationship with the other person;
- C. Currently or previously cohabitating with the other person;
- D. The person's attire, reputation, giving or acceptance of gifts, sexual arousal, or extension or acceptance of an invitation to go to a private residence, room, or other location.
- E. One's own use of alcohol, drugs, or other substances does not diminish one's responsibility to obtain Consent from the other person. Another person's use of alcohol, drugs, or other substances does not diminish one's responsibility to obtain Consent from that person.
- F. Force includes physical force (such as pushing, hitting, pinning down), threats (direct or indirect expressions of intent to inflict harm to self or others), intimidation (implied or indirect threats), and/or other forms of coercion. To coerce is to attempt to cause another person to act or think in a certain way by use of force, pressure, threats, or intimidation; to compel is to coerce.

XXXV. Incapacitation

- A. A person violates this policy when they engage in sexual activity with another person who is incapacitated under circumstances in which a reasonable person would have known the other person to be Incapacitated. For evaluating Incapacitation, a "reasonable person" means a sober, objectively reasonable

person in the same situation, with ordinary sensitivities, and with similar identities as the Respondent.

- B. Incapacitation can be voluntary or involuntary. Signs of Incapacitation may include, without limitation: sleep; total or intermittent unconsciousness; lack of control over physical movements (e.g., inability to dress/undress without assistance; inability to walk without assistance); lack of awareness of circumstances or surroundings; emotional volatility; combativeness; vomiting; incontinence; unresponsiveness; and inability to communicate coherently. Incapacitation is an individualized determination based on the totality of the circumstances.
- C. Blacking out is an amnesia-like state that may be brought on by drugs, heavy drinking, or intoxication; blacking out is not necessarily incompatible with the ability to engage in simple or even complex behavior. After blacking out, a person has no recollection of all or part of the events that occurred during the blackout. There is a distinction between passing out (falling asleep or becoming unconscious) due to drug or alcohol use and blacking out in that a person in a blackout remains conscious and operative.
- D. Incapacitation or Incapacitated means a person's inability, temporarily or permanently, to communicate a willingness to participate in an activity (e.g., sexual activity) because of mental or physical helplessness, sleep, unconsciousness, or other lack of awareness that the activity is taking place. Incapacitation can be voluntary or involuntary. Signs of Incapacitation may include, without limitation: sleep; total or intermittent unconsciousness; lack of control over physical movements (e.g., inability to dress/undress without assistance; inability to walk without assistance); lack of awareness of circumstances or surroundings; emotional volatility; combativeness; vomiting; incontinence; unresponsiveness; and inability to communicate coherently. Incapacitation is an individualized determination based on the totality of the circumstances. Alcohol and drugs (including "date rape" drugs) are common causes of Incapacitation. When alcohol or drugs are involved, Incapacitation is a state beyond mere drunkenness or intoxication.

XXXVI. Severe and Pervasive

- A. Severe and Pervasive. Severe means behavior that is more than antagonistic, non-consensual, and crass, even where the behavior is based on differences in sex or gender. Pervasive means systemic or widespread, and it necessarily involves more than one incident of sexual harassment.