Bullying & Harassment

You may come across situations on campus, the internet, and/or social media which you may not agree with – or that specifically targets you, a group of individuals, or an ideology. The University makes every effort to make sure all students, staff, faculty, and guests are treated fairly.

Bullying and harassment falls under Policy Violation 7, which can be found directly under the University's standards for student conduct: (7) "Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person within or related to the University community, including physical abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, or sexual misconduct."

Bullying and Harassment Overview

Bullying is any unwanted, aggressive behavior with the intent of controlling or harming other individuals. Bullying includes, but is not limited to, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, or excluding someone from a group on purpose. Some types of bullying include the following:
- Verbal
- Social
- Physical
- Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is an aggressive, intentional act or behavior that is carried out by a group or an individual, using electronic forms of contact, repeatedly and over time against a victim who cannot easily defend themselves. As a Cal State San Marcos student, it is important to identify acts of cyberbullying:
- Posting comments or rumors about someone online that are mean, hurtful, or embarrassing.
- Threatening to hurt someone or telling them to kill themselves.
- Posting a mean or hurtful picture or video.
- Pretending to be someone else online in order to solicit or post personal or false information about someone else.
- Posting mean or hateful names, comments, or content about any race, religion, ethnicity, or other personal characteristics online.
- Creating a mean or hurtful webpage about someone.
- Doxing - to threaten and destroy the privacy of individuals by making their personal information public, including addresses, social security, credit card and phone numbers, links to social media accounts, and other private data.

Tips for Students

Here are some ways that you can combat cyberbullying:

1. Do not delete or dispose of online communications (threats, comments, postings, etc.) It could be evidence.
2. Save or make copies of photographs, comments, postings, videos, etc. for reporting purposes.
3. Do not touch or otherwise remove offensive or unauthorized postings on campus. Report them to the appropriate offices or the University Police Department.
4. Avoid participating on forums or sites that encourage anonymous posts.
5. Update privacy settings on social media to a level you are comfortable with.
6. Contact the website operator or appropriate campus offices to initiate a complaint.

You may contact these offices for support if you or someone you know is experiencing harassment or bullying.

[University Police Department](#)

[Discrimination, Harassment & Retaliation (DHR)](#)

[The Office of Inclusive Excellence](#)

[CSUSM Student Conduct](#)

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