



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, REGION IV

61 FORSYTH ST., SOUTHWEST, SUITE 19T10
ATLANTA, GA 30303-8927

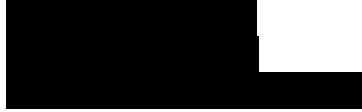
REGION IV

ALABAMA
FLORIDA
GEORGIA
TENNESSEE

April 10, 2023

Via Email Only

Mark Perry



Re: OCR Complaint #04-23-2004

Dear Mr. Perry:

On October 2, 2022, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) received your complaint against the University of Florida. You allege that the University discriminates on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex. Where appropriate, this letter will refer to you as the Complainant.

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d, *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin by recipients of Federal financial assistance from the Department of Education. OCR also enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department of Education, the University is subject to these laws and to OCR's jurisdiction.

You allege that the University's Department of Pediatrics in the College of Medicine - Jacksonville discriminates against a significant number of medical students on the basis of race, skin color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation by operating, promoting, advertising, and funding the Visiting Elective Scholars Program (Program).¹ Specifically, you allege that the Program is limited to individuals who are Black/African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian, or LGBTQ+, thereby excluding medical students who are not members of these groups.

¹ You provided the following links to the Program: <https://pediatrics.med.jax.ufl.edu/visiting-elective-scholars-program/>; <https://web.archive.org/web/20220126163210/https://pediatrics.med.jax.ufl.edu/visiting-elective-scholars-program/>.

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

www.ed.gov

Based on the above, OCR will investigate:

1. whether the University discriminates on the basis of race, color, or national origin with respect to the Visiting Elective Scholars Program, in violation of Title VI and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. § 100.3.
2. whether the University discriminates on the basis of sex with respect to the Visiting Elective Scholars Program, in violation of Title IX and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. § 106.31.

Please note that opening the complaint for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination on the merits of the complaint. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the Complainant, the University, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will conduct its investigation in accordance with the provisions of the *Case Processing Manual*. A summary of OCR's complaint processing procedures can be found here: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaints-how.html>.

Please be advised that the University must not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against an individual because that individual asserts a right or privilege under a law enforced by OCR or files a complaint, testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding under a law enforced by OCR. If this happens, the individual may file a retaliation complaint with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, we will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

We look forward to your cooperation during the resolution of this complaint. If you have any questions, please contact [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Michelle A. Vaughan

Michelle Vaughan
Compliance Team Leader