



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

ONE PETTICOAT LANE  
1010 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 320  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64106

REGION VII  
ARKANSAS  
KANSAS  
MISSOURI  
NEBRASKA  
OKLAHOMA  
SOUTH DAKOTA

July 13, 2023

*Sent via email only to.* [REDACTED]

Mark Perry  
[REDACTED]

Re: University of Kansas  
OCR Case Number: 07232123

Dear Mr. Perry:

On April 17, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) received your complaint against the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas (University), alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. Specifically, you allege the University's Summer Diversity Research Scholarship for First- and Second-Year Medical Students, and the Department of Plastic Surgery Sub-Internship in Plastic Surgery Diversity Scholarship discriminates against those students who are not African American/Black, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native and or Hispanic Latino, because they are ineligible for the program due to their race, color, and or national origin.

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 in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the Department of Education. Because the University receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education, it is subject to Title VI, and to OCR's jurisdiction. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on our website at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

OCR will investigate whether the University discriminates on the bases of race, color, or national origin in connection with the Summer Diversity Research Scholarship for First and Second-Year Medical Students, and the Department of Plastic Surgery Sub-Internship in Plastic Surgery Diversity Scholarship, in violation of 34 C.F.R. § 100.3.

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.

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](http://www.ed.gov)

OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and is dispositive of the allegation(s) in accordance with the provisions of Article III of OCR's *Case Processing Manual*, available at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.pdf>.

Our goal is the prompt resolution of the complaint. Information on OCR's complaint processing procedures is available at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/complaints-how.html>. Please note the section on resolution of a complaint prior to the conclusion of an investigation. If the recipient expresses an interest in resolving the complaint and OCR determines that resolution of the complaint prior to the completion of the investigation is appropriate, OCR may attempt to negotiate an agreement with the recipient pursuant to *Case Processing Manual* Section 302. Additionally, OCR offers, when appropriate, a mediation process to facilitate the voluntary resolution of complaints by the parties.

The University may 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, or participates in an OCR proceeding. Complaints alleging such retaliation may be filed 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, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if released.

If you have questions concerning this letter, please contact Cedric Brown, attorney, at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (telecommunications device for the deaf), or by e-mail at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Megan Levetzow,  
Supervisory Attorney