
Office for Civil Rights Discrimination Complaint Form: Submission #737655

1. Enter information about yourself

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Best Time to Call You: Day

Primary Phone Number:

Alternative Phone Number: {Empty}

Your Email Address:

2. Who else can we call if we cannot reach you?

Contact's Name:

Daytime Phone Number:

Relationship to you: Me

3. Who was discriminated against?

Yourself or Someone else Myself?

If someone other than yourself please include:

Injured Person's Name: {Empty}

Daytime Phone Number: {Empty}

Evening Phone Number: {Empty}

Relationship to You
(eg. son or daughter) {Empty}

Injured Person's Address: {Empty}

City: {Empty}

State: {Empty}

Zip Code: {Empty}

4. What institution discriminated?

Institution Name: Rice University

Address: {Empty}

City: {Empty}

State: Texas

Zip Code: {Empty}

School or department involved:

5. Have you tried to resolve the complaint through the institution's grievance process, due process hearing, or with another agency?

Have you tried to resolve the complaint? Yes

Agency Name: Rice University

Date Filed

(MM/DD/YYYY): (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) - 00:00

If yes, what is the current status of the complaint? They completely disregarded it and intentionally ignored it and told me it is my issue and protected the professor. The case was never resolved, it did get moved to a different director, but that director (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and the case related to him was ignored and dropped again--speculation is that there is an OCR complaint filed against him as well.

6. Describe the discrimination

OCR enforces regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin; sex; disability; and/or age.

(You may select more than one.)

On what basis were you discriminated against? race or color, national origin, disability, sex

In the space provided below please describe each discriminatory action separately. For each action, you need to provide the following information: - (b)(6); (b)(7)(A);

- (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

- I was in a group assignment, my group member and I submitted the same assignment. Professor gave me a (b)(6); on it, and my group member a different score (he submitted it late, but her late policy would've meant he actually he had an even higher score than what was listed). Upon that, I was the only one provided a written feedback that implied if (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) I asked my classmates, not a single one got a comparable feedback. All (b)(6); students said she was very professional with them and gave them favorable scores, I was punished for it. All students confirmed her feedback was extremely aggressive. Even my group member was questioning it. I believe it is a matter of race, disability, and ethnicity. She is known for being a strong proponent and supporter to (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); I being an (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) would make me a perfect target. I have a lot of written evidence that I can provide. The university intentionally tried to scrap it under the rug, and told me to disregard it because I got an (b)(6); in the class anyways.

Do you have written information that you think will help us understand your complaint?

yes or no Yes

7. Your complaint must be filed within 180 days of the discriminatory action

The laws that we enforce require that complaints be filed with our office within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory event. If any of the alleged discriminatory actions took place more than 180 days before the postmark or receipt date of this complaint, you may request a waiver of the 180-day limit. When did the last act of discrimination occur?

When did the last act of discrimination occur?

Enter the date: - 00:00

Are you requesting a waiver of the 180-day filing time limit for discrimination that occurred more than 180 days before the filing of this complaint?

Are you requesting a waiver of the 180-day filing time limit for discrimination that occurred more than 180 days before the filing of this complaint?

yes or no No

Reason for not filing complaint before 180 days: {Empty}

8. What would you like the institution to do as a result of your complaint?

What remedy are you seeking? Considering the aggression, and the hostility that are facing in the US, I am extremely appalled by how the university not only scrapped this situation but also told me to just deal with it and I don't have an issue worth investigating (I also never received an apology, though the Dean recognized my issue as concerning and in my favor). I had to so that I can attend Rice University, which was my dream school growing up and they would At this point, considering the fact that I am continuing to see unfair evaluations within the program, I would like to I would also like disciplinary action by removing the professor, and retraining the professors and other faculty to be both professional and advocates for student safety. This bias is disgusting from what appears to be against and it is evident systemic racism/discrimination that needs to be looked into. Many minority students are furious about this.

9. Option to Participate in OCR's Early Mediation Process

I am interested in participating in early mediation: No



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Renaissance Tower
1201 Elm Street, Suite 1000
Dallas, TX 75270

REGION VI
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS

July 30, 2024

Mr. Reginald DesRoches, President
Rice University
Sent via email only: president@rice.edu

Re: OCR Complaint Number 06-24-2131
Rice University

Dear Dr. DesRoches,

On January 16, 2024, the United States Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Dallas Office, received the above-referenced complaint filed against Rice University (the University). The Complainant alleged the University:

1. Discriminated against him on the basis of national origin (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); by grading him more harshly than other students and not giving him extra credit or participation points during the (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); school year;
2. Discriminates against other students based on national origin (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(A);; and
3. Retaliated against him during the (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); school year by not selecting him for the (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); because he filed an internal grievance regarding the alleged discriminatory conduct described above.

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 based on race, color, or national origin, including shared ancestry, in any program or activity operated by a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department. Title VI also prohibits retaliation at 34 C.F.R. § 100.7(e). As a recipient of federal financial assistance, the University is subject to these laws. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available [here](#).

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

OCR will investigate the following legal issues:

1. Whether the University discriminated against the Complainant and other students on the basis of national origin (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) in violation of Title VI; and
2. Whether the University retaliated against the Complainant in violation of Title VI.

Opening the complaint for investigation does not imply that OCR has made a determination with regard to its merit. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral factfinder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the complainant, the recipient, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and is dispositive of the allegations, in accordance with OCR's CPM.

Our goal is the prompt, appropriate resolution of the complaint. Please note that the complaint may be appropriate for mediation, where OCR offers to facilitate the resolution of complaints by providing an opportunity for the parties involved to voluntarily resolve the allegations. The enclosed document includes additional information regarding the mediation process. If OCR believes that this complaint is appropriate for mediation, OCR will contact you to discuss this option.

Attached is a request for data necessary to investigate this complaint. The Department's regulation implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, at 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(c) gives OCR the authority to request this information. Please note that OCR has the right of access to records that are necessary for OCR's investigation, even if those records contain names or other personally identifiable information. *See* 20 U.S.C. §§ 1232g(b)(1) and 1232g(b)(3) regarding the applicable provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; *see also* 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(c) and 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(3)(iii).

OCR requests that the University submit this information within 21 calendar days of the date of this letter (i.e., by **August 20, 2024**). We prefer that you submit information electronically, if feasible. If any item in our request is unclear, or if you experience any difficulty complying with this request, please contact us at the telephone number(s) provided below prior to the expiration of the 21-day period. Please be aware that OCR may need to make additional requests for information in the future. If OCR needs to conduct an on-site investigation, we will notify you in advance.

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, or participates in an OCR proceeding. 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 personally identifiable information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if released, to the extent provided by law.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact me by telephone, at (214) 661-9620, or via email, at Selim.Fiagome@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

Selim Fiagome
General Attorney
Office for Civil Rights, Dallas Office

Enclosure