

**POLICY LIT.1.08
PROHIBITED INITIATIVES – DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

SCOPE: Faculty and Staff

Lamar Institute of Technology complies with State of Texas prohibitions relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at public institutions of higher education.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This policy falls under the authority of all applicable federal, state, and Texas State Institute System (TSUS) laws, rules, and regulations, including, but not limited to, the following: TSUS Rules and Regulations, Chapter VII, Paragraph 5, and the Texas Education Code § 51.3525 [S.B. 17, 88th Leg., Reg. Sess. (Tx 2023)].
- 1.2. The prohibitions stated do not apply to the following:
 - 1.2.1. Academic course instruction;
 - 1.2.2. Scholarly research or a creative work by a student or faculty;
 - 1.2.3. An activity of a registered or recognized student organization;
 - 1.2.4. Guest speakers;
 - 1.2.5. Performers on a short-term engagement;
 - 1.2.6. Policies, practices, procedures, programs, or activities to enhance student academic achievement or postgraduate outcomes that are designed and implemented without regard to race, sex, color, or ethnicity;
 - 1.2.7. Data collection;
 - 1.2.8. Student recruitment or admissions.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office means an office, division, or unit of an institution of higher education established for the purpose of:
 - 2.1.1. Influencing hiring or employment practices at the Institute with respect to race, sex, color, or ethnicity, other than through the use of color-blind and sex-neutral hiring processes in accordance with any applicable state and federal antidiscrimination laws;
 - 2.1.2. Promoting differential treatment of or providing special benefits to individuals on the basis of race, color, or ethnicity;
 - 2.1.3. Promoting policies or procedures designed or implemented in reference to race, color, or ethnicity, except as expressly authorized by the TSUS's Office of General Counsel in accordance with a court order or state or federal law; or
 - 2.1.4. Conducting trainings, programs, or activities designed or implemented in reference to race, color, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation except as expressly authorized by the TSUS Office of General Counsel in accordance with a court order or state or federal law.
- 2.2. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training includes a training, program, or activity designed or implemented in reference to race, color, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

3. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

3.1. The Institute shall not, except as required by federal law:

- 3.1.1. Establish or maintain a diversity, equity, and inclusion office;
- 3.1.2. Hire or assign an employee of the Institute or contract with a third party to perform the duties of a diversity, equity, and inclusion office;
- 3.1.3. Compel, require, induce, or solicit any person to provide a diversity, equity, and inclusion statement or give preferential consideration to any person based on the provision of a diversity, equity, or inclusion statement;
- 3.1.4. Give preference on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin to an applicant for employment, an employee, or a participant in any function of the Institute; or
- 3.1.5. Require any person to participate in diversity, equity, and inclusion training as a condition of enrolling at the Institute or performing any Institute function except training developed and approved by the TSUS Office of General Counsel in accordance with a court order or state or federal law.

4. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Any employee or contractor who violates any of the provisions stated in this policy is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Related Procedures:

Relevant Forms/Documents:

Relevant TSUS Policies/Forms/Documents: TSUS Rules and Regulations, Chapter VII, Paragraph 5, Prohibited Initiatives- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Relevant Statutes: Texas Education Code § 51.3525

Relevant SACSOC Standards:

Document History:

Adopted: January 2024

Reviewed:

Revised: April 2025