



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

May 4, 2026

By email only to [sarah@defendinged.org](mailto:sarah@defendinged.org)

Sarah Parshall Perry  
Vice President & Legal Fellow  
Defending Education  
4532 Cherry Hill Road  
Suite 119  
Arlington, Virginia 22207

Re: Case Number 01-25-2398  
Smith College

Dear Sarah Parshall Perry:

On June 20, 2025, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received your complaint against Smith College (the College). The complaint alleges that the College, one of the largest women's colleges in the United States, discriminates against women on the basis of sex by admitting males who identify as women ("self-identified transgender women") and by permitting male students to use intimate facilities designated for women.

OCR 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 program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department of Education, the College must comply with Title IX.

OCR is opening the complaint for investigation. Please note that opening an investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to the merits. 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 as required by [Case Processing Manual \(CPM\) \(Feb. 19, 2025\)](#). Individuals who file complaints with OCR may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

If OCR determines during the course of the investigation that a complaint could be appropriate for mediation, OCR will contact the parties and offer this resolution option.

Please be advised that the College 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, it 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.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [Alexander.Artz@ed.gov](mailto:Alexander.Artz@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

Alexander Artz  
Team Leader