

2026 SMI Schedule at a Glance

Title IX Investigator Track - Level 1 Certificate

Note: All times listed are Eastern Time.

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

2:30-3:30 PM	Check-In	
3:30-4:00 PM	Welcome and Opening	Welcome to the 2026 Sexual Misconduct Institute!
4:00-5:15 PM	"Danger! Understanding and Accounting for Dangerousness and Lethality in Sexual Misconduct Cases" Micaela Deming Policy Director DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Join us for a keynote that explores how professionals charged with assessing reports and making decisions can better identify escalating risk, understand the dynamics of abuse, and contribute to violence prevention.
5:15-6:00 PM	Pathway Breakouts	Participants will be introduced to the institute and pathway goals, connect with colleagues, review pre-read materials, and prepare for two days of thoughtful dialogue, practical skill-building, and professional development.
6:00 PM	Dinner on your own	

Thursday, November 12, 2026

8:30-9:30 AM	The Role of an Investigator	This session explores the core responsibilities of investigators. Participants will examine the boundaries of the investigator's role, clarifying where fact-finding ends and decision-making begins.
9:30-10:30 AM	Case Study Introduction	Throughout SMI, participants will engage with an evolving case study designed to highlight the complexities and challenges encountered in sexual misconduct investigations. This hands-on learning experience will allow participants to apply concepts from each session and practice investigative skills in an interactive environment. During this session, participants will receive case materials, review the foundational facts, and learn how additional information and developments will be introduced throughout the sessions.

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10:30 AM- 12:00 PM	Investigation Considerations and Planning	This session examines the key considerations that drive thoughtful investigation planning, including developing an investigative strategy, determining necessary evidence, and anticipating potential challenges. Participants will explore how to create a comprehensive investigation plan that promotes efficiency and fairness while remaining adaptable as new information emerges.
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch on Your Own	
1:00-2:30 PM	"It Keeps Me Up at Night: Understanding the Trauma Symptoms of Title IX Professionals in the United States" Dr. Kate Watson President & Founder Advocacy Academy	This session explores the emotional, cognitive, physical, and relational impact of working closely with sexual misconduct cases, with a focus on how vicarious trauma can shape decision-making, empathy, boundaries, workplace culture, and personal well-being. Participants will be invited to move beyond simplistic "self-care" messages and toward a deeper understanding of trauma exposure, nervous system stress, ethical responsibility, and sustainable practice. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how vicarious trauma shows up in this work, why it matters, and how individuals and institutions can rediscover joy and purpose in their work.
2:30-2:45 PM	Afternoon Break	
2:45 - 4:00 PM	Interviewing Strategies	This session explores techniques and strategies for gathering relevant, reliable, and comprehensive information from parties and witnesses. Participants will examine approaches for building rapport, asking meaningful questions, addressing inconsistencies, and managing challenging interviewing dynamics while maintaining neutrality and trauma-informed practices.

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4:00-6:00 PM	Developing Questions and Mock Interviews	Participants will work in small groups to prepare written questions and identify investigative objectives. Participants will then participate in mock interviews with parties and/or witnesses from the case study. As new information emerges, participants will practice taking effective notes, identifying areas for follow-up inquiry, and determining what additional evidence should be sought.
6:00 PM	Dinner on Your Own	
Friday, November 13, 2026		
9:00 - 10:30 AM	The Effective Use of Evidence	This session explores various types of evidence that may be encountered during investigations. Participants will learn strategies for collecting, organizing, and evaluating evidence, as well as methods for assessing relevance, reliability, and probative value. Participants will receive additional case study evidence documents and will discuss how to incorporate these documents into their draft investigation report.
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Drafting an Investigation Report	In this session, participants will review the essential components for an effective investigation report, explore common report structures, and discuss writing techniques that promote clarity, accuracy, and neutrality. Participants will examine strategies for organizing information, summarizing evidence, documenting investigative steps, and presenting findings in a manner that is both thorough and easy to follow. Using the case study, participants will draft an investigative report.

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Friday, November 13, 2026		
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch Break	
1:00-2:30 PM	Finalizing an Investigation Report	Participants will examine how to evaluate and address responses, identify any necessary revisions or follow-up steps, and ensure that all relevant information is accurately reflected in the report. Using the case study, participants will produce a clear, objective, and comprehensive final investigative report.
2:30-3:30 PM	Hearing Questions	Participants will have the opportunity to practice asking or answering questions during the live hearing format.
3:30-4:00 PM	Institute Closing and Wrap-Up	