

Crime on Campus Policy

The campus department of public safety's mission is to work in partnership with the community through a continuing commitment to safety and education. The department is committed to protecting the lives and property of the college community. As part of the larger college community, the department strives to foster an environment where diversity is celebrated; citizens of all races, creeds, sexual orientations, religions, and nationalities are made welcome; and rights are preserved.

The campus department of public safety is responsible for enforcing federal and state general laws through its authority, including the authority to arrest, and for security and emergency response on the campus. Officers patrol the campus in vehicles and on foot. Additionally, the department employs paraprofessional community service officers to augment campus patrols. These officers are students from the college and other local colleges who have an interest in learning about law enforcement or are interested in assisting the department in its role of protecting the community.

The college department receives backup aid from and is in constant telephone and radio contact with the police department. The fire department provides fire and emergency medical response to the campus. Every public safety officer has first-responder training in order to provide emergency lifesaving medical assistance prior to the arrival of an ambulance.

In order to provide accurate information, under the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, the campus department of public safety is responsible for documenting any crime that occurs on campus. Crime information can be accepted by the department without the victim's name being given. The college recognizes confidentiality issues. Nonetheless, the college is required by federal law to record and act upon certain information affecting the safety of the entire college community.

The campus department of public safety meets statutory requirements imposed under federal and state laws for confidentiality, privacy, and public disclosure of investigatory material. As a general matter of law, the department must acknowledge that an alleged crime has been reported and must release basic information about the location and time of occurrence. Disclosure of this information is always done in a way that protects a victim's privacy.