

ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT AND ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY REPORT

Columbus Campus Report -- 2023¹

(Covers Calendar Year 2022 / Published September 29, 2023)

Mercer University places a high priority on keeping its campus safe for its students, employees, and visitors. The following information on campus security policies and campus crime statistics is provided in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act), [20 U.S.C. §§ 1092(a) and (f)], for the purpose of (a) informing the University community about campus security policies and procedures; (b) encouraging students and employees to take responsible actions to lessen the chances of crime occurring on campus; and (c) keeping Mercer a safe and secure place to learn and work.

The full text of this report can be located on Mercer's website at <https://police.mercer.edu/security/>. This report is prepared by the General Counsel's Office, in conjunction with the Chief of Mercer Police and designees, the Dean of Students, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, the Assistant Vice President and Title IX Director, Human Resources, Residence Life, and the Assistant Vice President and Director of Environmental Health and Safety. Each entity provides updated information on their educational efforts and programs to comply with the Clery Act. Each year, an email notification is made to all students, faculty and staff that provides the website to access this report.

Campus crime, arrest and referral statistics include those reported to the Mercer Police, respective law enforcement agencies and designated campus officials.

Law Enforcement

Students, employees, and campus visitors are subject to all federal, state, and local criminal laws, in addition to campus regulations. The Columbus Police Department has the primary law enforcement responsibility for the Columbus campus. The Mercer Police Department maintains a cooperative working relationship with the local and state police to ensure the enforcement of all laws. Mercer Police Department also works closely with the Columbus Police Department. Local police agencies also provide back-up assistance to the University for any emergency that might require extensive police services.

Reporting Crimes and Emergencies

All disturbances in or around or on the Mercer University School of Medicine Columbus Campus should be reported to the Columbus Police Department at (706) 225-3205 and to Mercer Police at 478-301-2970 or 478-301-HELP to ensure proper reporting for Federal Disclosure requirements. If you have any doubts as to whether to report an incident that has occurred, report it. Mercer policy encourages every member of the campus community to report a crime promptly to Mercer Police if the victim elects not to or is unable to make such a report. Community members, students, faculty, staff and guests are encouraged to report all crimes and public safety related incidents to Mercer Police in an accurate and timely manner. If assistance is required from the Columbus Police Department, Mercer Police will contact the appropriate unit. Crime alerts are published when incidents on or near the campus could present threats to the University community. Your cooperation in making reports promptly assists the University in issuing timely warnings to the campus community. Because certain police reports may be subject to the Georgia Campus Policeman's law, Mercer Police cannot hold reports of crime in confidence. In the event that a situation arises, either on or off campus, that, in the judgment of the Chief of Mercer Police, constitutes an imminent or continuing threat, a campus wide "timely warning"

¹ Crime statistics for the Columbus Campus for years 2020 and 2021 were combined with the Annual Security Report for the Macon Campus. Per guidance from the Clery Help Desk, statistics for the Columbus Campus for 2021 are combined in the non-campus numbers for the Macon Campus in the 2021 Campus Safety and Security Survey notwithstanding that a separate 2022 Annual Security Report was published for the Columbus Campus. The Columbus campus fully opened after January 31, 2022; therefore, 2022 is the first year in which the Columbus campus is reported as a separate campus in the Campus Safety and Security Survey. For clarity, there were zero statistics in 2020 and 2021 for the Columbus Campus in all categories.

will be issued. The warning will be issued both through the Mercer email system and text messaging system to students, faculty and staff.

The Mercer Police Department maintains statistical records of criminal activity on campus, in off-campus buildings owned or controlled by the University, and on public property immediately adjacent to or accessible from the Mercer campus. Statistical data reflected in the Annual Security Report and Annual Fire Safety Report is compiled from reports to the Columbus Police Department, Mercer Police Department and from the records of the Student Judiciary. A formal police report or investigation is not needed in order for a crime report to be included in the statistics.

Mercer does not operate off-campus student organization facilities. However, many students live in the neighborhoods near campus. Columbus Police Department has primary jurisdiction in all areas off campus, and will respond to student-related incidents that occur in close proximity to campus.

Mercer allows confidential reporting by victims or witnesses of crimes. Further, Mercer encourages pastoral and professional counselors, if and when they deem it appropriate, to inform the persons they are counseling of the procedures for voluntary, confidential reporting of criminal activity.

When reporting a crime, suspicious activity, or other emergency on campus, be sure to provide the following information:

- * Your name;
- * Location of the incident you are reporting;
- * A description of the scene and/or suspects;
- * A description of any vehicles involved in the incident, especially a license plate number if possible;
- * Your telephone number and address, for report purposes.

BEFORE HANGING UP, BE CERTAIN THE DISPATCHER HAS ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED. DO NOT TAKE MATTERS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS; THIS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY.

You can reach Mercer Police by using one of the following phone numbers:

Mercer Police	(478) 301-HELP (4357) or (478) 301-2970
Emergency Line	(478) 301-2911
University Switchboard	(478) 301-2700

The locations of all emergency equipment on the Columbus campus are shown below. These phones and other security devices establish contact with the Mercer Police Department as soon as they are removed from the receiver or otherwise activated.

Columbus Elevator 1

Columbus Elevator 2

Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking

The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (“SaVE Act”) was passed in March 2013 as part of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (“VAWA”). Pursuant to the SaVE Act, Mercer includes reports of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault in its annual security report.

Domestic Violence:

Georgia law does not define “**Domestic Violence**,” but Georgia defines “**Family Violence**” as: “the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between past or present spouses, persons who are parents of the same child, parents and children, stepparents and stepchildren, foster parents and foster children, or other persons living or formerly living in the same household:

(1) Any felony; or

(2) Commission of offenses of battery, simple battery, simple assault, assault, stalking, criminal damage to property, unlawful restraint, or criminal trespass.

The term ‘family violence’ shall not be deemed to include reasonable discipline administered by a parent to a child in the form of corporal punishment, restraint, or detention.” *See* O.C.G. A. § 19-13-1.

For the purpose of reporting domestic violence in the annual security report statistics, “**Domestic Violence**” is defined as felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction... or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

Dating Violence:

Georgia law does not define “**Dating Violence**,” but the definition of “Family Violence” (above) may cover some dating situations. For the purpose of reporting dating violence in the annual security report, “**Dating Violence**” is defined as violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: the length of the relationship; the type of relationship; and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. *See* O.C.G. A. § 19-13-1.

Stalking:

Georgia law defines “**Stalking**” as:

(1) A person commits the offense of stalking when he or she follows, places under surveillance, or contacts another person at or about a place or places without the consent of the other person for the purpose of harassing and intimidating the other person. For the purpose of this article, the terms "computer" and "computer network" shall have the same meanings as set out in Code Section 16-9-92; the term "contact" shall mean any communication including without being limited to communication in person, by telephone, by mail, by broadcast, by computer, by computer network, or by any other electronic device; and the place or places that contact by telephone, mail, broadcast, computer, computer network, or any other electronic device is deemed to occur shall be the place or places where such communication is received. For the purpose of this article, the term "place or places" shall include any public or private property occupied by the victim other than the residence of the defendant. For the purposes of this article, the term "harassing and intimidating" means a knowing and willful course of conduct directed at a specific person which causes emotional distress by placing such person in reasonable fear for such person's safety or the safety of a member of his or her immediate family, by establishing a pattern of harassing and intimidating behavior, and which serves no legitimate purpose. This Code section shall not be construed to require that an overt threat of death or bodily injury has been made.

(2) A person commits the offense of stalking when such person, in violation of a bond to keep the peace posted pursuant to Code Section 17-6-110, standing order issued under Code Section 19-1-1, temporary restraining order, temporary protective order, permanent restraining order, permanent protective order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction or condition of pretrial release, condition of probation, or condition of parole in effect prohibiting the harassment or intimidation of another person, broadcasts or publishes, including electronic publication, the picture, name, address, or phone number of a person for whose benefit the bond, order, or condition was made and without such person's consent in such a manner that causes other persons to harass or intimidate such person and the person making the broadcast or publication knew or had reason to believe that such broadcast or publication would cause such person to be harassed or intimidated by others. *See* O.C.G. A. § 16-5-90.

For the purpose of reporting stalking in the annual security report, “**Stalking**” is defined as engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

Sexual Assault:

Georgia law does not have a single “**Sexual Assault**” definition, but does define the following crimes that are related to sex:

“**Rape**” is defined in Georgia as: (a) A person commits the offense of rape when he has carnal knowledge of:

- (1) A female forcibly and against her will; or
- (2) A female who is less than ten years of age.

Carnal knowledge in rape occurs when there is any penetration of the female sex organ by the male sex organ. The fact that the person allegedly raped is the wife of the defendant shall not be a defense to a charge of rape. *See* O.C.G. A. § 16-6-1.

“**Statutory Rape**” is defined in Georgia as: (a) A person commits the offense of statutory rape when he or she engages in sexual intercourse with any person under the age of 16 years and not his or her spouse, provided that no conviction shall be had for this offense on the unsupported testimony of the victim. *See* O.C.G. A. § 16-6-3.

“**Sodomy; Aggravated Sodomy**” is defined in Georgia as:

(a)(1) A person commits the offense of sodomy when he or she performs or submits to any sexual act involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another.

(2) A person commits the offense of aggravated sodomy when he or she commits sodomy with force and against the will of the other person or when he or she commits sodomy with a person who is less than ten years of age. The fact that the person allegedly sodomized is the spouse of a defendant shall not be a defense to a charge of aggravated sodomy. *See* O.C.G. A. § 16-6-2.

“**Sexual battery**” is defined in Georgia as: (a) For the purposes of this Code section, the term ‘intimate parts’ means the primary genital area, anus, groin, inner thighs, or buttocks of a male or female and the breasts of a female.

(b) A person commits the offense of sexual battery when he or she intentionally makes physical contact with the intimate parts of the body of another person without the consent of that person.” *See* O.C.G. A. § 16-6-22.1.

“**Aggravated sexual battery**” is defined in Georgia as: (a) For the purposes of this Code section, the term ‘foreign object’ means any article or instrument other than the sexual organ of a person.

(b) A person commits the offense of aggravated sexual battery when he or she intentionally penetrates with a foreign object the sexual organ or anus of another person without the consent of that person. *See* O.C.G. A. § 16-6-22.2.

For the purpose of reporting sexual assault in the annual security report, “**Rape**” is defined as: “The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus, with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim;” “**Fondling**” is defined as: “The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity;” “**Incest**” is defined as: “Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law;” and, “**Statutory Rape**” is defined as: “Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.” Georgia law does not define “**Consent**,” but for the purposes of Title IX investigations and Student Code of Conduct investigations at Mercer: Consent is clear, knowing and voluntary. Consent is active, not passive. Silence, in and of itself,

cannot be interpreted as consent. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create mutually understandable clear permission regarding willingness to engage in sexual activity.

- Consent to any one form or condition of sexual activity cannot automatically imply consent to any other forms or conditions of sexual activity.
- Current and/or previous relationships or prior consent cannot imply consent to future sexual acts.
- In order to give effective consent, one must be of legal age, which is 16 years. Sexual activity with someone known to be – or based on the circumstances, should reasonably have known to be – mentally or physically incapacitated (by alcohol or other drug use, unconsciousness or blackout) constitutes a violation of this policy.
- Incapacitation is a state where someone cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because they lack the capacity to give knowing consent (e.g., to understand the “who, what, when, where, why or how” of their sexual interaction).
- This policy also covers a person whose incapacity results from mental disability, sleep, involuntary physical restraint, or from the taking of alcohol or drugs.

Safety and Crime Prevention Programs

The Mercer Police, Student Affairs, Academic and Advising Services, the Student Government Association (SGA), the Title IX Office, Counseling and Psychological Services and Human Resources work together to provide numerous campus safety workshops each year to promote campus safety awareness and to inform students and staff of precautions to enhance their security and that of the University community. These prevention and awareness programs for all students and employees include information about Mercer’s prohibition against dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Along with these workshops, SGA and Mercer Police have produced several pamphlets and other informational items promoting campus safety awareness. During orientation, students are informed of services offered by Mercer Police. Students are told about crime on-campus and how to report crime. Periodically during the academic year, Mercer Police, in cooperation with other University organizations and departments, present crime prevention awareness sessions on sexual assault, personal safety, residence hall security, gun safety, and alcohol related issues. Mercer Police also has a website <http://police.mercer.edu/> which features campus safety videos that are updated on an ongoing basis; annual crime statistics; resources for personal safety; parking maps; a tornado response plan; and contact information for MERPO on the Macon and Atlanta campuses. Additionally, Human Resources presents similar safety information during orientation for new employees, as well as information on Title IX.

Mercer University conducts programming to promote the awareness of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Education programs include primary prevention and awareness programs for all incoming students and new employees, which include a statement that the institution prohibits domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; the definition of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Georgia; the definition of consent, in reference to sexual activity, in Georgia; safe and positive options for bystander intervention that may be carried out by an individual to prevent harm or intervene when there is a risk of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against a person other than such individual; information on risk reduction to recognize warning signs of abusive behavior and how to avoid potential attacks; and ongoing prevention and awareness campaigns for students and faculty on all of the above.

The Title IX Coordinator provides training to all incoming MUSM students at the beginning of the fall semester regarding Title IX and Mercer policies.

MUSM has three facets to their safety training plan: Orientation manuals, electronic telecommunications, and presentations.

Orientation Manual:

Each summer the MUSM Student Handbook is updated and placed online for the students. The newest students matriculating to the campus are sent a link to the handbook (<https://medicine.mercer.edu/student-services/handbook/>) which they attest to having knowledge of by signature during the week of our Orientation.

Electronic Mailings:

The Office of Student Affairs frequently alerts the students of safety issues that have caused concern in the community. The alerts address tropical storms/inclement weather, shootings on campuses, as well as social media policy and University Policy of upcoming concern (alcohol).

Presentations

- July 2022 – All medical students emailed with Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence Policy, with instruction on emergency actions with violence on campus, evacuation plans and weather emergencies. New first year students required to take training module on sexual misconduct/harassment prior to enrollment.
- July 2022 - July 2021: Third Year Student Orientation in hospital about emergency care, campus safety, active shooter video, and reminder of Title IX policy, as part of Student Affairs presentation.
- August 2022 – Representatives from the Office of Student Affairs (MUSM Associate Dean of Student Affairs on each campus) conduct programming in Freshman Orientation to promote the awareness and importance of general safety measures. All new/first year medical students receive instruction to become familiar with Student Handbook, and by signature attest that they have examined the content of our medical student handbook that includes exposure to hazardous materials, emergency call numbers, references to student health and psychological counseling.
- August 2022 – A representative from the Title IX Office conducts programming to promote the awareness of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in Freshman Orientation.
- August 2022 – an email is sent to all new students discussing dangerous situations and emergency preparedness that includes information on sexual misconduct and general safety measures.

Education programs include primary prevention and awareness programs for all students and new employees, which include a statement that the institution prohibits domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; the definition of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Georgia; the definition of consent, in reference to sexual activity, in Georgia; safe and positive options for bystander intervention that may be carried out by an individual to prevent harm or intervene when there is a risk of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against a person other than such individual; information on risk reduction to recognize warning signs of abusive behavior and how to avoid potential attacks; and ongoing prevention and awareness campaigns for students and faculty on all of the above.

To be an active bystander and reduce risk of violence and stalking, you can:

- Watch out for your friends and fellow Bears. If you see someone who looks like they are in trouble, ask them if they are ok.
- Educate yourself and others about interpersonal violence, gender inequality and the causes of gender violence.
- Have a safety plan in place with friends before going out, and look out for each other.
- Confront people who seclude, hit on, try to make out with, or have sex with people who are incapacitated.
- Speak up when someone discusses plans to take sexual advantage of another person.

- Call police when a person is yelling at another and it is not safe for you to interrupt.
- Interject yourself into a conversation where another person seems unsafe.
- Refuse to leave the area (or call police) if a person is trying to get you to leave so they can take advantage of another.
- Speak up against racist, sexist, homophobic, or other harmful remarks, jokes, or music.
- Offer to drive an incapacitated friend home from a party.
- Ensure friends who are incapacitated do not leave the party or go to secluded places with others.
- Confront friends who make excuses for other people's inappropriate behavior.
- Understand how your own attitudes and actions (including jokes, music you listen to, etc.) may perpetuate/normalize sexism and violence, and work toward changing them.
- If safe to do so, offer your support, and be aware of on and off campus resources if you suspect that someone close to you is being abusive or has been impacted by interpersonal violence.

Policies Concerning Alcohol and Drugs on Campus

The possession, sale, or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on campus and at University-sponsored events. Public intoxication, consumption or display of alcoholic liquors, wines or beer on campus is prohibited. Use or possession of illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia is also prohibited. Laws regarding the possession, sale, consumption or furnishing of alcohol are controlled by the State of Georgia, but enforcement of alcohol laws on-campus is the primary responsibility of the Mercer Police Department

The University has adopted a Drug-Free Workplace and Campus Program as a matter of University policy and in keeping with applicable State and Federal laws, including the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989. Copies of the Program are included in the Policies and Procedures Manual (for employees) and in other student handbooks or bulletins and is available here: [Drug-Free Workplace and Campus Program](#). Additional policies imposing higher standards of conduct with respect to drugs or alcohol have been adopted by certain Schools, Colleges, and/or departments. These are included in the student handbooks or other documents available to the students or employees affected. The possession, sale, manufacture or distribution of any controlled substance is illegal under both state and federal laws. Violators are subject to University disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, fine and imprisonment. It is unlawful to sell, furnish or provide alcohol to a person under the age of 21. The possession of alcohol by anyone under 21 years of age is illegal. It is also a violation of the Mercer Student Code of Conduct for a student to consume or possess alcohol in any public or private area of campus.

Students who are alleged to have violated the Student Code of Conduct's prohibition against consuming or possessing drugs or alcohol on campus are subject to the Non-Academic Misconduct Process for Students, which is set forth in the University Student Handbook. The Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Office investigates and brings charges in cases of student misconduct. Charged students may have their charges heard by a University Hearing Board or by a designated University Administrator. The Hearing Board or Administrator will review the case and make a recommendation to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs with regard to responsibility and sanctioning. Students who are found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct's prohibition against consuming or possessing drugs or alcohol on campus are subject to sanctions, including a formal written warning, counseling assessment, community service, educational sanctions, restriction of privileges, fines, restitution, probation, forced change of residence, eviction from University housing, suspension, and expulsion.

Policies Concerning Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking

The University's campus security policies and safety and crime prevention programs, described above, are designed to promote awareness of rape and other sex offenses, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, and to prevent such offenses from occurring.

Mercer University is committed to providing a workplace and education environment, as well as other benefits, programs and activities, that are free from all forms of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. The University's Sexual Misconduct Policy set forth the policy and procedures applicable to any claims arising from prohibited sexual misconduct (including Title IX misconduct): [Mercer University - Sexual Misconduct Policy](#).

If a student, employee, or visitor to campus is sexually assaulted on campus, or is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, it is particularly important, for the protection of both the victim and the University community, that the incident be reported to the Columbus Police Department or Mercer Police Department as soon as possible. Mercer Police can assist the student in getting medical attention and in notifying the proper local law enforcement authorities, if the student so chooses. The sooner an assault is reported, the easier it is to preserve and collect the evidence necessary for a criminal prosecution, or for obtaining a protective order. Reporting the incident to the police does not mean the victim must press charges against the assailant, but it does help assure that the victim receives assistance in deciding how to proceed.

Students and employees may also report sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or other sexual misconduct to the University's Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will assist the student or employee in notifying Mercer Police or local police, if the student or employee would like to do so. The student or employee may also choose not to notify the police. If a student or employee reports that he or she is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, regardless of where the offense occurred, the University provides the person with a written explanation of his or her rights and options. The University notifies the student or employee of his or her right to seek a protective order, a restraining order or similar lawful order from a criminal, civil or tribal court, and the University's obligation to help enforce any protective order. The Title IX Coordinator also offers supportive measures to the reporting student or employee, such as a no-contact order on campus, changing of class schedules, or other reasonable supportive measures.

Sexual assault by a student or group of students, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, also violate University conduct regulations and may lead to expulsion, suspension, or other disciplinary sanctions, in accordance with established disciplinary procedures. The University uses a preponderance of the evidence standard in its disciplinary hearings. In cases of alleged sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, all University disciplinary procedures provide prompt, fair and impartial investigation and resolution. The University permits both the accuser and the accused the same opportunities to have others present during the proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting by an advisor of his or her choice, and both the accuser and the accused receive simultaneous written notice of the outcome of the disciplinary hearing, the University's appeal procedures, any change to the results before the results are final, and when the results become final. The University takes action to enforce its standards of student behavior and to protect the University community, regardless of whether the alleged offense is prosecuted in the criminal courts. The University procedures are conducted by officials who receive annual training on issues related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, as well as how to conduct a hearing process that protects victim safety and promotes accountability.

The University protects victim confidentiality, including publicly available records, and withholds victim identity to the extent permissible by law. Students and employees are provided written notification about counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, and other services that may be available on and off campus. Students and employees are also provided written notification about options for, and available assistance in, changing academic, living, transportation, and working situations if those changes are requested by the reporting student or employee and are reasonably available, regardless of whether the student or employee reports the offense to campus or local police.

Mercer will, upon written request, disclose to the alleged victim of a crime of violence, or a non-forcible sex offense, the final results of any institutional disciplinary proceeding dealing with that crime or offense. If the alleged victim of such crime or offense is deceased as a result of such crime or offense, the next of kin may request and be provided that information. These final results shall only include the name of the student, the violation committed, and any sanction imposed by the institution on that student.

In addition to the Mercer Police and Columbus Police Department (see phone numbers above), some existing services for victims of sexual assault, both on campus and in the Columbus community, include:

- Mercer's Title IX Office: (478) 301-2788 [Title IX - Who Can I Talk To?](#)
- Mercer's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): 478-301-2862 (confidential, free counseling by department staff and referrals when necessary). [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- Sexual Assault Support Center, Inc., Columbus, (706) 571-6010 (Crisis Line)
 - Email: crccenter@aol.com
- Columbus Regional Midtown Medical Center (SANE Nurse available), (706) 571-1000
 - 710 Center Street, Columbus, GA
- Columbus District Attorney's Office, (706) 653-4336
- Chattahoochee Circuit Public Defender Office, (706) 653-4301

There shall be no retaliation against anyone who exercises rights under the Clery Act, VAWA, Campus SaVE or Title IX.

Policies Concerning Missing Student

Reporting: If a member of the University community (faculty, staff, student, parent, or alumni) has reason to believe that a student is missing, that community member will refer the case immediately to the Mercer Police Department.

Mercer Police will work collaboratively with others to contact and locate the student. All reasonable efforts will be made to locate the student and determine his or her state of health and well-being. The efforts include, but are not limited to:

- Phone call to student;
- Email to student through Mercer email account (or other known e-mail addresses);
- Messages through social networking websites if possible;
- Contact with all professors to determine last day of attendance in each class.

If the student is located through these attempts, a determination will be made regarding his or her health and well-being. If necessary, a referral to the Counseling Center, Health Services and other appropriate offices may be made at that time. The Dean of Students or Mercer Police will also encourage the student to contact the community member who initiated the search or follow up with that person directly.

Policy: If the student is not located through the above measures and has been verified to be missing for more than 24 hours, then the following actions will be taken within the next 24 hours by Mercer Police:

(1) Notification will be made (where and when applicable and appropriate) to the appropriate Dean of Students for the particular college/campus in which the student is enrolled, the students' academic advisor, the counseling staff, and health center staff.

(2) The Police and/or Dean of Students will contact the student's emergency contact and, for students under 18 years of age, a custodial parent or guardian if not emancipated. Students are asked to register and continually update emergency contact information on MyMercer Portal.

Sex Offender Registry Information

Federal and state laws require each state to operate a sex offender registry and establishes a national sex offender registry. Convicted sex offenders are required to register in the jurisdiction where they live and must keep their registration current for the duration of their registration period. Information regarding sex offenders

living in the City of Columbus and Muscogee County can be found at <https://gbi.georgia.gov/services/georgia-sex-offender-registry>.

Emergency Alert

As part of Mercer's emergency response plan, students, faculty and staff may sign up for an emergency alert that is delivered via mobile phone. Emergency Alert Registration for students is located at: <http://it.mercer.edu/student/index.htm>, and the Emergency Alert Registration for faculty and staff is located at [MU Information Technology - Emergency Alert Registration \(mercer.edu\)](#).

Timely Warning and Emergency Notification Policy

In an effort to provide timely notice to the campus community in the event of a substantiated Clery Act crime that is reported to campus security authorities or Mercer police, and that may pose a serious or ongoing threat to members of the community, Mercer University, through its Mercer Police Department, will issue Timely Warnings. The University takes its duty seriously to inform students and campus community members of threatening situations and how they can best protect themselves from harm. Information related to crime-related and other potentially threatening situations is provided in an accurate and timely fashion for use by students and other University community members to reduce their chances of becoming victims. Mercer's Timely Warning and Emergency Notification Policy may be found here: <http://disclosure.mercer.edu/www/mu-disclosure/health/upload/Timely-Warning-Policy-Final-083118.pdf>.

Circumstances for which a Warning will be Issued

Timely Warnings are specifically related to compliance with the federal Clery Act, which requires colleges and universities to notify students and employees whenever there is a threat that a serious crime is ongoing or may be repeated so that campus community members can protect themselves from harm. The Clery Act identifies specific crimes that require a Timely Warning to be issued when these crimes are reported to officials with significant responsibility for student and campus activities, campus safety, or the local police, and when the reported crime(s) are believed to have occurred on campus, in or on non-campus buildings or property, or on public property contiguous to the campus (as defined by the Clery Act).

Types of incidents or situations that could warrant the issuance of Timely Warnings are all Clery Act Crimes that represent a serious or continuing threat to the person and well-being of students and employees. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Murder and Manslaughter;
- Rape, fondling, incest or statutory rape;
- Robbery;
- Aggravated Assault;
- Burglaries (occupied rooms/offices/structures);
- Arson;
- Hate Crimes;
- Motor vehicle theft;
- Dating violence, domestic violence and stalking;
- Persons with weapons with intent to use;
- Threat of violent crime;
- Situations where the suspect is not known.

The Clery Act does not define what is “timely”. However, the Timely Warning should be issued, without delay, as soon as pertinent information is substantiated by, and available to, Mercer Police because the intent of a Clery Timely Warning is to alert the campus community of continuing threats, especially concerning safety, thereby enabling community members to protect themselves.

Identities of the Individuals Responsible for Issuing the Timely Warning

The decision to issue a Clery Timely Warning is made by the Mercer Police Shift Supervisor or Officer in Charge (“OIC”). The Mercer Police Shift Supervisor or OIC will also decide which campus(es) or segment of a campus need to receive the alerts. The Mercer Police Shift Supervisor or OIC will, without delay, and taking into account the safety of the campus community, determine the content of the initial Timely Warning and initiate the notification system, unless issuing a notification will, in the professional judgment of Mercer Police or other responsible campus authorities, compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to or otherwise mitigate the emergency. The Senior Vice President for Marketing Communications and Chief of Staff will coordinate with Mercer Police on any follow-up communications to the initial Timely Warning, using text messages, emails, radio, TV or the University website. The Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff’s office is responsible for developing the subsequent information to be disclosed and disseminating the information to the larger community. The issuance of a Timely Warning will be decided on a case-by-case basis in light of all of the facts surrounding a crime, including factors such as the nature of the crime, the continuing danger to the campus community and the possible risk of compromising law enforcement efforts.

Manner in which a Timely Warning will be Disseminated

Timely Warnings will be issued to students and employees upon confirmation of a significant emergency, dangerous situation, incident or crime, impacting the campus community and/or the surrounding area and representing a serious or continuing threat to the person and well-being of students and employees.

This information may be disseminated to campus community members through various mediums for communication. Mercer University will use one or more of the following means:

- Text messaging to cell phones of those enrolled in the RAVE emergency notification service.
- Email notifications and desktop alerting through the RAVE system.
- Targeted emails for geographic, academic, social and other specified groups.
- Information postings on the Mercer University website home page.
- Bibb County Civil Defense siren (Macon Campus only).
- Emergency contact lists for administration and academic officials, along with local emergency responders.
- Other methods deemed necessary that may be used in the information dissemination process, which may include notifications that are posted on buildings, social media platforms, and local news.

Emergency Notification

Circumstances for which an Emergency Notification warning will be issued:

Mercer University uses an Emergency Notification to immediately notify the campus community upon confirmation of a situation that represents a significant emergency or dangerous situation on campus affecting the health or safety of the University campus community. This dangerous situation need not be on the campus at the time of the notification. Some examples of significant emergencies or dangerous situations are:

- An outbreak of meningitis, norovirus or other serious illness;
- An approaching tornado that includes the campus in its possible path, hurricane or other extreme weather conditions;
- Earthquake;

- Gas leak;
- Terrorist incident;
- Armed intruder;
- Bomb threat;
- Civil unrest or rioting;
- Explosion;
- Nearby chemical or hazardous waste spill where fumes present a danger to the campus;
- Situations where a series of crimes have occurred. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Burglaries (unoccupied rooms/buildings/structures)
 - General criminal activity (fraudulent use of credit cards/forges)

In the event that a significant emergency or dangerous situation occurs, the University will: (1) confirm the existence of a significant emergency or dangerous situation; (2) determine the appropriate segment or segments of the campus community to notify; (3) determine the content of the emergency notification; and (4) initiate the emergency notification system.

Identities of the individuals responsible for issuing the Emergency Notification:

The decision to issue an Emergency Notification is made by the Mercer Police Shift Supervisor or Officer in Charge (“OIC”). The Mercer Police Shift Supervisor or OIC will also decide which campus(es) or segment of a campus need to receive the alerts. The Mercer Police Shift Supervisor or OIC will, without delay, and taking into account the safety of the campus community, determine the content of the Emergency Notification and initiate the notification system, unless issuing a notification will, in the professional judgment of Mercer Police or other responsible campus authorities, compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to or otherwise mitigate the emergency.

The Senior Vice President for Marketing Communications and Chief of Staff will coordinate with Mercer Police any follow-up communications to the initial Emergency Notification using text messages, emails, radio, TV or the University website. The Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff’s office is responsible for developing the subsequent information to be disclosed and disseminating the information to the larger community.

Manner in which an Emergency Notification will be disseminated:

Mercer Police will determine the contents of the notification based on each situation. The individual authorizing the alert will compose the message most appropriate to the ongoing situation and address the specifics of the present incident. The goal is to ensure that individuals are aware of the situation and they know the steps to take to safeguard their personal and community safety.

Mercer will employ the **AIR** principle, where the initial message will **A**lert, and subsequent messages will **I**nform, **R**eassure, or **R**elease.

After receiving a directive to issue an Emergency Notification from Mercer Police’s Shift Supervisor or OIC, the Dispatcher shall:

- Create the most appropriate message provided by the individual authorizing the message.
- Follow the guidelines for sending out an Emergency Notification or Timely Warning messages and ensure the message is sent in a timely manner.
- Send the Follow Up/Status & All Clear notifications as directed by Mercer Police’s Shift Supervisor or OIC.

Once the Mercer Police confirm that a potentially dangerous condition or emergency situation is creating risk for students, employees, and visitors on the campus, an appropriate response plan will be implemented without delay. The entire campus community will be notified when there is at least the potential that a very large segment of the community will be affected by a situation, or when a situation threatens the operation of the campus as a whole. Mercer Police will determine how much information is appropriate to disseminate at different points in time.

This information may be disseminated to campus community members through various mediums for communication. Mercer University will use one or more of the following means:

- Text messaging to cell phones of those enrolled in the RAVE emergency notification service.
- Email notifications and desktop alerting through the RAVE system.
- Targeted emails for geographic, academic, social and other specified groups.
- Information postings on the Mercer University website home page.
- Bibb County Civil Defense siren (Macon Campus only).
- Emergency contact lists for administration and academic officials, along with local emergency responders.
- Other methods deemed necessary that may be used in the information dissemination process, which may include notifications that are posted on buildings, social media platforms, and local news.

Emergency Response Plan

The Mercer University Emergency Response Plan provides a management framework for an institutional response to a broad range of major emergencies that may threaten life, health, and safety of the University community, and/or cause major disruption of programs, operations, or special events.

In all emergency situations, Mercer University priorities are:

1. To protect life, health, and safety of the University community;
2. To secure critical infrastructure and facilities for continuous management operations;
3. To resume academic, research, and associated University programs and activities.

Emergency response actions will address the immediate needs of the University community.

The Mercer University Emergency Response Plan guides emergency preparedness, response, and recovery procedures and goals. The plan applies to a broad range of emergency incidents, which are classified according to their severity and potential impact. Mercer University has developed and tested procedures to activate the Emergency Management Team in the event of a natural or man-made disaster on the Macon or Atlanta campuses. In addition, an Emergency Operations Center has been established on each campus. The Emergency Management Team will operate from the Administration building on the affected campus.

The University community cooperates with an established procedure on each campus to promptly report all incidents which present a concern or threat for public safety to the Mercer Police Department.

Once the Mercer Police Department confirm that a potentially dangerous condition or emergency situation is creating risk for students, employees, and visitors on the campus, an appropriate response plan will be implemented without delay. The entire campus community will be notified when there is at least the potential that a very large segment of the community will be affected by a situation, or when a situation threatens the operation of the campus as a whole.

Mercer can select from multiple methods for distribution of mass notifications to the University community or communicate directly to specific groups in order to provide instructions addressing immediate public safety concerns, including but not limited to text messages, emails, fire alarms, and sirens through which messages may be broadcast to the campus. Local radio and/or television alerts may also be used.

Campus Crime Statistics -- Columbus Campus

Statistics concerning certain criminal offenses reported to have occurred on Mercer's Columbus campus during the most recent calendar year and preceding calendar years are set forth below, and are also posted on the Mercer Police Department's website ([Campus Security I Mercer University/](#)). A printed copy of this Report is available, upon request, from the Office of the Senior Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs, which is located in the Dean's Suite.

Mercer University's Mercer Police Department

<u>COLUMBUS CAMPUS</u>						
<u>CRIMINAL OFFENSES</u>	ON CAMPUS			PUBLIC PROPERTY		
	2020*	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter		0	0		0	0
Negligent manslaughter		0	0		0	0
Rape		0	0		0	0
Fondling		0	0		0	0
Incest		0	0		0	0
Statutory rape		0	0		0	0
Robbery		0	0		0	0
Aggravated assault		0	0		0	0
Burglary		0	0		0	0
Motor vehicle theft		0	0		0	0
Arson		0	0		0	0
Domestic Violence		0	0		0	0
Dating Violence		0	0		0	0
Stalking		0	0		0	0
<u>HATE OFFENSES</u>	ON CAMPUS			PUBLIC PROPERTY		
Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity, Disability, Ethnicity, National Origin	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter		0	0		0	0
Negligent manslaughter		0	0		0	0
Rape		0	0		0	0
Fondling		0	0		0	0
Incest		0	0		0	0
Statutory rape		0	0		0	0
Robbery		0	0		0	0
Aggravated assault		0	0		0	0
Burglary		0	0		0	0
Motor vehicle theft		0	0		0	0
Arson		0	0		0	0
Larceny - theft**		0	0		0	0
Intimidation		0	0		0	0
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property		0	0		0	0

* Crime statistics for the Columbus campus prior to 2021 were combined with the Annual Security Report for the Macon campus.

** There were 4 instances of larceny in 2021, but no evidence to support these crimes were related to a Hate Offense.

Mercer University's Mercer Police Department

<u>SAVANNAH CAMPUS</u>						
<u>ARRESTS</u>	ON CAMPUS			PUBLIC PROPERTY		
	2020*	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.		0	0		0	0
Drug abuse violations		0	0		0	0
Liquor law violations		0	0		0	0
<u>DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS/JUDICIAL REFERRALS</u>						
	ON CAMPUS			PUBLIC PROPERTY		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.		0	0		0	0
Drug abuse violations		0	0		0	0
Liquor law violations		0	0		0	0
<u>UNFOUNDED CRIMES</u>						
	2020	2021	2022			
Total unfounded crimes		0	0			

* Crime statistics for the Columbus campus prior to 2021 were combined with the Annual Security Report for the Macon campus.