



Safe Campus Initiatives

Campus safety is a high priority at Mercer University. With open campuses situated in urban environments, we work continuously to keep students, faculty, staff and visitors safe through education and safety programs. In addition, the Mercer Police Department (MERPO) works with local law enforcement agencies in Macon and Atlanta to identify and stop those who choose to break the law on, and in proximity to, our campuses.

Specifically, Mercer employs the following campus safety initiatives:

- 24 sworn police officers who participate in year-round training and specialized exercises.
- 24-hour patrols on foot, bicycle, golf carts and car.
- 25 emergency “blue light” outdoor phones.
- A bi-annual safety evaluation walk organized by the Student Government Association (SGA) with participation from Mercer’s Dean of Students, Associate Vice President for Facilities, and Chief of Police.
- An annual Campus Safety Week to raise awareness about the need for personal responsibility in reducing the risk of becoming a victim of crime.
- 151 Fire and Burglar Alarm systems monitored by the Mercer Police Central Alarm Station. Connectivity is tested on each of these units every 24 hours.
- 224 cameras with 32 network DVR devices to monitor and record activity. Four new cameras are being added in the Mercer Village area on the Macon campus.
- All Mercer employees and students are issued a University ID Card. The “Bear Card” is used for identification and access purposes on campus. In the event a card is lost or stolen, the card can immediately be deactivated by contacting MERPO or online at Bearcardoffice.com.
- Bear Card entry to specific buildings and campus housing. Buildings participating in the Bear Card Access Control Program can be locked down in manner of seconds in case of a campus emergency.
- All residence hall exterior doors are equipped with alarms that sound when the door is propped open, and entry doors are equipped with access control readers.
- Bear Bucks program provides a cashless way to conduct business on campus for students, faculty and staff that helps reduce the need for carrying cash.

Mercer devotes significant staff and safety resources to the provision and maintenance of a safe and secure campus community.

- Inoperative exterior lights reporting system maintained by MERPO.
- Proactive landscaping and maintenance measures that reduce vagrancy.
- MERPO website (police.mercer.edu) provides crime statistics, alerts, maps and prevention protocols.
- Crime awareness presentations during freshman orientation by MERPO, addressing safety precautions to take both on campus and in surrounding areas.

- Emergency notification system (e-mail, text and phone) and outdoor siren warning system connected to Macon-Bibb County EMA (Macon campus).
- Student, faculty and staff notification of serious crimes that occur on or adjacent to campus per the federal Clery Act.
- Security surveys offered by MERPO for campus buildings and on-campus residents.
- Daily reports sent to housing, law enforcement, Dean of Students and other key campus representatives to review crime activity and to identify preventative actions.
- Emergency response exercises, testing established plans and protocols.
- Emergency preparedness certificate training program.
- Residence Life Emergency Alert Plan designed to deal with natural disasters and security concerns in residence halls.
- 18 Resident Advisors (RAs) and two full-time hall directors on-duty in the residence halls every evening (8 p.m. – 8 a.m.) and 24 hours on the weekends during spring and fall; one full-time hall director on-duty during summer.
- The Dean of Students, Residence Life and Student Affairs staff, including a member of the Counseling Center, are on call during spring and fall; two staff members are on call during summer.

What students, faculty and staff can do to reduce risk:

- Take an active role in your safety and well-being.
- Be aware of your surroundings, particularly off campus and after dark. Walk confidently and briskly and avoid doing other activities while walking, such as reading or using an iPod or cell phone.
- Walk in groups after dark.
- Always lock doors and windows.
- Security doors should never be propped open.
- Do not leave personal possessions unattended.
- Use a recommended U-lock to secure bicycles and scooters.
- Do not allow unfamiliar people into residence halls and other buildings without identification.
- Practice the “clean car” rule – remove anything of value from sight, including small items such as spare change.
- Seek guidance from the Student Health Center or the Student Counseling Center.
- Immediately report crimes or suspicious activity to the Dean of Students Office or MERPO.
- Enter the MERPO number as a speed dial on your cell phone — **(478) 301-4357** for Macon and **(678) 547-6358** for Atlanta.
- Sign up for the emergency alert system at <https://apps.mercer.edu/alerts/>.

What parents can do:

- Reinforce common safety precautions with your sons and daughters.
- Encourage students to sign up for the emergency alert system.
- Keep an open line of communication with your students.
- Notify MERPO or the Dean of Students if you have any concerns.