

MERCER UNIVERSITY  
**Annual Security and  
Fire Safety Report**  
2026

---



MERCER  
UNIVERSITY

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                              |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Preparation of Annual Security Report .....</b>                           | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Reporting Crimes and Other Emergencies .....</b>                          | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Campus Security Authorities .....</b>                                     | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Mercer Police.....</b>                                                    | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Reporting Crime .....</b>                                                 | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Daily Crime Log.....</b>                                                  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Atlanta Campus .....</b>                                                  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Columbus Campus.....</b>                                                  | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Macon Campus .....</b>                                                    | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Savannah Campus .....</b>                                                 | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Crime Prevention and Safety Awareness Programs .....</b>                  | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Campus Facilities and Building Security .....</b>                         | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Campus Buildings and Grounds .....</b>                                    | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Student Housing .....</b>                                                 | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Maintenance.....</b>                                                      | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Timely Warnings .....</b>                                                 | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Emergency Notifications .....</b>                                         | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Hazing .....</b>                                                          | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking .....</b> | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Reporting .....</b>                                                       | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Resources and Supportive Measures .....</b>                               | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Investigation Process .....</b>                                           | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Resolution Options.....</b>                                               | <b>19</b> |
| <b>Investigation Outcome.....</b>                                            | <b>19</b> |
| <b>Bystander Intervention .....</b>                                          | <b>22</b> |
| <b>Risk Reduction .....</b>                                                  | <b>22</b> |
| <b>Awareness and Prevention Programming.....</b>                             | <b>23</b> |
| <b>Sex Offender Registry Information .....</b>                               | <b>23</b> |
| <b>Alcohol and Other Drug Policies and Programs .....</b>                    | <b>24</b> |
| <b>Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness and Prevention.....</b>                  | <b>25</b> |

|                                                         |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Policies Concerning Missing Student.....</b>         | <b>25</b> |
| <b>Campus Crime Statistics .....</b>                    | <b>26</b> |
| Atlanta Campus .....                                    | 26        |
| Columbus Campus .....                                   | 26        |
| Macon Campus .....                                      | 27        |
| Savannah Campus .....                                   | 27        |
| <b>Annual Fire Safety Report .....</b>                  | <b>27</b> |
| General .....                                           | 27        |
| Fire Safety Standards and Measures .....                | 28        |
| Student Housing – Rules and Regulations.....            | 28        |
| Student Housing – Procedures in the Event of Fire ..... | 30        |
| <b>Appendices .....</b>                                 | <b>33</b> |
| Appendix I – Sexual Misconduct Policy Definitions ..... | 33        |
| Appendix II – Campus Crime Statistics .....             | 37        |

## Preparation of Annual Security Report

Mercer University places a high priority on keeping its campus safe for its students, faculty, staff and visitors. In compliance with federal laws and regulations, including the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act (“Clery Act”), this Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (“Report”) contains certain statistics for calendar year 2025 crimes reported in certain locations on or near campus as specified by the Clery Act. This Report has been prepared 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 Police Department website at <https://police.mercer.edu/security/>. This Report is prepared by the Office of General Counsel in conjunction with the Chief of Mercer Police and designees, Office of Equity and Compliance, Student Affairs, Human Resources, Residence Life, Counseling and Psychological Services (“CAPS”), and other University departments. Each department provides updated information on their educational efforts and programs to comply with the Clery Act. Statistical data received from these sources is aggregated and included in this Report. Each year, an email notification is made to all students, faculty and staff that provides the website to access this Report. All members of the Mercer community are encouraged to read this Report.

Campus crime, arrest and referral statistics include those reported to the Mercer Police, respective law enforcement agencies and designated campus officials. Unless noted otherwise, the information in this Report applies across all Mercer campuses.

### Atlanta, Georgia

- Cobb County Accelerated Nursing Program Site

- Dekalb County Campus

- Douglas County Regional Academic Center

- Henry County Regional Academic Center

### Columbus, Georgia

- Columbus Campus

- Mercer University School of Medicine Carrollton Clinical Campus

### Macon, Georgia

- Macon Campus

- Mercer University School of Medicine Valdosta Clinical Campus

- Mercer Engineering Research Center

### Savannah, Georgia

## Reporting Crimes and Other Emergencies

### Campus Security Authorities

Campus Security Authorities (“CSA”) are individuals and organizations at Mercer who, because of their function, have an obligation under the Clery Act to notify the University of alleged Clery Act crimes that are reported to them in good faith, or alleged Clery Act crimes that they may personally witness.

The Clery Act identifies four categories of individuals and organizations who may qualify as CSAs at Mercer that a victim or witness may report crimes to:

1. A campus police department or a campus security department of an institution.
2. Any individual or individuals who have responsibility for campus security but who do not constitute a campus police department or a campus security department under paragraph (1) of this definition, such as an individual who is responsible for monitoring an entrance into institutional property.
3. Any individual or organization specified in an institution's statement of campus security policy as an individual or organization to which students and employees should report criminal offenses.
4. An official of an institution who has significant responsibility for student and campus activities, including, but not limited to, student housing, student discipline, and campus judicial proceedings. If such an official is a pastoral or professional counselor as defined below, the official is not considered a campus security authority when acting as a pastoral or professional counselor.

If a CSA receives information of alleged Clery Act crime and believes it was provided in good faith, or personally witnesses an alleged Clery Act crime, they should report the crime directly to Mercer University Police. CSAs at Mercer University include departments or individuals with significant responsibility for student and campus activities, including the following:

- Mercer Police Department officers
- Student Affairs Vice Presidents and Deans
- Housing and Residence Life Directors and Resident Advisors
- Campus Life Executive Director
- Title IX Coordinator
- Campus Health Director

### Mercer Police

Mercer University Campus Police Department has the primary responsibility for crime prevention, law enforcement, emergency preparedness and response, security, and parking control for the Mercer community. This service includes providing a safe, peaceful environment through the protection of life and property in order to maintain a quality of life in which members of the Mercer community can learn, teach and work. This service is accomplished in accordance with established local, state and federal laws, University policies and procedures, and a commitment to safety.

Mercer Police is a certified police agency as defined by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Act. The department's powers are outlined in Section 20-8-1 (Law Enforcement Powers of Campus Policemen) of the Georgia Code Annotated. Those duties listed in Section 20-8-1 include enforcement authority in Georgia, relationship with state and local police agencies, jurisdiction, and arrest authority.

## Reporting Crime

Reporting crimes to law enforcement helps protect the University community by ensuring that crimes are investigated and action is taken when appropriate. All students, faculty, staff and visitors should promptly report to Mercer Police or the respective police in the jurisdiction, any unusual activity on campus, in any off-campus building owned or controlled by Mercer, or on public property immediately adjacent to or accessible from a Mercer campus.

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. If assistance is required from a local police department, Mercer Police will contact them. Because certain police reports may be subject to the Georgia Campus Policeman's law, Mercer Police cannot hold reports of crime in confidence.

Mercer Police maintains statistical records of criminal activity on campus and in off-campus buildings owned or controlled by the University. A formal police report or investigation is not needed in order for a crime report to be included in the statistics. See the section "Campus Crime Statistics" of this Report for more information.

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.

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.

You can reach local law enforcement by dialing 911 on a telephone or reach Mercer Police by using the following phone numbers or email addresses.

### Atlanta

|                                 |                                                                |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mercer Police Email             | <a href="mailto:atlpolice@mercer.edu">atlpolice@mercer.edu</a> |
| Mercer Police                   | (678) 547-6358                                                 |
| Mercer Emergency Line           | 6911 (from any campus phone)                                   |
| Mercer University Switchboard   | (678) 547-6000                                                 |
| Cobb County Police Department   | (770) 499-3900                                                 |
| DeKalb County Police Department | (404) 294-2911                                                 |

|                                  |                                                                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Douglas County Police Department | (770) 920-3010                                                       |
| Henry County Police Department   | (770) 288-8200                                                       |
| <b>Columbus</b>                  |                                                                      |
| Columbus Police Department       | (706) 225-3205                                                       |
| Mercer Police                    | See contact information below                                        |
| Carrollton Police Department     | (770) 834-4451                                                       |
| <b>Macon</b>                     |                                                                      |
| Mercer Police Email              | <a href="mailto:mercerpolicy@mercer.edu">mercerpolicy@mercer.edu</a> |
| Mercer Police – Campus Phone     | Dispatcher: HELP (4357)                                              |
| Mercer Police – Campus Phone     | Emergency Line: 2911                                                 |
| Mercer Police – Non-Campus Phone | Dispatcher: (478) 301-4357                                           |
| Mercer Police – Non-Campus Phone | Emergency Line: (478) 301-2911                                       |
| Bibb County Sheriff’s Office     | (478) 751-7500                                                       |
| Valdosta Police Department       | (229) 242-2606                                                       |
| Warner Robins Police Department  | (478) 302-5378                                                       |
| <b>Savannah</b>                  |                                                                      |
| Memorial Hospital Security Dept. | (912) 350-8600                                                       |
| Savannah Police Department       | (912) 525-3124                                                       |
| Mercer Police                    | See contact information above                                        |

## Daily Crime Log

Mercer University maintains a Daily Crime Log, which is available for public inspection at the Mercer Police Department during normal business hours. The Crime Log records criminal incidents reported to Campus Safety and includes the nature of each incident, the date and time the incident occurred, the date the incident was reported, the general location of occurrence, and the disposition (if known). Entries are made within two business days of the report, except when disclosure is prohibited by law or would jeopardize an ongoing investigation. The most recent 60 days of the log are available immediately upon request, and portions older than 60 days are made available within two business days.

## Atlanta Campus

The Atlanta campus includes the Cobb County Accelerated Nursing Program Site, Dekalb County Campus, Douglas County Regional Academic Center and the Henry County Regional Academic Center. When a Mercer student is involved in an off-campus offense, Mercer Atlanta Police (“MERPO-ATL”) officers may assist with the investigation in cooperation with local, state, or federal law enforcement. MERPO-ATL officers routinely work and communicate with local law enforcement agencies on any serious incidents occurring on-campus or in the immediate neighborhood and business areas surrounding campus. Although the locations in Cobb County, Douglas County, and Henry County do not have MERPO-

ATL present, the University maintains relationships with local law enforcement that have jurisdiction over those locations.

Mercer does not operate off-campus student organization facilities in Atlanta. However, many students live in the neighborhoods surrounding Mercer's campus. While local law enforcement has primary jurisdiction in all areas off campus, MERPO-ATL officers can and do respond to student-related incidents that occur in close proximity to campus.

Emergency phones are located in several locations on the Atlanta-Dekalb campus. These phones dial MERPO-ATL as soon as they are removed from the receiver.

## **Columbus Campus**

The Columbus Campus includes the Columbus Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) Campus and the MUSM Carrollton Clinical Campus. Although Mercer Police does not have a presence in Columbus or Carrollton, the University maintains relationships with local law enforcement that have jurisdiction over the locations. All disturbances in or around or on the MUSM Columbus Campus and MUSM Carrollton Clinical Campus should be reported to the Columbus Police Department or the Carrollton Police Department and to Mercer Police.

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

Emergency phones are also located on the Columbus campus. These phones dial Mercer Police as soon as they are removed from the receiver.

## **Macon Campus**

The Macon Campus includes the main Macon Campus, the MUSM Valdosta Clinical Campus, and the Mercer Engineering Research Center. When a Mercer student is involved in an off-campus offense, Mercer Police officers may assist with the investigation in cooperation with local, state, or federal law enforcement. Bibb County Sheriff's Department officers routinely work and communicate with Mercer Police officers on any serious incidents occurring on the Macon campus or in the immediate neighborhood and business areas surrounding campus. Although Mercer Police does not have a presence in Valdosta or Warner Robins, where the Mercer Engineering Research Center is located, the University maintain relationships with local law enforcement that have jurisdiction over the locations. All disturbances in or around the MUSM Valdosta Clinical Campus should be reported to the Valdosta Police Department and to Mercer Police. All disturbances in or around the Mercer Engineering Research Center should be reported to the Houston County Sheriff's Office and Warner Robins Police Department, as well as Mercer Police.

Mercer does not operate off-campus student organization facilities in Macon. However, many students live in the neighborhoods surrounding Mercer. While Bibb County Sheriff's Office has primary jurisdiction in all areas off campus, Mercer Police officers can and do respond to student-related incidents that occur in close proximity to campus. Some Mercer Police vehicles have radio communications with the city police and fire department to facilitate rapid response in any emergency situation. Bibb County Sheriff's Office 911 Center contacts Mercer Police when one of their officers is requesting assistance regarding an incident that involves a student.

Emergency phones are located in several locations on the Macon campus. These phones dial Mercer Police as soon as they are removed from the receiver

### **Savannah Campus**

Although Mercer Police does not have a presence in Savannah, the University maintains relationships with local law enforcement that have jurisdiction over the location. In Savannah, Memorial Health University Medical Center Security Services Department works in conjunction with the Savannah Police Department, to provide security for the Memorial University Medical Center (“MUMC”) and Mercer University’s School of Medicine’s Savannah campus.

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

Several panic alarms are located on the Savannah campus. These security devices establish contact with MUMC Security Services Department as soon as they are activated.

## **Crime Prevention and Safety Awareness Programs**

In an effort to provide Mercer students, faculty, staff, and the University community with information about the campus security procedures and the tools they need to help keep themselves and others safe, Mercer Police, Student Affairs, Office of Equity and Compliance, CAPS, Human Resources and other University organizations provide a variety of educational programs to incoming and current University students and employees. Programming is focused on a broad range of topics including crime prevention and safety regarding:

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Active Violence          | Hazing         |
| Alcohol                  | Drugs          |
| Building Security        | Risk Reduction |
| Bystander Intervention   | Sexual Assault |
| Consent                  | Stalking       |
| Domestic/Dating Violence | Theft          |

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 and awareness sessions on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, personal safety, residence hall security, gun safety, and alcohol and drug-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; reacting to an active shooter situation; reacting to suspicious activity; parking maps; severe weather procedures; personal responsibility relating to the consumption of alcohol; scam avoidance; and contact information for MERPO on the Macon and Atlanta campuses. Additionally, Human Resources and Student Affairs present similar safety information during orientation for new employees and students. The Title IX Coordinator also presents at student and employee orientation on the University’s Sexual Misconduct Policy, consent, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, stalking, including how to report sexual misconduct and primary prevention and bystander intervention tactics. On the Macon campus, leaders of the Student Government Association,

the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Chief of Mercer Police, and the Director of the Physical Plant conduct a walk-through survey of the campus each semester to examine security issues such as landscaping, locks, lighting, fencing, gates, sidewalks and crosswalks.

The University maintains ongoing, year-round prevention and awareness campaigns and primary prevention programming for students and employees. Core education is delivered at new-student and new-employee orientations each term, with additional refresher sessions, targeted briefings, and special-topic programs offered regularly throughout the academic year in residence halls, classrooms, and campus venues. Programming covers campus security procedures and practices; personal safety and property protection; emergency preparedness (including evacuation, shelter-in-place, and notification systems); how and where to report concerns; and practical steps that encourage participants to be responsible for their own security and the security of others.

Mercer Police, the Office of Student Affairs, and other partner offices also provide presentations on request to student organizations, departments, and residence communities throughout the year. Recurring offerings include self-defense instruction, active-threat and emergency preparedness sessions (delivered in short online or instructor-led formats), programs on situational awareness and crime prevention strategies, and bystander engagement skills.

Programs are reinforced by routine communications and transparency tools: safety alerts and timely warnings are issued as needed; a daily crime log is maintained and publicly available; and ongoing awareness messages and safety tips are shared via email, social media, and the University's dedicated safety website. Together, these measures reflect a layered strategy designed to reduce opportunities for crime, build preparedness, and foster a culture of shared responsibility for campus safety.

## **Campus Facilities and Building Security**

### **Campus Buildings and Grounds**

Mercer Police routinely patrol all campus buildings on the Atlanta-Dekalb and Macon campuses, entering them as needed to provide service and security. Other campus locations are monitored by local law enforcement designated for the respective campus. Many events at Mercer University are open to the public, including athletic and cultural events. Academic and administrative facilities are generally open only to students, faculty, staff, and their visitors. Mercer has campus-wide standard building hours subject to limited exception. In addition, many buildings are equipped with electronic access control allowing only those authorized with access to enter during or after normal business hours.

Blue Light emergency notification stations are strategically placed in several outside locations on the Atlanta-Dekalb and Macon campuses. When activated, the system provides direct contact with the police dispatcher and immediate officer response. Mercer Police offers escorts for any member of the University community from the hours of dusk to dawn any day of the year. This service is provided free of charge and may be obtained by contacting Mercer Police.

### **Student Housing**

Residence buildings are secured 24 hours a day. Access to Mercer student housing is limited to residents, residential staff, and their invited guests through a building's main entrance. Fire drills are conducted each semester. Room inspections are conducted on a bi-monthly basis in order to ensure that residents and professional staff are living in a safe and conducive environment. From 5:00 pm to 8:30 am, residents also have access to a multi-tiered response system designed for prompt assistance in the event of an emergency.

## Maintenance

Mercer University Physical Plant Facilities and designated third parties provide custodial services and maintain the buildings, grounds, and utility systems across all Mercer campuses. Building locking mechanisms, windows, fire alarm systems, lighting, elevators, and other safety related measures are routinely inspected.

## Timely Warnings

In an effort to provide timely notice to the campus community in the event of a substantiated Clery Act crime that is reported to a CSA or Mercer Police and that may pose a serious or ongoing threat to members of the community, Mercer Police 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 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: [Timely Warning and Emergency Notification Policy](#).

### What Constitutes Issuance of a Timely Warning

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.

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

### Timing Criteria for a Timely Warning

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.

#### Decision Criteria for a Timely Warning

The decision to issue a 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 University Marketing, or the Assistant Vice President for Marketing Communications, 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 for University Marketing'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.

#### Content Criteria for a Timely Warning

Clery Act regulations do not specify what information should be included in a Timely Warning. Generally, the Timely Warning will specify the type of reported crime, the time and location at which the reported crime occurred, and specific advice to the campus community regarding steps to take to avoid becoming a victim.

#### How Timely Warnings Are Issued

Timely Warnings 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 Notifications

### Emergency Notifications

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 may be completed at <https://alert.mercer.edu/>.

### What Constitutes Issuance of an Emergency Notification

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. Emergency Notifications are issued without delay, unless doing so would compromise efforts to assist a victim, contain the emergency, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency. 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, forgeries, etc.)

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.

### Decision to Issue Emergency Notification

The decision to issue an Emergency Notification is made by the Mercer Police Shift Supervisor or OIC. The Mercer Police Shift Supervisor or OIC will also decide which campus(es) or segment of a campus need to receive the notification. 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 University Marketing 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 for University Marketing's office is responsible for

developing the subsequent information to be disclosed and disseminating the information to the larger community.

#### Content Criteria for an Emergency Notification

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.

#### Communications Center/Dispatch Operations

After receiving a directive to issue an Emergency Notification from Mercer Police's Shift Supervisor or OIC, the Mercer Police 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.

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.

When the University community is informed that they need to evacuate, evacuation is mandatory. This may occur when a fire alarm is activated or when Mercer Police issue an order in response to a reported threat within a building or facility. During any evacuation, elevators must not be used and doors should be closed upon exiting. All individuals are expected to move at least 500 feet away from the affected building or follow the directions of on-site emergency responders. These procedures are in place to ensure a safe and orderly evacuation in the event of an emergency.

## Hazing

Hazing is strictly prohibited at all Mercer campus locations and in all programs and organizations affiliated with Mercer, whether on or off campus. Hazing incidents may be reported by: (1) the filing of a police report with Mercer Police; (2) providing a signed written statement directly to the Vice President of Student Affairs, or designee; or (3) submitting an anonymous report on the University's Hazing Reporting Form found at [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MercerUniv&layout\\_id=3](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MercerUniv&layout_id=3). All reports of suspected hazing are investigated under the Student Code of Conduct. Student organizations suspected of hazing will be investigated as outlined under our procedures for Non-Academic Misconduct Process for Student Organizations. If a student or student organization is in violation of the Anti-Hazing Policy, the student or organization may be subject to discipline, including but not limited to probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Mercer University defines "Hazing" as follows: Any act which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or which destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, a group or organization. The express or implied consent of the victim will not be a defense. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing is a violation of this rule.

Georgia's Max Gruver Act provides criminal penalties for hazing and requires public reporting of hazing violations that are reported to the University. The federal Stop Campus Hazing Act also requires public reporting of hazing violations that are reported to the University. These reports and additional information on State and Federal laws governing hazing can be found at [Mercer Anti-Hazing Policy](#).

Beginning with calendar year 2025, Mercer University began tracking hazing incident data for inclusion in its Annual Security Report crime statistics, as required by the Clery Act, as amended by the Stop Campus Hazing Act. Beginning December 23, 2025, the University publishes a Campus Hazing Transparency Report documenting findings of hazing violations by student organizations. This report is publicly available on the University's website and updated at least twice per year at [Mercer Anti-Hazing Policy](#). The number of hazing incidents included in the Annual Security Report may differ from the number of hazing incidents reported in the Campus Hazing Transparency Report. This is because the Annual Security Report includes all reports of hazing to the University, whereas the Campus Hazing Transparency Report includes summaries of findings when a student organization was found responsible for violating the University's standards of conduct related to hazing.

Mercer provides prevention and awareness programming on hazing for all students and employees, offers multiple reporting options (including confidential reporting and referrals to law enforcement where appropriate), and ensures hazing cases are tracked and appropriately documented. Mercer created a web-based, research-informed hazing prevention and awareness program for all students through the Canvas platform. The web-based prevention and awareness program includes information on how to report hazing, the process for investigation, and state and federal laws regarding hazing. The web-based prevention and awareness program also provides resources to prevent hazing, such as bystander intervention, constructive team-building, and ethical leadership within the University and student organizations. In addition to the web-based prevention and awareness program, Mercer provides in-person training on hazing prevention and awareness to students at orientation, as well as targeted training to groups, such as leaders in student organizations, student-athletes and coaches, and fraternity and sorority members.

## Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking

The University's campus security policies and safety and crime prevention programs are designed to promote awareness of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, rape and other sex offenses and to prevent such offenses from occurring. Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking are prohibited on all Mercer campuses and noncampus properties.

Mercer University is committed to providing an education environment and workplace, as well as other benefits, programs and activities, that are free from all forms of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The University's Sexual Misconduct Policy sets forth the policy and procedures applicable to any claims arising from prohibited sexual misconduct (including Title IX misconduct) and may be found here: [Sexual Misconduct Policy](#). Capitalized terms used in this section but not defined shall have the same definition as in the Sexual Misconduct Policy. Certain definitions regarding the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy are set forth on Appendix I hereto – Sexual Misconduct Policy Definitions.

### Reporting

If a student, employee, or visitor to campus is sexually assaulted on campus, or is a complainant of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, for the protection of both the complainant and the University community it is important that the incident be reported to the Mercer Police Department as soon as possible. In addition, all individuals, groups or organizations associated with the operations, employment, education initiatives or involved in any form of business or opportunity with the University are expected to immediately report actual or suspected sexual harassment or misconduct as defined by the Sexual Misconduct Policy, to the Title IX Coordinator. This includes, but is not limited to: contractors, volunteers, security, fraternity and sorority advisors or any individual associated with a University fraternity or sorority or student organization.

Mercer Police can assist the complainant in getting medical attention and in notifying the proper local law enforcement authorities, if the complainant 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 complainant must press charges against the assailant, but it does help assure that the complainant receives assistance in deciding how to proceed.

All University employees (faculty, staff, student employees, and administrators) on all Mercer University campuses are expected to immediately report actual or suspected sexual misconduct defined by the Sexual Misconduct Policy, to the Title IX Coordinator. Employees must also promptly share all details of behaviors under the Sexual Misconduct Policy that they observe or have knowledge of, even if not directly reported to them. Failure to report an incident, defined by the Sexual Misconduct Policy, of which they become aware, is a violation of the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy and can be subject to disciplinary action for failure to comply.

If a student or employee reports that they have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, regardless of where the offense occurred, the University Title IX Coordinator provides the person with a written explanation of their rights and options. The University Title IX Coordinator notifies the complainant of their 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.

#### Confidential Employees

Clinical staff at CAPS, medical professionals and staff at the University On-Campus Health, and the University Minister are confidential employees only when acting in the capacity of their role as a counselor or health care provider. A complainant may talk in confidence, as provided by law, to these individuals. Exceptions to confidentiality exist where the conduct involves suspected abuse of a minor or otherwise provided by law, such as imminent threat of serious harm.

#### Reporting to Office of Equity and Compliance

Upon receiving a report, the Title IX Coordinator has full discretion to conduct inquiries into reports. The Title IX Coordinator may implement any necessary reasonable restrictions to address reported concerns.

Every effort will be made by the University to preserve the privacy of reports. Privacy means that information related to a report will only be shared with a limited number of University employees who need to know. The privacy of student education records will be protected in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), as outlined in the University's FERPA Policy. The privacy of employee records will be protected in accordance with Human Resources practices and policies. The University reserves the right to designate which University officials have a legitimate educational interest in being informed about incidents that fall within the FERPA Policy.

#### Reporting to Law Enforcement

When sexual misconduct may constitute criminal activity, a Complainant also has the option, should the Complainant so choose, of filing a report with campus or local police.

#### Reporting an Unknown or Non-University Community Respondent

If the Respondent is unknown or is not a member of the University community, the Title IX Coordinator will assist the Complainant in identifying appropriate resources and support options. If criminal conduct is alleged, the University may also assist in contacting law enforcement, if the Complainant would like to file a police report. If the Respondent is enrolled in or employed by another institution, the Title IX Coordinator may assist the Complainant in liaising with the appropriate individual at that institution, as it may be possible to allege violations through that institution's policy. In addition, the University may take other actions as appropriate to protect the Complainant against third parties, such as barring or trespassing individuals from University property and/or events.

#### Filing a Formal Complaint

The Title IX Coordinator has discretion to file a Formal Complaint even if the Complainant chooses not to participate in the process and/or does not wish to file a Formal Complaint, when the Title IX Coordinator determines that the report includes conduct that poses a threat to the health, safety and well-being of the community. The Title IX Coordinator may consider the following factors: the seriousness of the alleged conduct, the Complainant's age and/or whether there have been other complaints of prohibited conduct against the same Respondent.

After a Formal Complaint has been filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator, the University will commence the Investigation process. Although there is no time limitation on filing a Formal Complaint to the Title IX Coordinator, if a significant amount of time has passed, the ability to investigate, respond, and provide remedies may be more limited.

## Resources and Supportive Measures

### Resources and Supportive Measures

The University protects confidentiality, including publicly available records, and withholds complainant and respondent identity to the extent permissible by law in its recordkeeping. Regardless of whether the dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking took place on or off campus, complainants and respondents are provided written notification regarding the following rights and resources:

- How to request changes to academic, living, transportation, and working situations
- Supportive measures
- Counseling
- Health
- Mental health
- Advocacy resources
- Legal resources
- Visa and immigration assistance
- Student financial aid resources
- Other services that may be available on and off campus

Regardless of whether the incident is reported to campus police or local law enforcement, Mercer will share the above resources and provide supportive measures if the complainant or respondent requests them and if they are reasonably available. Mercer will also maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of Mercer to provide the supportive measures.

### Emergency Removal and Prohibition on Retaliation

The University may act to remove a Respondent entirely or partially from its education program, employment or activities on an emergency interim basis when an individualized safety and risk analysis has determined that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any other individual(s), or the University Community, justifies removal. This risk analysis examination is at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator and is evaluated, in conjunction with other selected University departments, to best examine the scope of the possible risk.

If the Respondent is an employee, the University may place the employee on administrative leave, with or without pay, to provide time to investigate and evaluate the circumstances regarding the complaint. There shall be no retaliation against anyone who exercises rights under the Clery Act, VAWA, Campus SaVE or Title IX.

## Investigation Process

All Formal Complaints shall be acted upon promptly by the University once received. Formal Complaint investigations and subsequent adjudication can take up to 120 business days to resolve. Exceptions and extenuating circumstances can cause the process and resolution to take longer, but the University will avoid all undue delays within its control. If the general timeframes will be delayed, the University will provide written notice to the parties of the delay, the cause of a delay, and an estimate of the anticipated additional time that will be needed as a result of the delay.

The University permits both the Complainant and the Respondent the same opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or hearing by an advisor of his or her choice. An advisor may be a

friend, family member, attorney or any other individual. The parties may select whoever they wish to serve as their advisor, so long as the advisor is eligible and available.

Both the Complainant and the Respondent 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 uses a preponderance of the evidence standard in its disciplinary hearings. 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 training on issues related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, as well as how to conduct a hearing process that protects complainant safety and promotes accountability.

## **Resolution Options**

Prohibited Conduct, including Title IX Misconduct, may be resolved by using an informal or a formal process. The Title IX Coordinator will discuss these two options for resolution with the Complainant and Respondent. Either party may request one of these forms of resolution, but the University must approve that such a process is appropriate under the circumstances.

### Informal Resolution Process

Parties have the option of informally resolving complaints of alleged Prohibited Conduct, including Title IX Misconduct. The University has the discretion to determine whether an Informal Resolution Process is appropriate.

The University may consider the following factors to assess whether the Informal Resolution is appropriate:

- The parties' amenability to the resolution
- Likelihood of potential resolution, considering any power dynamics between the parties
- The parties' motivation to participate
- Civility of the parties
- Cleared violence risk assessment/ongoing risk analysis
- Disciplinary history
- Whether an emergency removal is needed
- Complaint complexity
- Emotional investment/intelligence of the parties
- Rationality of the parties
- Goals of the parties
- Safety of the University Community

### Formal Resolution Process

The Formal Process commences when a Complainant or Title IX Coordinator files a Formal Complaint and an Investigation proceeds. During the Formal Process, an Informal Resolution may still be considered and implemented as described above.

## **Investigation Outcome**

### Discipline and Sanctions

Sexual assault by a student or group of students, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, are violations of University conduct regulations and may lead to expulsion, suspension, or other

disciplinary sanctions, in accordance with established disciplinary procedures. In cases of alleged sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or other sexual misconduct as defined in the Sexual Misconduct Policy, all University disciplinary procedures provide prompt, fair and impartial investigation and resolution. Sanctions will be implemented as soon as is feasible, either upon the outcome of any appeal or the expiration of the window to appeal without an appeal being requested.

The broad range of sanctions for students includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- *Warning*: A formal statement that the conduct was unacceptable and a warning that further violation of any University policy, procedure, or directive will result in more severe sanctions/responsive actions.
- *Required Training or Participation*: A mandate to meet with and engage in either University-sponsored or external counseling to better comprehend the misconduct and its effects or to required participation in sensitivity training, sexual misconduct training, volunteering, community service, etc.
- *Probation*: A written reprimand for violation of institutional policy. Terms of the probation will be articulated and may include denial of specified social privileges, exclusion from co-curricular activities, exclusion from designated areas of campus, no contact orders, and/or other measures deemed appropriate.
- *Suspension*: Termination of student status for a definite period of time and/or until specific criteria are met, or both.
- *Expulsion*: Permanent termination of student status and revocation of rights to be on campus for any reason or to attend University-sponsored events.
- *Withholding Diploma*: The University may withhold a student's diploma for a specified period of time and/or deny a student participation in commencement activities.
- *Revocation of Degree*: The University reserves the right to revoke a degree previously awarded from the University for violations of University policies, procedures, or directives in obtaining the degree, or for other serious violations committed by a student prior to graduation.
- *Revocation of Alumni Privileges*
- *Organizational Sanctions*: Deactivation, loss of recognition, loss of some or all privileges for a specified period of time.
- *Other Actions*: Including, but not limited to:
  - Removal from student housing;
  - Restriction from University premises;
  - Temporary or permanent separation of the parties (by way of example only: change in classes, reassignment of residence, no contact orders, limiting geography where parties may go on campus) with additional sanctions for violating orders;
  - Counseling or mentoring;
  - Removal from leadership/supervisory positions within the University community;
  - Revocation of honors or awards;
  - Loss of University privileges (i.e., using University athletic facilities, parking on campus, using the campus library, utilizing the dining hall);
  - Community service;
  - Any other discretionary sanctions that are directly related to the violation or conduct and that are aimed at eliminating Prohibited Conduct and Title IX Misconduct, preventing its recurrence, and addressing its effects on the Complainant and, if applicable, the University community.

The broad range of sanctions for employees includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Warning or Reprimand: Verbal or Written
- Performance Improvement/Management Process
- Required Counseling
- Required Training or Education
- Probation
- Workplace Restrictions
- Denial of a merit pay increase or other benefit
- Denial of promotion
- Reassignment
- Suspension
- Termination
- Other Actions: Including, but not limited to:
  - Restriction from University premises
  - Temporary or permanent separation of the parties (limiting geography where parties may go on campus) with additional sanctions for violating orders
  - Counseling or mentoring
  - Removal from leadership/supervisory positions within the University community
  - Revocation of honors or awards
  - Loss of University privileges (i.e., using University athletic facilities, parking on campus, using the campus library, utilizing the dining hall)
  - Community service
  - Any other discretionary sanctions that are directly related to the violation or conduct and that are aimed at eliminating Prohibited Conduct and Title IX Misconduct, preventing its recurrence, and addressing its effects on the Complainant and, if applicable, the University community.

### Appeal

Both the Complainant and the Respondent have the right to request an appeal, and all requests must be submitted in writing to the Appeal Decision Maker within seven business days of the delivery of the Notice of Outcome.

Appeals are limited to the following grounds: (A) Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter; (B) New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and (C) The Title IX Coordinator, Investigator(s), or Hearing Panel Members had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the specific Complainant or Respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

A Notice of Appeal Outcome will be sent to all parties simultaneously including the decision on each approved or denied ground and rationale for each decision. The Notice of Appeal Outcome will provide any specific instructions for remand or reconsideration, any sanctions that may result which the University is permitted to share according to state or federal law, and the rationale supporting the essential findings to the extent the University is permitted to share under state or federal law.

### Final Determination

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.

### **Bystander Intervention**

Bystanders are individuals who witness violence or the conditions that perpetuate violence. They are not directly involved but have the choice to intervene, speak up, or do something about it. Bystander intervention means safe and positive options that may be carried out by an individual or individuals to prevent harm or intervene when there is a risk of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other misconduct. Bystander intervention includes recognizing situations of potential harm, understanding institutional structures and cultural conditions that facilitate violence, overcoming barriers to intervening, identifying safe and effective intervention options, and taking action to intervene.

Education about relationship and sexual violence may help bystanders identify the conditions and provide suggestions on how to intervene. While bystander intervention can take many forms, the following are examples of bystander intervention actions:

- 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.
- 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.

### **Risk Reduction**

Risk reduction means options designed to decrease perpetration and bystander inaction, and to increase empowerment for victims in order to promote safety and to help individuals and communities address conditions that facilitate violence.

Education about domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking helps create a culture of consent. Training helps people recognize potentially harmful situations and identify safe and effective options to address those situations. Victims are never at fault for another's abusive actions - abusers are responsible for their abusive behaviors. However, if you find yourself in a situation where someone is pressuring you or making you uncomfortable, the following are examples of potential risk reduction strategies:

- 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.
- 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.

## **Awareness and Prevention Programming**

Mercer University offers a robust and sustained prevention-and-awareness program addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Programming includes:

- **Orientation:** Each academic year, all incoming students (freshmen, transfers, and new graduate students) complete a required online awareness module (via Catharsis) that addresses definitions of misconduct, reporting options, bystander intervention, and key campus resources. Incoming students also receive in-person training by the Office of Equity and Compliance at the start of the academic year. New employees also receive prevention resources and training by the Office of Equity and Compliance as part of their onboarding process.
- **In-Person Trainings:** Throughout the year, the Title IX Office, Housing, Athletics, and Student Affairs deliver targeted, in-person workshops and briefings for specific groups, including resident students, student-athletes, student organizations, faculty, and staff. These sessions occur at the start of each semester and periodically throughout the year.
- **Intervention Programming:** The University offers sessions on bystander intervention, trauma-informed response, and healthy relationship skills, often embedded within student leadership, residence life, and organizational training. Several offerings are formally promoted as “prevention workshops” each semester.
- **Awareness Campaigns and Outreach:** Messaging through email, print materials, and online resources is delivered year-round to reinforce reporting options, consent education, available resources, and community expectations.
- **On-Request Presentations:** In addition to the many regularly scheduled training presentations, the Office of Equity and Compliance also provides trainings upon request to academic departments, student groups, and faculty or staff units.
- **Program Evaluation:** The University regularly assesses the effectiveness of its prevention programming through surveys, participation data, and periodic reviews.

Through in-person student and employee orientation presentations, online modules and resources, scheduled workshops, continuous outreach, and trainings provided on request, the University delivers consistent education that informs the community, equips individuals with the skills to intervene, and fosters a culture of shared responsibility. These efforts strengthen positive social norms and support a safer, more inclusive campus environment.

## **Sex Offender Registry Information**

The Federal Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act requires institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where information concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. Persons convicted of certain sex offenses are required by law to register with the state of Georgia. A current listing of registered sex offenders in Georgia is available at

<https://gbi.georgia.gov/services/georgia-sex-offender-registry>. The University also provides this information to students and employees via direct email messaging each year.

## Alcohol and Other Drug Policies and Programs

Mercer University shares the widespread national concern with the serious threat to health, safety, and welfare posed by the unlawful use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol, especially on college campuses. The unlawful possession, use, distribution, dispensing or manufacture of illicit drugs or alcohol at any time on any University property or as part of any University-sponsored activity is absolutely prohibited. (Professional and graduate schools may adopt policies more in line with the profile of their student body, as long as these policies are reviewed and approved in advance by the Provost). Laws regarding the possession, sale, consumption or furnishing of alcohol, including underage drinking, are controlled by the State of Georgia, but enforcement of alcohol laws on-campus is the primary responsibility of the Mercer Police or the designated law enforcement authority.

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 various Student Handbooks and in the Policies and Procedures Manual (for employees) and is available here: [Drug-Free Workplace and Campus Program](#). The University annually distributes a written notice to all students and employees regarding standards of conduct, health risks, disciplinary sanctions, and counseling/treatment programs, consistent with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Additional policies imposing higher standards of conduct with respect to drugs or alcohol have been adopted by certain University Schools and 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. Decisions regarding responsibility are made applying the preponderance of the evidence standard. 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. Students who are found responsible have the right to appeal the decision or the sanction to the Vice President for Student Affairs on the following grounds:

- (1) A significant error in adhering to Mercer's procedural process, which prejudiced the accused to the extent that the student was denied a fundamentally fair hearing as a result of the error.

Procedural flaws alone are not grounds for an appeal. Significant procedural errors that may have affected the verdict or sanction will be considered;

- (2) The emergence of new evidence that could not have been previously discovered and that, had it been represented at the initial hearing, would have substantially affected the original decision of the hearing body;
- (3) The imposition of sanctions which are disproportionate to the offense.

The decision of the Vice Present for Student Affairs on appeal is the final decision of the University.

## **Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness and Prevention**

The University administers a comprehensive alcohol and other drug abuse prevention program designed to promote student and employee well-being and reduce risks associated with substance use and abuse. The program integrates required education, ongoing awareness initiatives, targeted skill-building, and referral services. New employees receive education on alcohol and drug policies during orientation sessions, with additional training and reinforcement provided intermittently.

Ongoing initiatives include annual alcohol awareness campaigns, Safe Spring Break programming, wellness fairs, and periodic outreach through email and University publications. Residence life staff and student organizations receive specialized training each semester on identifying and addressing alcohol and drug misuse, with enhanced programming offered during high-risk times such as orientation, major campus events, and late-semester periods.

The University also provides skill-based workshops on decision-making, peer influence, and misuse prevention, while maintaining robust referral resources through CAPS and the Employee Assistance Program. Additional prevention strategies include safe prescription drug disposal initiatives and other harm-reduction efforts. Policies are widely disseminated through student and employee handbooks, the University website, and orientation materials, and are periodically reviewed for effectiveness. Sanctions for violations are consistently enforced, with counseling or treatment referrals provided as appropriate.

## **Policies Concerning Missing Student**

If a member of the University community (faculty, staff, student, parent, alumni) has reason to believe that a student is missing, that community member should refer the case immediately to the Mercer Police Department or the designated local law enforcement agency. For Regional Academic Centers, Valdosta and Carrollton MUSM Clinical Campuses, and the Cobb County Accelerated Nursing Program site students, the community member may contact Mercer Police directly or the Center Coordinator who, in turn, must report the missing student to Mercer Police and the Regional Academic Center Director of Operations.

Mercer Police will work collaboratively with others to contact and locate the student. Student contact information will be registered confidentially, will be accessible only to authorized campus officials, and may not be disclosed, except to law enforcement personnel in furtherance of a missing person investigation. 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;

- Contact with Housing staff (Resident Advisor or Residence Life Coordinator) and roommate(s) if student is residential (Housing and/or Mercer Police will make a welfare entry into the student's room).

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 CAPS, 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.

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 (or the Director of Operations for a Regional Academic Center):

- Notification will be made (where and when applicable, as is appropriate) to the 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.
- Local law enforcement will be notified about the missing student, unless the local law enforcement agency was the entity that made the determination that the student is missing.
- Mercer 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.
- Students who reside in on-campus housing are also provided an opportunity to identify a confidential emergency contact individual during check-in. This person(s) will also be contacted within 24 hours after the student is determined to be missing unless the student is under 18 years of age and not emancipated, in which case a custodial parent or guardian will be notified as mandated by law.

Once notified, the parent/guardian/emergency contact person may need to work with Mercer Police to submit additional information with outside law enforcement agencies in order to expand the investigation.

## Campus Crime Statistics

### Atlanta Campus

Statistics concerning certain criminal offenses reported to have occurred on Mercer's Atlanta campus (which includes the Dekalb campus, Henry County Regional Academic Center, Douglas County Regional Academic Center and Cobb County Accelerated Nursing Program site) during the most recent calendar year and the two preceding calendar years are set forth below, and are also posted on the Mercer Police Department's website (<https://police.mercer.edu/security/>). A printed copy of the Report is available in the Human Resources Department, the Mercer Police Department on the Atlanta campus, the Student Affairs Office and the coordinator's office at each Regional Academic Centers. A copy will be provided upon request. All incidents reported occurred in Atlanta, unless otherwise noted by a footnote. See Appendix II – Campus Crime Statistics for details.

### Columbus Campus

Statistics concerning certain criminal offenses reported to have occurred on Mercer's Columbus campus (which includes the Carrollton MUSM Clinical 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 (<https://police.mercer.edu/security/>). 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. See Appendix II – Campus Crime Statistics for details.

### **Macon Campus**

Statistics concerning certain criminal offenses reported to have occurred on Mercer's Macon campus (which includes the Valdosta MUSM Clinical Campus and the Mercer Engineering Research Center) during the most recent calendar year and the two preceding calendar years are set forth below, and are also posted on the Mercer Police Department's website (<https://police.mercer.edu/security/>). A printed copy of the Report is available in the Human Resources Office, the Mercer Police Department, the Admissions Office, and the Student Affairs office, and will be provided upon request. All incidents reported below occurred in Macon, unless otherwise noted by a footnote. See Appendix II – Campus Crime Statistics for details.

### **Savannah Campus**

Statistics concerning certain criminal offenses reported to have occurred on Mercer's Savannah 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 (<https://police.mercer.edu/security/>). A printed copy of this Report is available, upon request, from the Office of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, which is located in the Dean's Suite in the Medical Education Building. See Appendix II – Campus Crime Statistics for details.

## **Annual Fire Safety Report**

Mercer University seeks to provide the University community with the safest possible environment, free from potential fire hazards. The Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315) became law in August of 2008, requiring all United States academic institutions to produce an annual fire safety report outlining fire safety practices, standards, and all fire-related on-campus statistics for residential facilities.

### **General**

Mercer's Physical Plant Department and other designated parties maintain contract services for OSHA/NFPA required fire extinguisher inspection services, along with the associated annual discharge/recharge service of the extinguisher units.

### **Student Affairs Housing and Residence Life**

The Housing & Residence Life staff provides hands-on management for the established safeguards to prevent fire within Mercer University student residence facilities. The Housing Handbook provides rules to establish a culture of fire safety and guidelines assisting residents to make the best decisions for activities affecting fire safety.

Also, the Housing & Residence Life staff has an established and tested procedure for Critical Incident Evacuation and Lockdown, which maintains direct linkage with the Mercer University Police Department. In addition, the Housing & Resident Life staff conducts mandatory fire drills once per semester in coordination with the Mercer University Police Department.

## Fire Safety Standards and Measures

### Fire Safety Training, Documentation, & Notification:

- Fire Drills are scheduled two times per academic year. The first drill is held in the Fall semester (within the first two weeks of student's arrival on campus). The second drill is held at the start of the Spring semester (within the first two weeks of their return from the holiday break).
- An incident report is created for a fire alarm incident or actual fire occurring in a Mercer residence facility, & entered into the Residence Life Professional Staff Duty Log.
- Actual fires must be promptly reported to the Mercer Police Department.
- Building staff (both Resident Assistants and Area Coordinators) report fire alarm incidents and actual fires to the Assistant Director of Residence Life, who initiates notification procedures to appropriate university administration officials.

### Emergencies:

- In an emergency situation, dial 2911 from any campus phone for immediate assistance from the Mercer Police Department.
- For non-emergencies, dial 478-301-4357, the Mercer Police administrative line.
- In the event of a campus-wide emergency, the Office of Residence Life will serve as the campus command center disseminating information to the entire campus student community.

## Student Housing – Rules and Regulations

The following are excerpts from the University's Housing & Residence Life Community Standards: [Housing & Residence Life Community Standards](#).

### **6.0 Candles/Incense/Dangerous Materials:**

6.1 All open flames, embers, and/or fuels are strictly prohibited in the Residence Halls/Apartments/Greek Houses (with the exception of Greek House ritual candles properly stored in ritual closets when not in ceremonial use.).

6.2 Any candles found, regardless of whether they have been burned or not, wick or no wick, will be *confiscated and may be thrown away*. A charge of \$50 may be assessed *per candle* confiscated.

6.3 The burning of incense is not permitted. A charge of \$50 may be assessed per incident.

6.4 Possession/storage of combustible materials (lighter fluid, oil, kerosene, charcoal, propane, gasoline, other dangerous chemicals, etc.) or other dangerous substances in the Residence Halls, Apartments, or Greek Houses is prohibited.

### **18.0 Fire Safety/Equipment:**

In case of a fire alarm, all students must leave the building immediately. *Students are not to re-enter the building until instructed to do so by the University Housing Staff.*

18.1 The setting of a fire or the activation of a false fire alarm is strictly prohibited. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action and/or criminal charges may be filed.

18.2 Students refusing to vacate in a timely manner, or students returning to the building before they are told to do so may be subject to disciplinary action.

18.3 The mishandling of fire extinguishers is strictly prohibited. The inappropriate discharge of a fire extinguisher will result in a \$100 charge plus refilling costs.

18.4 Tampering with fire safety equipment (fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, fire

evacuation stickers, fire doors, etc.) will result in a \$50 charge and possible further disciplinary action and/or criminal charges. This includes covering or disarming smoke detectors.

18.5 Emergency Exits may be used only during emergency evacuations. Any other use may result in a \$50 charge.

18.6 Emergency phones & alarms located in the elevators are to be used only in emergencies. Improper use will result in a \$50 charge.

18.7 Hanging items from sprinkler heads is strictly prohibited and can result in property damage of which costs would be charged to the responsible individuals.

**Choosing to violate the Fire Safety/Equipment policy may result in an immediate Room Change or removal/eviction from the Housing System.**

**19.0 Fireworks and Explosive Devices:**

The possession, use, and/or threat of use of fireworks, explosives, ammunition, and/or smoke bombs are prohibited in and around all Housing facilities.

**21.0 Grills:**

The use of electric grills, gas grills, alcohol stoves, hibachis, charcoal grills, deep fryers, smokers, etc. are strictly prohibited in rooms/apartments/houses or in breezeways. Residents wanting to use these types of devices must do so at least fifteen feet away from any campus building/structure.

**31.0 Permitted & Prohibited Items:**

Appliances with open heating coils and deep fat fryers are prohibited.

Space heaters with exposed heating coils are prohibited.

Students should unplug appliances after use.

Use appliances in open areas free from combustible items (paper, curtains, clothes, etc.)

**Permitted Items:**

Microwaves, <15amps  
Refrigerators, up to 5 cubic feet  
Iron, must use an ironing board  
Stereo  
TV/VCR/DVD Player/Recorder  
Coffee Makers  
Hair Dryer  
Game Systems/Consoles  
Computers/Laptops  
Desk Lamps  
Crock Pots

**Prohibited Items:**

George Foreman Grills  
Electric Heaters  
Halogen Lights/Lamps  
Toaster or Toaster Oven  
Neon Lights

Microwaves, >15amps  
Sun Lamps  
Chest Freezers  
Portable Dish/Clothes Washer  
Charcoal or Gas Grills  
Waterbeds

**Permitted Items in Apartments & Greek House Kitchens ONLY:**

Sandwich Maker  
George Foreman Grills  
Toaster Ovens

**Extension cords/Multi-Plug Adapters:**

- Only UL approved three-prong grounded extension cords are permitted
- Only one extension cord may be used per double outlet
- Only one surge protector strip is allowed per double outlet

**Rewiring of student rooms by non-university employees is not permitted.**

**37.0 Smoking:**

Mercer University prohibits smoking in all campus buildings including the Residence Halls, Apartments, and Greek Houses.

- 37.1 Smoking is prohibited in all residence hall rooms, apartments, Greek houses and/or common areas. A minimum charge of \$50 will be assessed if evidence of smoking is found in a room/apartment or any interior common area/space.
- 37.2 Smoking is prohibited within fifteen feet of any Mercer owned or managed facility.
- 37.3 Residents who improperly dispose of cigarette butts will be charged a \$25 littering fee.

**38.0 Stairwells:**

Stairwells, hallways, exit ramps, etc. should not be blocked at any time; this includes trash, boxes, bicycles, etc. Persons found loitering on/in the stairwells, hallways, exit ramps, etc. will be asked to move immediately. Stairwells, hallways, exit doors, etc. may not be propped.

**Student Housing – Procedures in the Event of Fire**

Your first priority should be to get yourself out of the building safely. If any of the following actions will jeopardize your well-being, exit the building promptly and do what you can to aid the situation outside.

During a fire alarm, all occupants of the building should vacate that facility immediately and assume a position that is a substantial distance from the perimeter of the facility. **Failure to vacate a facility with a centralized fire monitoring system is a violation of Mercer University Police and of Federal Law. Violators will be held accountable through the University's Judicial System.**

*If you discover or strongly suspect a fire...*

1. In a residence hall, apartment, or other university building, go to the nearest pull box and activate the alarm system if it has not already been activated.
2. Call Mercer Police at (478) 301-2970 and report your name, the fact you are a RA and the area and nature of the fire.

3. If practical, isolate the fire by closing doors in the vicinity.
4. Proceed to evacuate the building according to the building evacuation plan. Quickly knock-on residents' doors to make sure all residents have left the building. Assist any students with disabilities if you are able. (It is also a good idea to ask several other residents to check on any disabled students in case of fire and you're not there.)
5. Move to the designated area within each residence hall where the staff meets when there is a fire alarm. (Check with your RLC to learn where your area is.) It is important for all staff to know who is available during the crisis and can assist when necessary.
6. When fire fighters arrive, tell them who you are and your title; inform them about the type of fire and its location, and also the possibility of people trapped by the fire. Unless the fire fighters authorize you to assist in any further evacuation area, remain outside with residents until the fire fighters give permission to return to the building.
7. Document the situation in an incident report and submit the report to your RLC immediately.

Note: if you are ever in doubt if something is or is not on fire, pull the alarm. If you see smoke, go ahead and pull the alarm. A minute or two of hesitation could be very costly. Even if the fire appears to be out, it may flare up later and need to be properly disposed. Also always use good judgment in any attempt to extinguish a fire.

When you hear a fire alarm...

1. Always assume that it could be a real fire.
2. Call Mercer Police and the professional staff member on-duty.
3. Proceed to the staff designated meeting area and await instructions from the professional staff member or Mercer police.
4. If it is determined to be a false alarm, the alarm will be silenced and Mercer Police, fire fighters or the professional staff member on-duty only will instruct residents when they can return to the building.
5. Assist with crowd control until given instructions to return to the building.
6. Document the situation in an incident report and submit it to your RLC immediately.

If it is an announced fire drill...

1. Do not call Mercer Police or the professional staff member on-duty.
2. Knock on each resident's/suite doors as you leave the floor.
3. As quickly as possible while still being thorough you need to check each room:
  - a. Knock; identify yourself as Residence Life, and key into each space.
  - b. If you find someone take their information, ask them to leave the building, and fill out an incident report after the drill. If you find no one, continue on.
4. If you are an assisting staff member who is not conducting room checks stand near an exit, make sure that everyone is safe distance away from the building, and that no one re-enters the building until the clear signal is given.

**Fire Safety Systems for Student Housing**

1. Greek Village (18 Houses)  
R-13 Sprinkler System  
4- Fire Extinguishers/10 Bedroom; 2- Fire Extinguishers/ 5 Bedroom  
Smoke Detectors (Local)

2. Village Apartments – (6 Buildings)  
R-13 Sprinkler System  
1- Fire Extinguisher per apartment  
Smoke Detectors and Fire Alarm Panel
3. Winship/Adams Apartments (13 Buildings)  
1- Fire Extinguisher per apartment  
Smoke Detectors (Local)
4. Mercer Hall  
Sprinkler System w/Fire Pump  
Fire Extinguishers in Hall  
Smoke Detectors and Fire Alarm Panel
5. Sherwood Hall  
Sprinkler System  
Fire Extinguishers in Hall  
Smoke Detectors and Fire Alarm Panel
6. Shorter Hall  
Sprinkler System on 4th (Top) Floor – Risers and Hoses in Hallway  
Fire Extinguishers in Hall  
Smoke Detectors and Fire Alarm Panel
7. Roberts Hall  
Smoke Detectors in Hall and Fire Alarm Panel  
Fire Extinguishers in Hall
8. Plunkett Hall  
Fire Extinguishers in Hall  
Smoke Detectors in Hall and Fire Alarm Panel
9. Porter, Boone, Dowell (MEP)  
Fire Extinguishers in Hall  
Smoke Detectors and Fire Alarm Panel
10. Atlanta Campus Housing (2900, 2902, 2904)  
Sprinkler Systems in each building  
Fire Extinguishers in each kitchen and in common areas  
Smoke Detectors in each apartment

#### **Physical Plant Department**

##### **On Campus Housing Fire Protection Systems Service Policy:**

- Fire sprinkler systems and equipment are tested and checked every 6 months according to NFPA requirements
- Smoke detectors and fire alarms are checked and tested 2 times per year
- Fire extinguishers are checked and serviced on a monthly basis

## Appendices

### Appendix I – Sexual Misconduct Policy Definitions

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. Pursuant to the Clery Act, the following state law definitions are included in this Report.

#### 1. Consent

- a. Georgia law does not define “**Consent**,” but for the purposes of Title IX investigations and Student Code of Conduct investigations at Mercer University, 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.
  - i. Consent to any one form or condition of sexual activity cannot automatically imply consent to any other forms or conditions of sexual activity.
  - ii. Current and/or previous relationships or prior consent cannot imply consent to future sexual acts.
  - iii. 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.
  - iv. 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).
  - v. This policy also covers a person whose incapacity results from mental disability, sleep, involuntary physical restraint, or from the taking of alcohol or drugs.
- b. Georgia defines “**without consent**” as a circumstance in which a person whose concurrence is required has not, with knowledge of the essential facts, voluntarily yielded to the proposal of the accused or of another. See O.C.G.A. §16-1-3(19).

#### 2. Dating Violence

- a. Georgia law defines “**Dating Violence**” as “the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between persons through whom a current pregnancy has developed or who are currently, or within the last 12 months were, in a dating relationship: (A) Any felony; or (B) Commission of the offenses of simple battery, battery, simple assault, or stalking.” See O.C.G.A. §19-13A-1.

### 3. Domestic Violence

- a. 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.

- b. For the purpose of reporting domestic violence in this Report, “**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.

### 4. Sexual Assault

- a. Georgia law does not have a single “**Sexual Assault**” definition, but does define the following crimes that are under the broader category of sexual assault:

- i. “**Incest**”

- 1. Defined in Georgia as: “(a) A person commits the offense of incest when such person engages in sexual intercourse or sodomy, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-6-2, with a person whom he or she knows he or she is related to by blood, by adoption, or by marriage as follows: (1) Father and child or stepchild; (2) Mother and child or stepchild; (3) Siblings of the whole blood or of the half blood or by virtue of adoption; (4) Grandparent and grandchild of the whole blood or of the half blood or by virtue of adoption; (5) Aunt and niece or nephew of the whole blood or of the half blood or by virtue of adoption; or (6) Uncle and niece or nephew of the whole blood or of the half blood or by virtue of adoption.” See O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22.

- ii. “**Rape**”

- 1. 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.

iii. **“Sexual Battery”; “Aggravated sexual battery”**

1. 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.
2. 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. 6.

iv. **“Sodomy”; “Aggravated Sodomy”**

1. 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.

v. **“Statutory Rape”**

1. 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.

For the purpose of reporting sexual assault in this 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”. See FBI Uniform Crime Reporting System.”
- **“Incest”** is defined as: “Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.”
- **“Statutory Rape”** is defined as: “Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.”

**5. Stalking**

- a. Georgia law defines **“Stalking”** as follows:

- i. “(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 16-992; 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.
- ii. (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.”
- iii. For the purpose of reporting stalking in this 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.

## **Appendix II – Campus Crime Statistics**



| Mercer University's Mercer Police Department                                                        |           |      |      |                 |      |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|-----------------|------|------|
| <u>COLUMBUS CAMPUS</u>                                                                              | ON CAMPUS |      |      | PUBLIC PROPERTY |      |      |
| <u>CRIMINAL OFFENSES</u>                                                                            |           |      |      |                 |      |      |
|                                                                                                     | 2023      | 2024 | 2025 | 2023            | 2024 | 2025 |
| Murder/non-negligent manslaughter                                                                   | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Negligent manslaughter                                                                              | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Rape                                                                                                | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Fondling                                                                                            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Incest                                                                                              | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Statutory rape                                                                                      | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Robbery                                                                                             | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Aggravated assault                                                                                  | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Burglary                                                                                            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Motor vehicle theft                                                                                 | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Arson                                                                                               | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Domestic Violence                                                                                   | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Dating Violence                                                                                     | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Stalking                                                                                            | 1         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Hazing                                                                                              |           |      | 0    |                 |      | 0    |
| <u>HATE OFFENSES</u>                                                                                | ON CAMPUS |      |      | PUBLIC PROPERTY |      |      |
| Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity, Disability, Ethnicity, National Origin | 2023      | 2024 | 2025 | 2023            | 2024 | 2025 |
| Murder/non-negligent manslaughter                                                                   | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Negligent manslaughter                                                                              | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Rape                                                                                                | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Fondling                                                                                            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Incest                                                                                              | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Statutory rape                                                                                      | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Robbery                                                                                             | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Aggravated assault                                                                                  | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Burglary                                                                                            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Motor vehicle theft                                                                                 | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Arson                                                                                               | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Larceny - theft                                                                                     | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Intimidation                                                                                        | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property                                                            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |

Pursuant to the Stop Campus Hazing Act, hazing statistics were collected beginning in 2025 and are reported in the 2026 Annual Security Report.

| Mercer University's Mercer Police Department   |           |      |      |                 |      |      |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|-----------------|------|------|
| <u>COLUMBUS CAMPUS</u>                         | ON CAMPUS |      |      | PUBLIC PROPERTY |      |      |
| <u>ARRESTS</u>                                 |           |      |      |                 |      |      |
|                                                | 2023      | 2024 | 2025 | 2023            | 2024 | 2025 |
| Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Drug abuse violations                          | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Liquor law violations                          | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| <u>DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS/JUDICIAL REFERRALS</u> | ON CAMPUS |      |      | PUBLIC PROPERTY |      |      |
|                                                | 2023      | 2024 | 2025 | 2023            | 2024 | 2025 |
| Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Drug abuse violations                          | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Liquor law violations                          | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| <u>UNFOUNDED CRIMES</u>                        | 2023      | 2024 | 2025 |                 |      |      |
| Total unfounded crimes                         | 0         | 0    | 0    |                 |      |      |

**Mercer University's Mercer Police Department**

**MACON CAMPUS**

| CRIMINAL OFFENSES                 | ON CAMPUS |      |      | STUDENT HOUSING FACILITIES (a subset of on campus) |      |      | NON-CAMPUS |      |      | PUBLIC PROPERTY |      |      |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------|------|----------------------------------------------------|------|------|------------|------|------|-----------------|------|------|
|                                   | 2023      | 2024 | 2025 | 2023                                               | 2024 | 2025 | 2023       | 2024 | 2025 | 2023            | 2024 | 2025 |
| Murder/non-negligent manslaughter | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0                                                  | 0    | 0    | 0          | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Negligent manslaughter            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0                                                  | 0    | 0    | 0          | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Rape                              | 7         | 16   | 7    | 7                                                  | 15   | 6    | 0          | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Fondling                          | 5         | 2    | 0    | 3                                                  | 1    | 0    | 0          | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Incest                            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0                                                  | 0    | 0    | 0          | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Statutory rape                    | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0                                                  | 0    | 0    | 0          | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Robbery                           | 1         | 0    | 0    | 0                                                  | 0    | 0    | 0          | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Aggravated assault                | 1         | 0    | 0    | 0                                                  | 0    | 0    | 0          | 0    | 0    | 0               | 1    | 0    |
| Burglary                          | 1         | 1    | 10   | 1                                                  | 0    | 5    | 0          | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Motor vehicle theft               | 6         | 7    | 9    | 0                                                  | 0    | 0    | 1          | 1    | 0    | 0               | 1    | 0    |
| Arson                             | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0                                                  | 0    | 0    | 0          | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Domestic Violence                 | 2         | 3    | 0    | 0                                                  | 0    | 0    | 0          | 0    | 1    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Dating Violence                   | 1         | 5    | 6    | 1                                                  | 3    | 5    | 0          | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Stalking                          | 12        | 15   | 14   | 5                                                  | 3    | 5    | 0          | 1    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Hazing                            |           |      | 1    |                                                    |      | 0    |            |      | 0    |                 |      | 0    |

Pursuant to the Stop Campus Hazing Act, hazing statistics were collected beginning in 2025 and are reported in the 2026 Annual Security Report.

[illegible]







| Mercer University's Mercer Police Department                                                        |           |      |      |                 |      |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|-----------------|------|------|
| <u>SAVANNAH CAMPUS</u>                                                                              | ON CAMPUS |      |      | PUBLIC PROPERTY |      |      |
| <u>CRIMINAL OFFENSES</u>                                                                            |           |      |      |                 |      |      |
|                                                                                                     | 2023      | 2024 | 2025 | 2023            | 2024 | 2025 |
| Murder/non-negligent manslaughter                                                                   | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Negligent manslaughter                                                                              | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Rape                                                                                                | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Fondling                                                                                            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Incest                                                                                              | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Statutory rape                                                                                      | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Robbery                                                                                             | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Aggravated assault                                                                                  | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Burglary                                                                                            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Motor vehicle theft                                                                                 | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Arson                                                                                               | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Domestic Violence                                                                                   | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Dating Violence                                                                                     | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Stalking                                                                                            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Hazing                                                                                              |           |      | 0    |                 |      | 0    |
| <u>HATE OFFENSES</u>                                                                                | ON CAMPUS |      |      | PUBLIC PROPERTY |      |      |
| Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity, Disability, Ethnicity, National Origin | 2023      | 2024 | 2025 | 2023            | 2024 | 2025 |
| Murder/non-negligent manslaughter                                                                   | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Negligent manslaughter                                                                              | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Rape                                                                                                | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Fondling                                                                                            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Incest                                                                                              | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Statutory rape                                                                                      | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Robbery                                                                                             | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Aggravated assault                                                                                  | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Burglary                                                                                            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Motor vehicle theft                                                                                 | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Arson                                                                                               | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Larceny - theft                                                                                     | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Intimidation                                                                                        | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property                                                            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |

Pursuant to the Stop Campus Hazing Act, hazing reports were collected beginning in 2025 and are reported in the 2026 Annual Security Report.

| Mercer University's Mercer Police Department   |           |      |      |                 |      |      |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|-----------------|------|------|
| <u>SAVANNAH CAMPUS</u>                         | ON CAMPUS |      |      | PUBLIC PROPERTY |      |      |
| <u>ARRESTS</u>                                 |           |      |      |                 |      |      |
|                                                | 2023      | 2024 | 2025 | 2023            | 2024 | 2025 |
| Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Drug abuse violations                          | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Liquor law violations                          | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| <u>DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS/JUDICIAL REFERRALS</u> | ON CAMPUS |      |      | PUBLIC PROPERTY |      |      |
|                                                | 2023      | 2024 | 2025 | 2023            | 2024 | 2025 |
| Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.            | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Drug abuse violations                          | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| Liquor law violations                          | 0         | 0    | 0    | 0               | 0    | 0    |
| <u>UNFOUNDED CRIMES</u>                        | 2023      | 2024 | 2025 |                 |      |      |
| Total unfounded crimes                         | 0         | 0    | 0    |                 |      |      |