

2026 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report



COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	Page 1
Chief's Message	Page 1
Accessibility Statement.....	Page 1

ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT

Introduction	Page 3
Crime & Emergency Reporting	Page 3
Voluntary Confidential Reporting.....	Page 3
Annual Disclosure of Crime Statistics.....	Page 4
Emergency Communication System & Procedures	Page 4
Timely Warnings	Page 4
Emergency Notifications.....	Page 6
Public Crime Log.....	Page 7
Security & Access to Facilities	Page 7
Security & Maintenance of Facilities	Page 8
Residential Facilities Maintenance.....	Page 8
Columbus State University Police Department	Page 8
Emergency Response & Evacuation	Page 9
Emergency Priorities	Page 9
Emergency Notification & Response.....	Page 10
Drills, Exercises & Training.....	Page 10
Building Evacuation Procedures	Page 10
Missing Students	Page 10
Confidential Missing Persons Contact Notification	Page 11
Parental Notification (minors)	Page 11
Hazing Policy Summary	Page 11
General Information.....	Page 11
Investigation Process for Students & Student Organizations...	Page 12
Investigation Process for Faculty & Staff.....	Page 12
Alcoholic Beverages & Illegal Drugs	Page 13
Alcohol	Page 13
Drugs	Page 14
Amnesty Policy.....	Page 14
Education & Prevention Programming	Page 14
Required Training	Page 14
Security & Safety	Page 17
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	Page 18
Sexual Misconduct	Page 18
Definitions Under Georgia State Law.....	Page 19
Dating Violence	Page 19
Domestic Violence.....	Page 19
Sexual Assault	Page 20
Aggravated Sexual Battery.....	Page 20
Sexual Battery	Page 20
Child Molestation.....	Page 20
Rape	Page 20
Sodomy; Aggravated Sodomy	Page 21
Incest	Page 21
Statutory Rape	Page 21
Stalking	Page 22
Aggravated Stalking.....	Page 22
Consent	Page 23
Sex Offender Registry Information.....	Page 23
Sexual Misconduct.....	Page 23
Introduction	Page 23
Reporting Sexual Misconduct.....	Page 24
Understanding Trauma	Page 25
Preserving Evidence	Page 25
Orders of Protection	Page 26
No-Contact Order	Page 26
Confidentiality	Page 26
Supportive Measures	Page 26
Interim Protective Measures	Page 27
Disciplinary Proceedings	Page 27
Advisors	Page 28
Sexual Misconduct Grievance Proceedings	Page 28
Alternative/Informal Resolution	Page 29
Investigation	Page 29
Hearing	Page 30
Appeals.....	Page 31
Challenge for Bias	Page 32
Possible Sanctions: Student Respondent	Page 32
Possible Sanctions: Student or Employee Respondent.....	Page 33
Recordkeeping	Page 33

Clery Crime Statistics Report.....	Page 34
Main Campus	Page 35
RiverPark Campus	Page 38

ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY REPORT

Fire Safety Disclosure - Both Campuses	Page 42
Reporting a Fire	Page 42
Residence Hall Evacuation Procedures	Page 42
Fire Safety Education & Training Programming.....	Page 42
Mandatory Supervised Fire Drill	Page 43
Use of Electrical Appliances, Open Flame, Smoking	Page 43
Future Improvements in Fire Safety	Page 43
Fire Safety Statistics - Both Campuses.....	Page 43
Main Campus	Page 44
RiverPark Campus	Page 45
Clery Act Geography	Page 46
Main Campus Map	Page 47
RiverPark Campus Map.....	Page 47

Published: Sept. 30, 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Columbus State University is committed to long-standing efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment for our students, employees and visitors.

Following, you will find CSU's Annual Security & Fire Safety Report, as required for compliance with the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act (Clery Act). The report contains the required crime and fire statistics for the calendar years 2023 through 2025. The report also outlines current safety and security information and resources, as well as their locations on each of our campuses. Familiarizing yourself with this information will enable you to access these services or assist those around you, if needed.

As always, please report all emergencies and crimes to the Columbus State University Police Department at 706.507.8911. You may access the online version of this report on the [CSU Police Department website](#) or obtain a printed copy by contacting CSU's Division of Legal Affairs, Ethics & Compliance at legalaffairs@columbusstate.edu.



Sincerely,
Dr. Stuart Rayfield
President

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

From our command staff to our frontline patrol officers, the sworn and administrative members of Columbus State's University Police Department believe campus safety is essential. Our students expect a secure, supportive environment in which they can learn and live; our colleagues can serve our students and community; and visitors can experience all we, as an institution of higher learning, have to offer.

The Columbus State University Police Department is a fully sworn law enforcement agency serving the Main Campus and RiverPark Campus 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our officers work closely with local and regional law enforcement partners to support the safety of our campus community.

At the heart of our mission is a community policing philosophy that brings together education, crime prevention, problem-solving and community engagement. Our website, police.columbusstate.edu, offers resources to help students, employees and visitors stay informed, connected and proactive in our shared public safety mission.



Sincerely,
Debra Kennedy
Chief of Police

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

If you need this document in an alternate format for accessibility purposes (e.g., Braille, large print, audio, etc.), contact CSU's Division of Legal Affairs, Ethics & Compliance at legalaffairs@columbusstate.edu or 706.507.8343.



ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Columbus State University (CSU) is committed to a safe learning and working environment for all university community members. Our community includes students and employees, as well as contractors, vendors, visitors and guests. The Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act (Clery Act) requires institutions of higher education to provide a plain-language summary of their campus security policies and crime statistics in an Annual Security Report (ASR). That and additional information are provided below.

CRIME & EMERGENCY REPORTING

Crimes should be reported as soon as possible to the CSU Police Department via telephone at 706.507.8911 and/or appropriate police agencies. In an emergency, dial 911 and follow up with the CSU Police Department when it is safe to do so. Crimes may also be reported in person at each of the following on-campus locations:

- Main Campus: Shannon Hall, ground-level location
- RiverPark Campus: 1013 Broadway

Additionally, crimes may be reported to the Dean of Students, Title IX Coordinator, Residence Life officials, Human Resources officials, and/or Director of Athletics.

CSU encourages prompt reporting of crimes or other emergencies to the CSU Police Department and/or appropriate police agencies.

VOLUNTARY CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING

Under the State of Georgia Open Records Act, government documents and information—including original police reports—are subject to release and public inspection. In addition, reports of sexual harassment and acts of sexual violence require notification of CSU's Title IX Coordinator under federal regulations. With this in mind, the CSU Police Department lacks a mechanism to ensure voluntary and confidential reporting.

In accordance with the 1998 amendments to the Clery Act (20 U.S.C. § 1092(f)), certain campus officials who serve as pastoral or professional counselors are exempt from reporting crimes disclosed to them when acting in their capacity as counselors. Specifically:

- Pastoral and professional counselors are not considered Campus Security Authorities (CSAs) when performing their official counseling duties.
- These counselors are not required to report crimes for inclusion in the university's annual crime statistics.

These on- and off-campus resources will maintain confidentiality, except in extreme cases of immediate threat or danger, or abuse of a minor. Campus counselors (for students) and/or the Employee Assistance Program (for employees) are offered free of charge during regular business hours or on an emergency basis.

CSU does not currently have a policy regarding voluntary, confidential reporting of crimes by complainants or witnesses for inclusion in crime statistics. Furthermore, CSU does not currently have policies or procedures that encourage pastoral and professional counselors, at their professional discretion, to inform the persons they are counseling of any such procedures for reporting crimes on a voluntary, confidential basis for inclusion in crime statistics.

ANNUAL DISCLOSURE OF CRIME STATISTICS

The university's Clery Act Coordinator, based in the Office of Legal Affairs, Ethics & Compliance, is responsible for collecting crime reports from Campus Security Authorities (CSAs), as defined below, for the purposes of compiling annual crime statistics. CSAs are individuals who, because of their CSU responsibilities, have an obligation to share information with university officials about alleged Clery crimes that are either reported to them or personally witnessed by them.

At CSU, some common examples of CSAs include, but are not limited to, the CSU Police Department, Resident Assistants and Residence Life personnel, Dean of Students personnel, and Title IX personnel. Crimes reported to a pastoral or professional counselor are excluded from the Clery Act reporting.

CSU utilizes a centralized system to collect and manage Clery Act crime data from various university departments and external sources. This centralized process ensures the accuracy and completeness of the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (ASFSR). Crime data is imported from CSU Police, the Office of the Dean of Students (including Residence Life), Athletics, Title IX, and Human Resources and reviewed centrally by the Clery Act Coordinator. Campus Security Authorities (CSAs) also submit incident information through an online reporting form located on the [CSU Police Department's website](#).

The Clery Act Coordinator compiles data from these sources and requests crime statistics from relevant local law enforcement agencies. All submissions are reviewed to ensure proper classification and to prevent duplication. The coordinator ensures that crime data is accurately counted, categorized according to Clery offense definitions, and verified for consistency before publication.

To support this process, the Clery Compliance Committee—composed of representatives from CSU Police, Title IX, the Dean of Students, Legal Affairs, and other key departments—meets quarterly and as needed to review statistical data and classification decisions. This committee provides collaborative oversight to ensure compliance with federal requirements and alignment with CSU policy.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM & PROCEDURES

CSU utilizes Cougar Alert as its emergency notification system, which includes the dissemination of Timely Warnings and Emergency Notifications. Cougar Alert enables university officials to send automated emergency messages via text messages, voice recordings to telephones, emails, and social media platforms (including X and Facebook). This system will only be used for emergency communication. The system allows students, employees and other subscribers who provide a mobile phone number to be notified of emergencies (even if they're not on campus, tuned into local news or monitoring email).

Additionally, for Emergency Notifications, notifications may be simulcast to social media and webpages maintained by the university and the CSU Police Department. The greater campus community, including the city of Columbus, Muscogee County and others with a vested interest in the safety and security of Columbus State, may obtain information through these channels.

Timely Warnings (Crime Alerts)

CSU will issue a "Timely Warning Notification," also referred to as a Crime Alert, to inform the campus community of Clery-reportable crimes that may pose a serious or continuing threat to students, employees or visitors.

Crime Alerts are issued to help individuals make informed decisions and to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves and others. These warnings are intended to prevent similar crimes and are disseminated as soon as pertinent information is available.

Criteria for Issuance

A Timely Warning (Crime Alert) will be issued when the following conditions are met:

1. A Clery Act crime has been reported to a Campus Security Authority (CSA), CSU Police Department, or local law enforcement; and
2. The reported incident is determined to pose a serious or ongoing threat to members of the CSU campus community.

Crimes that may warrant a Timely Warning include, but are not limited to:

- Criminal homicide
- Sexual assault
- Robbery
- Aggravated assault
- Burglary
- Motor vehicle theft
- Arson

Other Clery Act crimes may also prompt a Crime Alert when deemed necessary, based on the circumstances and the potential for an ongoing threat.

Decision & Distribution Process

The decision to issue a Crime Alert is made on a case-by-case basis by the Chief of the CSU Police Department or their designee, and in consultation with appropriate university officials when necessary. This determination considers the nature of the crime, the timing and location, whether the perpetrator has been apprehended, and the potential impact on law enforcement operations.

Timely Warnings are typically authored and distributed by the CSU Chief of Police or their designee. These alerts do not include the names or personally identifying information of victims, in accordance with federal law and CSU policy.

Notification Mechanisms

CSU utilizes Rave Guardian for its Cougar Alert emergency notification system to issue Timely Warnings and other emergency communications. Cougar Alert disseminates messages via some or all (depending on the severity of the incident) of the following channels:

- Text message
- Phone call
- Email
- Social media platforms (e.g., X, Facebook)

Cougar Alert is reserved for emergency situations and allows CSU to reach students, employees, and other registered users promptly—even if they are off campus or not actively monitoring university communication channels.

For additional information on Timely Warnings and Emergency Notifications, see Appendix D of CSU's Clery Compliance Policy.

Emergency Notifications

CSU will issue an "Emergency Notification" to inform the campus community of a serious or continuing threat to and require an immediate response from students, employees or visitors.

Criteria for Issuance

CSU issues "Emergency Notifications" to promptly alert the campus community of any confirmed significant emergency, dangerous situation or desired collective emergency response (e.g., evacuate, shelter in place) involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students, employees or visitors occurring on or in direct proximity to its campuses.

Decision & Distribution Process

Upon confirmation of a qualifying emergency, the CSU Police Department (through its dispatch center) will determine the appropriate content of the notification, identify the segment(s) of the campus community to be notified, and initiate the emergency communication without delay—unless issuing the notification would, in the judgment of responsible CSU authorities, compromise efforts to assist a victim, contain the emergency, respond to it, or otherwise mitigate the threat.

Notification Mechanisms

CSU utilizes the Cougar Alert system as the university's official emergency notification platform. Cougar Alert disseminates messages via:

- Text messages
- Phone calls
- Email
- Social media platforms (e.g., X, Facebook)
- Emergency desktop alerts and university website pop-ups

The CSU Police Department manages the Cougar Alert system in coordination with the Office of Strategic Communication + Marketing. Depending on the nature of the emergency, additional communication may be issued by Strategic Communication + Marketing through local media channels and the CSU website.

Follow-up notifications and updates will be issued as appropriate to keep the campus community informed of ongoing developments or the resolution of the emergency.

Emergency Notifications differ from Timely Warnings in that they address more immediate threats. If an Emergency Notification is issued for a particular situation, CSU may not issue a separate Timely Warning for the same incident.

PUBLIC CRIME LOG

In compliance with federal Clery Act regulations, CSU maintains a Daily Crime Log and a Daily Fire Log that provide a timely and transparent record of specific incidents reported to the CSU Police Department.

The Daily Crime Log includes all crimes reported to CSU Police that occurred within the university's Clery geography—including the type of offense, date and time of the occurrence, general location and disposition (if known) of reported crimes. Crimes are recorded in the log in the order CSU Police receives them, and entries are made or updated within two business days of the initial report, unless law prohibits disclosure or disclosure would jeopardize the victim's confidentiality.

The Daily Fire Log includes all reported fires occurring in on-campus student housing facilities, including the nature of the fire, the date, time and location of each incident.

Both logs are maintained and accessible for public inspection at the CSU Police Department, located on the Main Campus, Monday through Friday during regular business hours, excluding official university holidays. The most recent 60 days of log entries are available on-site and open to the public without a written request. Entries older than 60 days are retained for a minimum of seven years and will be made available for public inspection within two business days of a request. These logs can also be accessed through the [ARMS Mapping Portal](#). (Please note: to access the disposition of the incident, click on the arrow by the date.) This practice ensures compliance with Clery Act requirements while protecting sensitive information as required by law.

SECURITY & ACCESS TO FACILITIES

CSU maintains an open-access campus that supports the academic, administrative and operational needs of the university community while also serving as a venue for various public and private events. Administrative buildings are generally open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Academic buildings remain accessible daily while classes are in session, with limited access outside these hours, including evenings and weekends.

Access to individual classrooms, laboratories and academic spaces is restricted to enrolled students or individuals with authorized permission. Similarly, access to specialized programs and facilities is limited to participants or those with approved credentials.

Many campus facilities host athletic, cultural and entertainment events that are open to the public. Additionally, public-facing venues such as the campus bookstore and the Simon Schwob Memorial Library welcome visitors during their regular operating hours.

Generally, access to CSU residential facilities is restricted to residents, authorized employees, and approved guests. Residential buildings (such as Courtyard and Clearview Hall on Main Campus, and all RiverPark Campus residential facilities) are secured with electronic card access systems that control entry to both the building's exterior and individual residential areas.

Residents must register their guests with Residence Life and ensure their guests comply with university and housing policies during their visit. Guests must sign in at the designated entry point, are not provided room keys or card access, and may only be present with the resident host. It is the resident's responsibility to ensure guests understand and follow all applicable rules. Vehicles parked at residential

facilities must be registered through Parking Services. Parking and enforcement details are available online at columbusstate.edu/parking.

Residents are encouraged to review CSU’s policies outlined in the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Residence Life Community Guide](#).

SECURITY & MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES

CSU is committed to maintaining its facilities and grounds in a manner that promotes safety and minimizes potential risks to the campus community. Students, employees and visitors are encouraged to report any observed hazards promptly to CSU Police and/or the appropriate university office.

CSU Police collaborate closely with University Facilities to address safety concerns by submitting work orders for repairs related to lighting, locks, doors, windows and other security-related needs. CSU Police also conduct routine lighting inspections to ensure that exterior and interior campus areas remain adequately illuminated.

Throughout the year, CSU Police, University Support Services, University Facilities and the Division of Legal Affairs, Ethics & Compliance conduct regular inspections of pathways, stairwells and hallways to assess safety conditions. University Facilities representatives document these inspections and ensure that all walkways and means of egress remain clear and unobstructed.

Students and employees may submit non-urgent maintenance concerns through the university’s online e-Quest system. Issues requiring immediate attention during business hours should be reported to:

- Main Campus Facilities: 706.507.8222
- RiverPark Facilities: 706.507.8200
- After-hours emergencies: 706.507.8911 (CSU Police Department)

Residential Facilities Maintenance

Non-emergency maintenance requests for on-campus housing should be submitted via the university’s online My Housing Portal or by contacting the Office of Residence Life at 706.507.8710.

Effective January 2026, Columbus State University assumed full management and operational responsibility for the housing facilities. In 2025 and previously, Courtyard and Clearview Hall were managed under a public-private partnership arrangement with Corvias, which provided maintenance and operational support for these residential facilities.

Housing Area	Phone Number (Answered 24/7)
Residence Life Main Office/Clearview Hall	706.507.8710
Courtyard	706.507.8778
RiverPark Housing Office	706.507.8035

COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Columbus State University Police Department (CSU Police) provides 24/7 patrol coverage for both the Main Campus and the RiverPark Campus. The department includes sworn police officers and non-

sworn support personnel. While non-sworn personnel assist with the overall safety and operations of the department, they do not have arrest powers.

All CSU police officers are certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Council and complete annual in-service training—including firearms requalification, de-escalation techniques, community policing and the lawful use of force. CSU officers possess full law enforcement authority under Georgia law, including powers of arrest, and have the same authority as municipal and state law enforcement officers.

Under O.C.G.A. § 20-3-72, CSU Police jurisdiction includes all property owned or controlled by the University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents, as well as up to 500 yards beyond campus boundaries. Officers may also operate outside this zone under certain conditions, including active pursuit, assisting agencies with mutual aid agreements, or conducting operations on any campus under the control of the Board of Regents.

The CSU Police Department works collaboratively with the Columbus Police Department (municipal police), Muscogee County Sheriff's Office and Georgia Bureau of Investigation, among others. These relationships include shared radio capabilities, training opportunities, event coordination and mutual support during investigations. CSU maintains Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with local law enforcement agencies to support joint investigative efforts and facilitate timely response to serious criminal incidents.

While the CSU Police Department is responsible for responding to and documenting crimes that occur on campus and within its Clery geography, the department does not actively monitor or record criminal activity that occurs at non-campus student organization locations, such as private off-campus housing affiliated with student groups but not owned or controlled by the university. However, CSU makes annual requests to local law enforcement agencies for reports of Clery-reportable crimes at such locations for inclusion in the university's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & EVACUATION

CSU maintains an Emergency Action Plan (EAP), which serves as an all-hazards disaster response framework, developed in alignment with FEMA guidelines for institutions of higher education and the University System of Georgia's emergency definitions and protocols.

Emergency Priorities

In the event of an emergency, CSU will respond in a timely and effective manner by deploying appropriate personnel and resources to fulfill the following priorities:

1. Protection of human life;
2. Support of health, safety and basic care services;
3. Protection of university assets;
4. Maintenance of university services;
5. Assessment of damages; and
6. Restoration of general campus operations.

All students, employees and visitors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the EAP and posted emergency and evacuation procedures for the buildings and facilities they frequent.

Emergency Notification & Response

Upon confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of those on campus, CSU will issue an Emergency Notification. The decision to issue a notification is made by the Chief of CSU Police, who serves as the university's Incident Commander, or their designee, based on the nature and scope of the incident.

The Chief of Police or designee is responsible for:

1. Confirming the emergency or dangerous situation;
2. Determining the affected segment(s) of the campus community;
3. Determining the content of the notification; and
4. Initiating the Cougar Alert notification system.

The CSU Police Communications Center is the central telecommunications hub for receiving and disseminating emergency information. Notifications are typically sent via Cougar Alert, which may include text messages, voice calls, email and postings to CSU's official website and social media platforms. Follow-up messages and instructions may be issued as needed throughout the incident's duration.

CSU will, without delay, and considering the safety of the community, determine the content of the notification and initiate the notification system—unless issuing a notification will, in the professional judgment of responsible authorities, compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to or otherwise mitigate the emergency.

Drills, Exercises & Training

The Office of Emergency Management within the CSU Police Department is responsible for maintaining the Emergency Action Plan and conducting at least one annual test of the plan. These tests may be announced or unannounced and include electronic notifications, evacuation drills, tabletop exercises and full-scale simulations. Each test is documented, including a description of the exercise, the date and time it was conducted, and whether it was announced or unannounced.

Emergency response information is publicized to the campus community during these tests and throughout the year via orientation sessions, campus communications and social media.

Building Evacuation Procedures

Each campus building has clearly posted evacuation routes. In the event of an emergency alarm or instruction to evacuate, all occupants must exit immediately via the nearest safe exit and proceed to a designated assembly area. Individuals requiring evacuation assistance due to a disability should notify Residence Life or the building manager in advance to coordinate accommodations.

MISSING STUDENTS

In accordance with the Clery Act and CSU's [Missing Persons Policy](#), any individual who believes that a student residing in on-campus housing has been missing for 24 hours should immediately report the concern to the CSU Police Department at 706.507.8911. Reports may also be made to the Office of Residence Life at 706.507.8710 or the Dean of Students at 706.507.8845; however, any report

received by a campus official other than the CSU Police Department must be immediately forwarded to CSU Police to ensure a coordinated and timely investigation.

Upon receipt of a report, CSU Police will initiate an immediate investigation and gather all relevant information about the student, including last known whereabouts, known associates and any relevant circumstances. CSU Police will notify local law enforcement agencies with primary jurisdiction for the surrounding community—the Columbus Police Department and Muscogee County Sheriff's Office—within 24 hours of when a residential student or other person affiliated with the university is determined to be missing, unless it is the local law enforcement agency that made the determination and CSU Police will cooperate fully with any investigations.

If it is determined that the student is missing, CSU Police will notify the following within 24 hours:

- University President;
- Director of Residence Life;
- Chief of University Police; and
- Dean of Students (or designee).

Confidential Missing Persons Contact Notification

Students residing in on-campus housing have the option to designate a confidential missing persons contact when completing their housing application. This contact will be notified within 24 hours by CSU Police if the student is determined to be missing, as confirmed through a law enforcement investigation. This contact is confidential, will be accessible only to authorized campus officials, and will only be disclosed to law enforcement personnel for the purpose of a missing person investigation.

Parental Notification (Minors)

If the missing student is under 18 years of age and not legally emancipated, CSU Police will also notify the student's custodial parent or legal guardian within 24 hours of the determination that the student is missing, in addition to notifying the confidential contact (if provided).

The university will continue to work with law enforcement and relevant agencies until the student is located or the case is resolved. All information related to missing student reports will be handled with sensitivity and discretion.

HAZING POLICY SUMMARY

General Information

Columbus State University prohibits hazing.

This prohibition applies to all students, student organizations and members of the university community and covers conduct occurring on campus, at institution-sponsored or affiliated events and off-campus activities when it violates student conduct policies.

Hazing is any intentional, knowing or reckless act committed in connection with initiation into, affiliation with or maintaining membership in a student organization that causes or creates a risk of physical or psychological injury. Hazing includes activities such as physical abuse, sleep deprivation, forced

consumption of substances, coercive conduct, criminal acts and actions that place a person in fear of bodily harm, regardless of the willingness of the person to participate.

Reports of hazing may be made by any individual through the online Hazing Report Form, the Ethics & Compliance Hotline, or by submitting a student conduct report to university officials. Reports may be submitted anonymously.

The complete policy and procedures can be downloaded from the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or accessed on the [Student Affairs](#) webpage.

Investigation Process for Students & Student Organizations

Hazing allegations involving students or student organizations are investigated by the Dean of Students through the Student Conduct Officer, Conduct Resolution Officers and designated investigators under the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

After a report is received, the Student Conduct Officer conducts the initial review and may impose temporary remedial measures or recommend interim suspension when necessary to protect the safety of individuals or the university community.

The accused student or organization receives written notice of the allegations and an opportunity to respond during a Preliminary Disciplinary Meeting and throughout the conduct process.

For serious or repeated violations, the Dean of Students conducts an investigation that may include interviews, review of documents and evidence, and preparation of an investigation report. The respondent may accept responsibility and sanctions through an informal resolution or proceed to a formal hearing before an Administrative Hearing Officer or Student Conduct Hearing Panel. The standard of evidence is a preponderance of the evidence, meaning it is more likely than not that a violation occurred.

The university provides a written decision by email, and respondents may appeal based on new information, procedural error, bias or inconsistency with the evidence.

Appeals are reviewed by the President or designee, with additional discretionary review available through the Board of Regents.

Possible sanctions include reprimand, educational requirements, restrictions, restitution, conduct probation, separation measures, suspension, expulsion, and loss of recognition or privileges for student organizations.

Individuals are expected to cooperate with the investigation, and retaliation is prohibited.

Hazing violations involving school or student organizations are published in Columbus State University's Campus Hazing Transparency Report and Max Gruver Act Report, available on the [Hazing Information and Policies webpage](#).

Investigation Process for Faculty & Staff

Hazing allegations involving faculty or staff are investigated by the Office of Human Resources and/or the Office of Legal Affairs, Ethics & Compliance under the Columbus State University Staff Employee

Handbook, applicable Board of Regents policies, and university policies prohibiting hazing, harassment and employee misconduct.

After a report is received, Human Resources and/or designated university officials with investigative authority conduct the initial review and may impose administrative leave or other interim measures as appropriate to protect the integrity of the investigation and the campus community.

The accused employee receives notice of the allegations and an opportunity to respond during the investigation process.

Trained university personnel investigate allegations by gathering and reviewing relevant information and interviewing involved parties and witnesses. The employee is provided with an opportunity to respond to the allegations before a determination is made. Cases may be resolved through administrative action, corrective measures, or formal disciplinary proceedings, using a preponderance of the evidence standard.

A written decision is provided to the employee, and eligible staff employees may have grievance rights in accordance with applicable University System of Georgia and Columbus State University policies; appeal rights may vary depending on the employment action taken and the employee's status.

Possible sanctions include verbal counseling, written reprimand, performance improvement plans, suspension, final warning, demotion, termination of employment or other corrective action deemed appropriate under university policy.

Employees must cooperate with the investigation, and retaliation is prohibited.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & ILLEGAL DRUGS

In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, CSU prohibits the illegal possession, use, manufacture, distribution and/or sale of alcohol and other drugs on university property and at university-sponsored events or activities, regardless of location.

These policies apply to all members of the CSU campus community, including students, employees, contractors, vendors, visitors and guests.

Alcohol

CSU prohibits:

- The consumption, possession or transportation of alcoholic beverages by anyone under the legal drinking age of 21;
- The furnishing or distribution of alcoholic beverages to individuals under 21 years of age; and
- The unauthorized possession or use of alcohol on university premises or at university-sponsored events.

The legal use of alcohol is only permitted at registered university events that have been approved in advance in accordance with CSU's event procedures.

Violations of these policies may result in disciplinary sanctions, referral for criminal prosecution, or both. Enforcement is coordinated by CSU Police, the Dean of Students, Residence Life, and Human Resources.

Drugs

CSU prohibits:

- a) The illegal possession, use or distribution of stimulants, depressants, narcotics, hallucinogens or any controlled substance without a valid prescription;
- b) The sale, barter or distribution of such substances; and
- c) Possession of drug-related paraphernalia or residue, including seeds, leaf remnants, smoke, and odor associated with illegal drug use.

For more information, please consult CSU's policies on:

- Alcohol Policy;
- Student Code of Conduct;
- Faculty Handbook; and
- Employee Handbook

AMNESTY POLICY

A student may request amnesty from disciplinary action under the university's Student Code of Conduct related to alcohol or drug use if they seek medical attention for themselves or others, if they want to report an incident of sexual misconduct, if they provide information otherwise not identified in an investigation, and/or if they are forthright and truthful in any conduct investigation.

EDUCATION & PREVENTION PROGRAMMING

CSU encourages members of the university community to help prevent and reduce acts of violence by:

- being vigilant and using safety planning;
- stepping in when they see signs of potential or escalating violence; and
- using one or more of the actions of bystander intervention to step in and distract, direct, or delegate to someone to intervene.

Required Training

- **Students:** Upon enrollment, all students are required to complete and pass an annual online training module through Vector Solutions. This training addresses sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, consent, and bystander intervention strategies: Distract, Direct, Delegate.
- **Employees:** All new employees receive sexual misconduct awareness training during onboarding through Human Resources. All employees receive annual Clery Act training through the Division of Legal Affairs, Ethics & Compliance and the Office of Human Resources.

Program Title	Program Type	Coordinating Entity	Description	Frequency
Sexual Assault Violence and Education (SAVE) Task Force Meetings	Sexual Assault Awareness	SAVE Task Force	Hosted throughout the calendar year, the task force meets to discuss events and programs to promote awareness of Title IX, VAWA and other sexual assault and sexual violence-related issues.	Ongoing
Safe Spring Break	Sexual Assault Awareness	SAVE Task Force	Hosted the week before Spring Break, multiple Student Affairs groups conduct on-campus events to raise awareness on ways to make safer and responsible decisions during Spring Break.	Annually
Speak Up Speak Out	Sexual Assault Awareness	SAVE Task Force	Hosted during the spring semester, the Sexual Assault Support Center and Hope Harbour provide resources to raise awareness about domestic and dating violence.	Annually
RAINN (Rape Abuse Incest National Network) Day	Sexual Assault Awareness	SAVE Task Force	Hosted during the fall semester, this national recognition day engages students in activities raising awareness about sexual assault and violence.	Annually
Classroom Presentations	Sexual Assault / Domestic Violence Awareness	SAVE Task Force	Throughout the academic year, faculty host in-class presentations addressing different topics related to sexual assault and violence.	Ongoing
ROAR Training Week	Title IX / Sexual Assault Awareness	Student Life & Development	Counseling training for the ROAR incoming student summer orientation program includes sessions on sexual assault reporting methods and resources.	Annually
ROAR Leadership Class	Title IX / Sexual Assault Awareness	Student Life & Development	Counseling training for the ROAR incoming student summer orientation program includes sessions on Title IX and mandatory reporter policies.	Annually

Program Title	Program Type	Coordinating Entity	Description	Frequency
ROAR Orientation	RespectEDU	VAWA Coordinator (Title IX Compliance Coordinator)	Embedded in the incoming student summer orientation program, new students learn about bystander intervention and how to intervene correctly in certain situations.	Ongoing
Greek Life Risk Management Workshop	Sexual Assault / Hazing Awareness / Prevention	Greek Life	Throughout the academic year, sessions for fraternities and sororities raise awareness about sexual assault, domestic violence and hazing.	Ongoing
Vector Employee Compliance Training	Sexual Assault / Domestic Violence Awareness	Office of Human Resources	Required annually, employees complete training modules increasing awareness of sexual assault and domestic violence.	Ongoing
Resident Assistant Training	Sexual Assault Awareness / Domestic Violence Awareness	CSU Police Department VAWA Coordinator (Title IX Compliance Coordinator)	Hosted at the beginning of the academic year, Residence Life resident assistant training increases awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence and related reporting procedures.	Annually
Vector Training	Sexual Assault / Domestic Violence Awareness	Office of the Dean of Students	Conducted at the beginning of the academic semester, training modules raise awareness about sexual assault and domestic violence among incoming students.	Ongoing
NCAA Title IX Training	Bystander Intervention / Sexual Assault / Domestic & Dating Violence Awareness / Stalking / Reporting / Consent	Title IX Coordinator SAVE Task Force	Conducted prior to the start of each academic year, Athletic Department coaches and personnel benefit from sexual assault and domestic violence resources and guidance on reporting methods.	Annually
SAVE Information Tables	Various Personal Safety / Domestic Violence Awareness	SAVE Task Force	Hosted throughout the year, tabling events provide information and materials on various topics relating to Title IX, VAWA and other domestic-violence-related issues.	Ongoing

Security & Safety

Throughout the academic year, CSU hosts numerous programs that encourage students and employees to take responsibility for their own security and safety. CSU provides ongoing educational materials and resources through the Title IX Office, CSU Police, Counseling Center, Human Resources, Residence Life, Academic Affairs, and Student Affairs. Informational brochures (including resources on domestic violence, emergency shelters, and victim advocacy) are distributed multiple times throughout the year.

To this end, the following programs are designed and offered to inform students and employees how to prevent crimes and benefit from campus security procedures and practices:

Program Title	Program Type	Coordinating Entity	Description	Frequency
Cyber Security Awareness Month	Information / Security Awareness	Office of Information Security & Privacy	Observed every October, programs promote cybersecurity best practices, raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding online information, recognize cyber threats and adopt proactive measures to protect systems and data.	Annually
Protection of Minors on Campus Training	Community Awareness / Crime Prevention	Office of Risk Management	Required annual online training, these sessions outline for camp directors and responsible university officials CSU's and USG's Programs Serving Minors policies and procedures. All program directors and RUOs must attend if they wish to host an event serving minors.	Ongoing
Run, Hide, Fight: Active Shooter Presentation	Personal Safety / Community Awareness	CSU Police Department	Hosted throughout the year, these training events instruct different areas of the campus community on responding to an active shooter event on campus.	Ongoing
Dual Enrollment Safety Briefing	Personal Safety / Crime Prevention	CSU Police Department	Hosted at the start of each academic year, this session for dual-enrolled high school students provides information about the campus, CSU Police and the RAVE Guardian App.	Annually

Program Title	Program Type	Coordinating Entity	Description	Frequency
Resident Assistant Training	Personal Safety / Crime Prevention	CSU Police Department	Hosted at the start of each academic year, this session for Residence Life resident assistants outlines emergency procedures, drug and alcohol awareness, and how to contact CSU Police and other emergency services.	Annually
Discovery Day Presentations	Personal Safety / Crime Prevention	CSU Police Department	Hosted throughout the year, these presentations provide prospective students with information about CSU Police and the RAVE Guardian App.	Ongoing
Orientation Tabletop Presentations	Community Awareness	CSU Police Department	Hosted during new student orientations, these incoming student presentations provide information about CSU Police and the RAVE Guardian App.	Ongoing

Alcohol & Drug Abuse

CSU offers a variety of alcohol and drug abuse education and prevention programs throughout the year to support student and employee wellness and compliance with applicable laws and university policies. All newly hired employees are required to complete an online alcohol and drug awareness training module provided by Human Resources prior to their start date. For students, the Office of the Dean of Students requires all incoming students to complete an online alcohol and drug education training through Vector Solutions' AlcoholEdu platform. Additionally, the Dean of Students offers the Alternative Justice for Alcohol and Marijuana program as an educational alternative for students found in violation of CSU's alcohol and drug policies.

To further promote awareness and safety, CSU convenes the Alcohol and Drug Education Task Force throughout the academic year to plan and implement awareness initiatives. These initiatives include information tables at campus events each semester, which share facts about substance abuse and promote harm reduction strategies. Residence Life, in coordination with CSU Police, conducts annual training for Resident Assistants on CSU's alcohol and drug policies, including procedures for recognizing and reporting violations. Residence Life also hosts a recurring "Drunk Goggles" event, which allows students to experience the simulated effects of intoxication while completing various tasks, helping illustrate the dangers of substance use and impaired decision-making.

Sexual Misconduct

The Sexual Assault Violence and Education (SAVE) Task Force meets regularly to plan programming and ensure a coordinated approach to education and outreach. Programs include Safe Spring Break, a week of activities hosted by Student Affairs before Spring Break that promotes safe decision-making, and RAINN Day, a nationally recognized event held in the fall semester to raise awareness about

sexual assault and violence. The Speak Up Speak Out event, held during the spring, features local organizations such as the Sexual Assault Support Center and Hope Harbour, which provide resources and education on domestic and dating violence.

Educational presentations are also delivered in classrooms throughout the year, and incoming students receive bystander intervention training during ROAR Orientation. ROAR student orientation leaders receive additional training during ROAR Training Week and the ROAR Leadership Class, focusing on Title IX responsibilities and mandatory reporting obligations. Greek Life students participate in specialized programming, including the Greek Life Risk Management Workshop and the Greek Recruitment Education Program—all of which emphasize prevention, reporting and Title IX awareness.

Residence Life staff, including Resident Assistants, receive training at the beginning of each academic year, led by the SAVE Task Force, focusing on sexual assault, domestic violence and reporting obligations. NCAA student-athletes and athletics staff receive targeted Title IX training and reporting resources through annual sessions hosted by the Title IX Coordinator and the SAVE Task Force. Throughout the year, the SAVE Task Force also maintains information tables at events across campus to distribute materials and raise awareness about Title IX, VAWA and related safety issues.

Employee awareness is reinforced through annual Sexual Assault Prevention training, via Vector Solutions. This training is focused on prevention and risk reduction of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, while creating a safe environment for those who may have been victims of these crimes.

DEFINITIONS UNDER GEORGIA STATE LAW

Dating Violence

Dating violence, O.C.G.A. § 19-13A-1.

- (1) “Dating relationship” means a committed romantic relationship characterized by a level of intimacy that is not associated with mere friendship or between persons in an ordinary business, social, or educational context; provided, however, that such term shall not require sexual involvement.
- (2) “Dating violence” means 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.

Domestic Violence

Family violence, O.C.G.A. § 19-13-1.

As used in this article, the term “family violence” means 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.

Sexual Assault

The Clery Act defines "sexual assault" broadly, so it covers several different Georgia criminal laws.

Aggravated Sexual Battery, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22.2(a)-(b)

- (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.

Sexual Battery, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22.1(a)-(b)

- 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.

Child Molestation; Aggravated Child Molestation, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-4 (a)&(c)

- (a) A person commits the offense of child molestation when such person:
 - (1) Does an immoral or indecent act to or in the presence of or with any child under the age of 16 years with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of either the child or the person; or
 - (2) By means of an electronic device, transmits images of a person engaging in, inducing, or otherwise participating in an immoral or indecent act to a child under the age of 16 years with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of either the child or the person.
- (c) A person commits the offense of aggravated child molestation when such person commits an offense of child molestation which act physically injures the child or involves an act of sodomy.

Rape, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-1(a)

- 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.

Aggravated Sodomy, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-2(a)(2)

(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.

Note: The Supreme Court of Georgia ruled in 1998 that the state cannot punish private, consensual sex between adults under the sodomy law, but kept the rules against forced acts or those involving anyone under 10 years old.

Incest, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22(a)

- 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 either 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.

Statutory Rape, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-3(a)-(c)

- 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.
- b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this Code section, a person convicted of the offense of statutory rape shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than 20 years; provided, however, that if the person so convicted is 21 years of age or older, such person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 10 nor more than 20 years. Any person convicted under this subsection of the offense of statutory rape shall, in addition, be subject to the sentencing and punishment provisions of Code Section 17-10-6.2.
- c) If the victim is at least 14 but less than 16 years of age and the person convicted of statutory rape is 18 years of age or younger and is no more than four years older than the victim, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Stalking, O.C.G.A. § 16-5-90(a)

- a)
- 1) A person commits the offense of stalking when he or she follows, places under surveillance, or contacts another person at or about a place or places without the consent of the other person for the purpose of harassing and intimidating the other person. For the purpose of this article, the terms "computer" and "computer network" shall have the same meanings as set out in Code Section 16-9-92; the term "contact" shall mean any communication including without being limited to communication in person, by telephone, by mail, by broadcast, by computer, by computer network, or by any other electronic device; and the place or places that contact by telephone, mail, broadcast, computer, computer network, or any other electronic device is deemed to occur shall be the place or places where such communication is received. For the purpose of this article, the term "place or places" shall include any public or private property occupied by the victim other than the residence of the defendant. For the purposes of this article, the term "harassing and intimidating" means a knowing and willful course of conduct directed at a specific person which causes emotional distress by placing such person in reasonable fear for such person's safety or the safety of a member of his or her immediate family, by establishing a pattern of harassing and intimidating behavior, and which serves no legitimate purpose. This Code section shall not be construed to require that an overt threat of death or bodily injury has been made.
 - 2) A person commits the offense of stalking when such person, in violation of a bond to keep the peace posted pursuant to Code Section 17-6-110, standing order issued under Code Section 19-1-1, temporary restraining order, temporary protective order, permanent restraining order, permanent protective order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction or condition of pretrial release, condition of probation, or condition of parole in effect prohibiting the harassment or intimidation of another person, broadcasts or publishes, including electronic publication, the picture, name, address, or phone number of a person for whose benefit the bond, order, or condition was made and without such person's consent in such a manner that causes other persons to harass or intimidate such person and the person making the broadcast or publication knew or had reason to believe that such broadcast or publication would cause such person to be harassed or intimidated by others.

Aggravated stalking, O.C.G.A. § 16-5-91(a)

- a) A person commits the offense of aggravated stalking when such person, in violation of a bond to keep the peace posted pursuant to Code Section 17-6-110, temporary restraining order, temporary protective order, permanent restraining order, permanent protective order, preliminary injunction, good behavior bond, or permanent injunction or condition of pretrial release, condition of probation, or condition of parole in effect prohibiting the behavior described in this subsection, 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.

Consent

Georgia law does not provide a general statutory definition of “consent” in reference to sexual activity. Instead, consent is addressed through the specific elements of sexual offense statutes, such as “forcibly and against her will” or “without the consent of that person,” along with relevant court decisions. Certain individuals cannot legally consent to sexual activity, including anyone under the age of consent and persons who are physically or mentally incapacitated.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY INFORMATION

The Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act is a federal law enacted on Oct. 28, 2000, that requires institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where information concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. The law also requires registered sex offenders to notify the appropriate state agencies of their enrollment, employment or volunteer work at any college or university.

In compliance with this Act, information about registered sex offenders who are enrolled at, employed by or volunteering at CSU is available through the Georgia Bureau of Investigation’s Sex Offender Registry, which can be accessed from the [Georgia Bureau of Investigation’s website](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Introduction

CSU is committed to a learning and working environment for all university community members free from sex-based discrimination. The university community includes students, employees, as well as contractors, vendors, visitors and guests.

As part of this commitment, the university expressly prohibits sexual misconduct, including dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, consistent with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, and University System of Georgia policy. CSU and USG policy also prohibits sexual harassment and sexual exploitation.

If you or someone close to you is the victim of sex-based discrimination, know that you are not alone. The information in this report will help you navigate some of what you may be experiencing. Regardless of what you have experienced or how you feel now, prioritize your safety. You do not have to go through this alone, and this information is intended to help you navigate the process. The university will provide a student or employee who reports they have been the victim of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking—whether the offense occurred on or off campus—with a written explanation of their rights and options as described in this report.

“Sex offenses” for the purposes of university policy are any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

“Rape” means the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

“Fondling” is the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of

giving consent because of his/ her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

"Incest" is sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

"Statutory Rape" is sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

"Dating Violence" means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

"Domestic Violence" includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner 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 or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, 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. It can occur when you are deeply in love with someone or happen on the first date, and it can even occur long after a romantic or sexual relationship has ended.

"Stalking" means 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. Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim. Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

Reporting Sexual Misconduct

Reports of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking) should be directed to CSU's Title IX Coordinator:

Sarah Secoy
Director of the Center for Accommodations & Access / Title IX Compliance Coordinator
110 Schuster Student Success Center
706.507.8757, secoy_sarah@columbusstate.edu, columbusstate.edu/titleix

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the university's response to reports of sexual misconduct and ensuring compliance with Title IX. This includes offering supportive measures, explaining the rights and responsibilities of the parties involved, and outlining available resolution options, including informal or formal grievance procedures.

Filing a report with the Title IX Coordinator does not automatically initiate a law enforcement investigation. Individuals have the right to choose whether to notify law enforcement, including CSU Police or local police in the jurisdiction where the incident occurred. The Title IX Coordinator can assist with contacting law enforcement if requested:

CSU Police Department: 706.507.8911 (24/7)
Emergency: 911 from any campus phone

Additionally, reports of sexual misconduct can be made to the following:

Dr. Amber Dees
Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Director of Accreditation & Compliance, and SACSCOC
Institutional Accreditation Liaison
313 Richards Hall
706.507.8634, dees_amber@columbusstate.edu

Understanding Trauma

The trauma of sexual misconduct can have profound effects on the brain and body. This may manifest as problematic emotional, behavioral, and cognitive responses, as well as potential bodily complaints. Some of the common emotional responses to trauma include anxiety, shame, depression, grief, guilt and anger. Changes in behavior are often the most obvious responses to sexual violence.

Although these behaviors may seem extreme or may even be harmful, they often make sense in the context of a traumatic experience. Some typical behavioral responses to violence may be hypervigilance, avoidance, isolation, sleep changes, changes in eating habits, self-injury or substance abuse.

Trauma can even change the way you think and how you view the world. These responses may include shock, disbelief, feelings of stigma, memory disturbances, difficulty concentrating or intrusive thoughts. If you identify with some of these reactions, therapy or counseling may be beneficial. Also, we can assist you by providing supportive measures as explained in more detail below. No matter what you have experienced or how you are feeling now, it is important to prioritize your safety. What happened to you is not your fault. Everything you did helped you to survive. Consider talking to someone you trust or reaching out for help. You do not have to go through this alone.

Preserving Evidence

Preserving evidence that may be useful in documenting the criminal activity is important if you are a victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking; to do so, refrain from:

- bathing;
- douching;
- smoking;
- changing clothes; and
- cleaning the linens/area where an assault occurred.

If you have changed clothes or linens, do not wash them until you have met with a law enforcement agency and/or health care provider. Seeking medical care does not mean you must report to law enforcement, so prioritize your health and safety when making decisions. Local hospitals can complete a forensic examination to collect evidence that helps preserve your options should you choose to notify law enforcement. Photos, text messages, social media posts, instant messages and any other communications or documents may provide information useful for institution hearings or investigations, so save those too.

Orders of Protection

CSU follows Georgia law in recognizing and enforcing orders of protection, including, but not limited to, restraining orders, temporary protective orders and stalking orders issued in Georgia or any other state, with the understanding that orders from other states are subject to the laws of the issuing state.

Anyone who has an order of protection should submit a copy of the order to the CSU Police Department. CSU Police keeps the order on file for easy access in the event of a violation. CSU Police has the authority to arrest and charge any individual in violation of the order.

No-Contact Order

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for administering interim measures, which may include no-contact orders, on campus. A no-contact order restricts contact between parties and may prohibit verbal, digital and physical presence, extending into the classroom and residence halls.

Confidentiality

CSU is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of individuals who report sexual misconduct to the greatest extent possible, in accordance with applicable laws and institutional policy.

The university does not disclose personally identifiable information about a complainant to the public, media, friends, family members or employers without the complainant's express permission, unless required by law. Personally Identifying Information (PII) is safeguarded and subject to the strictest access controls under CSU's data privacy and security protocols.

In accordance with the Clery Act, any publicly available recordkeeping, including Clery reporting and disclosures, will not include personally identifying information about a complainant. This applies to campus alerts, crime logs and annual crime statistics.

If a report is made to CSU Police, the information may be subject to disclosure under the Georgia Open Records Act, and full confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in that context. However, CSU Police will take all reasonable steps to protect the privacy of involved individuals to the extent permitted by law.

The university encourages anyone who has experienced sexual misconduct to reach out to confidential campus resources or the Title IX Office to better understand their options before deciding how to proceed.

Supportive Measures

If you have reported being the victim of sexual misconduct, the university offers confidential options to ensure your continued safety and equal access to educational opportunities. These services are available regardless of whether the complainant chooses to report the crime to CSU Police or local law enforcement.

Supportive measures and accommodations are non-disciplinary and non-punitive individualized services as appropriate are offered upon request. Upon request, CSU will make any reasonably available change to a victim's academic, living, transportation and/or working situation, regardless of whether the victim reports the crime to campus police or local law enforcement. Students and employees may contact the Title IX Coordinator (706.507.8757) for assistance. CSU will maintain as confidential any accommodations or protective measures provided to the victim to the extent that maintaining such

confidentiality would not impair the institution's ability to provide the accommodations or protective measures.

These supportive measures and accommodations are made available to the complainant and respondent before or after the filing of a complaint or where no complaint has been filed. Information regarding support services will be provided to the complainant and respondent upon the Title IX Coordinator's initial communication to the party.

Supportive measures include counseling, advocacy, housing assistance, academic support, disability services, health and mental services, changing workplace arrangements, transportation and other services. Immigration and visa assistance can be obtained by contacting the university's Center for Global Engagement. The Financial Aid Office can assist with financial aid questions. The university will maintain the confidentiality of any supportive measures provided to the complainant, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the university's ability to provide the supportive measures.

Employees can also contact the Director of Human Resources at 706.507.8920 with sexual misconduct allegations. Accommodations or supportive measures provided to a victim will remain confidential to the extent that maintaining confidentiality would not impair the ability of the university to provide the accommodations or protective measures. Immigration and visa assistance can be obtained by contacting the Center for Global Engagement at 706.507.8545 or through columbusstate.edu/global.

Available support services, including both on- and off-campus options, are listed on the university's website at columbusstate.edu/titleix. In addition, a Survivor's Brochure will be provided to any victim of sexual misconduct.

Interim Protective Measures

Interim protective measures may be implemented at any point after the university becomes aware of an allegation of sexual misconduct to protect the complainant and the university community. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity without unreasonable burden, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the campus community or deter sexual misconduct and retaliation. Interim measures must be provided, consistent with the provisions in applicable USG and CSU policies and procedures.

Interim measures may include, but are not limited to, a change of housing assignment; issuance of a no-contact order; restrictions or bars to entering certain university properties; changes to academic or employment arrangements, schedules, or supervision; emergency removal; administrative leave; and other measures designed to promote the safety and well-being of the parties and the university's community. CSU Police can also issue no-trespass orders against third parties.

No officer, employee or agent of CSU may retaliate, intimidate, threaten, coerce or otherwise discriminate against any individual for exercising their rights or responsibilities under any provision of the Clery Act. Violation of this provision is subject to the disciplinary process of Human Resources or Student Conduct.

Disciplinary Proceedings

The university processes complaints against respondents using the Sexual Misconduct Policy and the Sexual Misconduct Procedures. Pursuant to U.S. Department of Education regulations, effective Aug. 14,

2020, implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) that govern the handling of complaints of sexual harassment, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, the university provides specialized handling of these matters as explained by this statement of policy.

Officials responsible for the resolution process receive annual training on issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, how to conduct an investigation, and how to conduct a hearing that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability.

All university disciplinary proceedings involving reports of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation shall be conducted in a prompt, fair and impartial manner, from the initial investigation through resolution.

Efforts will be made to complete the investigation and provide a resolution within 120 business days. Prompt scheduling and timely notice will be given for all meetings. The university may grant temporary delays and limited extensions for good cause throughout the investigation and resolution process. The parties will promptly and simultaneously be informed in writing of any extension or delay, and the applicable reason. The university shall keep the parties informed of the status of the investigation.

The Title IX Coordinator will provide parties with timely notice of meetings, at which the complainant, respondent, or both may be present. Parties are entitled to have an advisor of their choosing present at all meetings and interviews. At the time of the notice of allegation, the parties are provided with a copy of the policies and grievance procedures in effect at the time of the alleged misconduct.

Advisors

Both the complainant and the respondent, as parties to the matter, shall have the opportunity to use an advisor (who may or may not be an attorney) of the party's choosing and at the party's expense. The advisor may accompany the party to all meetings and may provide advice and counsel to their respective party throughout the sexual misconduct process. In Title IX cases, advisors conduct cross-examinations during hearings.

All communication during the sexual misconduct process will be between the university and the party, and not the advisor. The university will copy the party's advisors prior to the finalization of the investigation report when the university provides the parties the right to inspect and review directly related information gathered during the investigation. With the party's permission, the advisor may be copied on all communications.

Sexual Misconduct Grievance Procedures

The university uses different types of proceedings when a student is accused and when an employee is accused. Federal 2020 Title IX regulations mandate specific processes for "Title IX Sexual Misconduct" cases, which differ from those for "Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct." Both types encompass VAWA Offenses and other forms of sex discrimination and harassment.

"Title IX Sexual Misconduct" matters are when the alleged misconduct occurs against a person in the United States on institution property, or at institution-sponsored or affiliated events where the institution exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context, or in buildings owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the institution. "Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct" matters are those in which the alleged misconduct occurs off campus and/or when the complainant is not participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of

the institution occurring within the United States at the time of the filing, and when prohibited by other Board or institution conduct policies.

In Title IX cases, a formal complaint, which is a written document filed by the complainant or signed by the Coordinator, is required. This complaint must allege sexual harassment as defined by Title IX and request an investigation. The complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the institution's educational programs or activities in the United States at the time of filing. The Title IX Coordinator decides the appropriate proceeding or dismissal of a complaint, notifying the parties via their institutional emails. If dismissed, the notice will include the reason and information about the right to appeal. If the case proceeds, an investigator will be assigned, and their identity will be shared with the parties.

Under Title IX, "sexual harassment" means conduct based on sex that satisfies one or more of the following: (1) an employee conditioning the provision of aid, benefit or service of the university on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; (2) unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the university's education program or activity; or (3) "sexual assault" as defined by the Clery Act, and "dating violence," "domestic violence," and "stalking" as defined by the Violence Against Women Act amendments to the Clery Act.

CSU uses "sexual misconduct" as a broad term encompassing Title IX sexual harassment and other sexual misconduct that does not fall under the Title IX sexual harassment regulations. The behaviors that are prohibited by the Sexual Misconduct Policy are sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual penetration, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and sexual exploitation. Through the [Sexual Misconduct Grievance Procedures](#), CSU addresses behavior affecting its students and employees inside and outside Title IX's jurisdiction. When the Title IX Coordinator determines that a complaint meets the Title IX "sexual harassment" definition, federal regulations require the university to apply specialized handling of these matters, which may differ from the handling of other sexual misconduct.

In Title IX cases where the respondent is an employee and the complainant is a student, alternative/informal resolutions are not permitted, and a formal investigation is required.

Alternative/Informal Resolution

The respondent and the complainant, as parties to the matter, may have the option of selecting an alternative/informal resolution as a possible resolution in certain cases where the parties agree, and it is deemed appropriate by the university. The respondent and complainant have the option to end formal resolution discussions and request the alternative/informal resolution process at any time before the terms of an alternative/informal resolution are reached. However, matters resolved alternatively/informally shall not be appealable.

Investigation

Any report that involves allegation(s) of sexual misconduct that could lead to the suspension, expulsion or termination of the respondent(s) in an initial violation must be promptly reported to the USG Director for Equity and Investigations. Upon receipt of the notice of allegations, the respondent will have three business days to respond in writing. In that response, the respondent will have the right to accept or deny responsibility or request an alternative/informal resolution. The respondent may also present a

defense with facts, witnesses and supporting materials. A non-response will be considered a general denial of the allegations. The notice of allegations and the respondent's response will be sent to the complainant for review, and the complainant will have three business days to respond to or supplement the notice.

The respondent has the right to remain silent during the grievance process without an adverse inference. If the respondent chooses to remain silent, the investigation may proceed, and policy violation charges may still result, which may be resolved against the respondent. If the respondent accepts responsibility, the process may proceed to the sanctioning phase or be alternatively/informally resolved. If the respondent denies responsibility or an alternative/informal resolution is unsuccessful, the Title IX Coordinator will provide both parties with a notice of investigation, and the case will be promptly assigned to Investigator(s). The complainant, respondent, and witnesses will have the right to present evidence, including documents and the names of witnesses. The investigator(s) shall conduct a prompt, thorough and equitable investigation.

The investigator(s) shall (1) analyze all relevant evidence and conduct thorough individual interviews with the complainant, respondent and any witnesses; (2) determine the weight of the evidence and whether it is necessary or appropriate to talk to all potential witnesses identified. If a witness is not interviewed, the investigator(s) will provide their rationale in the report; (3) assess the credibility of the parties and witnesses and the strength of the evidence; (4) not access, consider, disclose or otherwise use a party's records made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist or other recognized professional in connection with the party's treatment unless the party has provided voluntary written consent. This also applies to information protected by recognized legal privilege; and (5) use the documented evidence to prepare a draft investigation report, including summaries of statements from the parties and witnesses, relevant evidence collected, and a list of considerations for the hearing panelists.

The initial investigation report shall be provided to the complainant, the respondent and a party's advisor (if applicable). This report summarizes the relevant evidence gathered during the investigation. For purposes of this policy, a charge is not a finding of responsibility. The complainant and the respondent shall have 10 calendar days to review and respond in writing to the initial investigation report and directly related information gathered during the investigation.

The investigator(s) will review the complainant's and the respondent's written responses, if any, to determine whether further investigation or changes to the investigation report are necessary. At the expiration of each party's period to provide feedback, the Title IX Coordinator shall allow the complainant and the respondent to determine if they want to enter into an alternative/informal resolution or the formal resolution process by requesting a hearing panel.

Hearing

A hearing shall be set when a matter is not resolved through an alternative/informal resolution. The hearing panel consists of three to five hearing panelists tasked with determining whether a violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy has occurred. For hearings involving a faculty member where dismissal is a possible sanction, a hearing with a panel will be composed of three to five faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate. The hearing panel also determines sanctions to impose on students and to recommend for employees.

In no case shall a hearing to resolve a sexual misconduct allegation occur before the investigation report is finalized. The hearing letter, including the final investigation report, will be provided to the complainant, the respondent, and the party's advisor at least 10 calendar days before the hearing. For hearings involving a faculty member respondent, the hearing letter will be provided at least 20 calendar days before the hearing. Both parties are provided an equal opportunity to review evidence prior to the completion of an investigation, and all relevant evidence will be available at any hearing for the parties and their advisors to refer to. In addition to an advisor, the complainant, respondent or hearing chair shall be permitted to have an observer attend the hearing. An audiovisual recording or transcript of the proceedings shall be kept. An oath or affirmation shall be administered to all witnesses. Cross-examination of parties and witnesses shall be conducted by the advisor for each party. Any official involved in an informal resolution, hearing or appeal will receive the same access to evidence as the parties.

The investigator(s) may testify as a witness regarding the investigation and findings, but shall otherwise have no part in the hearing process and shall not attempt to otherwise influence the proceedings outside of providing testimony during the hearing.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Sexual Misconduct Policy and the Sexual Misconduct Grievance Procedures.

Preponderance of the evidence is the standard of review for all allegations of violations of the Sexual Misconduct Policy. This standard requires that the evidence show it is more likely than not that the alleged incident, act, or behavior occurred. Formal judicial rules of evidence do not apply to the investigation process.

Following a hearing, the complainant and respondent shall simultaneously be provided with a written decision via email of the hearing outcome and any resulting imposed or recommended sanction(s). The decision must include the allegations, procedural steps taken through the investigation and resolution process, finding(s) regarding responsibility, facts supporting the finding(s), and the evidence relied upon and rationale for any imposed or recommended sanction(s).

The university shall also notify the parties of their right to appeal, as outlined within these procedures.

If the respondent is a faculty member and the hearing panel recommends termination (dismissal), the President will be informed of the recommendation in cases where there was no appeal or where the appellate officer upheld the recommendation. If the President approves the recommendation of termination (dismissal), it will be the university's final decision. If the President does not approve the recommendation, they will provide their reasons in writing. The Title IX Coordinator will then relay the President's decision to the hearing panel for feedback. At that point, if the President still does not approve termination (dismissal), the hearing panel will reconvene to recommend alternative sanctions.

Appeals

The parties have the right to appeal the hearing panel's finding of "responsible" or "not responsible," as well as the sanctions imposed on students and those recommended for employees. An appeal must be submitted in writing within five business days of the date of notification of the hearing panel's findings. If an appeal is submitted, the other party shall receive notice of the appeal, including a copy of the submission. That party may submit, in writing and within five business days from the date of notification, a response to the appeal submission. A decision on an appeal may only be rendered once

the filing deadline has passed, including the deadline for the other party to respond to the appeal submission.

Appeals shall be made and considered only in the following situations. The party must address one of the following in their letter requesting an appeal: (1) a procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter; (2) 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; (3) the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), hearing panelist(s), chair, or any individual involved in the grievance process had a conflict of interest or bias for or against the complainant or respondent generally or individually that affected the outcome of the matter; or (4) the finding of responsible or not responsible and/or the imposed or recommended sanction(s) was inconsistent with the weight of the information.

Appellate decisions should be rendered, and proper written notification should be provided, to the Title IX Coordinator no later than seven days after the other party's deadline to respond to the appeal. Both parties will be notified in writing simultaneously of any change in results and when such results become final. Should either party want to appeal the final university decision, they may request a review by the USG Board of Regents in accordance with the Board of Regents Policy on Discretionary Review. Appeals received after the designated deadlines above will only be considered if the university or the Board of Regents has granted an extension before the deadline. If an appeal is not received by the deadline, the final decision will become final. For additional information about the Board of Regents Policy on Discretionary Review, visit usg.edu/policymanual/section6/C2714/.

Sanctions for students will be imposed by the hearing panel and enforced by the Office of Student Conduct. Sanctions for employees will be imposed and enforced by the Office of Human Resources.

Challenge for Bias

Any party may challenge the investigator(s) on the grounds of conflict of interest or personal bias by submitting a written statement to the Title IX Coordinator setting forth the basis for the challenge.

Any party may challenge a hearing panelist or chair on the grounds of conflict of interest or bias by submitting a written statement setting forth the basis for the challenge. For hearings involving a faculty member respondent, each party may challenge a maximum of two hearing panelists without specifying grounds for the challenge(s). The written challenge must be submitted at least five business days before the hearing. The Title IX Coordinator will determine whether to sustain or deny the challenge and, if sustained (automatically sustained in faculty respondent hearings), appoint a replacement.

Possible Sanctions: Student Respondent

In determining the severity of sanctions or corrective actions for student respondents, the following will be considered:

1. The frequency, severity and/or nature of the offense;
2. History of past conduct;
3. Offender's willingness to accept responsibility;
4. Previous institutional response to similar conduct;
5. Strength of the evidence; and
6. Well-being of the university community.

Possible Sanctions: Student or Employee Respondent

The following are possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed for students or employees when a respondent is found responsible for violating the Sexual Misconduct Policy.

- **Expulsion or Termination (Dismissal):** Permanent, forced withdrawal from the university constitutes the maximum disciplinary penalty. Although it may be imposed on the first offense, it is usually administered after other methods of discipline have been exhausted.
- **Suspension/Administrative Leave:** Forced withdrawal from the university for a specified time, which includes not being able to be on campus. Only the Title IX Coordinator or their designee (Human Resources in the case of employees) may grant permission to visit campus. Administrative leave, for employees, may be unpaid.
- **Probation:** Notice that any further conduct violation may result in suspension, administrative leave, expulsion or termination. Conduct probation might also include one or more of the following: setting restrictions, issuing a reprimand or restitution.
- **Reprimand:** A designated individual (e.g., Title IX Coordinator, Human Resources representative, supervisor, etc.) to issue an oral or written statement expressing disapproval of behavior.
- **Coaching/Educational Conversation:** A meeting to discuss the behavior, the impact on others and the ramifications. The discussion will also include strategies for avoiding similar conduct in the future.
- **Restrictions:** Excluding or limiting participation in university activities, committees, groups, organizations, etc.; excluding or restricting rights, such as residence hall visitation, driving or parking on campus, access to university facilities, etc.
- **Restitution:** Reimbursement for damages to or loss of property.
- **Educational:** Work or service assignments or other related educational activity.
- **Temporary or Permanent Separation of the Parties:** To include, but not limited to: change in classes, reassignment of residence, no contact orders, limiting geography of where parties can go on campus, etc.
- **Academic Penalty:** Removal from a course (within which the offense occurred), removal from an academic program or experience, or removal or banning from participation in academic activities (e.g., study abroad). An academic penalty requires approval by the Provost or their designee.

RECORDKEEPING

As required by the federal Clery Act, CSU retains for at least seven years all records documenting reports of Clery crimes made to CSU Police, other Campus Security Authorities, and local law enforcement. This will include the timely warning determination for each report—and if a timely warning or emergency notification was made, a copy of that warning. Also retained are records of all crime prevention, including VAWA offense case reports, including decisions, files and educational programming offered, including but not limited to security procedures, alcohol and other drugs, and sexual violence, across the institution.

The CSU Police Department retains all entries made in the daily crime and fire log for at least seven years. Copies of these archived entries will be made available for public inspection within two business days of a request.

For a period of seven years, the university will maintain records of:

- Each investigation conducted involving reported sexual misconduct, including any determination regarding responsibility and any audio or audio-visual recording or transcript, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to university programs or activities;
- Any appeal and the result therefrom;
- Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and
- Any supportive measures or actions taken in response to a report or formal complaint under this policy and the rationale for the measure/response.

CLERY CRIME STATISTICS REPORT

CSU is presenting a three-year report of Clery-reportable crimes. The following information is presented by campus location. The statistics reflected in the report include incidents reported to have occurred on campus, in residential facilities, in certain off-campus buildings the university owns and/or operates, and on public property adjacent to and accessible from the university. In addition to crimes reported to campus authorities, written notices are submitted to local law enforcement agencies annually to request crime statistics from their agencies reported to have occurred within the university's Clery geography.

This report also includes information about reporting crimes, personal safety, crime prevention, emergency policies and procedures, policies regarding sexual assault, policies regarding drugs, alcohol and weapons on campus, and other topics related to campus safety.

There are six general categories of crime statistics for compliance with the Clery Act:

- Select criminal offenses;
- Hate crimes;
- Arrests and referrals for alcohol, drug and weapons offenses;
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) offenses;
- Hazing and
- Unfounded Crimes.

Main Campus

CRIMINAL OFFENSES	Year	Main Campus - Clery Geography				
		On-Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On-Campus Total		
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	1	1	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2025	1	1	1	0	0
	2024	3	3	3	0	0
	2023	1	1	1	0	0
Fondling	2025	2	5	5	0	0
	2024	1	1	1	0	0
	2023	1	3	3	0	0
Incest	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	1	1	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2025	6	11	11	0	1
	2024	13	17	17	0	0
	2023	0	7	7	0	0
Burglary	2025	0	3	3	0	0
	2024	1	7	7	0	0
	2023	1	2	2	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	1	1	0	0
	2023	0	7	7	0	0
Arson	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0

VAWA OFFENSES	Year	Main Campus - Clery Geography				
		On-Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On-Campus Total		
Dating Violence	2025	9	9	9	0	0
	2024	2	4	4	0	0
	2023	3	3	3	0	0
Domestic Violence	2025	0	1	1	0	0
	2024	1	1	1	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking	2025	3	6	6	0	0
	2024	0	4	4	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0

HAZING	Year	Main Campus - Clery Geography		
		On-Campus	Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
Hazing	2025	0	0	0
	2024*	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2023*	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Federally mandated hazing data collection was not required until the period beginning Jan. 1, 2025.

ARRESTS	Year	Main Campus - Clery Geography				
		On-Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On-Campus Total		
Liquor Law Violations	2025	0	1	1	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Violations	2025	1	1	1	0	0
	2024	2	4	4	0	0
	2023	0	2	2	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession	2025	1	1	1	0	0
	2024	2	5	5	0	0
	2023	0	1	1	0	1

DISCIPLINARY REFERRALS	Year	Main Campus - Clery Geography				
		On-Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On-Campus Total		
Liquor Law Violations	2025	17	20	20	0	0
	2024	20	24	24	0	0
	2023	21	22	22	0	0
Drug Law Violations	2025	51	85	85	0	6
	2024	57	90	90	0	0
	2023	25	33	33	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	1	1	1	0	0
	2023	1	1	1	0	0

TOTAL UNFOUNDED CRIMES	Main Campus - Clery Geography		
	2025	2024	2023*
Total Unfounded Crimes	0	0	1

* During CY23, there was one unfounded criminal offense on the Main Campus in the Residential Sub-Group. It was reported as an aggravated assault offense, but the officers who responded did not find the weapon that was reported to have been used in the assault. Therefore, the crime was deemed unfounded.

TOTAL HATE CRIMES	Main Campus - Clery Geography		
	2025	2024	2023
Total Hate Crimes	0	0	0

RiverPark Campus

CRIMINAL OFFENSES	Year	RiverPark Campus - Clery Geography				
		On-Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On-Campus Total		
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2025	2	2	2	0	1
	2024	2	2	2	0	0
	2023	2	2	2	0	0
Fondling	2025	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	2	2	2	0	0
Incest	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	3	3	3	0	3
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	1	1	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2025	0	1	1	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0

VAWA OFFENSES	Year	RiverPark Campus - Clery Geography				
		On-Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On- Campus Total		
Dating Violence	2025	1	1	1	0	0
	2024	1	1	1	0	0
	2023	3	3	3	0	0
Domestic Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	2
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking	2025	0	3	3	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	2	2	0	0

HAZING	Year	RiverPark Campus - Clery Geography		
		On-Campus	Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
Hazing	2025	0	0	0
	2024*	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2023*	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Federally mandated hazing data collection was not required until the period beginning Jan. 1, 2025.

ARRESTS	Year	RiverPark Campus - Clery Geography				
		On-Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On- Campus Total		
Liquor Law Violations	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	1
Drug Law Violations	2025	0	1	1	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	0	1	1	0	4
Illegal Weapons Possession	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	1	1	0	4

DISCIPLINARY REFERRALS	Year	RiverPark Campus - Clery Geography				
		On-Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On- Campus Total		
Liquor Law Violations	2025	6	6	6	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	13	13	13	0	0
Drug Law Violations	2025	6	6	6	0	0
	2024	8	13	13	0	0
	2023	16	19	19	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	1	1	1	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0

TOTAL UNFOUNDED CRIMES	RiverPark Campus - Clery Geography		
	2025	2024	2023
Total Unfounded Crimes	0	0	0

TOTAL HATE CRIMES	RiverPark Campus - Clery Geography		
	2025	2024	2023
Total Hate Crimes	0	0	0



ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY REPORT

FIRE SAFETY DISCLOSURE

Reporting a Fire

Students, employees and visitors should report all fires that occur in on-campus student housing facilities, whether already extinguished or not, to CSU Police at 706.507.8911 as soon as possible. This includes small fires that were extinguished without requiring emergency assistance.

Fires should also be reported to the Office of Residence Life and/or University Facilities to ensure proper documentation, repairs and inclusion in the university's annual fire safety reporting. Fire incidents may be reported anonymously if preferred.

Residence Hall Evacuation Procedures

All CSU residential facilities have building-specific evacuation procedures. In the event of a fire alarm, all residents and guests must immediately evacuate the building using the nearest safe exit. Once outside, individuals must move at least 500 feet away from the building and remain at their designated evacuation location until emergency personnel issue an "all-clear" signal.

Residents who require evacuation assistance due to temporary or permanent disability should notify the Residence Life office, which will coordinate with public safety personnel to provide appropriate support.

Designated evacuation locations for each residential facility are as follows:

Facility Name	Fire Evacuation Location
Broadway Crossing	Median on Broadway by Fountain in the 1000 block
Clearview Hall	Lot 4, near the Synovus Center for Commerce & Technology
Columbus Hall	Median at Broadway and 11th Street
Courtyard	Parking areas away from the building
Fontaine Building	Median at Broadway and 11th Street
Oglethorpe	Corner of 1st Ave and 11th Street
Giglio	1025 1st Avenue
One Arsenal (Yancey)	Southwest corner of OAP parking lot near train trestle
Rankin	Median at Broadway and 11th Street

Tampering with fire safety equipment or causing a false alarm is a violation of university policy and will result in disciplinary action through the student conduct process.

Fire Safety Education & Training Programming

CSU provides fire safety training to on-campus student residents through educational programming coordinated by Residence Life staff. This includes instruction on:

- Proper evacuation procedures;
- Safe cooking and appliance usage;
- Prohibited items and behaviors; and
- How to respond during an alarm or fire emergency.

Residence Life Coordinators and Resident Assistants are trained in fire safety protocols and help communicate procedures to residents. Students are instructed to report the use of fire extinguishers and are educated on the consequences related to false alarms or misuse of safety equipment.

Mandatory Supervised Fire Drill

CSU conducts supervised fire drills at least once per semester in all on-campus residential facilities. These drills are managed by Residence Life staff and may involve CSU Police and local fire personnel. Drills are unannounced and are designed to familiarize residents with evacuation procedures and safe exit routes.

Residents are expected to treat fire drills with the same urgency as actual emergencies. Failure to evacuate during a drill may result in disciplinary action.

Use Of Electrical Appliances, Open Flame, Smoking

Residents in traditional residence halls are not permitted to have appliances with open flames or exposed heating elements in any residence hall. Smoking is not permitted in or around any building on campus, per state and campus regulations.

CSU is a smoke-free campus. The use of all tobacco and simulated tobacco products (e.g., electronic cigarettes, hookahs) is prohibited on all university property, including residence halls.

Future Improvements in Fire Safety

CSU Police directly monitors all fire alarm systems of the traditional residence halls, and CSU continually assesses fire safety for campus facilities. Upgrades to existing fire safety equipment and systems are made as needed to ensure that all equipment and systems meet National Fire Protection Association Standards. Future improvements will be made as needed as part of this ongoing assessment.

FIRE SAFETY STATISTICS

The Higher Education Opportunity Act, enacted on Aug. 14, 2008, requires all institutions that maintain on-campus student housing facilities to publish an annual fire safety report that contains information about campus fire safety practices and the institution's standards. This report includes statistical data for the previous three calendar years regarding fires that occurred in residential facilities on both the Main Campus and the RiverPark Campus. These statistics reflect the number of fires, known causes of fires, the value of property damage, and any fire-related injuries or deaths. The following report details all information required by this act for Columbus State University.

University policy states that individuals are not required to fight fires. Those who do choose to do so may fight small, incipient-stage fires (no bigger than a waste-paper basket), given they have been trained to properly use fire extinguishers.

Main Campus

Campus fire alarm systems are monitored, and the monitoring service automatically notifies CSU Police.

Facility Name and Address	Fire Alarm Monitoring	Evacuation Plans & Placards	Sprinkler System	Smoke Detectors	Fire Extinguisher	Drills 2025
Clearview Hall 58 Clearview Cir.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Courtyard (A-F) 3423 College Dr./3815 University Ave.	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	2
Courtyard (S-V) 3423 College Dr./3815 University Ave.	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2

2023-2025 FIRE STATISTICS FOR ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING FACILITIES	Year	# of Fires	Cause of Ea. Fire	# of Injuries Related to Ea. Fire	# of Deaths Related to Ea. Fire	Value of Property Damage
Clearview Hall 58 Clearview Circle	2025	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2023	0	N/A	0	0	0
Courtyard (A-F) 3423 College Dr./3815 University Ave.	2025	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2023	0	N/A	0	0	0
Courtyard (S-V) 3423 College Dr./3815 University Ave.	2025	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2023	0	N/A	0	0	0

RiverPark Campus

Campus fire alarm systems are monitored, and the monitoring service automatically notifies CSU Police.

Facility Name and Address	Fire Alarm Monitoring	Evacuation Plans & Placards	Sprinkler System	Smoke Detectors	Fire Extinguisher	Drills 2025
Rankin 1004 Broadway	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Oglethorpe 1017 First Ave.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Columbus Hall 1019 Broadway	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Broadway Crossing 25 W. 10th St.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Giglio 1025 1st Ave.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
One Arsenal Place 901 Front Ave.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Loft Apartment 1 1005 Broadway, Apt. 1 *	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	2
Loft Apartment 2 1005 Broadway, Apt. 2 *	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	2
Loft Apartment 3 1005 Broadway, Apt. 3 *	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	2

* Loft apartments are generally used for faculty/staff housing but have previously been used to house students and may be utilized as temporary student housing.

2023-2025 FIRE STATISTICS FOR ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING FACILITIES	Year	# of Fires	Cause of Ea. Fire	# of Injuries Related to Ea. Fire	# of Deaths Related to Ea. Fire	Value of Property Damage
Giglio 1025 1st Ave.	2025	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2023	0	N/A	0	0	0
Rankin 1004 Broadway	2025	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2023	0	N/A	0	0	0
Oglethorpe First Avenue	2025	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2023	0	N/A	0	0	0
Columbus Hall 1019 Broadway	2025	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2023	0	N/A	0	0	0
Broadway Crossing 25 W. 10th St.	2025	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2023	0	N/A	0	0	0

2023-2025 FIRE STATISTICS FOR ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING FACILITIES						
	Year	# of Fires	Cause of Ea. Fire	# of Injuries Related to Ea. Fire	# of Deaths Related to Ea. Fire	Value of Property Damage
One Arsenal Place 901 Front Ave.	2025	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2023	0	N/A	0	0	0
Loft Apartment 1 1005 Broadway, Apt. 1	2025	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2023	0	N/A	0	0	0
Loft Apartment 2 1005 Broadway, Apt. 2	2025	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2023	0	N/A	0	0	0
Loft Apartment 3 1005 Broadway, Apt. 3	2025	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	0
	2023	0	N/A	0	0	0

** Loft apartments are generally used for faculty/staff housing but have previously been used to house students and may be utilized as temporary student housing.*

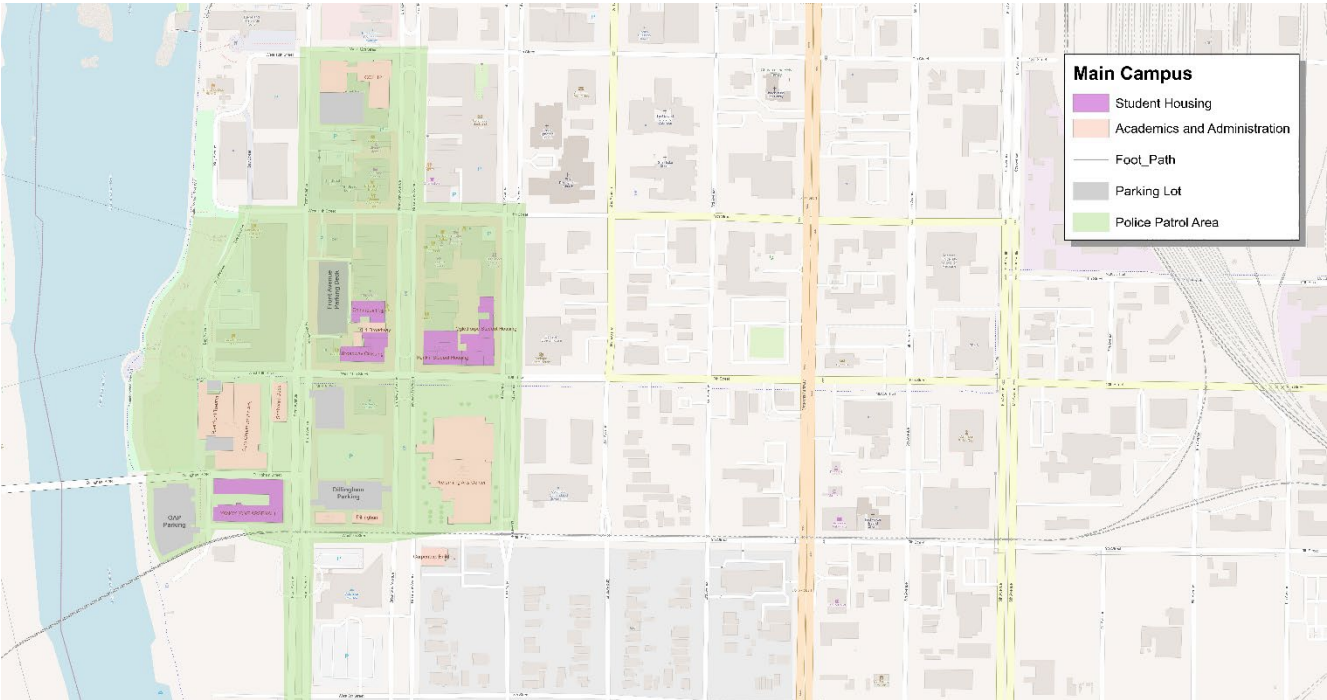
CLERY ACT GEOGRAPHY

The Clery Act specifies geographical areas for crime reporting and classifies them into four categories, which are reflected in the crime statistics portion of this report. The following maps are designed to show the campus areas, which comprise CSU properties and facilities, as well as the surrounding public property used by the university. Incidents occurring within the university's Clery geography at CSU Foundation Properties-owned properties that do not support educational purposes (e.g., rental properties not designated as student housing) are not included in crime statistics. However, incidents at these locations will be considered for crime alerts, timely warnings and emergency notifications.

Main Campus



RiverPark Campus





COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, ETHICS & COMPLIANCE

201 Richards Hall | 4225 University Ave. | Columbus, Ga. 31907
706.569.4640 | LegalAffairs@ColumbusState.edu | columbusstate.edu/legal-affairs