

Response of Upstate Medical University's Personal Safety Committee to the SUNY Chancellor's University-Wide Task Force on Campus Safety

Our campus is unique in several ways. We have a combination of a functioning University Hospital and four colleges with the majority of students in postgraduate programs. The average age of our incoming students is 25 and the majority do not live in campus housing. Some of the task force recommendations do not apply to our campus, some we already address and some we should try to adapt to our campus.

Education

Commuter Housing:

- Campus security sends campus wide e-mails to all faculty, staff and students whenever there is a safety/security alert.
- All new students (living on or off campus) attend orientation sessions where they are educated about safety.
- Commuters who park on campus park in secured, patrolled areas.

Sexual Assault Prevention/Preventing sexual harassment:

- Campus Security publishes brochures about safety.
- Campus Security has a web page with important information regarding safety and harassment.
- Programs are offered in Clark Tower, our only student residence, to educate students about sexual assault prevention.
- Resident Assistants are trained as peer educators to assist others in methods geared toward preventing assaults.
- Brochures regarding harassment are available at the personnel office.
- There is an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) coordinator on campus for assistance/referrals for both students and employees.
- The college employs a full time counselor for students; there is assistance available through the student and employee health office; and referrals are made to the rape crisis center of Syracuse.
- The Campus Security department in compliance with the Cleary Act publishes statistical information.

Physical assault, harassment and aggravated assault:

- Information is offered through new employee and new student orientations.
- Educational programs are offered in Clark Tower.
- Brochures are offered during personal safety week.
- There is an EAP coordinator on campus for assistance/referrals.

- The college employs a full time counselor for students; there is assistance available through the student and employee health office; and referrals are made to the rape crisis center of Syracuse as needed.
- The counseling center maintains a web page that allows students and employees the opportunity to do self-surveys and read about related topics.
- The campus Security department in compliance with the Cleary Act publishes statistical information.

Alcohol and other substance abuse:

- Educational programs are offered in Clark Tower
- There is an Impaired Student Assistance program on campus.
- The Campus Activities office offers guest lecturers relating to these topics.
- The college employs a full time counselor for students; there is assistance available through the student and employee health office; and referrals are made to the rape crisis center of Syracuse as needed.
- There is an EAP coordinator on campus for assistance/referrals.
- The office of campus activities, residence life and student health collaborate to offer an alcohol and other substance abuse information week.
- The counseling center maintains a web page that allows students and employees the opportunity to do self-surveys and read about related topics.

Hate speech, bias-related crimes and asocial behavior:

- There is a diversity and affirmative action department and committee on campus who offer support and educational programming.
- The office of multi-cultural affairs, along with the student affairs office, offers counseling and assistance to students in need.
- Information is offered through new employee and new student orientations.
- Educational programs are offered in Clark Tower.
- The Campus Activities office offers guest lecturers relating to these topics.
- Resident Assistants are trained to be advocates for students living on campus.
- The campus has recently begun working with the NCBI (National Coalition Building Institute) in order to train trainers who will in turn train the entire campus in the area of diversity.

Prevention and Compliance

Our Personal Safety Committee meets regularly and works to inform the entire campus community about safety issues. We distribute brochures during the annual Personal Safety Week and answer questions from faculty and staff as well as students. The committee annually makes a walk around the campus after dark to assess lighting and safety issues and began this year to assess problems within buildings.

The Public Safety Department makes use of the campus home page to publish crime statistics and provide information about campus policies and help available to students and staff. Crime prevention activities include:

- Escort service: Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Crime prevention presentations are made available on a regular basis at new student and employee orientations. Custom presentations or surveys are made at the request of any group.
- Emergency telephones and call boxes, linked directly to the Department of Public Safety, are located throughout the campus.
- Architectural Design: The Department of Public Safety has significant input into the design of all new and renovated campus facilities as related to physical and electronic security systems.
- Facilities Surveys: Public Safety and the Personal Safety Committee conduct periodic surveys of exterior lighting, exterior doors and campus grounds. Results of these surveys are forwarded to Physical Plant for prompt action.
- Rape Awareness: Rape awareness education and prevention presentations are made annually to the campus community.
- Campus Alert Bulletins are posted on campus e-mail and in the bi-weekly Update newsletter.
- Shuttle busses are available from distant parking lots or campus related buildings. Public Safety officers patrol areas between campus and distant sites.

The Code of Student Conduct included in the Student Handbook is explicit and detailed. It has specific prohibitions against sexual harassment and misconduct and outlines judicial and appeal processes.

The Office of Diversity is sponsoring workshops on "Building Effective Relationships in a Diverse Community" and plans to train campus trainers to offer training in civility and intervention to the entire campus.

Crisis Management

The University Hospital has a Disaster Management Committee, which outlines procedures for crisis intervention at all levels. We are a Level One Trauma Center and regional medical center complex and our campus would be involved in helping the community respond to a disaster.