

PROCEDURE

Number: 9.8.1.1
Related Policy: 9.8.1
Title: Campus Safety
Responsibility: Vice President of Finance and Administration and
Vice President for Student Affairs

Original Approval Date: 09-24-2014
Last Cabinet Review: 10-11-2023
Last Revision: 10-11-2023

President

Overview

The Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) Division of Student Affairs prepares the Annual Security Report to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The Vice President for Student Affairs coordinates the preparation of the report and consults other administrators and stakeholders to ensure the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the elements of the report. The full text of this report can be located online at www.hgtc.edu/righttoknow and can be accessed by clicking “Annual Security Report” on this page. This report is prepared in cooperation with the local law enforcement agencies surrounding the campuses. Campus crime, arrest and referral statistics include those reported to Public Safety and local law enforcement agencies per Clery Act procedures. Each year, notification is distributed to all enrolled students, faculty, and staff providing the web address to access this report. In addition, the notification indicates that printed copies will be made available upon request from the Office of Student Affairs. Applicants to HGTC are informed of the availability of the report through information provided on the admissions application.

Introduction

Horry-Georgetown Technical College is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all members of the college community. The Vice President for Finance and Administration is primarily responsible for accomplishment of this objective but may work with other divisions within the college to ensure attainment of this goal. The College employs a Public Safety Department to provide services or assistance, within guidelines

established by the College and pursuant to state and federal regulations, to maintain a safe and secure environment for faculty, staff, students and the general community. The College also establishes programs, procedures, rules, regulations, and guidelines designed to provide a safe and secure environment, and to otherwise ensure compliance with state, federal and other requirements.

Security and Access to Campus Facilities

During business hours, the College is open to students, employees, contractors, guests, and invitees. During non-business hours there is no access to College facilities, except as previously approved by contractual agreement or express College permission.

Coastal Carolina University (CCU) Public Safety Dispatch is available 24 hours at (843) 349-2177. The College has no residential facilities.

Emergencies may necessitate changes or alterations to any posted schedules. Local media outlets will be notified, and other notification made pursuant to the guidelines of the *Safety and Emergency Response Manual*.

Law Enforcement and Jurisdiction – Authority to Arrest and Relationships

HGTC is partnered through contractual agreement with Coastal Carolina University to provide Public Safety, including licensed law enforcement officers and security officers, across all three campuses. Police officers are sworn certified officers and have comprehensive arrest powers in the state of South Carolina. These officers have graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and are tasked with law enforcement activities including patrolling campus and monitoring activity, responding to calls for service and investigating criminal activity within their jurisdiction, which includes all College-owned, leased or controlled property as well as the adjacent streets and sidewalks. Public Safety officers have the authority to enforce all applicable federal laws, state laws, county and city ordinances, and College regulations. These law enforcement powers are granted to the officers who are appointed by the Governor and commissioned by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) as state constables under Title 23, Chapter 1, Article 60, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended. Public Safety officers work closely with the Conway, Myrtle Beach and Georgetown City Police Departments, the Horry County and Georgetown County Police Department, and the local contingent of the State Law Enforcement Division to handle any incidents that occur off campus. Public Safety personnel and HGTC administrators ensure that safety and security policies and procedures are uniformly executed and conveyed in a clear and consistent manner to the student body.

Crime Log

A daily crime log for the most recent 60-day period is available for public

inspection, upon request, during business hours by contacting Public Safety. The daily crime log includes the nature of the alleged crime, the date the incident was reported, the date and time the incident occurred, the general location of the incident, and the disposition of the complaint, if known.

Monitoring and Reporting of Criminal Activity

Public Safety maintains a cooperative relationship with all law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction for all areas adjacent to our campuses. Should Public Safety become aware of activity that may impact the College, the incident may be investigated and/or, when appropriate, the campus community notified. The College has no residential facilities or off-campus student organizations.

Accurate and Prompt Reporting

HGTC encourages anyone who is the victim of or witness to any crime to promptly report the incident to Public Safety.

Report crimes as follows:

Conway Campus		
	Calling from On-Campus Phone Line	Calling from Off-Campus or Cell Phone
Public Safety	Dial Extension 7806	Cell: (843) 251-6111 Office: (843) 349-7806
When Public Safety Cannot Be Reached	Dial 9-911	911
<i>Also, individuals should know the locations of the Emergency Call Boxes and use them in the event of an emergency.</i>		
Grand Strand Campus		
	Calling from On-Campus Phone Line	Calling from Off-Campus or Cell Phone
Public Safety	Dial Extension 2115	Cell: (843) 251-9405 Office: (843) 477-2115
When Public Safety Cannot Be Reached	Dial 9-911	911
<i>Also, individuals should know the locations of the Emergency Call Boxes and use them in the event of an emergency.</i>		
Georgetown Campus		
	Calling from On-Campus Phone Line	Calling from Off-Campus or Cell Phone
Public Safety	Dial Extension 1400	Cell: (843) 446-1869 Office: (843) 520-1400

When Public Safety Cannot Be Reached	Dial 9-911	911
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HGTC seeks to maintain confidentiality of student records and other records, when required. However, crime reports are considered public records under State law and are subject to release and Freedom of Information Act requests.

Procedures for Confidential Reporting

Victims and witnesses are able to report crimes on a voluntary, confidential basis through the Silent Witness program. This program is provided as part of the contractual agreement with Coastal Carolina University to provide Public Safety on the three campuses. Student support personnel in the Division of Student Affairs inform students of the Silent Witness program, as appropriate, and printed flyers are posted on each campus.

Silent Witness:

https://www.coastal.edu/services/safety_and_security/publicsafety/policedivision/anonymous_reporting/

In the Division of Student Affairs, referrals to community agencies providing free and confidential professional counseling services are available. At the time of the publication of this report, HGTC is in the process of hiring a professional counselor, implementing a telehealth option, and employs an Assistant Director of Student Development who possesses a counseling certification.

Policies

In the event that a situation arises, either on or off campus, that, in the judgment of the College President or the Emergency Management Team, constitutes an ongoing or continuing threat, a “timely warning” notification will be issued. The Office of the College President and/or the Chair of the Emergency Management Team, the Vice President for Finance and Administration, are responsible for issuing the warning. A timely warning may be issued to students, faculty, and staff through the college e-mail system, text messaging, social media, and/or through the VoIP telephone system known as Campus Safety Alert.

Depending on the particular circumstances, a notice may be posted on the public website and/or the College portal. A copy of the notice may also be posted in each building on the affected campus(es). Anyone with information warranting a timely warning should report the circumstances to:

Conway Campus		
	Calling from On-Campus Phone Line	Calling from Off-Campus or Cell Phone

Public Safety	Dial Extension 7806	Cell: (843) 251-6111 Office: (843) 349-7806
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Emergency Notification Policy

Horry-Georgetown Technical College's Safety and Emergency Response Manual describes the protocol to be followed when there is confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees who are on HGTC property. The procedure for an emergency response and/or evacuation is communicated as follows.

Should you become aware of an emergency or other dangerous situation, you should report it immediately as follows:

Conway Campus		
	Calling from On-Campus Phone Line	Calling from Off-Campus or Cell Phone
Public Safety	Dial Extension 7806	Cell: (843) 251-6111 Office: (843) 349-7806
When Public Safety Cannot Be Reached	Dial 9-911	911

Also, individuals should know the locations of the Emergency Call Boxes and use them in the event of an emergency.

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Public Safety will respond to the scene and determine the kind, severity, and appropriate response to the situation. If an immediate threat to health or safety exists, Public Safety will respond accordingly and will initiate communication with the Emergency Management Team, which will communicate with the college community to provide information.

Here are those notification steps:

- Determine which community segment(s) will receive the notification
- Determine the content of the notification
- Initiate the notification

The Emergency Management Team, guided by the provisions of the *Safety and Emergency Response Manual* is responsible for initiating the emergency notification. The notification will be instituted without delay but taking into account their professional judgment if the notification would compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency.

The Emergency Management Team reports to the President, Dr. Marilyn Fore, through the Vice President for Finance and Administration, Harold Hawley. The membership of the Emergency Management Team is detailed in the chart below.

Emergency Management Team	
Members	<i>Reports to President through Harold Hawley</i>
Harold Hawley, Chair	Vice President for Finance and Administration
Marilyn Fore	President
Jackie Snyder	Vice President for Human Resources and Employee Relations
Melissa Batten	Vice President for Student Affairs
Lori Heafner	Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Development
Jennifer Wilbanks	Executive VP for Academic & Workforce Development
Terry Quaresimo	Associate Vice President for Technology Solutions
Lari Roper	Director of Marketing
Nicole Hyman	Public Relations Director
Christina Fieber	Grand Strand Campus Director
Brandon Haselden	Georgetown Campus Director
Maritza Lea	Communications

Each event will be evaluated to determine the notification method. They may include:

- Email
- Text Messaging
- Social Media
- Live Paging (VoIP phone system notification)

The College publishes its emergency response and evacuation procedures on its public website in the Safety and Emergency Response Manual at: <https://www.hgtc.edu/documents/about/publicsafety/emergency-manual.pdf>

Evacuation Procedures

During an emergency, an evacuation of campus buildings may be necessary. Horry Georgetown Technical College does not inform students in advance about the designated evacuation staging locations because they are dependent on multiple factors such as the time of day and nature of the threat or emergency. Public Safety and Fire Safety Officers at the scene will provide directions for community members. Horry- Georgetown Technical College's fire alarm systems are governed by the State Fire Marshal. The activation of any fire alarm only notifies the fire department and does not notify Public Safety. Public Safety can be contacted via phone or the "Campus Safety Alert" button to initiate their response and/or to solicit their help.

The following are action steps when evacuation of campus buildings are necessary:

- All building evacuations will occur when an

- alarm sounds and/or upon notification by Public Safety or other appropriate officials.
- When the building evacuation (Fire) alarm is activated during an emergency, leave by the nearest “SAFE EXIT” or by the Building Evacuation Plan and alert others to do the same.
 - Emergency (fire) exit routes are clearly marked in each building and classroom.
 - Assist the disabled in exiting the building.
 - Keep streets, fire lanes, hydrant areas, and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel.
 - Do NOT return to an evacuated building unless told to do so by authorized persons.

Emergency Response Systems Testing Procedures

The College routinely tests emergency response systems throughout the year. Appropriate drills and exercises are scheduled and implemented annually, for assessment and evaluation of emergency plans and capabilities.

The Facilities Department, with support from Public Safety and the Technology Solutions Division and/or involvement from third-party vendors, is responsible for testing the systems and for documenting each test.

Security Awareness and Crime Prevention Programs

During orientation, and through special programs and events, students and employees are informed of services offered by Public Safety. Flyers are posted throughout campus providing safety tips and the Public Safety web site provides additional crime prevention suggestions. A common theme of all awareness and crime prevention programs is to encourage students and employees to be aware of their responsibility for their own security and the security of others. Information is also presented to students and employees through security alert posters, emergency response plans, training sessions and email notices.

The College offers an online training program, called S.A.F.E. (Secure, Alert, Fight, Escape), related to Active Shooter situations. This program was developed in partnership with the Public Safety Department and can be accessed online at www.hgtc.edu/safe. In addition, the Office of Student Affairs sends a direct mail and email to all students notifying them of the training program each semester, as well as support personnel inform students of the S.A.F.E. program, as appropriate.

While the college makes considerable effort to ensure the safety and security of all students, employees and visitors, an individual should take

precautions to protect themselves. In addition, Public Safety is available to speak to concerned students or other groups upon request. Safety information is also distributed via the College's portal, email, and during all new student orientation sessions.

Campus Safety Tips:

1. Walk with friends (especially at night). There's safety in numbers!
2. Don't carry large amounts of cash.
3. Don't leave your belongings (books, coat, purse) unattended.
4. Keep your car doors locked.
5. Have your keys in hand as you leave the building and check the back seat before getting into your car.
6. Park in well-lighted areas.
7. Lock valuables in your trunk. Valuable items in plain view in your car may encourage theft and vandalism.
8. Be aware and concerned about the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs. HGTC complies fully with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act in specifically discouraging violations of alcohol and drug laws.
9. Always seek effective, nonviolent ways to resolve disagreements.

Policies

HGTC enforces a zero-tolerance practice concerning the possession, sale or use of illegal drugs and alcohol by any individual participating in on-campus student events and/or at off-campus College-sponsored student events.

Policy 9.3.3, Alcohol and Drugs, affirms the College's commitment to enforce discipline for any student violation, and to cooperate fully with law enforcement in the detection, prevention and punishment of individuals who violate laws governing illegal drug and/or alcohol use.

The possession, sale, manufacture or distribution of any controlled substance is illegal under both state and federal laws. Such laws are strictly enforced by Public Safety. Violators are subject to College disciplinary action and criminal prosecution.

The possession, sale and/or furnishing of alcohol is governed by state and local laws. It is unlawful to sell, furnish, or provide alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age. Such laws are strictly enforced. Only under certain circumstances is the consumption of alcohol permitted, as outlined in Policy 4.1.11, Alcohol Use by External Groups.

View more information about alcohol and drug effects and abuse prevention at www.hgtc.edu/righttoknow.

Programs

The College complies with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act. The College provides information and notification to students and employees as required by law.

The HGTC Office of Student Engagement and Division of Academic Affairs provides educational programming pertaining to drug and alcohol use through guest speakers and lecture series, among other means. The College offers an employee assistance program for covered individuals affected by drug or alcohol abuse.

Skateboarding, Skating, Bicycling, and Parkour

Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) recognizes that students use a variety of means of transportation on campus and navigate throughout the campus through various means. Although personal choice of transportation and navigation is important, HGTC is obligated to consider the safety and well-being of the campus community, our visitors, and College property. To balance our concern for community safety and the ability to use various means of transportation and navigation, the College is providing the following guidelines regarding the use of bicycles, skates, skateboards, hover boards and similar equipment on campus. Additionally, the College is providing guidelines pertaining to parkour, which is defined as the activity or sport of moving rapidly through an area while negotiating obstacles by running, jumping, or climbing.

All individuals using bicycles, skates, skateboards, hover boards and similar vehicles are expected to use the equipment in a manner which is appropriate, considerate of others, and respectful of College property. Individuals who use the equipment recklessly or without care of others and College property will be confronted, documented, and addressed through the College's Student Code of Conduct.

Individuals are prohibited from cycling, skating or skateboarding on steps, railings, benches, loading docks, disability ramps, parking curbs, raised surfaces, and at building entrances. The use of bicycles, skates, skateboards, and hover boards inside of campus buildings is strictly prohibited. Bicycles should be stored in bicycle racks and are not allowed in College buildings. Skateboards must be picked up and carried when inside campus buildings. Skates must be removed before entering campus buildings.

The College's goal is to ensure campuses are maintained as a safe and inviting environment for everyone. Reckless behavior which endangers individuals and property should not be undertaken. Accordingly, parkour and other types of reckless behaviors are prohibited on all campus property. It should be noted that the use of the various transportation items above, persons using these modes of transportation do so at their own risk. Under South Carolina Law, persons who use such items are personally liable for their own actions.

Enforcement

Individuals who use bicycles, skateboards, skates or hover boards may be subject to disciplinary action for failure to stop at the scene of an accident in which they have been involved that result in property damage and/or injury. Should an accident occur, identification must be presented to the other party and the accident reported to the Campus Public Safety Office.

The College will seek restitution if HGTC property is damaged or destroyed. Public Safety officers are authorized to take possession of transportation equipment from users who act without caution or do not comply with these guidelines. Students who violate this procedure may be referred to the Office of Student Services for disciplinary action in accordance with the College's Student Code of Conduct.