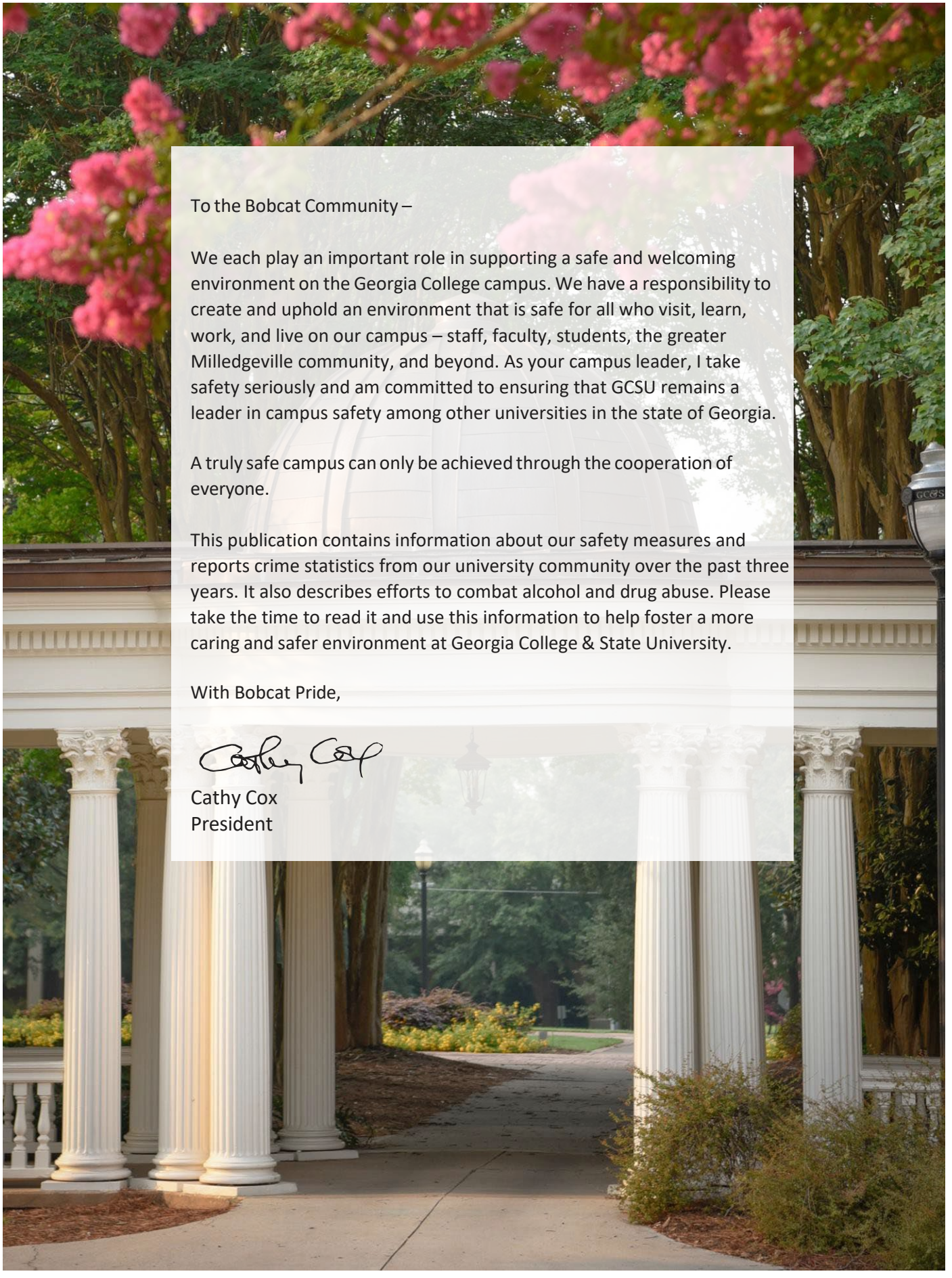
GCSU

# ANNUAL SECURITY & FIRE SAFETY REPORT

2026

GCSU 2026 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report contains crime statistics for years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

This report was published in September 2026.



To the Bobcat Community –

We each play an important role in supporting a safe and welcoming environment on the Georgia College campus. We have a responsibility to create and uphold an environment that is safe for all who visit, learn, work, and live on our campus – staff, faculty, students, the greater Milledgeville community, and beyond. As your campus leader, I take safety seriously and am committed to ensuring that GCSU remains a leader in campus safety among other universities in the state of Georgia.

A truly safe campus can only be achieved through the cooperation of everyone.

This publication contains information about our safety measures and reports crime statistics from our university community over the past three years. It also describes efforts to combat alcohol and drug abuse. Please take the time to read it and use this information to help foster a more caring and safer environment at Georgia College & State University.

With Bobcat Pride,

Cathy Cox
President

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# Accessibility Statement

If you need this document in an alternate format for accessibility purposes (e.g. Braille, large print, audio, etc.), please contact clery@gcsu.edu.

# Annual Security Report

## Introduction

Georgia College & State University (GCSU) is committed to promoting a safe learning and working environment for all members of the University community. Our community includes both current and prospective students, faculty, and staff members as well as vendors, visitors and guests. The Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act (Clery Act) requires institutions of higher education to provide certain campus security policies and disclose plain language summaries of them in an Annual Security Report (ASR). Summaries and additional information are provided below. A copy of GCSU's Clery Act Policy can be found at https://www.gcsu.edu/clery.

## Crime & Emergency Reporting

Crimes should be reported as soon as possible to the Department of Public Safety via telephone at 478-445-4400, via the RAVE Guardian app or through the GCSU File A Report webpage. In an emergency, dial 911 and follow up with the Department of Public Safety when it is safe to do so. Crimes may also be reported in person to the Department of Public Safety at the Hall House, 301 W. Montgomery St., Milledgeville, GA 31061.

| To Report a Crime: Main Campus, West Campus, and East Campus |
|---|
| In-Person: Located at the Hall House, 301 W. Montgomery Street<br>Emergency Phone: (478) 445-4400<br>Non-Emergency Phone: (478)445-4054<br>On-Campus VoIP Phone: ext. 4400 |

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

GCSU encourages the prompt reporting of crimes or other emergencies to the Department of Public Safety (Public Safety) and/or appropriate police agencies, when the victim of a crime elects to or is unable to make such a report. Additionally, GCSU has various reporting forms that are located at: https://www.gcsu.edu/deanofstudents/file-a-report.

GCSU does not currently have a policy regarding voluntary, confidential reporting of crimes by complainants or witnesses for inclusion in crime statistics, nor does GCSU currently have a policy or procedures that encourage pastoral and professional counselors, at their professional discretion, to inform the people they are counseling of any such procedures to report crimes on a voluntary, confidential basis for inclusion in crime statistics.

## Annual Disclosure of Crime Statistics

The Annual Security Report is prepared using information maintained by the University Clery Compliance Coordinator, information provided by other University offices, including Public Safety, Student Life, Legal Affairs, Housing, information reported by other Campus Security Authorities (CSAs) and information reported by local law enforcement agencies. Each of these offices or departments provides updated policy information and crime data on an annual basis for inclusion in this report.

The University Clery Compliance Coordinator is responsible for collecting crime reports from Campus Security Authorities (CSAs) to compile annual crime statistics. CSAs are individuals who, due to their responsibilities at GCSU, have an obligation to share information with the University about alleged Clery Act crimes that are either reported to them and/or personally witnessed by them. At GCSU some common examples of CSAs include, but are not limited to, Public Safety, Community Assistants, Community Directors, and other Residence Life personnel, various Student Life personnel, Athletic coaches, and Title IX personnel. Crimes reported to a pastoral or professional counselor are excluded from the Clery Act reporting. The University Clery Compliance Coordinator requests crime report information for the noncampus locations of officially recognized student organizations from local law enforcement.

The University Clery Compliance Coordinator leads the Clery Act Classification Review Work Group in determining the classification and counting of crime statistics. The work group includes representatives from Public Safety, Title IX, Student Conduct, and Residence Life. The work group meets regularly, in addition to ongoing individual collaborative communications.

GCSU distributes a notice of the availability of this Annual Security and Fire Safety Report by October 1st of each year to every member of the campus community. Anyone, including prospective students and employees, may obtain a copy of this report by contacting the Office of Legal Affairs, or by visiting https://www.gcsu.edu/clery.

## Timely Warnings (Crime Alerts)

GCSU issues Timely Warnings to alert the campus community of Clery-reportable crimes occurring on campus or in other Clery Geography considered by the University to represent an ongoing threat to students and/or employees. Timely Warnings are issued as soon as the pertinent information is available.

The Department of Public Safety evaluates reports made to it and those received from other CSAs and local law enforcement to determine if a warning must be disseminated. Timely Warnings are issued by the Department of Public Safety with a determination made by department personnel who receive the report of an incident.

Depending on the circumstances, Timely Warnings may be delivered through any means appropriate, including but not limited to email, online notification, mobile applications, in-class announcements, and door-to-door notifications. The Office of University Communications is

responsible for issuing information to the local media. Timely Warnings will not include the names and other identifying information of victims.

## Emergency Notifications

When an emergency or other dangerous situation poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees on campus, GCSU will immediately notify the campus community. The Department of Public Safety will confirm any significant emergency or dangerous situation, determine the segment or segments of each campus community to receive a notification, and determine the content of the notification. Emergency Notifications are issued by the Department of Public Safety's Dispatch Center through a GC Alert, which may include notification via one or more of the following: the RAVE Guardian app, University email, phone calls, text messages, and/or electronic warnings pushed to University computers.

The Dispatch Center is the primary 24-hour operation designated to initiate campus emergency notifications (GC Alert). The Emergency Manager, Department Command Staff, and the University's Emergency Operation Center also have the authority and the capacity to initiate the emergency notification system. The decision as to whether an emergency exists rests with the on-duty Department of Public Safety shift supervisor or a higher level of authority.

GCSU will, without delay, and taking into account 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. Should an Emergency Notification be issued, GCSU is not required to issue a Timely Warning based on the same circumstances. GCSU will provide follow-up information to the community as needed. The Office of University Communications is responsible for issuing information to local media.

## Public Crime Log

The Department of Public Safety generates an online Daily Crime Log to serve as a record of all alleged criminal incidents that have been reported to the Department and have occurred within the patrol jurisdiction of the Department. The log includes, in the order received, the nature, date, time, general location, and known disposition of all criminal incident reports. The Daily Crime Log is publicly available for inspection at https://www.gcsu.edu/dailylog. All log entries will be made within two business days of an alleged criminal report. However, in certain circumstances, specific information may be withheld from the crime log. GCSU may withhold details if the release of such information is:

A. **Prohibited by Law:** Information that cannot legally be disclosed, such as certain details in juvenile cases or cases involving protected identities under federal or state law, will be omitted from the public record.
B. **Jeopardizes the Confidentiality of the Victim:** In cases where disclosure could potentially identify or compromise the privacy of the victim (especially in sensitive crimes such as sexual assault or domestic violence), personal details or identifying information will be withheld. The goal is to ensure that the victim's confidentiality and safety are always protected.

The Daily Crime Log reflects reported crimes for the most recent 60-day period; however, portions of the logs for additional time periods may be obtained upon request and will be provided within two business days. Crime logs are retained for seven (7) years.

In addition, each campus with student housing facilities must maintain a Daily Fire Log to record reported fires within on-campus student residential facilities. Daily Fire Logs are available for inspection at https://www.gcsu.edu/dailylog. Daily Fire Logs reflect reported fires for the most recent 60-day period; however, portions of the logs for additional time periods may be obtained upon request and will be provided within two business days. Fire logs are retained for seven (7) years.

## Security and Access to Facilities

GCSU is an open-access campus that caters to the academic and administrative needs of the campus community, as well as to a variety of both public and private events and other functions. Generally, administrative buildings are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Academic buildings are open daily while classes are in session and have limited access after hours and on weekends. Access to individual classrooms and laboratories is limited to those enrolled in the courses meeting there or otherwise have authorized access. Likewise, access to most programs is limited to those enrolled in the program or otherwise authorized. Many athletic, entertainment, and cultural events are held at campus facilities and may be open to the public. Likewise, facilities such as the campus bookstore, the Old Governor's Mansion, Andalusia, the Wellness and Recreation Center, and the Ina Dillard Russell Library are open to the public during regular operating hours.

Residence Hall areas are locked 24/7. They are secured by either a building specific Bobcat card or an assigned key. Residents may allow guests (those of the same or opposite sex) to visit their room/apartments with agreement from the other residents in their room/apartment. Residents must always escort their guests within the residential community and accept responsibility for their behavior. See the Bobcat Code link for further detailed information: https://www.gcsu.edu/deanofstudents/student-code-of-conduct

Public Safety personnel lock, unlock, and routinely check all campus buildings and other properties daily. Many GCSU facilities and areas are controlled by access card readers, which restrict access to authorized personnel. In addition, many campus facilities, buildings, and parking areas are under 24-hour video surveillance.

## Security and Maintenance of Facilities

Facilities and landscaping at GCSU are maintained in a manner that minimizes potential risk and hazard to the campus community. Any potential hazards should be identified and reported to the proper authorities as soon as possible. Public Safety personnel work with Facilities Management to ensure the safety of the campus by submitting work orders for lights, locks, windows, doors, and other security needs. Facilities Management personnel perform regularly scheduled routine lighting inspections to ensure that all campus areas are adequately lit.

Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to report maintenance-related issues through the institution's designated maintenance request system. For additional information on submitting a maintenance request, visit https://www.gcsu.edu/facilitiesmanagement. Issues requiring immediate attention should be directed to Facilities Management at (478) 445-4467 during business hours. All after-hours emergencies should be directed to Public Safety at (478) 445-4400. Non-emergency maintenance requests for residential facilities should be submitted via the Maintenance Direct portal (https://www.gcsu.edu/housing/maintenance) or by contacting a Community Director/Community Advisor.

## University Police

The mission of the GCSU Department of Public Safety (DPS) is to protect, serve, and educate through the delivery of comprehensive and integrated safety, security, and emergency preparedness programs in partnership with the community. It is the vision of the GCSU DPS to be a model for a safe and empowered community through proactive policing techniques, outstanding professionalism, excellent customer service, effective emergency education, and superior awareness programs.

The Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) provides for the arrest powers and jurisdiction of campus police officers within the State. O.C.G.A. section 20-3-72 establishes these authorities for GCSU DPS police officers. As stated in this code section, "The campus policemen and other security personnel of the university system who are regular employees of the system shall have the power to make arrests for offenses committed upon any property under the jurisdiction of the board of regents and for offenses committed upon any public or private property within 500 yards of any property under the jurisdiction of the board."

GCSU DPS is comprised of both sworn police officers and non-sworn support personnel. Non-sworn support personnel include safety/security officers, communications officers, emergency management staff, and student employees. GCSU police officers have the same authority and law enforcement powers as other state, county, and municipal law enforcement officials, including the power of arrest. Non-sworn support personnel within the department do not possess the power of arrest; however, they assist with the overall safety and security of the campus.

GCSU DPS maintains a positive working relationship with other local, state, and federal agencies in the areas surrounding the University. These relationships include inter-operative radio capabilities, training programs, special event coordination, emergency response, and the investigation of serious criminal incidents. GCSU DPS personnel interact and communicate with these entities regarding incidents occurring on or around campus and exchange information that may impact campus safety. GCSU DPS also requests crime report information for the noncampus locations of officially recognized student organizations from local law enforcement. On occasion, instances arise that require joint investigative efforts and resources. When these circumstances occur, GCSU DPS utilizes formal Memorandums of Understanding with the Georgia Military College Police Department, the Milledgeville Police Department, and the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office for the investigation of criminal incidents. In addition, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation will, upon request, assist GCSU DPS with the investigation of serious incidents.

## Emergency Response and Evacuation

GCSU maintains an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and a confidential Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The confidential EOP includes:

A. Communication and Alerts:
   a. Immediate Notifications: An official notification will be sent via the GC Alert emergency alert systems (email, text messages, Rave Guardian app, etc.) with details about the nature of the emergency and any required actions.
   b. Updates: Continuous updates will be provided as the situation evolves, including information on safety measures, evacuation procedures, or shelter-in-place orders.

B. Response Teams Mobilized:
   a. Emergency Response Team: The University's designated emergency response personnel, including campus police, facilities, auxiliary services, and healthcare providers, will be mobilized to manage the situation.
   b. Coordination with External Agencies: If necessary, partner agencies such as local law enforcement, fire departments, and medical services will be contacted to assist.

C. Campus Safety Measures:
   a. Building Lockdown or Evacuation: Depending on the emergency, some or all campus buildings may go into lockdown, or evacuation may be ordered.
   b. Access Control: Access to certain areas of campus may be restricted, and security personnel may be deployed to ensure no unauthorized entry.

D. Instructions for Faculty, Staff, and Students:
   a. Follow Official Instructions: Everyone is expected to follow the guidelines provided by campus safety officials or through official communications.
   b. Shelter-in-Place or Evacuate: Depending on the type of emergency (e.g., severe weather, active shooter, fire), instructions to either shelter-in-place or evacuate will be given.
   c. Cancelation or Suspension of Classes and Activities: Classes, events, and non-essential activities may be suspended until further notice.

E. Support Services:
   a. Emergency Medical Services: Medical staff will be available to assist anyone in need of immediate care.
   b. Counseling and Support: Mental health services may be activated to help those affected by the emergency.
   c. Transportation Assistance: For those who need to leave campus or relocate, transportation services may be provided.

F. Post-Incident Recovery:
   a. Damage Assessment and Repairs: Once the immediate threat is mitigated, teams will assess damages and initiate repairs.
   b. Re-opening of Campus: Information regarding the resumption of classes, events, and normal operations will be communicated.
   c. Debrief and Feedback: Post-incident reviews may take place, and faculty, staff, and students may be asked to provide feedback on how the emergency was handled.

If appropriate, Public Safety officers may decide to either partially or fully evacuate any University building in response to an emergency. Under a partial evacuation request, occupants may be simply asked to relocate to another portion of the building deemed safe by the police, fire department, or other first responders. Complete evacuation will result in all occupants leaving the building and moving to a designated assembly area.

The University conducts at least one annual test of its emergency response and evacuation procedures, which may be announced or unannounced. These exercises may include tabletop drills, emergency operations center exercises, or full-scale emergency response exercises. The University conducts after-action reviews of all emergency management exercises.

Description of each exercise, including the date and time it was conducted, and whether it was announced or unannounced in advance, are kept for seven (7) years. Along with at least one test each year, the emergency procedures are publicized so that the community knows what to expect if an actual emergency happens.

A summary of the EAP can be found on the Public Safety website:
https://www.gcsu.edu/publicsafety

## Missing Students and Persons

Any person (faculty, staff, or student) who is believed to be missing from GCSU should be reported immediately to the GCSU Department of Public Safety at (478) 445-4400. If an employee or commuter student is reported missing to GCSU Public Safety, the Department may notify other local police departments in the jurisdiction where the employee or commuter student resides.

When a student living in on-campus housing has been missing for 24 hours, students, employees, and others should report it to the GCSU Department of Public Safety at (478) 445-4400. Reports can also be made to University Housing/Residence Life at (478) 445-5160 or the Office of Student Life at (478) 445-5169. Any report of a missing student not directed to the Department of Public Safety must be referred to them immediately for investigation.

All students residing in on-campus housing can identify a “confidential contact” to be notified by GCSU Public Safety within 24 hours in the event they are determined by a law enforcement investigation to be missing and have not returned to campus. This person may or may not be the same as their emergency contact.

Residential students may register their confidential contact when they sign a housing contract with StarRez. This contact information will be registered confidentially and will only be accessible to authorized campus officials and may not be disclosed except to law enforcement for a missing person investigation.

In addition to the confidential contact, if a student is under 18 years of age and not emancipated GCSU Public Safety will notify their custodial parent or guardian within 24 hours of the determination that they are missing. Institutional officials including the Vice President for Student Life will also be notified.

The GCSU Department of Public Safety will notify the local law enforcement agency with primary jurisdiction for the surrounding community within 24 hours of when a residential student is determined to be missing unless that agency made the determination.

The GCSU Department of Public Safety will investigate the missing person report and determine if the student is missing. Circumstances may include:

- A student is out of contact after reasonable efforts have been made to reach the student via phone, email, text and visits to on-campus room;
- Conditions that may indicate an act of criminality is involved;
- Conditions that may indicate physical safety is in danger;
- Conditions become known that indicate medicine dependence may threaten health; and/or
- Existence of physical/mental disability indicating the student's physical safety could be in danger.

## Alcoholic Beverages and Illegal Drugs

Georgia College & State University prohibits the consumption, possession, or transportation of alcoholic beverages by any person under legal age and furnishing and/or distributing alcoholic beverages to any student under legal age. Additionally, GCSU prohibits the possession, use (without valid medical or dental prescription), manufacturing, furnishing, or sale of any narcotic or dangerous drug controlled by federal or Georgia law, possessions of drug paraphernalia, and being under the influence of a narcotic or other controlled substance except as permitted by law or valid medical prescription.

In addition, in accordance with federal and state laws and because of the potential detriment to the health and well-being of its employees, all students and employees are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful use, possession, manufacture, distribution, dispensation, or sale of alcoholic beverages, controlled substances (including marijuana), or other dangerous drugs on the GCSU campus (including all property owned or leased by GCSU) and at all GCSU activities on or off campus. Enforcement includes referral for disciplinary action and or custodial arrest and referral for prosecution.

### Amnesty Policy

A student may request amnesty from disciplinary action under the University 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 are forthright and truthful in any conduct investigation.

# Hazing Policy Summary

Georgia College & State University (GCSU) prohibits hazing. This prohibition applies to all students, recognized and unrecognized student organizations, and individuals associated with student groups. The prohibition applies to conduct occurring both on and off campus.

Hazing is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act against another person, regardless of whether that person agrees to participate, that is connected to joining, belonging to, or remaining a member of a student or school organization. The act must cause or create a risk of physical or psychological harm that goes beyond the normal risks associated with the organization's activities.

Hazing is also a criminal offense under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-61, the Max Gruver Act). It is unlawful for any person to haze a student in connection with gaining or maintaining membership or status in a school organization. Hazing includes activities that endanger physical health or coerce consumption of substances that risk intoxication or unconsciousness, regardless of the student's willingness to participate. A violation is a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and may result in criminal penalties in addition to university discipline.

## Reporting Hazing

Reports of hazing may be made through any of the following methods:

- Dean of Students Office
  - Email: dos@gcsu.edu
  - Phone: 478-445-2090
- Online Reporting Form (anonymous reports accepted)
  - https://incident.gcsu.edu
- GCSU Public Safety (available 24 hours a day)
  - Emergency: 478-445-4400
  - Non-Emergency: 478-445-4054
  - Email: publicsafety@gcsu.edu
- Student Activities, Fraternity & Sorority Life, Athletics, or other university offices overseeing organizations
- University System of Georgia Ethics and Compliance Hotline (Confidential)
  - Phone: 877-516-3432
  - Website: https://secure.ethicspoint.com

The complete Hazing Prevention Policy and related procedures are available at: https://www.gcsu.edu/hazing-prevention.

## Investigation Process for Students and Student Organizations

Allegations of hazing involving students or student organizations are investigated by the Office of the Dean of Students under the GCSU Student Code of Conduct and University System of Georgia policies.

After a report is received, the Office of the Dean of Students reviews the information and may implement interim measures as necessary to protect the safety and well-being of individuals or the campus community.

The accused student or student organization receives written notice of the alleged violation and an opportunity to respond. The university conducts a prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation that may include interviews, review of evidence, and additional fact-gathering. Cases may be resolved through accepted responsibility, alternative resolution processes when appropriate, or a formal disciplinary hearing. The standard used to determine responsibility is the preponderance of the evidence, meaning it is more likely than not that a violation occurred.

When the process is completed, a written Notice of Outcome is provided through official university communication. The notice includes the decision, any sanctions imposed, applicable deadlines, and information regarding appeal rights when available.

Possible sanctions for individuals include reprimand, probation, deferred suspension, suspension, expulsion, housing restrictions, educational requirements, community service, restitution, counseling, no-contact directives, restorative actions, and other appropriate measures. Possible sanctions for organizations include probation, suspension, loss of privileges, educational requirements, restitution, and organizational dissolution.

All members of the university community are expected to cooperate with investigations. Retaliation against an individual who reports hazing or participates in an investigation is prohibited.

### Campus Hazing Transparency Report

Consistent with the Stop Campus Hazing Act and the Max Gruver Act, GCSU publishes findings of responsibility for hazing involving student organizations in a Campus Hazing Transparency Report (CHTR). This report will be updated no less than two times each year and within 15 days of any final adjudication of hazing violations. This same Hazing Policy Summary is also published in the CHTR to ensure consistency in institutional disclosures and reporting requirements. The CHTR is available for review at https://gcsu.edu/hazing-report.

## Education and Prevention Programming

Georgia College & State University urges all community members to develop good safety habits. GCSU encourages community members to learn more about campus safety. Tips on being aware of surroundings, car safety and other effective precautions are available at: https://www.gcsu.edu/publicsafety/crime-prevention.

## Security and Safety Programs

GCSU offers multiple programs that encourage the campus community to be responsible for their own security and safety, as well as that of others. Programs offered throughout the year include self-defense classes, CPR, First Aid, AED, and NARCAN training.

Additional programs offered through Public Safety include:

- R.A.D. - women's self-defense class that focuses on defending oneself and fighting off an attacker during a sexual assault.
- Stop the Bleed - This is a first aid course that focuses on the use of a tourniquet, direct pressure to the wound, as well as packing a wound with gauze. Primarily used to control or stop bleeding until emergency services arrive.
- C.R.A.S.E. - Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event. The course follows the DOJ model of Run\Hide\Fight, which concentrates on running away when able, hiding properly, securing your location, and fighting back during an incident. Details of active shooter incidents nationwide and best practices as prescribed by the DOJ are also discussed.
- GCSU DPS Student Police Academy - This course is designed to engage current students in what Public Safety does and promote careers in law enforcement. The course mimics the Field Training Officer program, and includes topics such as State, Federal, and Local law, criminal procedure, firearms, taser, defensive tactics, tactics of arrest, and other topics related to law enforcement. The goal is to use the academy as a recruiting tool to reach students who may be interested in a career in law enforcement and present the department as a career option.

## Alcohol and Drug Abuse Education

GCSU requires all new students to complete an online AlcoholEDU program about alcohol and drug abuse awareness and risk reduction. Additionally, the University's Senior Health Educator provides alcohol education programming and print materials throughout the year, which is funded by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. The Senior Health Educator also performs alcohol and drug screening risk reduction programming for students seen through the conduct system or through medical amnesty referrals. Employees should seek assistance through the Office of Human Resources. If a substance abuse problem is determined to exist, referral may be made to a certified rehabilitation program.

### Sexual Misconduct Awareness and Prevention

GCSU is committed to reducing incidents of Sexual Misconduct, providing prevention tools, conducting ongoing awareness and prevention programming, and training the campus community in accordance with the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act (Clery Act) and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Prevention programming and training will promote positive and healthy behaviors and educate the campus community on consent, sexual assault, sexual harassment, alcohol and drug use, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, bystander intervention, and reporting.

GCSU requires all new students and employees to complete an online Sexual Assault Prevention training, via Vector Solutions. Additionally, the Division of Student Life offers prevention education programming focusing on consent, all forms of power-based interpersonal violence (sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment), reporting, bystander intervention, and healthy relationships. All employees are required to complete annual sexual harassment prevention training in collaboration with Human Resources.

Bystander Intervention means safe and positive options that an individual or individuals may carry out to prevent harm or intervene when there is a risk of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. Bystander intervention includes recognizing situations of potential harm, understanding institutional structures and cultural conditions that facilitate violence, overcoming barriers to intervening, identifying safe and effective intervention options, and taking action to intervene. Intervening can be difficult, but every person on campus, whether a student, staff member, or faculty member, has a role in preventing violence or responding to it before, during, or after it happens.

- Sexual violence occurs when a culture tolerates these behaviors, and it starts with rape jokes or sexist or other oppressive language. If you hear it, remember you don't have to laugh or participate.
- If you witness a potentially sexually violent situation, step in. Intervening can be direct or indirect; the important thing is that you do something. If you don't feel comfortable addressing the potential perpetrator directly, consider causing a distraction or getting someone else to help you. Even if you don't know the people involved, you can still help. If it is happening to a member of the GCSU community, it's your business.

Being an active bystander might mean helping after you have learned an assault has occurred. Learn more about options available to victims and offer help and support if someone you know experiences any form of sexual violence. Believe the survivor and be supportive of their choices.

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

## Definitions Under Georgia State Law

### Sexual Assault

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

#### Rape, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-1(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 ten years old.*

### 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.

### 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 ten 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.

### 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 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.

## Stalking

### 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.

## 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.

### 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

In Georgia, convicted sex offenders must register with the Georgia Department of Corrections. State information on individuals registered as sex offenders is available on the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Sex Offender Registry website: https://gbi.georgia.gov/services/georgia-sex-offender-registry.

## Sexual Misconduct

Georgia College & State University is committed to a learning and working environment for all University community members free from sex-based discrimination. The University community includes students, faculty, and staff, 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, Georgia Law, and University System of Georgia (USG) policy. GCSU and USG policy also prohibits sexual harassment and sexual exploitation.

If you or someone close to you are the victim of sex-based discrimination or misconduct, know that you are not alone. The information in this report will help you navigate some of what you may be experiencing. No matter what you have experienced or how you are feeling now, it is important to 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.

### Sexual Assault

Rape—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—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—Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape—Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

### Dating violence

Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim.

(A) The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(B) For the purposes of this definition—

a. Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse.

b. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence.

For the purposes of complying with the requirements of this section and § 668.41, any incident meeting this definition is considered a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting.

### Domestic violence

A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed—

(A) By a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim;

(B) By a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;

(C) By a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;

(D) By a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred, or

(E) 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 in which the crime of violence occurred.

For the purposes of complying with the requirements of this section and § 668.41, any incident meeting this definition is considered a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting.

### Stalking

Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to—

(A) Fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or
(B) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

For the purposes of this definition—

(A) Course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property.
(B) Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.
(C) Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

For the purposes of complying with the requirements of this section and section 668.41, any incident meeting this definition is considered a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting.

## Reporting Sexual Misconduct

Reports of sexual misconduct should be made to the Title IX Coordinator by phone at: (478) 445-8292, email at: titleix@gcsu.edu, online at https://www.gcsu.edu/titleix, or in person at the Title IX office, located at 208 Parks Hall. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for providing parties with supportive and protective measures, advice regarding rights and responsibilities, as well as options for pursuing disciplinary proceedings. Reports made to the Title IX Coordinator will not automatically initiate a law enforcement investigation.

Students and employees have the option to notify law enforcement authorities, including University and local law enforcement, with jurisdiction over where any crime occurred. The Title IX Coordinator will assist parties in making reports to law enforcement if the Complainant so chooses. Parties also have the option to decline to notify law enforcement authorities.

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

- Student Counseling Services (confidential resource)
  - 478-445-5331
  - in person: 134 West Campus Drive, Milledgeville, GA 31061
- Dean of Students
  - 478-445-8156
  - in person: 208 Parks Hall, Milledgeville, GA 31061
- Department of Public Safety
  - Emergencies only: 478-445-4400; Non-emergencies: 478-445-4054
  - in person: 301 W. Montgomery St., Milledgeville, GA 31061

## Retaliation Statement

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

## Understanding Trauma

The trauma of sexual misconduct can have profound effects on the brain and body. This may look like 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. Some of these responses may include shock, disbelief, feelings of stigma, disturbances in memory, difficulty concentrating, or intrusive thoughts. If you identify with some of these reactions, you may find therapy or counseling 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

If you are a victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, it can be helpful to preserve evidence that may be useful in documenting the criminal activity. To preserve evidence, refrain from:

- bathing
- douching
- smoking
- changing clothes
- 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; therefore, prioritize your health and safety when making decisions. The following locations can complete a medical forensic examination for collecting evidence that helps preserve your options should you choose to notify law enforcement:

*Atrium Health Navicent Baldwin Emergency Room*
*478-776-4000*
*821 N. Cobb St. Milledgeville, GA 31061*
https://navicenthealth.org/service-center/navicent-health-baldwin/emergency-room

*Crisis Line & Safe House of Central Georgia (confidential resource)*
*478-745-9292*
*915 Hill Park Macon, GA 31201*
*https://cl-sh.org/*

*Stepping Stone Child Advocacy and Sexual Assault Center (confidential resource)*
*478-595-8339*
*382 Woodland Trails Road Dublin GA, 31021*
*https://www.steppingstonegeorgia.com/*

Photos, text messages, social media posts, instant messages, and any other communications or documents may provide useful information for university hearings or investigations, so save those as well.

## Orders of Protection

GCSU 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 laws in the issuing state. Anyone who has an order of protection should submit the order to the Department of Public Safety.

The Department of Public Safety keeps the order on file for easy access in the event a violation occurs. The Department of Public Safety has the authority to arrest and charge any individual who violates the order.

## No Contact Order

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

## Confidentiality of Complainant

GCSU strictly protects Complainant confidentiality to the highest degree possible. GCSU does not make assumptions as to whether it is safe to disclose information to family, friends, employer, or news media about the assault or the Complainant's sexual preference. Such information is protected with the least level of access under GCSU's Data Governance and Access Policy. All publicly available records, including Clery Act reporting and disclosures, exclude personally identifying information about Complainants. If the Complainant reports to the Department of Public Safety, that information is subject to the Georgia Open Records Act and confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in that situation.

## 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 GCSU police or local law enforcement.

Supportive measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without charge that 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 may include counseling, health services, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures. The Financial Aid Office can assist with financial aid questions. The University will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the Complainant, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the University to provide the supportive measure.

Upon request, GCSU will make any reasonably available change to a victim's academic, living, transportation, and/or working situation regardless of whether the victim chooses to report the crime to campus police or local law enforcement. Students and employees may contact the Title IX Coordinator for assistance. GCSU will maintain as confidential any accommodations or protective measures provided to the victim, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the institution to provide the accommodations or protective measures.

Available support services, including both on and off-campus options, are listed on the University's website at https://www.gcsu.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 University policies and procedures.

Interim protective measures may include, but are not limited to, a change of housing assignment; issuance of a no-contact order; restrictions or prohibitions on entering certain University property; changes to academic or employment arrangements, schedules, or supervision; interim suspension; administrative leave; and other measures designed to promote the safety and well-being of the Parties and the University's community. The Department of Public Safety can issue no trespass orders against third parties.

## Disciplinary Proceedings

Georgia College & State University prohibits the crimes of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking (collectively known as the Violence Against Women Act or VAWA Offenses). Complaints are processed consistent with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act (Clery Act), the University System of Georgia (USG) Sexual Misconduct Policy, and the Georgia College & State University (GCSU) Sexual Misconduct Policy.

The procedures in this section apply to reports of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Those terms have the meanings given in this report. The University also uses these same procedures for other sexual misconduct covered by Title IX. Title IX is the federal law that bars sex discrimination in education. Title IX can cover more kinds of unwanted sexual touching than the crime definitions used in this report's statistics. Those additional Title IX cases are still handled through this process. They are not added to the sexual assault numbers in this report.

Disciplinary complaints may be made by any campus community member and should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator by phone at: (478) 445-8292, email at: titleix@gcsu.edu, online at https://www.gcsu.edu/titleix, or in person at Title IX office, located at 208 Parks Hall.

Disciplinary proceedings for accused students will be handled by the Director of Student Conduct and Compliance. Disciplinary proceedings for accused staff will be handled by the Human Resources Director pursuant to the Sexual Misconduct Policy. Disciplinary proceedings for accused faculty will be handled by the Human Resources Director. In all proceedings, both the Complainant and Respondent are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present, including the right to be accompanied by an advisor of their choice.

For proceedings, any individual who is alleged to have experienced conduct that violates this Policy is considered a Complainant, and any individual who is alleged to have engaged in conduct that violates this Policy is considered a Respondent. A third-party individual who reports an allegation of conduct that may violate this Policy, but who is not a party to the complaint is considered a Reporter. In all cases, proceedings will afford a prompt, fair, and impartial process from the initial investigation to the final result for all parties. Proceedings will be conducted in a manner consistent with the institution's policies and be transparent to the Complainant and Respondent.

## What to Expect

Upon notice of the alleged misconduct, the institution will assess whether a formal investigation, informal resolution, or dismissal would be appropriate. In making this determination, the institution will assess whether the allegation(s), if true, would rise to the level of prohibited conduct, whether an investigation is appropriate in light of the circumstances, whether the parties prefer an informal resolution, and whether any safety concerns exist for the campus community. The need to issue a broader warning to the community in compliance with the Clery Act shall be assessed in compliance with federal law.

The USG uses different types of proceedings when a student is accused, when an employee is accused, and when a faculty member is accused. Additionally, federal regulations implementing Title IX require us to use certain procedures in "Title IX Sexual Misconduct" cases that are not required in "Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct" cases. Both types of sexual misconduct include the VAWA Offenses as well as other forms of sex discrimination and sexual 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 when 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.

In Title IX Sexual Misconduct matters, a Formal Complaint is required. A Formal Complaint is a written document filed by the Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment, as defined by Title IX and its implementing regulations, against a Respondent and requesting that the institution open an investigation. To file a Formal Complaint, the Complainant must be 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.

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for determining which type of proceeding will be used or if a complaint is to be dismissed and will provide simultaneous written notice of their determination to the parties at their institutional e-mails. If the Title IX Coordinator dismisses a complaint, the notice provided to the parties will include the reason and a right to appeal. If a complaint moves forward, an investigator will be assigned, and the notice will include their identity.

## 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 Only cases, advisors conduct cross-examination 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 Proceedings

Under Title IX, sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of 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.

GCSU 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, GCSU addresses behavior affecting its students or employees inside and outside Title IX's jurisdiction. When the Title IX Coordinator has determined a complaint meets the Title IX definition of "sexual harassment," federal regulations require the University to apply specialized handling of these matters that may differ from the handling of other Sexual Misconduct.

## 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, except in the instance of an allegation by a student against a University employee.

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 System Director for Equity and Investigations. Upon receipt of the notice of allegations, the Respondent will have three (3) 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 set forth 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 response from the Respondent be sent to the Complainant for review and will have three (3) 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. Except in cases in which an Employee is alleged to have engaged in Title IX Sexual Misconduct with a Student, if the Respondent accepts responsibility, the process may proceed to a sanctioning phase or be alternatively/informally resolved. If the Respondent denies responsibility or an alternative/informal resolution is unsuccessful or not permissible (e.g., Employee Respondent and Student Complainant in Title IX Sexual Misconduct), the Title IX Coordinator will provide both Parties with a notice of investigation, and the case will be promptly assigned to the Investigator(s). The Complainant, Respondent, and witnesses will have the right to present evidence, including documents and witness names. Also, the Complainant, Respondent, and all appropriate officials will have timely and equal access to any information that will be used during the proceeding.

Investigations shall (1) Be prompt, thorough, and equitable. (2) Include an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, and shall not make credibility determinations based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness. (3) Include a presumption that the Respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process. (4) Ensure the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence rests on the University, not the Parties. Provide an equal opportunity for the Parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. (6) Not restrict the ability of the Parties to discuss the allegations or to gather and present relevant evidence. (7) Provide, to a Party whose

participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings, investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate. (8) Provide both Parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in a Formal Complaint, including the evidence upon which the institution does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation.

The Investigator shall use the documented relevant evidence to prepare an investigation report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence. The report shall include summaries of statements from the Parties and witnesses, relevant evidence collected, and a list of considerations for the Hearing Panelist. If a requested witness is not interviewed, the Investigator(s) will provide their rationale in the report. Before completing the investigative report, the Investigator(s) will send the initial investigation report to each Party and the Party's Advisor, if any. The Parties shall have ten (10) calendar days to review and respond to the initial investigation report in writing. The Investigator(s) will review the Parties' written responses, if any, to determine whether further investigation or changes to the investigation report are necessary.

## Hearing

A hearing shall be set when a matter is not resolved through an alternative/informal resolution. All Sexual Misconduct cases shall be heard by a panel of faculty and/or staff. All institutional participants in the Sexual Misconduct resolution process shall receive appropriate annual training as directed by the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and required by the Clery Act and Title IX. The Hearing Panel is a collection of three (3) to seven (7) Hearing Panelists charged with determining whether a violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy has occurred. They also determine sanctions to impose for Students and recommend for Employees.

In no case shall a hearing to resolve a Sexual Misconduct allegation occur before the investigation report is finalized. The final investigation report should be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent, and a Party's advisor at least ten (10) calendar days before the Hearing. The final investigation report should also be provided to all Hearing Panelists for review and consideration.

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. All directly related evidence shall be available at the hearing for the Parties and their Advisors to reference during the hearing. The Hearing will adhere to 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 shows that it is more likely than not that the alleged incident, act, or behavior did occur. Formal judicial rules of evidence do not apply to the investigation process.

## Timeframes and Notice

Efforts will be made to complete the investigation and resolution within 120 business days (days on which the campus is open). Temporary delays and limited extensions may be granted for good cause throughout the investigation and resolution process. The parties will be simultaneously informed in writing of any extension or delay and the applicable reason. The institution will 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.

The Title IX Coordinator provides simultaneous notification, in writing, to both the Complainant and Respondent of: The result of any institutional disciplinary proceeding that arises from an allegation of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; The institution's procedures for the Complainant and Respondent to appeal the result of the institutional disciplinary proceeding; Any change to the result; and when such results become final. Notice should be provided via institution email to the party's institution email.

Sanctions for students will be imposed by the Division of Student Life. Sanctions for employees will be determined and imposed by Title IX personnel and Human Resources.

### Hearing – Faculty Respondent

All Sexual Misconduct involving faculty Respondents where dismissal is a possible sanction shall, consistent with Board of Regents policy, be heard by a live-hearing panel of three to five faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate. Notice of the panel members shall be provided to parties in writing at least 20 days prior to the hearing, and parties have at least two challenges for bias which must be made in writing at least five days in advance of the hearing. A faculty member may also waive a hearing in which case the panel shall evaluate the record.

### Additional Procedures for Faculty Respondent Matters

An oath or affirmation shall be administered to all witnesses. The parties shall have the right to confront any witness, including the other party, by having their advisor ask relevant questions directly to the witness.

The Title IX Coordinator shall notify the President and parties simultaneously in writing of the decision and recommendation, if any, of the panel. If dismissal is recommended, the President shall either approve the recommendation or if not, shall advise the panel in writing of the basis prior to rendering their final decision. The panel may also recommend a lesser sanction. The President may or may not follow the recommendations of the panel.

The President shall notify the parties simultaneously in writing of their decision. Such notice shall include information about applying to the Board of Regents for discretionary review. Upon dismissal, pending possible discretionary review, the faculty member shall be suspended without pay. The Board of Regents may reinstate the faculty member with compensation from the date of suspension.

## Appeals

The Parties have the right to appeal the Hearing Panel's finding of responsible or not responsible, sanctions imposed on Students, and sanctions recommended for Employees. An appeal must be submitted in writing and within five (5) business days of the date of notification of the findings of the Hearing Panel. 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 (5) 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 for the following situations only. 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 relevant evidence that was not reasonably available when the dismissal or determination regarding responsibility or sanction was made that could affect the outcome of the matter; (3) The Title IX Coordinator, Investigator(s), Hearing Panelist(s), Decision Maker(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 (7) 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. Should either Party want to appeal the final University decision, they may request a review by the 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 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 please visit: https://usg.policystat.com/policy/19463372/latest.

## Challenge for Bias

The Parties may challenge a Hearing Panelist on the grounds of conflict of interest or bias by submitting a written statement to the Chair setting forth the basis for the challenge. The written challenge must be submitted at least five (5) business days before the hearing. The Chair will determine whether to sustain or deny the challenge and, if sustained, appoint a replacement. A challenge to the Chair should be submitted to the Title IX Coordinator, who will decide whether to replace the Chair.

## Possible Sanctions

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: 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, 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 how to avoid 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.
- Education/Training: Work, service assignments, or other related educational activities.
- Temporary or Permanent separation of the Parties (e.g., 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 such as study abroad. An academic penalty requires approval by the Provost or their designee.

## Recordkeeping

As required by the Clery Act, GCSU retains for at least seven (7) years all records documenting reports of Clery crimes made to GCSU, other Campus Security Authorities, and local law enforcement. This will include the timely warning determination for each report, and if a timely warning was made, a copy of that warning. Also retained are records of all crime prevention and educational programming offered, including but not limited to security procedures, alcohol and other drugs, and sexual violence, across the institution.

GCSU Public Safety retains all entries made in the daily crime and fire log for at least seven (7) 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 (7) years, the University will maintain records of:

- Emergency notifications
- 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;
- 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

GCSU is presenting a three-year report of Clery Act reportable crimes.

## Crime Statistics - Main Campus

| Criminal Offenses | Year | Main Campus - Clery Geography | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | On Campus | | | Noncampus Building or Property | Public Property |
| | | Student Housing Facilities | Other | On Campus Total | | |
| Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Negligent Manslaughter | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rape | 2023 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Fondling | 2023 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Incest | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Statutory Rape | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Robbery | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aggravated Assault | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Burglary | 2023 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 2023 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Arson | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hazing* | 2023 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | 2024 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

| VAWA Offenses | Year | Main Campus - Clery Geography | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | On Campus | | | Noncampus Building or Property | Public Property |
| | | Student Housing Facilities | Other | On Campus Total | | |
| Dating Violence | 2023 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Domestic Violence | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Stalking | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

| Arrests | Year | Main Campus - Clery Geography | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | On Campus | | | Noncampus Building or Property | Public Property |
| | | Student Housing Facilities | Other | On Campus Total | | |
| Liquor Law Violations | 2023 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 4 |
| | 2024 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Drug Law Violations | 2023 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Illegal Weapons Possession | 2023 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Disciplinary Referrals | Year | Main Campus - Clery Geography | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | On Campus | | | Noncampus Building or Property | Public Property |
| | | Student Housing Facilities | Other | On Campus Total | | |
| Liquor Law Violations | 2023 | 27 | 8 | 35 | 58 | 6 |
| | 2024 | 50 | 19 | 69 | 46 | 4 |
| | 2025 | 29 | 7 | 36 | 21 | 7 |
| Drug Law Violations | 2023 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 17 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 16 | 1 |
| Illegal Weapons Possession | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

## Unfounded Crimes

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Unfounded Crimes | 0 | 3 | 1 |

## Hate Crimes

- During the 2023 calendar year, three Hate Crimes were reported: one Larceny-Theft offense motivated by gender identity bias occurring in On-Campus Student Housing; one Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property offense motivated by gender identity bias occurring in On-Campus Student Housing; and one Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property offense motivated by sexual orientation bias occurring in Noncampus Property.
- During the 2024 calendar year, no Hate Crimes were reported.
- During the 2025 calendar year, no Hate Crimes were reported.

### *Caveat/Explanatory Note:

Hazing statistics are not included for 2023 and 2024 because federal hazing reporting requirements were not yet in effect during those reporting years. As a result, the University did not collect hazing data in a manner consistent with current reporting standards, and comparable statistics are unavailable.

# Fire Safety Disclosure for On-Campus Student Housing

## Reporting a Fire

Prior to an emergency, it is recommended that all campus community members familiarize themselves with the location of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations, and emergency exits within areas of campus that they utilize. All campus buildings are equipped with monitored fire alarm systems that notify the Department of Public Safety upon activation.

If a fire condition (smoke or open flame) is detected within a GCSU building, the following actions should be taken:

- If the fire alarm is not already activated, immediately initiate it by pulling the nearest fire alarm station. In addition, Public Safety should be notified by calling (478) 445-4400 to report fire conditions.
- Immediately evacuate the building and keep low to the floor if smoke is present.
- When evacuating a building, move in an orderly manner to the nearest exit. During a fire evacuation, all occupants must use stairways to exit the building. Do not use elevators.
- Assist individuals who may need assistance to move to a safe area. The evacuation of people with disabilities will be given the highest priority. They will be evacuated by the most expeditious and safe means available. If you are aware of a person with a disability in your building that may require assistance, please notify Public Safety or other first responders.
- Once outside, move away from the building to your designated building assembly area and wait for instructions from Public Safety or other officials. Keep the streets and walkways clear. This will allow fire equipment and emergency personnel to reach the building. Keep at least 500 feet away from the affected building.
- Do not re-enter an evacuated building unless told to do so by emergency personnel.
- If you are unable to reach an emergency exit safely, move to a room with a window and close the door behind you. Proceed to the window and signal for help to alert emergency personnel to your location and/or call 911 or Public Safety at (478) 445-4400.

## Residence Hall Evacuation Procedures

All University residence halls have emergency evacuation plans. Fire drills are generally conducted biannually in on-campus residence halls so residents can learn and practice their evacuation skills. These drills are typically conducted by the Office of Environmental Health, Safety & Fire Safety, in conjunction with University Housing and Public Safety. These drills may also involve local public safety officials. Residents should follow the same procedures for fire drills as they would during any fire alarm.

Residential facilities utilize fire alarm systems with alarm pull stations, sirens, and strobe lights on each floor. In addition, each apartment has smoke detectors and/or sprinkler systems in the living room, hallway, and bedrooms, and dry chemical ABC type fire extinguishers. Residents are required to notify University Housing staff if an extinguisher has been used and needs to be

recharged. Tampering with fire safety equipment or causing a false alarm will result in judicial referral and review through the University's student conduct process. Fire extinguishers are inspected monthly and re-certified annually by the Office of Environmental Health, Safety, and Fire Safety.

Each residential facility follows its own protocol for evacuation based on the floor plan of the respective building. In the event of an alarm, all residents and guests are expected to immediately evacuate the building. Exit the building as safely as possible through the closest means of safe egress. Residents must move away from the building so that police, fire, and rescue personnel are not impeded. Anyone who requires assistance in the event of an evacuation due to a temporary or permanent disability should contact University Housing. University Housing staff will share this information with police and fire personnel so that they can provide assistance.

## Fire Safety Education and Training Programming

Educational programs for fire safety are available by request through the Office of Environmental Health, Safety & Fire Safety. These programs may include the identification and prevention of fire hazards, building evacuation procedures and drills, occupant responses to fire emergencies, and hands-on use of fire extinguishers. In addition, as an employee of the University, each employee has the right to know about hazardous chemicals in the workplace. This right is guaranteed under Georgia's Public Employee Hazardous Chemical Protection and Right to Know Act of 1988. An online training module pursuant to the Right to Know Act is available for employees by contacting the Office of Environmental Health, Safety & Fire Safety.

## Mandatory Supervised Fire Drills

Annually, the University conducts emergency management exercises to test emergency response procedures. The scenarios for these exercises change from year-to-year and include the participation of numerous departments from across the campus. These exercises may also involve emergency responders from state and local agencies, including those from law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical agencies. These drills may include tabletop exercises, emergency operations center exercises, or full-scale emergency response exercises. The University conducts after-action reviews of all emergency management exercises. In conjunction with at least one of these exercises, the University will conduct an annual test of the GC Alert emergency notification system. These exercises will also serve as an opportunity to remind the campus community of the information included in the University's Emergency Action Plan regarding emergency response procedures.

## Use of Electrical Appliances, Open Flames, Smoking

To minimize the risk of fire within residential areas and dormitory complexes, GCSU and University Housing have several policies regarding portable devices, smoking, open flames and other potential hazards. Residents are encouraged to personalize their living spaces if doing so does not interfere with fire safety and evacuation practices. Residents shall not obstruct the

entry path of a bedroom, unit, breezeway or stairwell. Residents may not hang items from fire sprinklers or other related fire equipment.

Because of the danger presented by open flames, candles (with or without wicks) and such items are not permitted in student rooms/apartments and, if present, will be confiscated. Candle warmers are also prohibited because they create an open heating source. Continued use of candles may lead to disciplinary action. The burning of incense is not permitted. The odor may be disagreeable to other students and the live coal is a fire hazard. Any offensive odor that extends outside a room/apartment is prohibited.

GCSU is a tobacco and smoke-free campus. The use of all forms of tobacco products on property including vehicles owned, leased, rented, in the possession of, or in any way used by the USG or its affiliates is expressly prohibited. “Tobacco Products” are defined as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, all forms of smokeless tobacco, clove cigarettes, and any other smoking devices that use tobacco, such as hookahs or electronic cigarettes.

The use of candles, incense, open flames and flammable liquids on the GCSU campus is prohibited. This policy applies to all GCSU facilities, including leased facilities. The unauthorized possession of candles, incense, open flame-producing devices and flammable or combustible liquids may result in the confiscation of the item and disciplinary action. Any student, faculty, staff or guest group seeking approval for a temporary exception to this policy (for a specific event, such as a candlelight vigil), must first attain written approval from the Office of Environmental Health, Safety & Fire Safety. Specific times, dates, and locations will be needed to attain this permission, as well as an explanation of the event, the purpose of the open flame to the event, and the location of fire extinguishers and/or other safety precautions. A decision based on the discretion of the Office of Environmental Health, Safety & Fire Safety, will be provided within 48 hours. This policy does not apply to University Housing provided outdoor grills; however, the materials needed for grilling (charcoal, lighter fluid, etc.) may not be stored in GCSU Housing or Apartment Facilities. Unauthorized grills and flammable liquids may not be used in GCSU Housing and Apartment Facilities.

Persons may only grill on permanently placed grills outside residential areas within the following parameters:

- Storage of materials for grilling (charcoal, lighter fluid, etc.) is not permitted in student rooms/apartments
- Grilling is not permitted inside rooms/apartments, within 10 feet of any building or in hallways or stairwells
- Extreme caution must be used to prevent the danger of fire with live coals and sparks
- All debris and trash utilized for grilling must be completely clean and cleared after each use

Per the GCSU Housing Policy Handbook, the following restrictions apply to appliances within the residence halls on Main Campus. Because of health, safety and sanitation considerations, only certain appliances are authorized for use in the residence halls: small electrical appliances that have a completely enclosed heating element and are U.L. approved (i.e. rice steamers etc.) and small refrigerators that meet the residence hall specifications.

One microwave is allowed in the student rooms of all residence halls and must meet the following requirements:

A. The unit and power cord must be U.L. approved.
B. Maximum size, 800 watts.

Refrigerators are allowed in student's room if it meets the following requirements:

A. The unit and power cord must be U.L. approved.
B. Maximum size, approximately 4.3 cubic feet.
C. Maximum of 2 running amps.

Refrigerator must be unplugged and defrosted during semester break periods. Prohibited items include but are not limited to:

- Coffee makers with hot plate bottoms
- Air Fryers
- Electric skillets
- Toasters
- Space heaters
- Electric blankets
- Electric grills
- Extension cords without a surge protector
- Items with exposed heating elements
- Hot plates
- Halogen lamps
- Lava lamps
- Holiday string lights
- Multiple extension cords plugged into each other
- Toaster ovens
- Candle warmers

## Future Improvements in Fire Safety

GCSU actively explores ways to enhance fire safety programs and continually assesses fire safety systems for facilities on campus. Some of the possible future improvements include upgrading fire detection and suppression systems in residence halls, increasing awareness through interactive fire safety workshops for University Housing, and enhancing evacuation procedures to better accommodate individuals with disabilities. Future improvements will be made on an as needed basis, as part of this ongoing assessment.

## Main Campus Residential Facility Fire Safety Systems

| Facility Name/Address | Fire Alarm Monitoring | Evacuation Plans & Placards | Sprinkler System | Smoke Detector | Fire Extinguisher | Drills 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams Hall<br>421 W. Greene Street | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2 |
| Bell Hall<br>211 W. Hancock Steet | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2 |
| Foundation Hall<br>631 W. Franklin Street | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2 |
| Napier Hall<br>420 W. Greene Street | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2 |
| Parkhurst Hall<br>550 W. Greene Street | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2 |
| Sanford Hall<br>410 W. Greene Street | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2 |
| Wells Hall<br>510 W. Greene Street | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2 |

# Fire Statistics for On-Campus Student Housing Facilities 2023-2025

## 2023 Main Campus Residential Facility Fires

| Facility Name/ Address | Total # of Fires | Fire # | Date | Time | Cause of Fire | # of Injuries | # of Deaths | Value of Damage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams Hall<br>421 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Bell Hall<br>211 W. Hancock Steet | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Foundation Hall<br>631 W. Franklin Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Napier Hall<br>420 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Parkhurst Hall<br>550 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Sanford Hall<br>410 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Wells Hall<br>510 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

## 2024 Main Campus Residential Facility Fires

| Facility Name/ Address | Total # of Fires | Fire # | Date | Time | Cause of Fire | # of Injuries | # of Deaths | Value of Damage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams Hall<br>421 W. Greene Street | 1 | 1 | 4/6/24 | 22:17 | Unintentional - Electrical | 0 | 0 | $100,000-$249,999 |
| Bell Hall<br>211 W. Hancock Steet | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Foundation Hall<br>631 W. Franklin Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Napier Hall<br>420 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Parkhurst Hall<br>550 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Sanford Hall<br>410 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Wells Hall<br>510 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

## 2025 Main Campus Residential Facility Fires

| Facility Name/ Address | Total # of Fires | Fire # | Date | Time | Cause of Fire | # of Injuries | # of Deaths | Value of Damage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams Hall<br>421 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Bell Hall<br>211 W. Hancock Steet | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Foundation Hall<br>631 W. Franklin Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Napier Hall<br>420 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Parkhurst Hall<br>550 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Sanford Hall<br>410 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Wells Hall<br>510 W. Greene Street | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |


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