



ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT
&
ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY REPORT
2023
Report as of 10/01/2023

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Savannah State University prepares this Annual Security Report (ASR) and Annual Fire Safety Report in compliance with the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act 20 USC § 1092 (f).

Reporting Crimes & Other Emergencies

Savannah State University (SSU or University) encourages the prompt and accurate reporting of crimes to law enforcement when the victim elects to. Individuals should report to the SSU Police Department (SSU PD) or the local law enforcement agency for where the offense occurred. If a victim is unable to make a report, including due to incapacitation, SSU encourages community members to seek emergency assistance including making a report to law enforcement.

SSU PD can be contacted by calling 912-358-3004 or by dialing 911 from a landline phone on campus. You can also report in person at the Hubert Tech Science Building C, Rooms 309/305, Savannah, GA 31404, or by speaking with any officer on patrol. Please visit <https://www.savannahstate.edu/public-safety/index.shtml> for additional information.

You can also report to the SSU Office of Title IX Compliance at the Colston Building, 2nd Floor, Suite 205, Savannah, GA 31404, or by calling 912-358-4055. A written complaint can be submitted to titleixreporting@savannahstate.edu. Reports made to the Title IX Office will not initiate a law enforcement investigation but the Office can aid victims of sexual misconduct including reporting to law enforcement and access to disciplinary proceedings as detailed in the “Response to Sexual and Gender Violence” section of this report. Please visit <https://www.savannahstate.edu/title-ix/index.shtml> for additional information.

SSU does not have a policy for the voluntary, confidential reporting of crime for the purposes of inclusion in annual crime statistics nor a policy for encouraging counselors to refer those they are counseling and support to all students and can be contacted at (912) 358-3119. Reports made to the Counseling Center will not be reflected in SSU’s crime statistics or initiate any response to sexual misconduct.

Law Enforcement Authority

SSU PD Officers are sworn police officers. Georgia Code § 20-3-72 provides that our officers “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.

SSU PD has a strong working relationship with the City of Savannah Police Department, the Thunderbolt Police Department, and the Chatham County Police Department. Agencies assist each other within their jurisdiction during mutual investigations, arrests, and prosecutions. The University does not have any officially recognized student organizations with off-campus locations.

SSU PD is fully qualified to investigate crimes on our campus and does not have a written agreement with a local agency for the purposes of investigating specific crimes. In the event of a homicide investigation, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation may conduct it.

Security & Safety Programming

In an effort to promote safety awareness, the SSU PD maintains a strong working relationship with the community. This relationship includes offering a variety of safety and security programs and services and crime prevention programming. If you or your organization would like to request a specific program, please contact the SSU PD at 912-358-3004. Below are some of the programs and services available:

1. Sexual Assault/Prevention
2. Defensive Tactics/Self-Defense for Men/Women
3. Theft Prevention
4. Campus Safety Week
5. Drugs/Alcohol abuse and prevention
6. Domestic Violence Prevention
7. Crime Prevention.

Preparing Annual Crime Statistics

The SSU Clery Act Coordinator (Clery Coordinator) prepares the annual crime statistics found within this report. Statistics are reported for homicide, sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, arson, liquor law violations, drug law violations, illegal weapons, hate crimes, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. These statistics are collected for the SSU campus, adjacent public property, and non-campus property.

Clery Act crime statistics are compiled from reports made to personnel who are considered a Campus Security Authority (CSA) and local law enforcement. Personnel who are a CSA include the SSU PD, other campus security, individuals that we designate crimes be reported to, and any official with significant responsibility for student and campus activities. The Clery Coordinator classifies and counts these reports using federally prescribed standards.

Recordkeeping

SSU retains records related to compliance with federal campus safety requirements, including the Clery Act and Higher Education Act fire safety provisions, for a period of at least seven (7) years. These records include police reports, reports made by CSAs, educational programming, the public crime and fire log, timely warnings, emergency notifications, and responses to reports of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

Timely Warning

The University is committed to ensuring that the campus community has timely information to protect themselves. When a Clery Act crime is reported it is assessed by the Chief of Police or their designee to determine if it presents an ongoing threat to students and employees. These decisions are made on a case-by-case basis and when there is a threat alerts are disseminated as soon as the pertinent information is available.

SSU PD dispatch then issues a Timely Warning over the Everbridge mass notification network (Tiger Alert System). The Chief and Deputy Chief also have access to send a message via

Everbridge. Information that could personally identify the victim of a crime will not be included in a Timely Warning. Please visit <https://www.savannahstate.edu/public-safety/everbridge> for additional information.

Emergency Notification

In the event of a significant emergency or dangerous situation on campus that poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees, the University will issue an Emergency Notification through the Everbridge mass communication network (Tiger Alert System).

The Chief of Police or their designee, or the Emergency Manager or their designee, 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 it will, in the professional judgment of responsible authorities, compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency.

Daily Crime Log

The SSU PD maintains a public crime log of all crimes reported to the Department. The log is available for public inspection at the Hubert Tech Science Building C, Rooms 309-305 during regular business hours.

Entries are recorded in the order received, and include the type of offense, date, time, general location, and disposition of the report. Reports are included on the log within two (2) business days of being reported, are maintained for a period of sixty (60) days, archived entries are kept for at least seven (7) years, and are made available for public inspection within two (2) business days of a request.

Security of Facilities

During business hours, the University is open to students, parents, employees, contractors, guests, and invitees. During non-business hours, access to all University facilities is by key or card access, if issued, or by admittance via the Department of Public Safety staff after receiving an email requesting admittance. Some facilities may have individual hours, which may vary at different times of the year.

The Jasmine Avenue and Falligant Street gates are open during business hours as well. The Laroche gate is open 24/7. These are secured by Campus Security and Savannah State University Police Department both at lock and unlock. There is also a security guard or police officer stationed at each gate for the duration it is open.

Some of the facilities have card access locks on them that are accessible by ID badge. Physical Plant maintains a key file for each faculty and staff on campus. For both opening and closing, perimeter doors are either unsecured or secured by either Campus Police or Campus Security by key. Physical Plant provides its maintenance and building services

personnel required keys to perform these functions and is responsible for the issuance and control of these keys.

Some of the sensitively monitored areas, like the Cashier's Office or the President's Office, have a push-button distress signal that transmits via all police radios on campus to advise that there is an emergency at that location. The SSU PD has a staffed dispatch center with an operator on duty 24/7. Patrol units and security personnel are also on-site 24/7, actively moving about the campus monitoring activity, and able to respond to emergencies. After-hours access is only granted through the SSU PD dispatch at 912-358-3004 by way of officer in-person verification.

Savannah State University also utilizes a large number of closed-circuit cameras that cover the span of the campus to ensure ongoing safety. These cameras are in the dispatch unit of the SSU PD and are monitored 24/7 by the dispatchers on duty there. Many cultural and athletic events held in the University facilities are open to the public however, individuals may be asked to show identification for security purposes. Security personnel as well as patrol personnel are also on scene at all sporting events, operating secure entrances such as gates and scanning bags at doors for safety purposes.

At the University, locks, landscaping, and outdoor lighting are designed for safety and security. Sidewalks are designed to provide well-traveled, lighted routes from parking areas to buildings and from building to building. The Department of Physical Plant, along with the Police Department, conducts surveys of University property twice each year to evaluate campus lighting.

Residence Hall Access

All residence halls operate under key access at the Savannah State University campus, and the resident of a particular room or townhouse is issued a corresponding key. When a door is malfunctioning, personnel are summoned for immediate repair.

Guests are not provided with room keys or door access cards. All exterior doors are locked 24 hours a day. During the summer when groups who are not regularly associated with Savannah State University are using the University residence halls, exterior doors are locked 24 hours a day. Residence Halls are also staffed 24 hours per day.

Emergency Response

The SSU PD is responsible for the Emergency Management Plan. The plan is an all-hazards disaster response plan that complies with Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines for higher education and includes planning, mitigation, response, and recovery actions.

The University conducts at least one annual test of our emergency response and evacuation procedures which may be announced or unannounced. We retain for seven (7) years a

description of each exercise, the date and time it was conducted, and whether it was announced or unannounced in advance. In conjunction with at least one test annually we publicize our emergency procedures so that the community will know what to expect in the event an actual emergency occurs.

Emergency Evacuation

Should it become necessary to evacuate any building, all occupants should proceed to the nearest exit, move away from the building, and assemble in a location predetermined by each department or building coordinator. Do not return to the building unless told to do so by the Fire Department, Police, or the Building Coordinator.

The Emergency Planning Task Force (EPTF) has identified two sites as shelters and command centers in the event students and employees have to be evacuated from the campus including for the threat of a coastal storm. SSU has established an agreement with Gordon State College as a primary relocation site. A secondary location is also available through an arrangement with Clayton State University. For students without transportation, buses and/or vans will provide transportation to the relocation sites.

Missing Students

When a student who resides in on-campus student housing has been missing for 24 hours, students, employees, and others should make a report to the SSU PD at 912-358-3004. Any report of a missing student not made to the SSU PD must be referred to them immediately for the purposes of conducting an investigation.

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

Residential students may register their confidential contact with the Office of University Housing and Residence Life. 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 the purposes of a missing person investigation.

In addition to the confidential contact, if a student is under 18 years of age and not emancipated the SSU PD will notify their custodial parent or guardian within 24 hours of the determination that they are missing. Institutional officials will also be notified.

The SSU PD 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.

Alcoholic Beverages & Illegal Drugs

The University, consistent with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, prohibits the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on its property or as part of any of its activities.

The SSU PD enforces state and local ordinances pertaining to the illegal possession, use, and sale of alcoholic beverages and underage drinking laws as well as illegal drug possession and use. It is illegal for persons under 21 years of age to possess, consume, or purchase alcoholic beverages. It is illegal for any person to furnish alcoholic beverages to persons less than 21 years of age. Enforcement actions include arrests and referrals for disciplinary action.

SSU requires all new, transfer, and dual-enrolled students to complete an online AlcoholEdu program about alcohol and drug abuse awareness and risk reduction. SSU employees have access to alcohol and drug concerns counseling and programming through KEPRO's Employee Assistance Program.

Sex Offender Registry

Information about registered sex offenders carrying on a vocation and/or enrolled at Savannah State University may be found at <https://gbi.georgia.gov/services/georgia-sex-offender-registry>.

Crime Statistics

Criminal Offenses	Year	Savannah Campus				
		On Campus			Noncampus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On Campus Total		
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	2020	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2020	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2020	2	0	2	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	2	0	2	0	0
Fondling	2020	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	4	1	5	0	1
Incest	2020	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2020	0	0	0	0	0

	2021	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2020	1	0	1	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	1	1	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2020	2	0	2	0	0
	2021	1	0	1	0	0
	2022	0	1	1	0	0
Burglary	2020	1	0	1	0	0
	2021	2	0	1	0	0
	2022	2	0	2	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2020	1	0	1	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	1	1	0	0
Arson	2020	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0

Violence Against Women Act Offenses	Year	Savannah Campus				
		On Campus			Noncampus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On Campus Total		
Dating Violence	2020	8	0	8	0	0
	2021	8	0	8	2	0
	2022	10	0	10	0	0
Domestic Violence	2020	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	1	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking	2020	1	0	1	0	0
	2021	2	0	2	0	0
	2022	1	0	1	0	0

Arrests	Year	Savannah Campus				
		On Campus			Noncampus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On Campus Total		
Liquor Law Violation	2020	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Violations	2020	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	1	1	0

	2022	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession	2020	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	2	0	2	0	0
	2022	1	1	2	0	0

Disciplinary Referrals	Year	Savannah Campus				
		On Campus			Noncampus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On Campus Total		
Liquor Law Violations	2020	13	0	13	0	0
	2021	12	8	20	2	0
	2022	5	1	6	0	0
Drug Abuse Violation	2020	54	0	54	0	0
	2021	22	5	27	0	0
	2022	29	2	31	1	0
Illegal Weapons Possession	2020	3	0	3	0	0
	2021	10	0	10	0	0
	2022	3	3	6	1	0

TOTAL UNFOUNDED CRIMES: 0

HATE CRIMES

There were no reported Hate Crimes in the years 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Savannah State University’s Response to Sexual and Gender Violence

Savannah State University is committed to a learning and working environment for all campus community members that is free from sex-based discrimination. The campus community includes students, faculty, and staff, as well as contractors, vendors, visitors, and guests.

If you or someone close to you are the victim of sex-based discrimination, know that you are not alone. The information in this report will help you navigate some of what you may be experiencing. 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.

Reporting

Reports of sexual misconduct can be made to the SSU Office of Title IX Compliance at the Colston Building, 2nd Floor, Suite 205, Savannah, GA 31404, or by calling 912-358-4055. A written complaint can be submitted to titleixreporting@savannahstate.edu. Reports made to the Title IX Office will not initiate a law enforcement investigation but the Office can provide assistance to victims of sexual misconduct and access to disciplinary proceedings.

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

The Savannah State University Police Department can be contacted by calling 912-358-3004 or by dialing 911 from a landline phone on campus. You can also report in person at the Hubert Tech Science Building C, Rooms 309/305, Savannah, GA 31404, or by speaking with any officer on patrol.

Students may also report to the Office of Student Affairs at 912-358-3118 or in person at the King-Frazier Complex, Suite 247. Employees may also report to the Office of Human Resources at 912-358-4194 or in person at the Colston Administrative Building.

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 or area where an assault occurred

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

Assistance

Upon request, Savannah State University will make any reasonably available changes to a victim's academic, living, transportation, and/or working situation. Students and employees may contact the Office of Title IX Compliance for assistance. If a victim reports to law enforcement, they may assist them in obtaining a temporary protection order from a criminal court. Savannah

State University is committed to ensuring that any such order is fully upheld on all institutionally owned and controlled property.

Savannah State University recognizes the sensitive nature of sexual violence and is committed to protecting the privacy of any individual who reports an incident of sexual violence. Different officials on campus are, however, able to offer varying levels of privacy protection to victims. Reports made to law enforcement, including if criminal prosecution is pursued, may be made public and shared with the accused.

Reports made to Savannah State University officials will be kept confidential, and identifying information about the victim shall not be made public. Information about reports will only be shared with institutional personnel as needed to investigate and effectively respond to the report. Reports made to medical professionals or licensed mental health counselors will not be shared with any third parties except in cases of imminent danger to the victim or a third party.

Resources

Both Savannah State University and the local Savannah community also offer other important resources to the victims of sexual violence including medical treatment, counseling, and the advocacy they may wish to utilize. Outside of the campus, The Rape Crisis Center of the Coastal Empire (Telephone Number: 912-233-7273 or 888-241-7273) is available 24 hours a day to assist any student or employee free of charge and will help them consider their options and navigate through any resources or recourse they elect to pursue. A victim need not make a formal report to law enforcement or Savannah State University to access the resources that include the following:

- Savannah State University Counseling Center SSU Campus-King-Frazier Complex Rm 233 912-358-3129
- Savannah State University Health Center SSU Campus-3219 College St 912-358-4122
- Savannah State University Office of Title IX SSU Campus-Colston Admin Building Rm #118 912-355-4150
- Rape Crisis Center of the Coastal Empire 912-233-7232/888-241-7273
- 24-hour National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- Memorial University Medical Center-Nurse One 912-350-4673
- St. Joseph's/Candler Care Call Center 912-819-4100

For assistance with Visa related matters contact the International Education Center at 912-358-4147.

Prevention Programming

The University prohibits sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Information about what to expect with our disciplinary proceedings can be found later in this report.

SSU requires all new, transfer, and dual-enrolled students and new employees to complete population-specific online Sexual Assault Prevention training, via Vector Solutions. This training

is focused on the prevention of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking while creating a safe environment for those who may have been victims of those crimes.

The Title IX Office of Compliance Provides Annual Campus Educational Programming

Additional educational programming is provided by the Title IX Office of Compliance and includes ongoing awareness training for faculty and staff during Fall and Spring Institutes; Fall and Spring Student-Athlete Convocations; Title IX Student-to-Student SexTalks prevention and awareness programs; educational and awareness training for Student Consent Peer Educators; and Title IX prevention and awareness training for student organizational leaders.

The training addresses bystander intervention for campus community members with information about safe and positive options that may be carried out by an individual or individuals to prevent harm or intervene when there is a risk of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Options include creating a distraction, asking if someone needs help, involving others, and offering support. This training also addresses risk reduction options designed to decrease perpetration and bystander inaction and to increase empowerment for victims in order to promote safety and to help individuals and communities address conditions that facilitate violence.

The Center for Counseling Services is primarily responsible for sexual assault education and awareness in collaboration with many offices at the University. Below is a list of some of the programs available at the University:

- Rape Aggression Defense System (RAD)-in collaboration with University Police
- Welcome Week/New to Campus Initiative-events with invited speakers to address issues of sexual and gender violence
- Sexual Assault/Freshman Experience

In addition to disciplinary action by the University, individuals may face significant criminal sanctions for violations of state criminal laws prohibiting sexual misconduct.

State Definitions

Georgia Code § 16-6-1. Rape

(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.

(b) A person convicted of the offense of rape shall be punished by death, by imprisonment for life without parole, by imprisonment for life, or by a split sentence that is a term of

imprisonment for not less than 25 years and not exceeding life imprisonment, followed by probation for life. Any person convicted under this Code section shall, in addition, be subject to the sentencing and punishment provisions of Code Sections 17-10-6.1 and 17-10-7.

- (c) When evidence relating to an allegation of rape is collected in the course of a medical examination of the person who is the victim of the alleged crime, the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund, as provided for in Chapter 15 of Title 17, shall be responsible for the cost of the medical examination to the extent that expense is incurred for the limited purpose of collecting evidence.
- (d) (1) As used in this subsection, the term “sexual felony” shall have the same meaning as set forth in paragraph (2) of subsection (j) of Code Section 16-5-21.

(2) Any person having been previously convicted of a sexual felony who is convicted of the offense of rape shall be punished by imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. As a condition of probation, the court shall impose the requirement of electronic monitoring as set forth in paragraph (14) of subsection (a) of Code Section 42-8-35.

Georgia Code § 16-6-22.1. Sexual battery (Fondling)

- (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.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in the Code section, a person convicted of the offense of sexual battery shall be punished as for a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.
- (d) A person convicted of the offense of sexual battery against any child under the age of 16 years shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years.
- (e) Upon a second or subsequent conviction under subsection (b) of this Code section, a person shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned for not less than one nor more than five years and, in addition, shall be subject to the sentencing and punishment provisions of Code Section 17-10-6.2
- (f) When the alleged victim is under the age of 16 years and the conduct is for the purpose of sexual arousal on the part of the alleged offender or alleged victim, consent of the alleged victim shall not be a defense to a prosecution under this Code section; provided, however, that if at the time of the offense, the alleged victim is at least 13 but less than 16 years of age and the accused is 18 years of age or younger and no more than 48 months older than the alleged victim, this subsection shall not be applicable.

Georgia Code § 16-6-3. Statutory rape

- (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.
- (d) (1) As used in the subsection, the term “sexual felony” shall have the same meaning as set forth in paragraph (2) of subsection (j) of Code Section 16-5-21.
- (2) Any person having been previously convicted of a sexual felony who is convicted of the felon offense of statutory rape when the individual convicted was 21 years of age or older, shall be punished by imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. As a condition of probation, the court shall impose the requirement of electronic monitoring as set forth in paragraph (14) of subsection (a) of Code Section 42-835.

Georgia Code § 16-6-22. Incest

- (a) A person commits the offense of incest when such person engages in sexual intercourse or sodomy, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-6-2, with a person whom he or she knows he or she is related to either by blood 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
 - (4) Grandparent and grandchild of the whole blood or of the half blood
 - (5) Aunt and niece or nephew of the whole blood or of the half blood
 - (6) Uncle and niece or nephew of the whole blood or of the half blood
- (b) A person convicted of the offense of incest shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than ten nor more than 30 years; provided, however, that any person convicted of the offense of incest under this subsection with a child under the age of 14 years shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 25 nor more than 50 years. Any person

convicted under this Code section of the offense of incest shall, in addition, be subject to the sentencing and punishment provisions of Code Section 17-10-6.2.

- (c) (1) As used in this subsection, the term “sexual felony” shall have the same meaning as set forth in paragraph (2) of subsection (j) of Code Section 16-5-21.
- (2) Any person having been previously convicted of a sexual felony who is convicted of the offense of incest shall be punished by imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life. As a condition of probation, the court shall impose the requirement of electronic monitoring as set forth in paragraph (14) of subsection (a) of Code Section 42-8-35.

Georgia Code § 19-13A-1. (Dating Violence)

As used in this chapter, the term:

- (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.

Georgia Code § 19-13-1. “Family violence” defined (Domestic Violence)

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.

Georgia Code § 16-5-90. Stalking

(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. The Code section shall 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.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this Code section, a person who commits the offense of stalking is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(c) Upon the second conviction, and all subsequent convictions, for stalking, the defendant shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than ten years.

(d) Before sentencing a defendant for any conviction of stalking under this Code section or aggravated stalking under Code Section 16-5-91, the sentencing judge may require psychological evaluation of the offender and shall consider the entire criminal record of the offender. At the time of sentencing, the judge is authorized to issue a permanent restraining order against the offender to protect the person stalked and the members of such person’s immediate family, and the judge is authorized to require psychological treatment of the offender as part of the sentence, or as a condition for suspension or stay of sentence, or for probation.

Georgia Code § 16-1-3. (Consent)

“Without his consent” means that a person whose concurrence is required has not, with knowledge of the essential facts, voluntarily yielded to the proposal of the accused or of another.

Disciplinary Proceedings

Savannah 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 Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act), the University System of Georgia (USG) Sexual Misconduct Policy, and institutional policy.

Disciplinary complaints may be made by any campus community member and should be directed to the Office of Title IX Compliance at the Colston Building, 2nd Floor, Suite 205 or by calling 912-358-4055. A written complaint can be submitted to titleixreporting@savannahstate.edu. Complaints made to the Title IX Coordinator will not initiate a law enforcement investigation.

Incidents involving accused students will be handled by the Office of Student Conduct and the Office of Title IX Coordinator. Incidents involving accused employees/affiliates will be handled by the Office of Human Resources. 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.

In our 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 in the complaint is considered a Reporter.

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 allegations(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 and when an employee is accused. Additionally, federal regulations implementing Title IX require us to use certain procedures in “Title IX Sexual Misconduct” cases that aren’t 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, and when prohibited by other Board or institution conduct policies.

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 Coordinator alleging sexual harassment, as defined by Title IX and its implementing regulations, against a Respondent and requesting that the institution open an investigation. In order 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.

Prompt, Fair, and Impartial Proceedings

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.

The institution is responsible for proving cases by the preponderance of the evidence standard in both student and employee cases. This means that it is more likely than not that the accused committed a violation of policy.

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

Timeframes and Notice

Efforts will be made to complete the investigation and resolution within 120 business days. 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 shall keep the parties informed of the status of the investigation. The Title IX Coordinator will provide parties with timely notice of meetings, at which the complainant, respondent or both may be present.

The institution 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.

Amnesty

Information reported by a student during the Sexual Misconduct process concerning the consumption of drugs or alcohol will not be used against the particular student in a disciplinary proceeding or voluntarily reported to law enforcement; however, students may be provided with resources on drug and alcohol counseling and/or education, as appropriate.

Advisor of Choice

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 at the party's own expense.

In Title IX Sexual Misconduct cases the advisor may accompany the party to all meetings and may provide advice and counsel to their respective party throughout the Sexual Misconduct process, including providing questions, suggestions and guidance to the party, but may not actively participate in the process except to conduct cross-examination at the hearing. If a party chooses not to use an advisor during the investigation, the institution will provide an advisor for the purpose of conducting cross-examination on behalf of the relevant party.

In Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct cases the advisor may accompany the party to all meetings and may provide advice and counsel to their respective party throughout the Sexual Misconduct process but may not actively participate in the process.

All communication during the Sexual Misconduct process will be between the institution and the party and not the advisor. The institution will copy the party's advisor prior to the finalization of the investigation report when the institution 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.

Interim Measures

Interim measures may be implemented at any point after the institution becomes aware of an allegation of Sexual Misconduct and should be designed to protect any student or other individual in the USG community.

Interim measures may include, but are not limited to: Change of housing assignment; Issuance of a "no contact" directive; Restrictions or bars to entering certain institution property; Changes to academic or employment arrangements, schedules, or supervision; Interim suspension; and Other measures designed to promote the safety and well-being of the parties and the institution's community.

Informal Resolution

Once an investigation has begun if the Respondent admits responsibility, the process may proceed to the sanctioning phase or may be informally resolved, if appropriate. Student allegations of Title IX Sexual Misconduct against an employee may not be resolved informally.

The Complainant, the Respondent, and the institution must agree to engage in the informal resolution process and to the terms of the informal resolution. The Complainant(s) and the Respondent(s) have the option to end informal resolution discussions and request a formal process at any time before the terms of an informal resolution are reached. However, matters resolved informally shall not be appealable.

Student allegations of Title IX Sexual Misconduct against an employee may not be resolved informally.

Unbiased Proceedings

In all proceedings a conflict of interest or bias by the Title IX Coordinator, Conduct Officer, investigator(s), and/or decision maker(s) is grounds for an appeal. In proceedings involving a student Respondent any party may challenge the participation of any institution official, panel member in the process on the grounds of personal bias by submitting a written statement to the institution's designee setting forth the basis for the challenge.

Investigation

The parties shall be provided with a written notice containing the allegations, possible charges and sanctions as well as available support and interim measures. Upon receipt of the notice parties have at least 3 business days to respond in writing. The Respondent may admit or deny allegations and set forth a defense. The Complainant may respond and supplement their written notice. Throughout both parties may present witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.

An investigator shall conduct a thorough investigation and should retain written notes and/or obtain written or recorded statements from each interview.

The initial investigation report shall be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent, and a party's advisor (if applicable). This report should fairly summarize the relevant evidence gathered during the investigation and clearly indicate any resulting charges or alternatively, a determination of no charges. For purposes of this Policy, a charge is not a finding of responsibility.

The Complainant and Respondent shall have at last 10 calendar days to review and respond in writing to the initial investigation report and directly related information gathered during the investigation. The investigator will review the Complainant's and the Respondent's written responses, if any, to determine whether further investigation or changes to the investigation report are necessary.

The final investigation report should be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent, and a party's advisor, if applicable, at least 10 calendar days prior to the Hearing. The final investigation report should also be provided to all Hearing Panel members for consideration during the adjudication process.

Hearing-Student Respondent

Where a matter is not resolved through informal resolution a hearing shall be set. All Sexual Misconduct cases shall be heard by a panel of faculty and/or staff. In no case shall a hearing to resolve a Sexual Misconduct allegation take place before the investigation report has been finalized. All directly related evidence shall be available at the hearing for the parties and their advisors to reference during the hearing. The institution will determine how the facts or evidence will be introduced.

Notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing as well as the selected hearing panel members shall be provided to the Complainant and the Respondent at least 10 calendar days prior to the hearing. Hearings shall be conducted in-person or via video conferencing technology. Formal judicial rules of evidence do not apply to the resolution process and the standard of evidence shall be a preponderance of the evidence.

Each institution shall maintain documentation of the investigation and resolution process, which may include written findings of fact, transcripts, audio recordings, and/or video recordings. Any documentation shall be maintained for seven years.

In Title IX Hearings 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 Hearing Officer shall limit questions raised by the advisor when they are irrelevant to determining the veracity of the allegations against the Respondent(s). In any such event, the Hearing Officer shall err on the side of permitting all the raised questions and must document the reason for not permitting any particular questions to be raised.

In Non-Title IX Hearings the parties shall have the right to confront any witness, including the other party, by submitting written questions to the Hearing Officer for consideration. Advisors may actively assist in drafting questions. The Hearing Officer shall ask the questions as written and will limit questions only if they are irrelevant to determining the veracity of the allegations against the Respondent(s). In any such event, the Hearing Officer shall err on the side of asking all submitted questions and must document the reason for not asking any particular questions.

Following a hearing, the parties shall be simultaneously provided a written decision via institution email of the hearing outcome and any resulting sanctions or administrative actions. The decision must include the allegations, procedural steps taken through the investigation and resolution process, findings of facts supporting the determination(s), determination(s) regarding responsibility, and the evidence relied upon and rationale for any sanction or other administrative action. The institution shall also notify the parties of their right to appeal, as outlined below.

Hearing-Employee Respondent

Matters involving alleged Title IX Sexual Misconduct must be heard at a live-hearing. Institutions may determine whether the live hearing is conducted by a single administrative decision maker (such as the Chief Human Resources Officer, the Chief Academic Officer, or their designee) or by a panel. Formal civil rules of evidence do not apply to the resolution process and the standard of evidence shall be a preponderance of the evidence. The institution will determine how the facts or evidence will be introduced.

Notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing as well as the designated Hearing Officer shall be provided via email at least 10 calendar days prior to the hearing. Hearings shall be conducted in-person or via video conferencing technology. Each institution shall maintain documentation of the investigation and resolution process, which may include written findings of fact, transcripts, audio recordings, and/or video recordings. Any documentation shall be maintained for seven years.

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 Hearing Officer shall limit questions raised by the advisor when they are irrelevant to determining the veracity of the allegations against the Respondent(s). In any such event, the Hearing Officer shall err on the side of permitting all the raised questions and must document the reason for not permitting any particular questions to be raised.

Following a hearing, the parties shall be simultaneously provided a written decision via email of the hearing outcome and any resulting disciplinary or administrative actions. The decision must include the allegations, procedural steps taken through the investigation and resolution process, findings of facts supporting the determination(s), determination(s) regarding responsibility, and the rationale for any disciplinary or other administrative action.

Possible Sanctions-Student Respondent

The broad range of sanctions includes: expulsion; suspension for an identified time frame or until satisfaction of certain conditions or both; 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) with additional sanctions for violating no-contact orders; required participation in sensitivity training/awareness educations programs; required participation in alcohol and other drug awareness and abuse prevention programs; counseling or mentoring; volunteering/community service; loss of institutional privileges; delays in obtaining administrative services and benefits from the institution (e.g., holding transcripts, delaying registration, graduation, diplomas); additional academic requirements relating to scholarly work or research; financial restitution; or any other discretionary sanctions directly related to the violation of conduct.

Possible Sanctions-Employee Respondent

When an employee is found responsible by our proceedings they may face: verbal warning, coaching, documentation of warning, unpaid suspension, demotion, and/or termination.

Appeals

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.

The Respondent and the Complainant shall have the right to appeal the outcome on any of the following grounds: (1) to consider new information, sufficient to alter the decision, or other relevant facts not brought out in the original hearing (or appeal), because such information was not known or knowable to the person appealing during the time of the hearing (or appeal); (2) to allege a procedural error within the hearing process that may have substantially impacted the fairness of the hearing (or appeal), including but not limited to whether any hearing questions were improperly excluded or whether the decision was tainted by a conflict of interest or bias by the Title IX Coordinator, Conduct Officer, investigator(s), decision maker(s); or (3) to allege that the finding was inconsistent with the weight of the information. The appeal must be made in writing, must set forth one or more of the bases outlined above, and must be submitted within five business days of the date of the final written decision. The appeal should be made to the institution's President or their designee (Appellate Officer).

The appeal shall be a review of the record only, and no new meeting with the Respondent or any Complainant is required. The Appellate Officer may affirm the original finding and sanction, affirm the original finding but issue a new sanction or greater or lesser severity, remand the case back to any lower decision maker to correct a procedural or factual defect, or reverse or dismiss the case if there was a procedural or factual defect that cannot be remedied by remand.

The Appellate Officer will render a decision no later than seven (7) business days after receiving all materials, barring exigent circumstances. The Appellate Officer's decision will be in writing and include a rationale. The institution will inform the Parties simultaneously and in writing of the outcome of the appeal. This shall be the final decision of the institution.

Further review, such as a Discretionary Review, if available, is governed under the policies and procedures of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Appeals received after the designated deadlines above will not be considered unless the institution or Board of Regents has granted an extension prior to the deadline. If an appeal is not received by the deadline the last decision on the matter will become final, and notice shall be provided simultaneously and in writing to both Complainant and Respondent.

Retaliation

Anyone who has made a report or complaint, provided information, assisted, participated, or refused to participate in any manner in the Sexual Misconduct process, shall not be subjected to retaliation. Anyone who believes that they have been subjected to retaliation should immediately

contact the Coordinator or their designee. Any person found to have engaged in retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Additional Information

For additional information about disciplinary proceedings please contact the Title IX Coordinator. **Any party to a sexual misconduct proceeding and their Advisor of Choice should review all applicable USG and institutional policies.** USG policies are available at these links:

6.7 Sexual Misconduct Policy

<https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section6/C2655>

4.6.5 Standards for Institutional Student Conduct Investigation and Disciplinary Proceedings

https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section4/C332/#p4.6.5_standards_for_institutional_student_conduct_investigation

Human Resources Administrative Practice Manual, Prohibit Discrimination & Harassment

https://www.usg.edu/hr/assets/hr/hrap_manual/HRAP_Prohibit_Discrimination_Harassment_Employee_Relations.pdf

Federal VAWA Offense Definitions for Disciplinary Proceedings

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.

Sexual Assault: 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.

Sexual Assault: Incest-Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Sexual Assault: 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.

- (i) 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.
- (ii) 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.

(iii) 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. (i) 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.

(ii) 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. (i) Engaging in a course 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

Definition of Consent

Words or actions that show a knowing and voluntary willingness to engage in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity. Consent cannot be gained by force, intimidation or coercion; by ignoring or acting in spite of objections of another; or by taking advantage of the incapacitation of another where the respondent knows or reasonably should have known of such incapacitation. Minors under the age of 16 cannot legally consent under Georgia law.

Consent is also absent when the activity in question exceeds the scope of consent previously given. Past consent does not imply present or future consent. Silence or an absence of resistance does not imply consent.

Consent can be withdrawn at any time by a party by using clear words or actions.

SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY REPORT

2023

Fire Statistics for On-Campus Housing, 2020-2022

Building	Number of Fires			Cause of Fire			Medical Attention Needed? Y/N			Number of Deaths		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Bostic Hall	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	N	N	0	0	0
Bowen-Smith Hall	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	N	N	0	0	0
Camilla Hubert	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	N	N	0	0	0
Freshmen Living/Learning Center	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	N	N	0	0	0
Tiger Court	0	0	1	N/A	N/A	Electrical	N	N	N	0	0	0
Tiger Place	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	N	N	0	0	0
Wright Hall	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	N	N	0	0	0
University Commons	1	0	1	Microwave	N/A	Dryer	N	N	N	0	0	0
University Village	1	2	0	Oven	Power Outlet/ Vehicle	N/A	N	N	N	0	0	0

Reporting Fires

Per federal law, Savannah State University is required to annually disclose statistical data on all fires that occur in on-campus student housing facilities. Therefore, if you encounter a live fire in one of these facilities, you should immediately get to a safe place, and then dial 911 or call the SSU Police Department Dispatch at 912-358-3004 who will then contact the Savannah Fire Department to respond to campus. The SSU PD responds to all fires on campus. You may also contact the Savannah Fire Department directly through Chatham County Dispatch at 912-652-7500.

If a member of the SSU community finds evidence of a fire that has been extinguished, and the person is not sure whether the SSU Police Department has already responded, the community member should immediately notify the SSU PD at 912-358-3004 to investigate and document the incident for disclosure in the University’s Annual Fire Statistics.

Smoking/Tobacco

Smoking on campus is strictly prohibited as mandated by the Georgia Board of Regents and Georgia State Law. This includes but is not limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and smokeless chewing tobacco. Individuals found smoking may face not only University sanctions but may also be referred to local law enforcement

Emergency Exits/Doors

Students may only use Emergency Exits during an emergency. Sounding the alarm by using an emergency exit unnecessarily will lead to disciplinary sanctions, including fines. Propping doors at any time is also strictly prohibited.

Violation of local, state, federal, or campus fire policies including, but not limited to:

- a. Intentionally or recklessly causing a fire that damages the University or personal property or which causes injury.
- b. Failure to evacuate a University-controlled building during a fire alarm;
- c. Improper use of University fire safety equipment; or
- d. Tampering with or improperly engaging a fire alarm or fire detection/control equipment while on University property. Such action may result in a local fine in addition to University sanctions

FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES

It is of the utmost importance to be aware of conditions that may cause a fire emergency and thereby endanger the safety of occupants in the workplace and the residence halls. The major causes of fire at the workplace include overloaded electrical outlets and extension cords, misuse of space heaters, mishandling of flammables, and improper storage of combustibles, unsupervised cooking, and improper disposal of smoking materials on campus grounds. Implementing fire prevention measures is the key in an attempt to ensure one's personal safety and the safety of roommates, officemates, and friends.

Prevention Measures

1. Regularly observe emergency evacuation routes, fire extinguishers, and emergency and exit lights.
2. Immediately report any missing equipment or any other problems discovered to the Residential Director or SSU Police Department.
3. Encourage everyone to actively participate in fire drills.
4. Regularly observe the lobby, corridors, and stairwells, and keep them clear of obstructions.

5. Regularly observe all exits to keep them clear of obstructions AT ALL TIMES.
6. Report any tampering with the fire alarm, smoke detection, and suppression systems to the Resident Director, Physical Plant, or SSU PD.
7. Regularly observe fire doors to make certain they are closed at all times; report inoperable doors to the Physical Plant or the respective maintenance offices.
9. Forbid the use of candles or any other open-flame devices for any purpose in the University buildings without authorization.
10. Respect the "No Smoking Policy" in all SSU facilities.
11. Enforce all Savannah State University safety regulations.

General Tips

1. Fire doors must be kept closed at all times unless they are held open by an approved device connected to the fire alarm system.
2. Exits, stairways, and passageways leading to and from exits shall be kept free of obstructions at all times. Furnishings, decorations, combustible objects, or flammables must not block exits, access to exits, or any means of egress. Dispose of all trash as soon as possible in trashcans or dumpsters. Waste materials must never be piled in corridors or stairwells while awaiting removal.

Fire Lanes

In the event a fire should occur, it is critical that emergency responders be able to access the building, or location of the emergency. Fire lanes and emergency access routes have been provided for this purpose. Fire Lanes (normally marked in red on the curb) shall not be blocked at any time. This includes temporary parking for the purpose of "just dropping something off." Emergency Access Fire hydrants, fire department connections, or other emergency equipment shall not be obstructed at any time.

Parking is prohibited within fifteen feet of a fire hydrant, or fire department connections. All vehicles will immediately pull over to the right side of the road to allow the vehicle to pass when an emergency vehicle approaches from any direction.