

UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

<http://www.usm.edu/police>

Personal Safety

July 2019

The University Police Department (UPD) exists to protect life and property, to prevent crime, and to be of general service to the university community.

The UPD is available around the clock to meet the many diverse needs of faculty, staff and students. Patrol and dispatch services are provided 24 hours a day with access to local emergency services. All UPD officers are certified by the Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officer's Standards and Training and have full arrest power. The UPD works in conjunction with other local, municipal, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies in the exercise of its responsibilities.

In addition to its sworn police officers, the UPD also employs a large contingent of non-sworn security officers who provide services to the university community. Their duties include patrolling the academic buildings and grounds after normal working hours and monitoring and controlling access to residence halls from midnight to 7 a.m., seven days a week.

Possession of Firearms

July 2019

Southern Miss is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment that supports the academic mission of the university. The University of Southern Mississippi (Hattiesburg Campus, Gulf Park Campus, and Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Gulf Coast Sites) prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms or other weapons in any form by any person other than duly authorized law enforcement officials, institutional security officials and other authorized persons.

“Authorized persons” includes those individuals authorized by applicable law and by the institutional executive officer or his/her designee. “Authorized persons” also includes those who have in their possession a valid, unexpired state firearms permit with the “Instructor Certified” (IC) sticker on the back, or the equivalent permit issued by a state with a reciprocity agreement with Mississippi.

Even so, those possessing such permits are not permitted to possess firearms in any institutional facilities and/or areas that are deemed non-public. Students and employees are not authorized to possess firearms on institutional property or at institutional off-campus events regardless of possession of firearms permits.

The possession of weapons in violation of this policy may subject one to criminal liability, removal from campus or campus events or facilities, employment discipline, and/or sanctions under the University Student Code of Conduct system. The full Weapons Policy can be

accessed at www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-stua-upd-003. For more information, contact the University Police Department at 601.266.4986 or the Dean of Students Office at 601.266.6028.

Emergency Notification

July 2019

It is the policy of the university to notify the campus community in a timely manner of any significant emergency or dangerous situation occurring on the campus involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees. Campus Police or first- responders can identify certain threats that allow for the immediate activation of the notification system. However, other threats that would allow for the activation need to be assessed, and consultation with other experts may be required.

The timely warning of an emergency event will be issued without delay utilizing Eagle Alert and take into account the safety of the campus community. The only exception is if doing so would compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to or otherwise mitigate the emergency.

When an emergency situation arises, the Emergency Operations director or his designee will determine the nature and severity of the situation, and if appropriate, will declare an immediate campus threat and authorize activation of the Emergency Notification System. Once immediate notification has been made, more detailed follow-up information will be released on the university website, www.usm.edu or e-mail.

Eagle Alert

July 2019

The University of Southern Mississippi has implemented Eagle Alert, a mass notification system comprising e-mail, voice and text-messaging that is designed to send emergency messages to the university's employees and students in a matter of minutes. It will be used in conjunction with existing university avenues of emergency communication, including outdoor warning sirens, public address systems, news alerts and the university's website, www.usm.edu.

The Eagle Alert system is provided through Regroup Mass Notification, a product of Dais Inc, operates as Regroup.com. Eagle Alert is a secure system and will not send advertising or spam to personal phones. All Southern Miss students, faculty and staff who are currently in the university's system with a valid campus ID are enrolled in the Eagle Alert system.

Messages will be sent through the system only in an emergency and for periodic testing. For assistance with technical issues, contact the iTech Help Desk at 601.266.4357. For other questions related to the Eagle Alert system, contact the University Police Department at 601.266.4986.

Sexual Misconduct Policy and Resolution of Allegations

July 2019

The University of Southern Mississippi fosters an academic, work, and living environment of respect for the dignity and worth of all members of the university community that is free from all forms of discrimination and sexual misconduct. The University prohibits sexual misconduct and sexual discrimination in any and every form. It is the policy of the University that no member of its community shall engage in sexually harassing or sexually violent behavior toward another.

The term “sexual misconduct” describes a broad range of behavior that includes, but is not limited to:

- Non-consensual sexual intercourse
- Non-consensual sexual contact
- Sexual exploitation
- Sexual harassment
- Intimate partner violence (also referred to as domestic, dating, or relationship violence)
- Stalking

The University of Southern Mississippi strongly encourages prompt reporting of sexual misconduct. Reporting aids in keeping the involved parties and the larger campus community safe. Reporting also provides assistance in connecting involved parties to needed resources.

If you believe you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual misconduct, you should report the incident(s) to Dr. Rebecca Malley, the [University Title IX Coordinator](#) at 601-266-6804 or to the University Police Department at 601-266-4986. Such incidents may violate the University’s sexual misconduct policy as well as the law. As a result, the University encourages individuals to pursue their complaints through the University’s process for sexual misconduct and if they choose, through the criminal justice system.

If an individual makes a report to the University Police Department, the University Police will notify the Title IX Coordinator of the report. If the individual reports first to the Title IX Coordinator, the Title IX Coordinator will assist the person with making a report to the University Police Department, if he/she chooses to do so.

Unless designated as a confidential resource, all University employees are required to report incidents of possible sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, employees designated as Campus Security Authorities must also report possible sexual misconduct to the University Police.

The University prohibits retaliation against anyone who reports or witnesses an incident of possible sexual misconduct.

The full Sexual Misconduct Policy (Policy No. PRES-AA-001) and the Resolution of Allegations of Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Assault, and Sexual Harassment (Policy No. PRES-AA-002) can be accessed at www.usm.edu/sexual-misconduct-title-ix.

Missing Persons Policy

University Police Department, 2019

If a member of the university community has reason to believe that a student who resides in on-campus housing is missing, he or she should immediately notify the University Police Department at 601.266.4986. University Police will generate a missing person report and initiate an investigation.

After investigation of the missing person report, University Police will notify the student's emergency contact, or confidentially identified individual, immediately after the student is determined to be missing. If the missing student is under the age of 18 and is not an emancipated individual, University Police will notify the student's parents or legal guardian immediately after University Police has determined the student is missing. The University Police Department will inform local and surrounding law enforcement agencies immediately of any student determined to be missing.

In addition to registering an emergency contact, students residing in on-campus housing have the option to identify, confidentially, an individual to be contacted by Southern Miss in the event the student is determined to be missing. Students who wish to identify a confidential contact can do so through the Residence Life website. This confidential contact information will be accessible only to authorize campus officials and law enforcement, and it will not be disclosed outside of a missing person investigation.