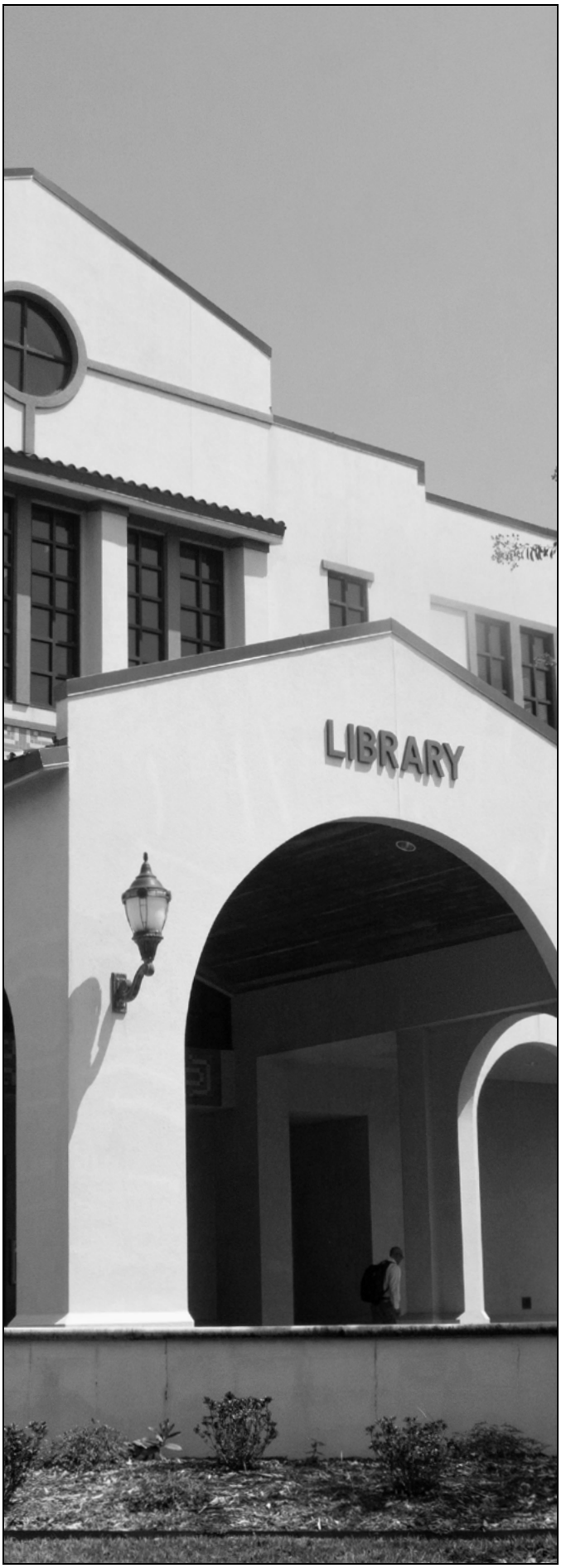
2026-27 Annual
Security and Fire Safety Report

Maintaining a Safe and Secure Campus Environment

SOUTHERN MISS
UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



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UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

- 911 (emergency)
- 601.266.4986 (non-emergency)
- Bond Hall, First Floor West

ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT for The University of Southern Mississippi

The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department

The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department (UPD) is the police force of original jurisdiction on the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses and the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's Cedar Point and Halstead sites. They are duly sworn, state-certified police officers with full arrest powers. In addition, UPD employs civilian campus safety staff to supplement patrols and secure buildings on all sites.

The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA®) and accredited by the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MSLEAC). The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department was the first higher education law enforcement agency in the state to earn this status and is currently one of only two in Mississippi to be nationally accredited.

Patrol and dispatch services are provided 24 hours a day with access to local emergency services. Each officer has successfully completed the state's basic law enforcement academy and regularly attends other advanced and in-service training programs. UPD employs certified state radio dispatchers and also works very closely with other law enforcement agencies. This includes the Hattiesburg Police Department, Long Beach Police Department, Ocean Springs Police Department, Forrest County Sheriff's Department, Harrison County Sheriff's Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Department, Mississippi Highway Patrol, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Mississippi Alcohol Beverage Control and the local FBI office.

The University of Southern Mississippi strives to provide a safe living, learning and working environment for its students, faculty and staff.

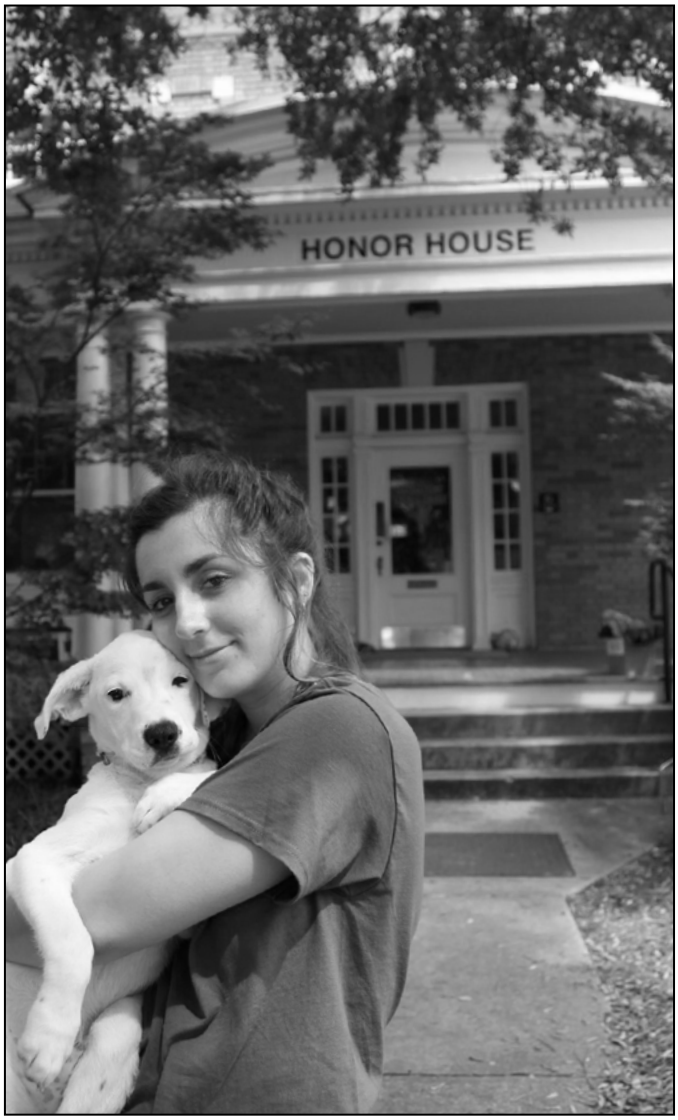
Emergency operations and communications plans ensure timely and appropriate assessment, response and information dissemination in the event an emergency incident occurs.

Policy for Reporting the Annual Disclosure of Crime Statistics

The University Police prepares the combined Annual Security and Fire Safety Report to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act. The full text of this report can be found on our website at **usm.edu/police/annual-securityfire-safety-report.php**.

This report is prepared in cooperation with the local law enforcement agencies surrounding the university's campuses, teaching and research sites, the Department of Housing and Residence Life, Dean of Students Office, University Human Resources, the Admissions Office, Student Health Services, Student Counseling Services, Department of Fire Safety, and numerous other university departments. Each entity provides updated information on their educational efforts and programs to comply with the act. Campus crime, arrest and referral statistics include those reported to UPD, designated campus security authorities and local law enforcement agencies. These statistics may also include crimes that have occurred adjacent to university-owned properties. All students, staff and faculty are notified annually via email, the university Intranet, and in certain circumstances via U.S. mail of the availability of the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report on the university website. All prospective employees and students are also advised of the availability and location of this report via University Human Resources or the Admissions Office through their application processes. Copies of the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report may also be obtained at the University Police Department located in Bond Hall West or the Dean of Students Office located in the Union on the second floor.

Students and employees on the Gulf Park campus can obtain a copy at the Gulf Coast Division of the University Police Department located at 138 Beach Park Place. Students and employees at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory can obtain a copy in the Field Studies Building, room 107.



WHO TO CALL IN AN EMERGENCY

In the event of an emergency, you should dial 911 from any of The University of Southern Mississippi's campuses or facilities. Callers should remain on the line to ensure dispatchers have the correct location. The University Police Department also has available the Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) emergency call service.

Calls from a land line will be directed either to University Police (Hattiesburg) or base security (John C. Stennis Space Center). Calls from a cell phone will be directed to the appropriate local jurisdiction. The 911 dispatchers in the Hattiesburg, Long Beach and Ocean Springs areas will redirect calls to the University Police Department as soon as they determine the emergency is on campus.

University Police Department - Hattiesburg Campus

- 911 (emergency)
- 601.266.4986 (non-emergency)
- Bond Hall, First Floor West

John C. Stennis Space Center

- 911 (emergency, directed to Hancock County Emergency Dispatch Center)
- 228.688.3636 (Security Department)

Gulf Park Campus (Long Beach)

- 911 (emergency, directed to Long Beach Police Department)
- 601.266.4986 (non-emergency)
- 138 Beach Park Place

Marine Research Center (Port of Gulfport)

- 911 (emergency, directed to Gulfport Police Department)
- 601.266.4986 (non-emergency)

Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise (Port of Gulfport)

- 228.214.9010 (non-emergency)

Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (Ocean Springs)

- 911 (emergency, directed to Ocean Springs Police Department)
- 601.266.4986 (non-emergency)

Code Blue Emergency Telephones

The UPD has strategically placed 69 code blue emergency phones throughout the Hattiesburg campus and seven on the Gulf Park campus in Long Beach. There are three at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's Cedar Point location and one at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's Halstead location in Ocean Springs. Take a few minutes to locate and identify code blue phones where you park, work, walk or play at **usm.edu/police/emergency-telephones.php** or **usm.edu/parking-transit-services/campus-maps.php**. If you have an emergency, simply press the red button. Upon being activated, these phones will directly dial into the UPD dispatch office, where a patrol unit will be dispatched for assistance.

REPORTING A CRIME

The university encourages prompt and accurate reporting of all crimes, suspected crimes and other emergencies.

All reports are responded to quickly by the appropriate emergency personnel. When reporting a crime or other emergency, the following information should be provided:

- Nature of the crime or emergency
- Name, address and phone number of caller
- Location of the incident
- Description of the scene and suspects
- Description of any vehicles involved, especially license plate numbers

When you report a crime to the University Police, an officer will meet with you, listen to what happened, and, if appropriate, make an incident report. Next, detectives will review the report and conduct a follow-up investigation. Detectives will let you know the status of your case.

Reporting to Other Campus Security Authorities

While the university prefers that community members promptly report all crimes and other emergencies directly to the University Police at 601.266.4986 or 911, we also recognize that some may prefer to report to other individuals or university offices. The Clery Act recognizes certain university officials and offices as "Campus Security Authorities (CSA)." The act defines these individuals as follows:

"Officials of an institution who have significant responsibility for student and campus activities, including, but not limited to, professional Student Affairs and housing staff members, faculty advisors to student groups, and/or the athletic director and head coaches, can receive a report. An official is defined as any person who has the authority and the duty to take action or respond to particular issues on behalf of the institution."

If you are the victim of a crime and wish for your identity to remain confidential and desire no formal investigation, you must inform the CSA to whom you are reporting the event. If confidentiality has been requested, the listed university official receiving a crime report will gather sufficient information to allow the university to implement proper crime alerts, if warranted, and so the information may be included in the statistical records maintained by the University Police Department.

Pastoral and Professional Mental Health Counselors

According to the Clery Act, pastoral and professional mental health counselors, who are appropriately credentialed and hired by Southern Miss to serve in a counseling role, are not considered Campus Security Authorities when they are acting in the counseling role. As a matter of policy, the university encourages pastoral and professional mental health counselors to notify those whom they are counseling of the voluntary, confidential reporting options available to them.

Criminal Activity Off Campus

When a Southern Miss student is involved in an off-campus offense, Southern Miss police officers may assist with the investigation in cooperation with local, state or federal law enforcement. The Hattiesburg and Long Beach Police Departments and the Sheriff's Offices in Forrest and Harrison counties routinely work and communicate with our officers on any serious incidents occurring on campus or in the immediate neighborhood and business areas surrounding campus or university-owned or controlled property.

Student Affairs maintains contact with recognized fraternity and sorority organizations through the efforts of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. There are no officially recognized or approved off-campus fraternity or sorority houses affiliated with The University of Southern Mississippi. The University of Southern Mississippi does not own or operate any off-campus housing or off-campus student organization facilities. However, many students live in the neighborhoods surrounding the main campus. While the local law enforcement has primary jurisdiction in all areas off campus, Southern Miss officers can and do respond to student-related incidents that occur in close proximity to campus. Southern Miss police officers have direct communication with the local police, fire department and ambulance services to facilitate rapid response in any emergency.

Daily Crime Log

The University Police Department maintains a daily crime log for public viewing on its website at **usm.edu/police/crime-log.php**. This is updated Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. The crime report is also available to the public in an ongoing log located on the Hattiesburg campus at Bond Hall, first floor west; the Gulf Park Campus Police Department offices; and at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory UPD Office at the Halstead site. This log is updated Monday through Friday.

Each entry includes the nature of the crime, the date and time the crime occurred and was reported, the general location, and the disposition of the complaint. All entries are open to public inspection within two business days of the initial report, except when disclosure of such information is prohibited by law or such disclosure would jeopardize the investigation.

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

Faculty, staff, students and others in the community should contact the University Police Department or the Office of the Dean of Students with any information regarding behaviors of a person on campus that might be viewed as cause for concern.

If you are notified of or involved in an emergency or crisis, stay calm, assess the situation, and be prepared to take safety precautions based on your personal situation.

Here are some tips to follow:

- Stay away from the area of the emergency or crisis.
- Find a safe place and stay there until you are notified that the emergency is over.
- If you are directly affected by the emergency, call 911 or UPD as soon as it is safe to do so. Provide as much information as you can and stay on the phone until you are told to hang up.
- Alert others if you can without endangering yourself.
- Evacuate the area by a safe route if possible.
- If the emergency is an active threat and you are unable to evacuate the area, attempt to seek an area of safe refuge.
- If you must seek refuge, secure doors and windows as quickly as possible and barricade as many items between you and the threat.
- Do not attempt to make contact with the individual(s) responsible for the threat unless no other option is available.
- Once in a secure location, do not open the door for anyone but the police.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Emergency Management

The University of Southern Mississippi Emergency Incident Response Plan addresses the university's response to emergencies by taking an all-hazard approach to both natural and human-caused hazards. The university maintains an Emergency Response Team (ERT), which may be activated by senior university officials for response to emergencies on the Southern Miss campuses. Team members and University Police have received training in the Incident Command System (ICS), which is utilized when responding to these incidents. The Southern Miss community should familiarize themselves with the university's publicly available website, **usm.edu/police/emergency_response_plans.php**, which has information on emergency situations, evacuation, safety tips, alert methods, shelter in place, and frequently asked questions. University departments are responsible for developing contingency plans and continuity of operations plans for their staff and areas of responsibility.

Emergency Notification System - Eagle Alert

Eagle Alert is a secure notification system that alerts students and employees of imminently dangerous situations via email, text and voice messages to cell phones and land lines. Eagle Alert is used in conjunction with existing university avenues of emergency communication, including outdoor warning sirens, public address systems, news alerts and the university's website. Participation by university email is mandatory. While we encourage full participation in Eagle Alert, you can change your contact information or opt out of the phone and text message portion of this service. Log in using your Campus ID and (SOAR) password at **usm.edu/police/eagle-alert**.

Timely Warning

In the event that a situation arises, either on or off campus, that in the judgment of the chief of police or his/her designee constitutes an ongoing or continuing criminal threat to persons or property, a campus-wide "timely warning" will be issued as soon as the pertinent information is available. The only exception is if doing so would compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency. The intent of a timely warning is to enable people to protect themselves and aid in the prevention of similar crimes. The warning will be distributed through the Eagle Alert system to students, faculty and staff. Anyone with information warranting a timely warning should report the circumstances to the University Police, by calling 911; by calling 601.266.4986; or in person at the University Police Department, located on the first floor of Bond Hall. Once the timely warning has been made, more detailed follow-up information will be released on the university website, **usm.edu**, or via email.

Immediate (Emergency) Notification

It is the policy of the university to immediately notify the USM community upon the confirmation of any significant emergency or dangerous situation occurring at the university involving an immediate threat to the health and safety of students and employees.

University police or first-responders can identify certain threats, whether man-made or natural, that allow for the immediate activation of the notification system to communicate the threat to the USM community or to the appropriate segment of the community, if the threat is limited to a particular building or segment of the population. However, other threats that would allow for the activation may need to be assessed, and consultation with other experts may be required. The immediate notification of an emergency event will be issued without delay and take into account the safety of the USM 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 chief of police or his/her designee will determine the nature and severity of the situation, and if appropriate, will declare an immediate threat and authorize activation of the Eagle Alert system. Once immediate notification has been made, more detailed follow-up information will be released on the university website, **usm.edu**, or via email.

Emergency and Evacuation Testing Procedures

The university conducts tests of its emergency plans and capabilities on an annual basis. The tests include, but are not limited to, drills, tabletop, functional exercises and full-scale simulations. These tests are designed to assess and evaluate the emergency plans and capabilities of the institution. All exercises are documented, and appropriate after-action reports are completed.

Evacuation drills are also coordinated by the Department of Housing and Residence Life, the safety director and the local fire department each semester for all residence halls to ensure that emergency response and evacuation procedures are tested at least twice a year. Students living in residence housing are provided the locations of emergency exits in the buildings and are provided guidance about the direction they should travel when exiting each facility for a short-term building evacuation. Residents are not told in advance of the building being evacuated, the availability of the various designated emergency gathering locations on campus, and other factors, such as the location and nature of the threat. In these cases, Housing and Residence Life staff and/or first-responders on scene will communicate information to students regarding the developing situation or any evacuation status changes.

The purpose of evacuation drills is to prepare building occupants for an organized evacuation in case of fire or other emergency. Evacuation drills are used as a way to educate and train occupants on fire safety issues specific to a building. Prior to conducting drills, students who reside in the residence halls are provided information about emergency evacuation.

Additionally, evacuation routes are posted on the doors of residence hall rooms. During drills, occupants practice procedures and familiarize themselves with the location of exits and the sound of the fire alarms. In addition to educating occupants about the evacuation procedures during the drills, the process also provides the university an opportunity to test the operation of fire alarm system components.

Evacuation drills are evaluated by Housing and Residence Life staff, the fire safety officer and the local fire department to review egress and behavioral patterns. Reports are prepared by participating departments that identify deficient equipment so that repairs can be made immediately. Recommendations for improvements are also submitted to the appropriate departments/offices for consideration.

Students who reside in residence halls receive information about evacuation and shelter–in-place procedures during their first floor meetings. Housing and Residence Life staff members are trained in these procedures, as well, and act as an ongoing resource for the students living in the residence halls.

StormReady Designation

The University of Southern Mississippi is designated as StormReady by the National Weather Service.

To be recognized as StormReady, a location must

- establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center,
- have multiple ways to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts to alert the public, and
- have a formal hazardous weather plan.

Campus Facilities and Grounds

The University of Southern Mississippi is a public institution and, with the exception of the residence halls, is open to the public during the day and evening hours when classes are in session. During the times that the university is officially closed, its buildings are usually locked, and only faculty, staff and certain students may be admitted. The University Police provide regular patrol of USM property, buildings and parking facilities.

The safety and security of our residents is a top priority of the Housing and Residence Life staff. All residence halls offer controlled card-access entry that records the date, time and person entering the building. Visitation is from 11 a.m.-midnight, Sunday-Thursday, and 11 a.m.-1 a.m., Friday-Saturday; however, residence hall staff members are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, University Police officers patrol the exterior and interior of each hall as part of their duties. The Department of Housing and Residence Life at Southern Miss strives to provide a safe environment that allows for the development of student relationships; fun, living-learning communities; and friendships that last a lifetime!

Campus lighting is a high priority, and improving lighting conditions is a continual effort throughout the year. There are lighted routes to all academic buildings and residence halls.

Shrubbery control is an ongoing project for the Physical Plant and the University Police Department. Hedges, trees and shrubbery are trimmed regularly to enhance visibility and lighting on campus.

UPD officers conduct a security survey of our campuses at the beginning of each semester. Recommendations from this survey are forwarded to the Southern Miss Physical Plant upon completion. You may report any lighting problems by accessing the Southern Miss University Police Department website at **usm.edu/police**.

CRIME PREVENTION, HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION FOR THE COMMUNITY

The University Police Department, Student Health Services, Department of Housing and Residence Life, Dean of Students Office, Department of Fire Safety and Student Counseling Services encourage all students, faculty and staff to become involved in crime prevention. These departments sponsor and participate in educational programs, activities and crime prevention events on alcohol and drug awareness, personal and property safety, sexual assault prevention, fire safety, and other requested topics throughout the campuses and residence halls throughout the academic year. They address our students and staff to explain the university's security, public safety and fire safety measures and procedures.

C.R.A.S.E. (Civilian Response to an Active Shooter Event)

C.R.A.S.E. or Civilian Response to an Active Shooter Event is a class taught by a certified instructor that teaches civilians what they should and should not do if they are involved in an active shooter event. It teaches Avoid, Deny, Defend as methods of survival.

R.A.D. (Rape, Aggression and Defense) for Women

R.A.D. is an instructor-led course that teaches women how to defend themselves from an attacker. It teaches different striking techniques they can use to protect themselves from someone attempting to harm them.

S.A.F.E. (Self-Defense, Awareness and Familiarization Exchange)

You are your best defense. This educational awareness, crime-victim prevention program encompasses strategies, techniques, options and prevention. It will provide teenage and adult women with information that may reduce their risk of exposure to violence and introduces them to the physical aspects of self-defense.

Operation Identification

Theft of unsecured property is one of the biggest crimes seen on college campuses. Operation ID is a theft prevention program offered free of charge by the UPD. This program involves keeping records of your personal property's serial numbers and a detailed description of the items, as well as engraving your items with a unique, definable characteristic. Taking action in this way can help aid the recovery and return of lost or stolen items.

Personal Safety

This program is meant to discuss the various aspects of personal safety and awareness both on and off campus. Participants will be provided with educational materials on personal safety principles.

Drugs, Alcohol and the Law

This program is meant to discuss various state laws that apply to the campus community. Officers will also discuss the dangers of certain types of drugs. Visual aids will be used during this program to educate students on what certain drugs look like.

Crime Prevention and the Workplace

This program emphasizes key components that are vital to workplace safety. Officers will conduct security surveys of the departments and suggest implementation that might be used to deter crime.

Transit Services/Safety Escorts

The University of Southern Mississippi has partnered with the City of Hattiesburg's Hub City Transit to provide convenient and safe transportation on the University's Hattiesburg campus, as well as connect to the city's existing network of transit routes.

Hub City Transit's Gold Route includes 15 stops on campus, two of which offer opportunities to transfer to the city's existing transit system. Location of the stops can be found at **usm.edu/gold-route**. Gold Route buses are driven by City of Hattiesburg employees and are Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant, as well as include the ability to secure and carry up to two bicycles.

The University's students, faculty and staff are able to utilize the system free of charge with valid USM identification.

Buses operate Mondays through Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., while the University Police Department (UPD) remains on call to transport students in safety or emergency situations.

Lock It Up

This program is designed to increase security awareness by reducing vulnerability. Officers use 3x5-inch cards and/or door hangers that alert would-be victims to their potential security and/or theft risk. Unlocked doors, wallets or purses, book bags, bikes or anything left exposed to a potential thief receive a "Lock It Up" card.

CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS

Safety is a shared responsibility. As members of the campus community, everyone should help to make the campus a safer place. Using some simple safety precautions will greatly reduce your chance of becoming a victim of crime.

Personal Safety

- Walk or jog with a friend, not alone.
- Utilize well-lit areas and avoid isolated areas.
- Plan your jogging or walking route.
- Know your limits on dates and communicate them to your partner.
- Know your limits with alcohol and do not accept drinks from others.
- Tell a friend where you are going and when you will return.
- Carry a whistle or noise maker. Do not be afraid to scream if you need help.
- Call UPD Dispatch (601.266.4986), raise the hood, and stay in your car if it breaks down. If people stop to assist, ask them to call the police.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Know the locations of code blue emergency phones.

Protection from Date Rape Drugs

- Never leave your drink unattended. Because they are colorless and odorless, date rape drugs can be slipped into any type of beverage.
- Do not accept drinks from anyone but a bartender or server.
- Try to attend bars or parties with a group of friends, arranging beforehand to watch each other's drinks.
- If you think your drink has been tampered with, seek medical attention immediately and request the hospital conduct toxicology testing.

Residential Safety

- Lock your dorm room or apartment whenever you leave and when you are sleeping.
- Do not prop card-reader doors.
- Call 911 if you see someone in the building who does not belong.
- Do not allow strangers to follow you into the building.

Workplace Safety

- Keep personal items (purses, book bags) locked up.
- Secure the work area when no one is in it.
- Report suspicious people to the police.
- Watch our "Active Shooter" video at **usm.edu/police**.

Protecting Your Property

- Record the serial numbers of your valuables.
- Engrave valuables with your license number.
- Register your bike with Parking and Transit Services.
- Keep your vehicle locked when it is parked and when you drive.
- Make sure all valuables inside the vehicle are either in the trunk or well-hidden.
- Do not leave textbooks, purses or book bags unattended.
- Do not leave laptop computers unattended.

STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES

The University of Southern Mississippi offers multiple mental health solutions. They include Student Counseling Services (SCS), the Center for Behavioral Health (CBH), the Center for Family Therapy (CFT) and Moffitt Health Center (MHC). These centers provide a host of mental health and psychiatric services to our community, including individual counseling, group counseling, assessments, prescription services and referrals.

SCS provides free and confidential counseling for any enrolled student and is the university's provider for student mental healthcare. SCS is focused on helping students be successful in their academic pursuits and develop useful coping skills. Students may seek SCS services on an individual basis or by referral from other campus entities, such as the Office of the Dean of Students. SCS's Hattiesburg campus hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students with immediate crisis needs can be seen on a walk-in basis during SCS business hours. For more information, call 601.266.4829. Counseling services are also available via telehealth for Gulf Park campus students. For more information about Gulf Park wellness support, contact SCS at 601.266.4829. After-hours support is available for mental health crises, including thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, or any distressing event by calling 601.266.4829 or 988.

The Center for Behavioral Health and Center for Family Therapy provide counseling, assessment and referrals for students, USM employees and community members. Their service providers are graduate-level students who are under the supervision of faculty professors. Also, Moffitt Health Care is the campus' physical healthcare provider and serves students, faculty and staff, as well. Please contact these providers to inquire about service options and fees.

Anyone who prefers to seek assistance from programs off campus may be able to find helpful information about local providers at **usm.edu/help**.

For further information about any of these resources, please contact Student Counseling Services, Bond Hall East, 103 Ray Guy Way at 601.266.4829.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

DRUG AND ALCOHOL STATEMENT

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, Public Law 101-226, requires that, as a condition of receiving funds or any other form of financial assistance under any federal program, an institution of higher education must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees. This document was prepared and distributed in compliance with Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 86.

WEAPONS POLICY STATEMENT

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 and Gulf Park campuses, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory and other 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 include those individuals authorized by applicable law and by the institutional executive officer or his/her designee. Authorized persons also include those who have in their possession 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. The full Weapons Policy can be accessed at **usm.policystat.com/policy/12432715/latest**. For more information, contact the University Police Department at 601.266.4986 or the Dean of Students Office at 601.266.6028.

MISSING PERSONS PROCEDURE

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. UPD will generate a missing person report and initiate an investigation.

After investigating the missing person report, UPD 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, UPD will notify the student's parents or legal guardian immediately after they have determined the student is missing. UPD 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. The confidential contact should be someone who will likely know your location and who you want to be contacted if you are missing. Students who wish to identify a confidential contact can do so by completing the Missing Person Contact Information on the Resident Student Data Card. This confidential contact information will be accessible only to authorized campus officials and law enforcement officers, and it will not be disclosed outside of a missing person investigation.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, use or sale of alcohol, illegal drugs or controlled substances by university employees or students in the workplace, in classrooms, on university premises, at official university functions, on university business, in university vehicles or related to any university-sponsored activity is prohibited. In addition, employees and students shall not use alcohol or illegal substances or abuse legal substances in a manner that impairs work performance, scholarly activities or student life. Conduct involving prescription drugs, which have not been prescribed by a physician to the person using or in possession of them, will be treated as a violation of this policy.

The University reserves the right to inspect the workplace for alcohol, controlled substances, illegal drugs or paraphernalia relating to alcohol, controlled substances or illegal drugs and to question any employee when it reasonably suspects that this policy or any procedure under this policy has been violated.

All traditional freshmen, sophomores and other students under the age of 21 are prohibited from the possession and consumption of alcohol. All students are prohibited from the use and possession of illegal drugs. In addition, student organizations sponsoring events where alcohol is present are subject to the additional requirements and guidelines of the university's social events policy and registration form. For more information on the drug and alcohol policy, go to **usm.edu/police/policies_legislation.php.**

As part of the UNV 100 course, all freshmen and transfer students will be required to complete an alcohol and drug training module.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Southern Mississippi prohibits sexual harassment in any form, including sexual and gender-based harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. The university's Sexual Harassment Policy sets forth the resources available to students and employees and describes prohibited conduct. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and is inconsistent with the standards and ideals of our community. The university is committed to ensure a safe and non-discriminatory academic, work and living environment and to meet state and federal requirements under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and relevant sections of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.

The University of Southern Mississippi is committed to fostering and maintaining a community environment that recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of every person, regardless of sex, race, religion, national origin, age, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation,

disability or veteran status. All members of the university community share a responsibility to create and maintain an academic and work environment which promotes the respect, safety and dignity of each person. This includes sex/gender discrimination, quid pro quo sexual harassment, sexual harassment that is severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. Criminal, civil and university disciplinary processes may be available to any university member with a complaint and enforced against a person found to have engaged in the prohibited behavior. The university is committed to fair and prompt procedures to investigate reports of sexual harassment. Special emphasis is placed on the rights, needs and privacy of the person filing a complaint, as well as the due process rights of the accused. The university remains committed in preventing and addressing all forms of sexual harassment through education, training, clear policies and procedures, and disciplinary consequences for university violations.

The full Sexual Harassment Policy (Policy Stat ID 8460572) and the full procedures for the Resolution of Allegations of Sexual Harassment can be accessed at **usm.edu/title-ix**.

The Title IX coordinator is responsible for Title IX implementation and compliance with this policy with respect to sexual discrimination and sexual harassment. The Title IX coordinator is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the university's response to, and investigation of, all complaints involving possible sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, quid pro quo, sexual harassment that is severe, pervasive and objectively offensive, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. For more information or to report sex or gender discrimination and sexual harassment, contact the Title IX Office using the information listed below:

TITLE IX COORDINATOR
Dr. Cristin Lee Reynolds
118 College Drive #5079, Hattiesburg, MS 39406
Cook Library 129, Hattiesburg Campus
Telephone: 601.266.6804 or 601.266.4466
Email: Cristin.Reynolds@usm.edu | titleix@usm.edu
Website: **usm.edu/title-ix**

A Title IX representative is also available on the Gulf Park campus to consult with students and employees at our coastal locations. Contact the office using the information listed below:

Mondays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Hardy Hall 332
730 East Beach Boulevard
Long Beach, MS 39560
Phone: 601.266.6804

Jurisdiction

This policy applies to the educational programs and activities of the university, to conduct that takes place on the campus or on property owned or controlled by the university, at university-sponsored events, or in buildings owned or controlled by the university's recognized student organizations. The respondent must be a member of the university community in order for its policies to apply.

This policy may also be applicable to the effects of off-campus misconduct that effectively deprives someone of access to the university's educational program.

If the respondent is unknown or is not a member of the university community, the Title IX coordinator will assist the complainant in identifying appropriate campus and local resources and support options and/or, when criminal conduct is alleged, in contacting local or campus law enforcement if the individual would like to file a police report.

Further, even when the respondent is not a member of the university community, supportive measures, remedies and resources may be accessible to the complainant by contacting the Title IX coordinator.

In addition, the university may take other actions as appropriate to protect the complainant against third parties, such as barring individuals from university property and/or events.

All vendors serving the university through third-party contracts are subject to the policies and procedures of their employers.

When the respondent is enrolled in or employed by another institution, the Title IX coordinator can assist the complainant in liaising with the appropriate individual at that institution, as it may be possible to allege violations through that institution's policies.

Similarly, the Title IX coordinator may be able to assist and support a student or employee complainant who experiences sexual harassment or retaliation in an externship, study-abroad program, or other environment external to the university where sexual harassment policies and procedures of the facilitating or host organization may give recourse to the complainant.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a broad, non-legal, umbrella term used to refer to a wide range of non-consensual and unwelcomed behaviors of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment varies in its nature and severity. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment, sex/gender discrimination, sexual assault, quid pro quo, sexual harassment that is severe, pervasive and objectively offensive, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. Sexual harassment can occur between strangers, acquaintances or persons who know each other well, including between people who are or have been involved in an intimate/sexual relationship. It can be committed by anyone, regardless of sex or gender, and can occur between people of the same or different sex or gender. This policy prohibits all forms of sexual harassment. What follows is a description and examples of the wide range of behaviors that fall under the term "sexual harassment."

Sexual harassment offenses that are prohibited include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Gender-based Harassment
- Quid Pro Quo Sexual Harassment
- Sexual Harassment
- Sexual Assault
- Dating Violence
- Domestic Violence
- Stalking

Definition of Sexual Harassment

The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) regard sexual harassment as an unlawful discriminatory practice.

The university has adopted the following definition of sexual harassment in order to address the unique environment of an academic community.

Acts of sexual harassment may be committed by any person upon any other person, regardless of the sex, sexual orientation and/or gender identity of those involved.

Sexual harassment, as an umbrella category, includes the actual or attempted offenses of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, and is defined as conduct on the basis of sex or that is sexual that satisfies one or more of the following:

Quid Pro Quo Sexual Harassment – An employee of the university conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit or service of the recipient on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct

Sexual Harassment – Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so objectively offensive, pervasive and severe that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's educational program or activity

Sexual Assault – Sex Offenses, Forcible-Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the complainant, including instances where the complainant is incapable of giving consent

> **Forcible Rape** – 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 complainant
>
> **Forcible Sodomy** – Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will (non-consensually), or not forcibly or against that person's will in instances where the complainant is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
>
> **Sexual Assault with an Object** – To use an object or instrument to penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, forcibly and/or against that persons will (non-consensually), or not forcibly or against the person's will in instances where the complainant is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
>
> **Forcible Fondling** – The touching of the private body parts of another person (buttocks, groin, breasts) for the purpose of sexual gratification, forcibly and/or against that person's will (non-consensually) or not forcibly or against the person's will in instances where the complainant is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
>
> **Sex Offenses, Non-forcible** – Non-forcible sexual intercourse
>
> **Incest** – Non-forcible, sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by Mississippi law
>
> **Statutory Rape** – Non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent of Mississippi

Dating Violence – Violence, on the basis of sex, committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the complainant. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the complainant'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. For the purposes of this definition,

- Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse; and
- Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence

A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed

- by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the complainant;
- by a person with whom the complainant shares a child in common;
- by a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the complainant as a spouse or intimate partner;
- by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the complainant under the domestic or family violence laws of Mississippi;
- by any other person against an adult or youth, who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of Mississippi

To categorize an incident as domestic violence, the relationship between the respondent and the complainant must be more than just two people living together as roommates. The people cohabitating must be current or former spouses or have an intimate relationship.

Gender-Based Harassment

Gender-based harassment includes harassment based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. This may include acts of aggression, intimidation or hostility, whether verbal or non-verbal, graphic, physical or otherwise, even if the acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature. Such conduct must be sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive, and objectively offensive that it interferes with or limits a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the university's academic or work programs. For example, gender-based harassment can occur if students are harassed either for exhibiting what is perceived as a stereotypical characteristic for their sex or for failing to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. In order to constitute harassment, the conduct must be such that it has the effect of unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, demeaning, or offensive academic or living environment.

Retaliation

Protected activity under this policy includes reporting an incident that may implicate this policy, participating in the grievance process, supporting a complainant or respondent, assisting in providing information relevant to an investigation, and/or acting in good faith to oppose conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy.

Acts of alleged retaliation should be reported immediately to the Title IX coordinator and will be promptly investigated. The university will take all appropriate and available steps to protect individuals who fear that they may be subjected to retaliation.

The university and any member of the university community are prohibited from taking materially adverse action by intimidating, threatening, coercing, harassing or discriminating against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege

secured by law or policy, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding or hearing under this policy and procedure.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation.

Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this policy and procedure does not constitute retaliation, provided that a determination regarding responsibility alone is not sufficient to conclude that any party has made a materially false statement in bad faith.

Stalking

Stalking is a course of conduct involving more than one instance of unwanted attention, harassment, unwanted physical or verbal contact, use of threatening words and/or conduct, or any other course of conduct directed at an individual that could cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety, including physical, emotional or psychological harm or distress. Stalking violates Title IX when it is undertaken, at least in part, based on sex or gender.

Some examples of stalking include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Physically following or pursuing a person against their wishes
- Following the person to work, class, home or other places where they frequently visit
- Vandalizing a person's property
- Photographing a person without their consent and other threatening, intimidating or intrusive behavior
- Sending repeated, unwanted messages electronically (cyberstalking), by mail, a mutual friend or by other means, even after the person it is directed to requests that the unwanted attention and communication stop

Mississippi State statute, 97-3-107 – Stalking is consistent with the VAWA definition.

Mississippi Criminal Law Definitions of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking

Domestic Violence – Any of the following acts committed against a current or former spouse, a person living as a spouse or who formerly lived as a spouse or a child of persons living as spouses or who formerly lived as spouses, a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild or someone similarly situated to the defendant, a person with whom the defendant has a biological or legally adopted child in common, or a person in a current or former dating relationship:

1. Attempts to cause serious bodily injury to another or causes such an injury purposely, knowingly or recklessly under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life; or
2. Attempts to cause or purposely or knowingly causes bodily injury to another with a deadly weapon or other means likely to produce death or serious bodily harm; or
3. Strangles or attempts to strangle another; or
4. Attempts to cause or purposely, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to another; or
5. Negligently causes bodily injury to another with a deadly weapon or other means likely to produce death or serious bodily harm; or
6. Attempts by physical menace to put another in fear of imminent serious bodily harm; or
7. Violation of a domestic violence protection order; or
8. Stalking; or
9. Cyberstalking; or
10. Threats of such acts.

Dating Violence – The term dating violence is not defined as such under Mississippi law. However, domestic violence is defined by reference to the term "dating relationship." Accordingly, it is proper to define dating violence as follows:

Dating violence means any of the following acts committed against a person in a current or former dating relationship as mentioned above.

Dating relationship means a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature between two individuals; it does not include a casual relationship or ordinary fraternization between two individuals in a business or social context. Whether a relationship is a dating relationship shall be determined by examining the following factors:

1. The length of the relationship
2. The type of relationship
3. The frequency of interaction between the two individuals involved in the relationship

Sexual Assault – Mississippi state criminal law does not define the term sexual assault. Rather, the criminal law sets forth such crimes as rape or sexual battery. The definition of these terms is set forth below.

Rape

Every person who has forcible sexual intercourse with any person or who has sexual intercourse with any person without that person's consent by administering to such person any substance or liquid, which shall produce such stupor or such imbecility of mind or weakness of body as to prevent effectual resistance, is guilty of rape.

For this crime, sexual intercourse means

1. A joining of the sexual organs of a male and female human being in which the penis of the male is inserted into the vagina of the female; or
2. The penetration of the sexual organs of a male or female human being in which the penis or an object is inserted into the genitals, anus or perineum of a male or female.

Statutory Rape

The crime of statutory rape is committed when

1. Any person 17 years of age or older has sexual intercourse with a child who
   - Is at least 14 but under 16 years of age;
   - Is 36 or more months younger than the person and
   - Is not the person's spouse; or
2. A person of any age has sexual intercourse with a child who
   - Is under the age of 14 years;
   - Is 24 or more months younger than the person and
   - Is not the person's spouse.

Neither the victim's consent nor the victim's lack of chastity is a defense to a charge of statutory rape. For this crime, sexual intercourse has the same meaning under rape above.

Sexual Battery

A person is guilty of sexual battery if he or she engages in sexual penetration with

1. Another person without his or her consent;
2. A mentally defective, mentally incapacitated or physically helpless person;
3. A child at least 14 but under 16 years of age, if the person is 36 or more months older than the child; or
4. A child under the age of 14 years of age, if the person is 24 or more months older than the child.

For purposes of sexual battery, sexual penetration includes cunnilingus, fellatio, buggery or pederasty, any penetration of the genital or anal openings of another person's body by any part of a person's body and insertion of any object into the genital or anal openings of another person's body.

A **mentally defective person** is one who suffers from a mental disease, defect or condition which renders that person temporarily or permanently incapable of knowing the nature and quality of his or her conduct.

A **mentally incapacitated person** is one rendered incapable of knowing or controlling his or her conduct, or incapable of resisting an act due to the influence of any drug, narcotic, anesthetic or other substance administered to that person without his or her consent.

A **physically helpless person** is one who is unconscious or one who for any other reason is physically incapable of communicating an unwillingness to engage in an act. A spouse of the victim, not living separate and apart from the victim, cannot be found guilty of this crime unless the sexual penetration is forcible.

Stalking – Any person who purposefully engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person, or who makes a credible threat, and who knows or should know that the conduct would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her own safety, to fear for the safety of another person, or to fear damage or destruction of his or her property, is guilty of the crime of stalking.

Course of conduct means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of two or more acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose and that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her own safety, to fear for the safety of another person, or to fear damage or destruction of his or her property. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, the following or any combination thereof, whether done directly or indirectly:

1. Following or confronting the other person in a public place or on private property against the other person's will
2. Contacting the other person by telephone or mail or by electronic mail or communication
3. Threatening or causing harm to the other person or a third party

Credible threat means a verbal or written threat to cause harm to a specific person or to cause damage to property that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the safety of that person or damage to the property.

Online Sexual Harassment

The policies of the university are written and interpreted broadly to include online manifestations of any of the behaviors prohibited below, when those behaviors occur in or have an effect on the university's educational programs and activities or use the university networks, technology or equipment.

Although the university may not control websites, social media and other venues in which harassing communications are made, when such communications are reported to the university, it will engage in a variety of means to address and mitigate the effects.

Members of the community are encouraged to be good digital citizens and to refrain from online misconduct, such as feeding anonymous gossip sites, sharing inappropriate content via social media, unwelcome sexual or sex-based messaging, distributing or threatening to distribute revenge pornography, breaches of privacy, or otherwise using the ease of transmission and/or anonymity of the Internet or other technology to harm another member of the university community.

Any online posting or other electronic communication by students, including cyber-bullying, cyber-stalking, cyber-harassment, etc., occurring completely outside of the university's control (e.g., not on the university networks, websites, or between university email accounts) will only be subject to this policy when such online conduct can be shown to cause a substantial in-program disruption or infringement on the rights of others.

Otherwise, such communications are considered speech protected by the First Amendment. Supportive measures for complainants will be provided, but protected speech cannot legally be subjected to discipline.

Off-campus harassing speech by employees, whether online or in person, may be regulated by the university only when such speech is made in an employee's official or work-related capacity.

Consent is defined as a clear, informed and voluntary agreement/exchange between participants to engage in sexual activity. Consent can be communicated by words or actions as long as those words or actions are unambiguous and create mutually understandable permission regarding the scope of sexual contact or activity. Although consent can be communicated with actions, verbal communication is the most reliable form of asking for and gauging consent. Therefore, persons are encouraged to seek consent via verbal communication.

How to Be an Active Bystander

Bystanders play a critical role in the prevention of sexual and relationship violence. Bystanders are individuals who observe violence or witness the conditions that perpetuate violence. They are not directly involved but have the choice to intervene, speak up or do something about it.

The university wants to promote a culture of community accountability where bystanders are actively engaged in the prevention of violence without causing further harm.

A person may not always know what to do even if they want to help. If you or someone else is in immediate danger, dial 911. The immediate danger could be when a person is yelling at or being physically abusive toward another and it is not safe to interrupt. Further information regarding bystander intervention is listed below:

1. Watch out for your friends and fellow students/employees. If you see someone who looks like they could be in trouble or need help, ask if they are ok.
2. Confront people who seclude, hit on, make out with, or attempt to have sex with a person who is incapacitated.

3. Speak up when someone discusses plans to take sexual advantage of another person.
4. Believe someone who discloses sexual assault, abusive behavior, or experience with stalking.
5. Refer people to on-campus or off-campus resources listed in this document for support in health, counseling or legal assistance.

Risk Reduction

With no intent to victim blame and recognizing that only abusers are responsible for their abuse, the following are some strategies to reduce one's risk of sexual assault or harassment (information obtained from the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, **rainn.org**)

1. **Be aware** of your surroundings. Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you to find a way to get out of a bad situation.
2. Try to **avoid isolated areas**. It is more difficult to get help if no one is around.
3. **Walk with purpose**. Even if you don't know where you are going, act like you do.
4. **Trust your instincts**. If a situation or location feels unsafe or uncomfortable, it probably isn't the best place to be.
5. **Try not to load yourself down** with packages or bags, as this can make you appear more vulnerable.
6. **Make sure your cell phone is with you** and charged and that you have cab money.
7. **Don't allow yourself to be isolated** with someone you don't trust or someone you don't know.
8. **Avoid putting music headphones in both ears** so that you can be more aware of your surroundings, especially if you are walking alone.
9. **When you go to a social gathering, go with a group of friends.** Arrive together, check in with each other throughout the evening, and leave together. Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you to find a way out of a bad situation.
10. **Trust your instincts.** If you feel unsafe in any situation, go with your gut. If you see something suspicious, contact law enforcement immediately (local authorities can be reached by calling 911 in most areas of the U.S.).
11. **Don't leave your drink unattended** while talking, dancing, using the restroom, or making a phone call. If you've left your drink alone, just get a new one.
12. **Don't accept drinks from people you don't know or trust.** If you choose to accept a drink, go with the person to the bar to order it, watch it being poured, and carry it yourself. At parties, don't drink from the punch bowls or other large, common open containers.
13. **Watch out for your friends and vice versa.** If a friend seems out of it, is way too intoxicated for the amount of alcohol he or she had, or is acting out of character, get him or her to a safe place immediately.
14. **If you suspect you or a friend has been drugged, contact law enforcement immediately (local authorities can be reached by calling 911 in most areas of the U.S.).** Be explicit with doctors so they can give you the correct tests (you will need a urine test and possibly others).
15. If you need to get out of an uncomfortable or scary situation, here are some things that you can try:
    - **Remember that being in this situation is not your fault.** You did not do anything wrong; it is the person who is making you uncomfortable that is to blame.
    - **Be true to yourself.** Don't feel obligated to do anything you don't want to do. "I don't want to" is always a good enough reason. Do what feels right to you and what you are comfortable with.
    - **Have a code word with your friends or family** so that if you don't feel comfortable, you can call them and communicate your discomfort without the person you are with knowing. Your friends or family can then come to get you or make up an excuse for you to leave.
    - **Lie.** If you don't want to hurt the person's feelings, it is better to lie and make up a reason to leave than to stay and be uncomfortable, scared or worse. Some excuses you could use are needing to take care of a friend or family member, not feeling well, having somewhere else that you need to be, etc.
16. **Try to think of an escape route.** How would you try to get out of the room? Where are the doors and windows? Are there people around who might be able to help you? Is there an emergency phone nearby?
17. **If you and/or the other person has been drinking**, you can say that you would rather wait until you both have your full judgment before doing anything you may regret later.

Programs to Prevent Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking

The university engages in comprehensive educational programming to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Educational programming consists of primary prevention and awareness programs for all incoming students and new employees and ongoing awareness and prevention campaigns for the campus community that include the following:

- primary prevention information addressing sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking
- bystander intervention education
- sexual harassment information, including workplace harassment
- definition of consent for The University of Southern Mississippi
- state law pertaining to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking
- information on risk reduction
- information on resources available on campus to address these issues
- information on campus expectations and values

Ongoing Education and Awareness Programs

Throughout the year, faculty, staff and students receive professional training and educational programming on a variety of issues related to sexual assault, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment and stalking, which Southern Miss staff and student organizations provide. The following are just some of the programs that are provided: bystander intervention training, sexual assault response training, workshops for athletic teams, workshops for fraternity along with sorority organizations, and ally training.

Student Health Services offers training and primary prevention workshops to university students on healthy sexuality and healthy relationships.

The Office of General Counsel and the Title IX coordinator provide ongoing training and education to Southern Miss faculty, staff and students on issues related to sexual harassment and stalking, as well as on staff reporting responsibilities.

Student Counseling Services, Housing and Residence Life and the University Police Department offer the campus community programs on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

To raise awareness and education about domestic and sexual violence to students, faculty, staff and community members, Student Counseling Services, along with Alpha Chi Omega and the Shafer Center for Crisis Intervention, sponsor "A Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" and "Take Back the Night" events.

The university's Student Government Association, in collaboration with the Title IX Office and the Shafer Center for Crisis Intervention, sponsors programming to raise awareness about sexual assault and domestic violence in conjunction with the national campaign, "It's on Us."

Procedures Victims Should Follow if a Crime of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking Occurs

The following information provides steps to follow should a sexual assault occur:

1. Get to a safe place as soon as possible!
2. Try to preserve all physical evidence. The victim should not bathe, shower, brush teeth, douche, use the toilet, or change clothing until s(he) has a medical exam. Contact a close friend or relative, if available, who can provide support and accompany the victim to the medical exam and/or police department.
3. Get medical attention as soon as possible. An exam may reveal the presence of physical injury that the victim is unaware of. Following a sexual assault, antibiotics are typically given at the time of the exam to help prevent the victim from acquiring certain sexually transmitted diseases. Emergency contraception is provided to all female victims at risk of pregnancy from the assault (if the victim presents within 120 hours). If the victim reports memory loss, loss of consciousness or other circumstances suspicious for a drug-facilitated assault, a urine test may be done if the victim presents within 96 hours. Some of the commonly used "date rape" drugs, however, are only detectable in the urine for six to eight hours after ingestion.
4. Contact the police. Sexual assault is a crime; it is vital to report it. It is important to remember that reporting a crime is not the same as prosecuting the crime. The decision to prosecute may be made at another time. Final decision to prosecute is determined by the district attorney.
5. Consider talking to a counselor. Seeing a counselor may be important in helping the victim understand her/his feelings and begin the process of recovery.

Involvement of Law Enforcement and Campus Authorities

Although the university strongly encourages all members of its community to report violations of this policy to law enforcement, it is the victim's choice whether or not to make such a report. Furthermore, victims have the right to decline to notify law enforcement. However, the UPD, Office of General Counsel or Title IX coordinator will assist any victim with notifying law enforcement if the victim so desires.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Emergency	911
University Police Department	601.266.4986
Forrest County Sheriff's Department – H	601.544.7800
Harrison County Sheriff's Department – GP	228.896.3000
Jackson County Sheriff's Department – GCRL	228.769.3063
Lamar County Sheriff's Department – H	601.794.1005
Hattiesburg Police Department – H	601.544.7900
Long Beach Police Department – GP	228.865.1981
Ocean Springs Police Department – GCRL	228.875.2211
Mississippi Department of Public Safety	601.987.1212

H = Hattiesburg; GP = Gulf Park; GCRL = Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Halstead and Cedar Point Sites

Reporting Incidents of Sexual Harassment/Amnesty

Complaints may be made in writing by completing the Sexual Harassment and Retaliation Online Complaint Form. This form is available on the university's sexual harassment website (**usm.edu/title-ix**). Reports can also be made directly to the Title IX coordinator. Please refer to the university's sexual harassment website listed above for the office location.

An alleged victim does not have to decide whether or not to request any specific action by the university at the time the report is made, nor is there a time limit on reporting. The university is committed to supporting the rights of a person reporting an allegation of sexual harassment to make an informed choice among options and services available.

While an investigation may begin on the basis of an oral complaint or report, the alleged victim is strongly encouraged to file a written complaint. Alleged victims are urged to submit a written and signed complaint setting out the details of the conduct which is the subject of the complaint, including the alleged victim's name and contact information; the name of the person directly responsible for the alleged violation; a detailed description of the conduct or event that is the basis of the alleged violation; the date(s) and location(s) of the occurrence(s); the names of any witness(es) to the occurrence(s); the resolution sought; and any documents or information that are relevant to the complaint.

Persons who have been victims of either sexual assault or sexual violence are encouraged to immediately contact the University Police Department (UPD) in Hattiesburg at 601.266.4986 or by dialing 911 and seeking immediate medical attention, even if they do not wish to pursue criminal charges or otherwise pursue a complaint against their attacker. Individuals located at the Stennis Space Center should contact Protective Services at 228.688.3437.

Anonymous Reporting – Although the university encourages an alleged victim to talk with someone directly, the university does provide an anonymous phone reporting option within the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico and Canada by dialing toll free 877.310.0424 and an anonymous online reporting option located here: **usm.edu/compliance-ethics**. Anonymous reports can also

be filed through the university's CARES (Campus Action Referral and Evaluation System) program by visiting the Division of Student Affairs website: **usm.edu/student-affairs**. These reports will trigger an inquiry or investigation. However, the university's ability to respond effectively may be limited by the level of information provided and/or the anonymity of the complaint. All anonymous reports will be referred to the Title IX coordinator and/or UPD.

Exception for Public Disclosures and Certain Research-Based Disclosures – Disclosures in the following categories shall not be considered notice of sexual harassment to the university for purposes of triggering its obligation to investigate any particular incident(s):

> **Public Disclosures** – Disclosures of incidents of alleged sexual harassment during or in connection with public awareness events such as "Take Back the Night," candlelight vigils, protests, "survivor speak outs" or other forums. Although such disclosures do not constitute notice of sexual harassment to the university for purposes of triggering its obligation to investigate any particular incident(s), such disclosures may inform the need for campus-wide education and prevention efforts.
>
> **Certain Research-Based Disclosures** – Disclosures of incidents of alleged sexual harassment made by a university community member during such member's participation as a participant in an Institutional Review Board-approved human subjects research protocol. Institutional Review Boards may, in appropriate cases, require researchers to provide information to all participants of a study about Title IX rights and about available university and community resources and support services.

Amnesty for Complainants and Witnesses

The university community encourages the reporting of misconduct and crimes by complainants and witnesses. Sometimes, complainants or witnesses are hesitant to report to university officials or participate in grievance processes because they fear that they themselves may be in violation of certain policies, such as underage drinking or use of illicit drugs at the time of the incident. Respondents may hesitate to be forthcoming during the process for the same reasons.

It is in the best interests of the university community that complainants choose to report misconduct to university officials, that witnesses come forward to share what they know, and that all parties be forthcoming during the process.

To encourage reporting and participation in the process, the university maintains a policy of offering parties and witnesses amnesty from minor policy violations – such as underage consumption of alcohol or the use of illicit drugs – related to the incident.

Amnesty does not apply to more serious allegations, such as physical abuse of another or illicit drug distribution. The decision not to offer amnesty is based on neither sex nor gender, but on the fact that collateral misconduct is typically addressed for all students within a progressive discipline system, and the rationale for amnesty – the incentive to report serious misconduct – is rarely applicable to a respondent with respect to a complainant.

Students: Sometimes, students are hesitant to assist others for fear that they may get in trouble themselves (for example, an underage student who has been drinking or using marijuana might hesitate to help take an individual who has experienced sexual assault to the University Police Department).

The University maintains a policy of amnesty for students who offer help to others in need. [Although policy violations cannot be overlooked, the university may provide purely educational options with no official disciplinary finding, rather than punitive sanctions, to those who offer their assistance to others in need.]

Employees: Sometimes, employees are hesitant to report sexual harassment or retaliation they have experienced for fear that they may get in trouble themselves. For example, an employee who has violated the consensual relationship policy and is then assaulted in the course of that relationship might hesitate to report the incident to the university officials.

The university may, at its discretion, offer employee complainants amnesty from such policy violations related to the incident. Amnesty may also be granted to respondents and witnesses on a case-by-case basis.

Procedures the University Will Follow When a Crime of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking Is Reported

The university has procedures in place that serve to be sensitive to victims who report sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, including informing individuals about their right to file criminal charges, as well as the availability of counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance and other services on and/or off campus, as well as additional remedies to prevent contact between a complainant and an accused party, such as housing, academic, transportation and working accommodations, if reasonably available. The university will make such accommodations, if the victim requests them and if they are reasonably available, regardless of whether the victim chooses to report the crime to the University Police or local law enforcement. Students and employees should contact the Dean of Students Office for accommodations.

Assistance for Victims: Rights and Options

Regardless of whether or not a victim elects to pursue a criminal complaint or whether or not the offense is alleged to have occurred on or off campus, the university will assist victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking and will provide each victim with a written explanation of their rights and options. Such written information will include the following:

- the procedures victims should follow if a crime of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking has occurred
- information about how the institution will protect the confidentiality of victims and other necessary parties
- a statement that the institution will provide written notification to students and employees about victim services within the institution and in the community
- a statement regarding the institution's provisions about options for, available assistance in, and how to request accommodations and protective measures
- an explanation of the procedures for institutional disciplinary action

Rights of Victims and the Institution's Responsibilities for Orders of Protection, "No Contact" Orders, Restraining Orders or Similar Lawful Orders Issued by a Criminal, Civil or Tribal Court or by the Institution

The University of Southern Mississippi complies with Mississippi state law in recognizing orders of protection issued by a court of law to include all emergency protection orders, temporary protection orders and final protection orders. The university is sensitive to victims who report sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, including informing individuals about their right to the availability of counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance and other services on and/or off campus, as well as additional remedies to prevent contact between a complainant and an accused party, such as housing, academic, transportation and working accommodations, if reasonably available. The university will make such accommodations, if the victim requests or in compliance with the protection order. Any person who obtains an order of protection from a Mississippi court or any other state should provide a copy to the University Police Department and the Title IX coordinator. Note that upon the issuance of a protection order in the state of Mississippi, the order shall be entered into the Mississippi Protection Order Registry by the clerk of the court and a copy provided to the sheriff in the county of the court of issuance. The University Police Department receives a copy of all protection orders issued by the Forrest County Justice Court.

A complainant may then meet with University Police to develop a Safety Action Plan, which is a plan for University Police and the victim to reduce risk of harm while on campus or coming and going from campus. This plan may include, but is not limited to, police escorts, special parking arrangements, changing classroom location, or allowing a student to complete assignments from home, etc.

The university may issue an institutional no contact order if deemed appropriate or at the request of the victim or accused. If the university receives a report that such an institutional no contact order has been violated, the university will initiate disciplinary proceedings appropriate to the status of the accused (student, employee, etc.) and will impose sanctions if the accused is found responsible for violating the no contact order.

Accommodations and Protective Measures Available for Victims

Upon receipt of a report of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, the university will provide written notification to students and employees about accommodations available to them, including academic, living, transportation and working situations. The written notification will include information regarding the accommodation options, available assistance in requesting accommodations, and how to request accommodations and protective measures.

At the victim's request, and to the extent of the victim's cooperation and consent, university offices will work cooperatively to assist the victim in obtaining accommodations. If reasonably available, a victim may be offered changes to academic, living, working or transportation situations regardless of whether the victim chooses to report the crime to campus police or local law enforcement. Examples of options for a potential change to the academic situation may be to transfer to a different section of a class, withdraw and take a class at another time if there is no option for moving to a different section, etc. Potential changes to living situations may include moving to a different room or residence hall. Possible changes to work situations may include changing working hours. Possible changes in transportation may include having the student or employee park in a different location, assisting the student or employee with a safety escort, etc.

To request changes to academic, living, transportation and/or working situations or protective measures, or to receive assistance in requesting these accommodations, a victim should contact Title IX at 601.266.6804.

Campus and Community Resources for Victims

A variety of support and counseling resources are available to those individuals who have experienced sexual harassment. This information is provided in **Appendix A in the University's Procedures for the Resolution of Allegations of Sexual Harassment**. However, listed below is a description and contact information for a select few.

Student Counseling Services: Student Counseling Services provides quality services to students by promoting sound mental health and the coping skills necessary for successful pursuit of their educational and life goals. Phone: 601.266.4829

Shafer Center for Crisis Intervention: A 24-hour, seven-day-per-week, campus and community-based center that serves all survivors of sexual violence and co-victims of violent death, including homicide and suicide, through direct services, counseling, advocacy, education and training. The Shafer Center serves the Hattiesburg campus. Phone: 601.264.7777

Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence: A 24-hour, seven-day-per-week, nonprofit organization based in South Mississippi, with a mission to support and serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and family members of homicide victims through counseling, advocacy, education and training. This Center serves the university's coastal locations. Phone: 800.800.1396

RAPE CRISIS CENTERS

The Shafer Center for Crisis Intervention
118 College Drive #5196
Hattiesburg, MS 39406
601.264.7078
Laurel, MS
601.649.1721 / 24-Hour Crisis Line: 601.264.7777
theshafercenter.info

Wesley House Community Center
East Mississippi Sexual Assault Center Inc.
P.O. Box 1207, Meridian, MS 39202
601.485.4736
Crisis Lines: 800.643.6250 or 601.482.2828

If you
SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

Our House Inc.
P.O. Box 3956
Greenville, MS 38704
662.334.6873
Crisis Lines: 662.332.5683 or 1.833.279.5683

Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence
P.O. Box 333
Biloxi, MS 39533-0985
228.436.3809
Crisis Line: 800.800.1396
gccfn.org

S.A.F.E. Inc.
P.O. Box 985
Tupelo, MS 38802
662.841.9138
Crisis Line: 800.527.7833

Catholic Charities Inc.
Jackson Rape Crisis Center
850 East River Place
Jackson, MS 39202
601.948.4495
Crisis Line: 601.982.7273

The Guardian Sexual Assault Crisis Center
109 N. Union Street
Natchez, MS 39120
601.442.0142
Crisis Line: 800.273.6938

Safe Haven Inc.
P.O. Box 5354
Columbus, MS 39704-5354
662.327.6118
Crisis Line: 800.890.6040

Family Crisis Services of Northwest Mississippi Inc.
P.O. Box 1698
Oxford, MS 38655
662.234.9929
Crisis Line: 800.230.9929

Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault
P.O. Box 4172
Jackson, MS 39296
717.909.0710
Crisis Line: 800.656.4673

PARTNER VIOLENCE SHELTERS

Angel Wings Outreach Center
P.O. Box 787
Mendenhall, MS 39114-0787
Admin: 601.847.5802
Crisis Line: 866.847.5802

Care Lodge
P.O. Box 5331
Meridian, MS 39302
Admin: 601.482.8719
Shelter: 601.483.8436
Crisis Lines: 601.693.4673 / Toll Free: 888.593.4673

Catholic Charities-Shelter for Battered Families
200 N. Congress St. Suite 100
Jackson, MS 39201
Admin: 601.366.0750 / Legal: 601.206.9339
Shelter: 601.366.0222
Crisis Line: 800.237.9012

Our House Inc.
P.O. Box 3956
Greenville, MS 38704
Admin: 662.332.5683 / Toll Free: 833.279.5683

S.A.F.E. Inc.
P.O. Box 985
Tupelo, MS 38802-0985
Admin: 662.841.9138
Crisis Line: 800.527.7233

Domestic Abuse Family Shelter
P.O. Box 273
Laurel, MS 39441
Admin: 601.428.1707
Crisis Line: 800.649.1092

Domestic Abuse Family Shelter
(Second Location)
P.O. Box 1504
Hattiesburg, MS 39403
Admin: 601.582.2102

Gulf Coast Women's Shelter for Nonviolence
P.O. Box 333
Biloxi, MS. 39533
Admin: 228.436.3809
Crisis Lines: 228.435.1968 / 800.800.1396 / 888.593.4673

Haven House Family Shelter
P.O. Box 57
Vicksburg, MS 39181
Admin: 601.638.0021
Crisis Lines: 601.638.0555 / Toll Free: 800.898.0860

House of Grace
P.O. Box 272
Southaven, MS 38671
Admin: 662.253.0252
Crisis Line: 662.342.1432

The Guardian Shelter
P.O. Box 1225
Natchez, MS 39121
Admin: 601.442.0142
Crisis Line: 800.273.6938

Safe Haven Inc.
P.O. 5354
Columbus, MS 39704
Admin: 662.327.6118
Crisis Line: 800.890.6040

The Center for Violence Prevention
P.O. Box 6279
Pearl, MS 39288
Admin: 601.932.4198
Crisis Line: 800.266.4198

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

National Suicide Prevention Hotline
800.273.TALK (8255) or call or text 988

Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault
800.656.4673
facebook.com/MSCASA.org

Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network
800.656.4673
rainn.org

Confidentiality

The University of Southern Mississippi is committed to creating an environment that encourages campus community members to come forward if they have experienced any form of sexual harassment. The university will work to safeguard the identities and privacy of those who seek help or who report sexual harassment. However, it is important to understand the limits of confidentiality. Different people, depending on their positions at the university, have different obligations with regard to confidentiality. Generally, confidentiality applies when an individual seeks services from local rape crisis centers, including the Shafer Center for Crisis Intervention on the Hattiesburg campus and the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence near the Gulf Park campus or USM's Student Counseling Services. For a more detailed description on confidentiality, refer to **Sections 11.0 and 19.0 in the University's Procedures for the Resolution of Allegations of Sexual Harassment.**

Resolution Timeline

The University of Southern Mississippi will make a good faith effort to complete the resolution process within 60 to 90 business days. This timeframe includes appeals, which can be extended as necessary for appropriate cause by the Title IX coordinator. For any extensions or delays, the Title IX coordinator will provide notice and rationale to the parties as appropriate, as well as an estimate of how much additional time will be needed to complete the process.

Procedures for Reporting Sexual Harassment

Complaints of sexual harassment may be made or reported in person to the Title IX coordinator. Complaints may be made in writing by completing a Sexual Harassment Complaint Form, which may be obtained from the Title IX coordinator, the university's Title IX website (**usm.edu/title-ix**) or at the Title IX coordinator's office.

Overview

The University of Southern Mississippi will act on any formal or informal notice of violation of the policy that is received by the Title IX coordinator or any other official with authority (OWA) by applying this procedure detailed below. The procedure below applies only to qualifying allegations of sexual harassment (including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, as defined above) involving students, staff, administrators or faculty members. The procedure below may be used to address collateral misconduct arising from the investigation of or occurring in conjunction with reported misconduct (e.g., vandalism, physical abuse of another). All other allegations of misconduct unrelated to incidents covered by the policy will be addressed through procedures described in the student, faculty and staff handbooks.

Notice

Upon receipt of a notice to the Title IX coordinator of an alleged violation of the policy, the Title IX coordinator initiates a prompt initial assessment to determine the next steps the university needs to take.

The Title IX coordinator will initiate at least one of three responses:

1. Offering supportive measures because the complainant does not want to file a formal complaint; and/or
2. An informal resolution (upon submission of a formal notice); and/or
3. A formal grievance process, including an investigation and a hearing (upon submission of a formal complaint).

The University of Southern Mississippi uses the formal grievance process to determine whether or not the policy has been violated. If so, the university will promptly implement effective remedies designed to ensure that it is not deliberately indifferent to sexual harassment or retaliation, their potential recurrence or their effects.

How the University Determines Whether This Policy Will Be Utilized

The Title IX coordinator shall have the responsibility, upon receiving a complaint or report of sexual harassment, to conduct a preliminary investigation for the purpose of determining whether or not there is sufficient evidence of a violation of the university's sexual harassment policy, which would justify proceeding with a formal investigation.

Steps in the Investigative Process

All investigations are thorough, reliable, impartial, prompt and fair. Investigations involve interviews with all relevant parties and witnesses; obtaining available, relevant evidence; and identifying sources of expert information, as necessary.

All parties have a full and fair opportunity, through the investigation process, to suggest witnesses and questions, to provide evidence and expert witnesses, and to fully review and respond to all evidence on the record.

The Sexual Harassment Investigative Panel (SHIP) investigators typically take the following steps, if not already completed (not necessarily in this order):

- Commence a thorough, reliable and impartial investigation by identifying issues and developing a strategic investigation plan, including a witness list, evidence list, intended investigation timeframe, and order of interviews for all witnesses and the parties
- Provide each interviewed party and witness an opportunity to review and verify the investigator's transcript/report of the relevant evidence/testimony from their respective interviews and meetings
- Interview all available, relevant witnesses and conduct follow-up interviews as necessary
- Allow each party the opportunity to suggest witnesses and questions they wish the SHIP investigators to ask of the other party and witnesses, and document in the report which questions were asked, with a rationale for any changes or omissions
- Complete the investigation promptly and without unreasonable deviation from the intended timeline
- Prior to the conclusion of the investigation, provide the parties

and their respective advisors (if so desired by the parties) with a list of witnesses whose information will be used by the hearing officers to render a finding.

- Write a comprehensive investigation report fully summarizing the investigation, all witness interviews, and addressing all relevant evidence. Appendices including relevant physical or documentary evidence will be included.
- The SHIP investigators gather, assess and synthesize evidence, but make no conclusions, engage in no policy analysis, and render no recommendations as part of their report.
- Prior to the conclusion of the investigation, provide the parties and their respective advisors (if so desired by the parties) a secured electronic or hard copy of the draft investigation report
- Provide an opportunity to inspect and review all of the evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the reported misconduct, including evidence upon which the university does not intend to rely in reaching a determination, for a 10 business day review and comment period so that each party may meaningfully respond to the evidence. The parties may elect to waive the full 10 days. Each copy of the materials shared will be watermarked on each page with the role of the person receiving it (e.g., complainant, respondent, complainant's advisor, respondent's advisor).
- The SHIP investigators may elect to respond in writing in the investigation report to the parties' submitted responses and/or to share the responses between the parties for additional responses.
- The SHIP investigators will incorporate relevant elements of the parties' written responses into the final investigation report, include any additional relevant evidence, make any necessary revisions, and finalize the report. The SHIP investigators should document all rationales for any changes made after the review and comment period.
- The SHIP investigators share the report with the Title IX coordinator and/or legal counsel for their review and feedback.
- The SHIP investigators will incorporate any relevant feedback, and the Title IX coordinator will then share the final report with all parties and their advisors through secure electronic transmission or hard copy at least 10 business days prior to a hearing. The parties are also provided with a file of any directly related evidence that was not included in the report.

Resolution Processes

Resolution proceedings are private. All persons present at any time during the resolution process are expected to maintain the privacy of the proceedings in accordance with The University of Southern Mississippi policy. Although there is an expectation of privacy around what SHIP investigators share with parties during interviews, the parties have discretion to share their own knowledge and evidence with others if they so choose, with the exception of information the parties agree not to disclose related to informal resolution, discussed below. The university encourages parties to discuss any sharing of information with their advisors before doing so.

Informal Resolution

Informal resolution can include three different approaches:

1. When the Title IX coordinator can resolve the matter informally by providing supportive measures (only) to remedy the situation
2. When the parties agree to resolve the matter through an alternate resolution mechanism, such as mediation, usually before a formal investigation takes place
3. When the respondent accepts responsibility for violating policy and desires to accept a sanction and end the resolution process (similar to above, but usually occurs post-investigation)

To initiate informal resolution, a complainant needs to submit a formal complaint, as defined above. A respondent who wishes to initiate informal resolution should contact the Title IX coordinator.

It is not necessary to pursue informal resolution first in order to pursue a formal grievance process, and any party participating in informal resolution can stop the process at any time and begin or resume the formal grievance process.

Prior to implementing informal resolution, the university will provide the parties with written notice of the reported misconduct and any sanctions or measures that may result from participating in such a process, including information regarding any records that will be maintained or shared by the university.

The University of Southern Mississippi will obtain voluntary, written confirmation that all parties wish to resolve the matter through informal resolution before proceeding and will not pressure the parties to participate in informal resolution.

The ultimate determination of whether informal resolution is available or successful is to be made by the Title IX coordinator. The Title IX coordinator maintains records of any resolution that is reached, and failure to abide by the resolution agreement may result in appropriate responsive/disciplinary actions. Results of formal complaints resolved by informal resolution are not appealable.

Current Federal Regulations, section 106.45(b)(9), allows recipients to offer and facilitate informal resolution processes, within certain parameters to ensure such informal resolution only occurs with the voluntary, written consent of both parties; informal resolution is not permitted to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

Sanctions

Factors considered when determining a sanction/responsive action may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The nature, severity and circumstances surrounding the violation(s)
- The respondent's disciplinary history
- Previous allegations or allegations involving similar conduct
- The need for sanctions/responsive actions to bring an end to the sexual harassment and/or retaliation
- The need for sanctions/responsive actions to prevent the future recurrence of sexual harassment and/or retaliation
- The need to remedy the effects of the sexual harassment and/or retaliation on the complainant and the community
- The impact on the parties
- Any other information deemed relevant by the hearing officer

The sanctions will be implemented as soon as is feasible, either upon the outcome of any appeal or the expiration of the window to appeal without an appeal being requested.

The sanctions described in this policy are not exclusive of, and may be in addition to, other actions taken or sanctions imposed by external authorities.

Student Sanctions

The following are the usual but not an exhaustive list of sanctions that may be imposed upon students.

- **Warning:** A formal statement that the conduct was unacceptable and a warning that further violation of any university policy, procedure or directive will result in more severe sanctions/responsive actions
- **Required Counseling:** A mandate to meet with and engage in either university-sponsored or external counseling to better comprehend the misconduct and its effects
- **Probation:** A written reprimand for violation of institutional policy, providing for more severe disciplinary sanctions in the event that the student or organization is found in violation of any institutional policy, procedure or directive within a specified period of time. Terms of the probation will be articulated and may include denial of specified social privileges, exclusion from co-curricular activities, exclusion from designated areas of campus, no-contact orders, and/or other measures deemed appropriate.
- **Suspension:** Termination of student status for a definite period of time not to exceed two years and/or until specific criteria are met. Students who return from suspension are automatically placed on probation through the remainder of their tenure as a student at the university.
- **Expulsion:** Permanent termination of student status and revocation of rights to be on campus for any reason or to attend university-sponsored events. This sanction will be noted permanently as a Conduct Expulsion on the student's official transcript, subject to any applicable expungement policies.
- **Loss of Commencement Participation:** The university can deny a student participation in Commencement activities as a sanction.
- **Other Actions:** In addition to or in place of the above sanctions, the university may assign any other sanctions as deemed appropriate.

Employee Sanctions/Responsive Actions

Responsive actions for an employee who has engaged in harassment and/or retaliation can include the following:

- Warning – Verbal or Written
- Performance Improvement Plan/Management Process
- Enhanced Supervision, Observation or Review
- Required Counseling
- Required Training or Education
- Probation
- Denial of Pay Increase/Pay Grade
- Loss of Oversight or Supervisory Responsibility
- Demotion
- Transfer
- Reassignment
- Delay of Tenure-Track Progress
- Assignment to New Supervisor
- Restriction of Stipends, Research and/or Professional Development Resources
- Suspension with Pay
- Suspension without Pay
- Termination
- Other Actions: In addition to or in place of the above sanctions/responsive actions, the university may assign any other responsive actions as deemed appropriate.

Any one or more of the sanctions listed below may be imposed when a responding party violates the university's Sexual Harassment Policy. Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Community/Mandated Service:** Responding party is required to work in the community and/or campus community for a designated time period.
- **Educational Interventions:** Responding party is required to write a letter of apology, reflective paper, participate in a course, workshop, etc.
- **Warning/Probation:** Sanctioning official provides a written warning to responding party that further violation will result in harsher sanctions.
- **Restitution:** Responding party is required to cover the reporting party's cost of damage or loss of property/services.
- **Campus Ban/Loss of Privileges:** Responding party is not allowed to enter certain campus buildings/locations or participate in activities/programs for a designated time period.
- **No Contact Order:** Responding party is prohibited from contacting, either directly or indirectly, the reporting party for a specified period of time. Contact includes, but is not limited to, email, social media, instant messaging, text messaging, phone calls, voice mail, direct visits, or through friends acting on behalf of the responding party.
- **Suspension:** Responding party is temporarily dismissed from the university for a designated time period. All rights and privileges as a student or employee are suspended during this time period.
- **Expulsion/Employment Termination:** Responding party is dismissed from the university. All rights and privileges as a student or employee are terminated.

University-Initiated Protective Measures

The Title IX coordinator, senior associate vice president for Human Resources, vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment, Dean of Students office and the University Police Department, working in coordination with other necessary university administrators, may take immediate interim actions prior to resolution of an allegation. In addition, depending on a reporting party's allegations or circumstances of a case, these interim measures may also be necessary to protect the safety of the university community. These measures may change over time, and the university will make every effort to avoid depriving any student of their education. Such actions are designed to enable students or employees with complaints and witnesses to continue studies or duties of employment and to ensure the integrity of an investigation. The Title IX coordinator will communicate regularly with the parties to ensure interim measures remain necessary and effective.

These actions may include the following:

- Interim suspension of a responding party student or employee
- Emotional support/counseling services
- No-contact/no trespass/proximity orders
- Police escorts to ensure safe movement on campus
- Modifying class or work schedules as necessary
- Making alternative housing, workplace or

transportation arrangements
- Addressing other academic or workplace concerns (e.g., assignments, grades, leaves of absence, and withdrawal)
- Involving law enforcement to assist in maintaining order or safety
- Any other appropriate action warranted by the circumstances

Violations of these protective actions will constitute related offenses, which may lead to additional disciplinary action.

Notification to Victims of Crimes of Violence

The university will, upon written request, disclose to the alleged victim of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense the report on the results of any disciplinary proceeding conducted by such institution against a student who is the alleged perpetrator of such crime or offense. If the alleged victim is deceased as the result of such crime or offense, the next of kin of such victim shall be treated as the alleged victim for purposes of this paragraph.

Sex Offender Registration

The Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act provides requirements relating to registration and community notification for sex offenders who are enrolled in or work at institutions of higher education. Effective October 2003, the law required institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement agency information, provided by a state, concerning registered sex offenders could be obtained. This information can be obtained by accessing the Mississippi Sex Offender Registry at **state.sor.dps.ms.gov**.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Everyone should help to make the campus a safer place.

COMMUNITY AND STATE RESOURCES

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hattiesburg Fire Department
601.582.3311

Ocean Springs Fire Department
228.875.4063

Long Beach Fire Department
228.863.7292

Forrest County Emergency Management
601.544.5911

Harrison County Emergency Management
228.865.4002

Jackson County Emergency Management
228.769.3111

Lamar County Emergency Management
601.794.5378

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
601.933.6362 / 800.222.6362

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Forrest County Sheriff's Department
601.544.7800

Harrison County Sheriff's Department
228.896.3000

Jackson County Sheriff's Department
228.769.3063

Lamar County Sheriff's Department
601.794.1005

Hattiesburg Police Department
601.544.7900

Long Beach Police Department
228.865.1981

Ocean Springs Police Department
228.875.2211

Mississippi Department of Public Safety
601.987.1212

MEDICAL AND COUNSELING

Forrest General Hospital
601.288.7000

Ocean Springs Hospital
228.818.1111

Memorial Hospital
228.867.4000

Garden Park Medical Center
228.575.7000

Hattiesburg Clinic
601.264.6000

Shafer Center for Crisis Intervention
601.264.7777

Merit Health Wesley Medical Center
601.268.8000

Gulf Coast Mental Health Center
228.863.1132

Coastal Family Health Center
877.374.4991

RED CROSS

South Central Mississippi
601.582.8151

Mississippi Gulf Coast
228.896.4511

ANNUAL DISCLOSURE OF CRIME STATISTICS

CLERY ACT CRIMES

Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (20 USC § 1092(f)) requires colleges and universities across the United States to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses. The University Police Department collects the Clery crime statistics disclosed in the following charts through a number of methods. UPD maintains a close relationship with all police departments where Southern Miss owns or controls property to ensure that crimes reported directly to these police departments that involve the university are brought to the attention of UPD. In addition to collecting Clery crime statistics from local police departments, all reports of crime incidents made directly to UPD are entered into an integrated computer-aided dispatch system/records management system. The entries are recorded in the system in accordance with the crime definitions outlined in the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook and the FBI National Incident-Based Reporting System Handbook (sex offenses only). To ensure each report is appropriately classified in the correct crime category, the officer enters the report in the system, and a department administrator reviews the report to ensure it is appropriately classified. The department also periodically examines data in the system for appropriate classification. In addition to the crime data that UPD maintains, the university collects Clery crime statistics of reports made to various campus security authorities, as defined in this report. The statistics reported in the following charts generally reflect the number of criminal incidents reported to the various campus security authorities. The statistics reported for the subcategories on liquor laws, drug laws and weapons offenses represent the number of people arrested or referred to campus judicial authorities for respective violations, not the number of offenses documented.

DEFINITIONS OF REPORTABLE CRIMES

Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter – Defined as the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another

Manslaughter by Negligence – Defined as the killing of another person through gross negligence

Rape-completed – 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

Rape-Attempts to Commit Rape – Assaults or attempts to rape

Fondling – Defined as the touching of the private parts of another person for the purposes 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 – Defined as nonforcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law

Statutory Rape – Defined as nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent

Robbery – Defined as taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence, and/or by putting the victim in fear

Aggravated Assault – Defined as an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. It is not necessary that injury result from an aggravated assault when a gun, knife or other weapon is used, which could or probably would result in a serious potential injury if the crime were successfully completed.

Burglary – Unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft

Motor Vehicle Theft – Theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle (Classify as motor vehicle theft in all cases where automobiles are taken by persons not having lawful access, even though the vehicles are later abandoned, including joyriding.)

Arson – Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling, house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

Weapon Law Violations – The violation of laws or ordinances dealing with weapon offenses, regulatory in nature, such as the manufacture, sale or possession of deadly weapons; carrying deadly weapons, concealed or openly; furnishing deadly weapons to minors; aliens possessing deadly weapons; and all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned

Drug Abuse Violations – Violations of state and local laws relating to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, manufacturing and making of narcotic drugs. The relevant substances include opium or cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine); marijuana; synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadones); and dangerous non-narcotic drugs (barbiturates, Benzedrine).

Liquor Law Violations – The violation of laws prohibiting the manufacture, sale, transporting, furnishing, possessing of intoxicating liquor; maintaining unlawful drinking places; bootlegging; operating a still; furnishing liquor to a minor or intemperate person; using a vehicle for illegal transportation of liquor; drinking on a train or public conveyance; all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned (Drunkenness and driving under the influence are not included in this definition.)

Domestic Violence – Includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person cohabitating with or who has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, or 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 occured

Dating Violence – Means violence committed by a person—(a) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim and (b) where the existence of such a relationship will be determined by the reporting party's statement and based on a consideration of the following factors:

(i) The length of the relationship
(ii) The type of relationship
(iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship

Stalking – Means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to a) fear for his or her 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 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.

Hate Crimes – Includes all of the crimes listed below that manifest evidence that the victim was intentionally selected because of the perpetrator's bias against the victim based on one of the Categories of Prejudice listed below, plus the following crimes:

Larceny/Theft – The unlawful taking, carrying, lending or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another

Simple Assault – Unlawful physical attack by one person upon another, where neither the offender displays a weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration or loss of consciousness

Intimidation – To unlawfully place another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to actual physical attack

Destruction/Damage/Vandalism to Property (except arson) – To willfully or maliciously destroy, damage, deface or otherwise injure real or personal property without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it

Categories of Prejudice

Race – A preformed negative attitude toward a group of persons who possess common physical characteristics genetically transmitted by descent and heredity that distinguish them as a distinct division of humankind

Gender – A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons because those persons are male or female

Religion – A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons who share the same religious beliefs regarding the origin and purpose of the universe and the existence or nonexistence of a supreme being

Sexual orientation – A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation

Gender identity – A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a person or group of persons based on their actual or perceived gender identity

Ethnicity – A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of people whose members identify with each other through a common heritage, often consisting of a common language, common culture (often including a shared religion), and/or ideology that stresses common ancestry

National origin – A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of people based on their actual or perceived country of birth

Disability – A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on their physical or mental impairments, whether such disability is temporary or permanent, congenital or acquired by heredity, accident, injury, advanced age or illness

GEOGRAPHY DEFINITIONS FROM THE CLERY ACT

On-Campus – On-campus is defined as (1) any building or property owned or controlled by an institution within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area and used by the institution in direct support of or in a manner related to the institution's educational purposes, including residence halls and (2) any building or property that is within or reasonably contiguous to the area identified in paragraph 1 that is owned by the institution but controlled by another person, is frequently used by students, and supports institutional purposes (such as a food or retail vendor).

Non-Campus Building or Property – A non-campus building or property is defined as (1) any building or property owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the institution or (2) any building or property owned or controlled by an institution that is used in direct support of or in relation to the institution's educational purposes, is frequently used by students, and is not within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area of the institution.

Public Property – Public property is defined as all property, including thoroughfares, streets, sidewalks and parking facilities, that is within the campus or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus.

The university encourages prompt and accurate reporting of all crimes, suspected crimes and other emergencies.

CRIME SUMMARY for The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department

Crimes Reported by the University Police Department

This chart includes offenses that were reported to the University Police Department in accordance with the Uniform Crime Reporting procedures and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act.

OFFENSE (REPORTED BY HIERARCHY)	YEAR	ON CAMPUS	NON-CAMPUS	PUBLIC PROPERTY	TOTAL	RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES	UNFOUNDED CRIMES
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2025	1	0	0	1	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	1	0	0	1	1	0
Fondling	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	1	0	1	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	4	0	0	4	1	0
Burglary	2025	1	0	0	0	1	0
	2024	3	0	0	3	1	0
	2023	1	2	0	3	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	1	0	0	1	0	0
	2023	4	0	0	4	0	0
Arson	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	1	0	0	1	1	0
	2023	1	0	0	1	1	0
Drug Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	7	0	1	8	0	0
	2023	1	2	2	5	0	0
Weapons Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	3	0	0	3	0	0
	2023	3	0	0	3	0	0
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	16	0	0	16	10	0
	2023	11	0	1	12	8	0
Drug Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	1	0	0	0	1	0
	2024	26	0	3	29	15	0
	2023	19	0	4	23	2	0
Weapons Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	4	0	0	4	2	0
	2023	0	0	1	1	0	0
Domestic Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	1	0	1	2	1	0
	2023	1	0	0	1	0	0
Dating Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	6	0	1	7	6	0
	2023	1	0	0	1	0	0
Stalking	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	1	0	1	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny (Grand and Petit)	2025				0		
	2024				62		
	2023				59		
Simple Assault	2025				0		
	2024				12		
	2023				9		
Auto Burglary	2025				0		
	2024				19		
	2023				9		
DUI	2025				0		
	2024				6		
	2023				19		

*Note: Residential facility crime statistics are a subset of the on-campus category, i.e., they are counted in both categories.

CRIME SUMMARY for The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department

Crimes Reported by University Officials or Other Law Enforcement Agencies

This chart includes offenses that were reported to the University Police Department in accordance with the Uniform Crime Reporting procedures and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act.

OFFENSE (REPORTED BY HIERARCHY)	**YEAR**	**ON CAMPUS**	**NON-CAMPUS**	**PUBLIC PROPERTY**	**TOTAL**	**RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**	**UNFOUNDED CRIMES**
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	1	0	1	2	2	0
Drug Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	11	2	6	19	1	0
Weapons Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	3	0	1	4	0	0
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	6	0	0	6	4	0
	2023	2	0	0	2	6	0
Drug Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	1	0	0	1	0	0
	2023	8	0	0	8	1	0
Weapons Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny (Grand and Petit)	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auto Burglary	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUI	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0

CRIME SUMMARY for The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department

Crimes Reported by the University Police Department at Gulf Park campus, including John C. Stennis Space Center

This chart includes offenses that were reported to the University Police Department in accordance with the Uniform Crime Reporting procedures and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act.

OFFENSE (REPORTED BY HIERARCHY)	**YEAR**	**ON CAMPUS**	**NON-CAMPUS**	**PUBLIC PROPERTY**	**TOTAL**	**RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**	**UNFOUNDED CRIMES**
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Fondling	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Incest	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Statutory Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Robbery	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Aggravated Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Burglary	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Arson	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Liquor Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Drug Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	5	0	6	11	N/A	0
Weapons Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	1	1	N/A	0
Drug Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	6	0	4	10	N/A	0
Weapons Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	1	1	N/A	0
Domestic Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Dating Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Stalking	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Larceny (Grand and Petit)	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Simple Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Auto Burglary	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
DUI	2025	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	N/A	0

CRIME SUMMARY for The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department

Crimes Reported by University Officials at Gulf Park campus, including John C. Stennis Space Center, or Other Law Enforcement Agencies

This chart includes offenses that were reported to the University Police Department in accordance with the Uniform Crime Reporting procedures and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act.

OFFENSE (REPORTED BY HIERARCHY)	**YEAR**	**ON CAMPUS**	**NON-CAMPUS**	**PUBLIC PROPERTY**	**TOTAL**	**RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**	**UNFOUNDED CRIMES**
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weapons Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weapons Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny (Grand and Petit)	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auto Burglary	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUI	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0

CRIME SUMMARY for The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department

Crimes Reported by University Police Department at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Halstead and Cedar Point Sites

This chart includes offenses that were reported to the University Police Department in accordance with the Uniform Crime Reporting procedures and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act.

OFFENSE (REPORTED BY HIERARCHY)	**YEAR**	**ON CAMPUS**	**NON-CAMPUS**	**PUBLIC PROPERTY**	**TOTAL**	**RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**	**UNFOUNDED CRIMES**
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weapons Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weapons Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny (Grand and Petit)	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auto Burglary	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUI	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0

CRIME SUMMARY for The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department

Crimes Reported by University Officials at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Halstead and Cedar Point Sites or Other Law Enforcement Agencies

This chart includes offenses that were reported to the University Police Department in accordance with the Uniform Crime Reporting procedures and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act.

OFFENSE (REPORTED BY HIERARCHY)	**YEAR**	**ON CAMPUS**	**NON-CAMPUS**	**PUBLIC PROPERTY**	**TOTAL**	**RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**	**UNFOUNDED CRIMES**
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weapons Law Arrests	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weapons Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny (Grand and Petit)	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auto Burglary	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUI	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0

HATE CRIMES

The University of Southern Mississippi strives to foster a safe and healthy learning environment that embodies inclusion of all members of the Southern Miss community. The hate crime statistics are separated by category of prejudice. A hate crime is a criminal offense committed against a person or property which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias. Bias is a preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on their race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin or gender identity. The numbers for most of the specific crime categories are part of the overall statistics reported for each year. The only exceptions to this are the addition of simple assault, intimidation, and any other crime that involves bodily injury that is not already included in the required reporting categories.

Hate crimes are those crimes that manifest evidence that the victim was intentionally selected because of the perpetrator's bias. If a hate crime occurs where there is an incident involving intimidation, vandalism, larceny, simple assault or other bodily injury, the law requires that the statistic be reported as a hate crime, even though there is no requirement to report the crime classification in any other area of the compliance document.

Hattiesburg Campus

No hate crimes were reported to The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department during **2023, 2024** or **2025**.

Gulf Park Campus

There were no hate crimes reported for the years **2023, 2024** or **2025**.

Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Halstead and Cedar Point Sites

There were no hate crimes reported for the years **2023, 2024** or **2025**.

Criminal Offenses Reported by Hattiesburg Police Department for the City of Hattiesburg

ACTUAL CRIMES REPORTED	CITY OF HATTIESBURG		
OFFENSE (INCLUDES ATTEMPTS)	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Criminal Homicide			
Murder/Homicide	6	7	1
Manslaughter	0	0	0
Sex Offenses			
Forcible	0	2	3
Non-Forcible	0	0	0
Robbery	18	14	21
Aggravated Assault	37	28	38
Burglary	191	163	137
Motor Vehicle Theft	124	88	95
Arson	5	6	3
NUMBER OF ARRESTS	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Liquor Law Violations	34	47	36
Drug Violations	241	181	177
Illegal Weapons Possessions	137	127	151

ROGER F. WICKER CENTER FOR OCEAN ENTERPRISE

The University of Southern Mississippi
FIRE SAFETY REPORT

Residential Facilities	Total Fires	Fire Number	Cause of Fire	Deaths	Injuries	Property Damage
HATTIESBURG CAMPUS						
Century Park #1 – 2901 W. 4th St.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Century Park #2 – 2901 W. 4th St.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Century Park #3 – 2901 W. 4th St	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Century Park #4 – 2901 W. 4th St.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Hattiesburg – 108 E. Memorial Dr.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Hillcrest – 6263 U.S. Hwy. 49	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Mississippi – 116 E. Memorial Dr.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
McCarty – 103 Eagle Walk	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Wilber – 6173 U.S. Hwy. 49	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Vann Hall – Century Park South	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Scott Hall – Century Park South	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Luckyday – Century Park South	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Cedarbrook A – 313 N. 37th Ave.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Cedarbrook B – 311 N. 37th Ave.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Cedarbrook C – 309 N. 37th Ave.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Cedarbrook D – 307 N. 37th Ave.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Cedarbrook E – 305 N. 37th Ave.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Cedarbrook F – 303 N. 37th Ave.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Duplex (A) – 3569 Montague Blvd.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Scholarship Hall (B) – 3571 Montague Blvd.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Pi Beta Phi (C) – 118 Pinehaven Cir.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Alpha Delta Pi (D) – 116 Pinehaven Cir.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Phi Mu (E) – 114 Pinehaven Cir.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Delta Gamma (F) – 112 Pinehaven Cir.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Alpha Kappa Alpha (G) – 110 Pinehaven Cir.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Kappa Delta (H) – 108 Pinehaven Cir.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Alpha Chi Omega (J) – 106 Pinehaven Cir.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Chi Omega (K) – 104 Pinehaven Cir.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Delta Delta Delta (L) – 102 Pinehaven Cir.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Phi Kappa Tau – 101 Fraternity Dr.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Sigma Alpha Epsilon – 105 Fraternity Dr.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Kappa Sigma – 107 Fraternity Dr.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Pi Kappa Alpha – 109 Fraternity Dr.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Sigma Phi Epsilon – 111 Fraternity Dr.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Delta Tau Delta – 113 Fraternity Dr.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Pi Kappa Phi – 115 Fraternity Dr.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Sigma Nu – 118 Fraternity Dr.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Alpha Tau Omega – 3601 Morningside Dr.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Sigma Chi - 209 N. 36th Ave.	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY						
Faculty House – Halstead Site	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Dormitory – Halstead Site	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Cottage #2 – Halstead Site	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Cottage #3 – Halstead Site	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Cottage #4 – Halstead Site	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Cottage #5 – Halstead Site	0	0	N/A	0	0	0

All residence halls have a fire alarm system that includes heat and smoke detectors. The system is monitored 24/7 at the University Police Department. The systems consist of horns, bells and strobes.
All fire alarm systems and fire sprinkler systems are monitored daily for problems and tested annually.
The sprinkler systems are monitored with tamper and flow devices.

FIRE LOG

Date of Fire	Report #	Time Reported	Building	Location	Nature of Fire	Damage Estimate	Injuries	Deaths
1-24-2015	150049	11:16	Alpha Delta Pi	Kitchen	Pot on stove	0	0	0
2-5-2015	150094	01:07	Alpha Kappa Alpha	Kitchen	Trash can	0	0	0
5-4-2015	150364	13:20	Hillcrest	Outside	Trash	0	0	0
10-14-2015	150765	23:38	Pi Kappa Phi	Outside	Homecoming Float	0	0	0
10-17-2015	150781	18:28	Pi Kappa Phi	Outside	Homecoming Float	0	0	0
10-18-2015	150795	07:20	Kappa Sigma	Outside	Homecoming Float	0	0	0
10-29-2016	160821	02:17	Sigma Chi	Outside	Homecoming Float	0	0	0
10-30-2016	170032	21:57	Sigma Alpha Epsilon	Laundryroom	Belt on dryer	$25	0	0
04-30-2017	170032	07:10	Cedarbrook F	Bathroom	Vent Fan	$150	0	0
10-19-2018	180793	19:43	Pi Kappa Phi	Smoking in Building	N/A	0	0	0
10-19-2018 through 3-16-2021 – No fires to report								
1-1-2021 through 12-31-2021 – No fires to report								
1-1-2022 through 8-1-2023 – No fires to report								
8-1-2023 through 5-6-2024 – No fires to report								
5-6-2024 through 8-13-2025 - No fires to report								
6-9-2025	250709 035289	17:27	CP North 1	Kitchen	Smoke burned popcorn	0	0	0
8-2-2025	25090 2040	11:18	Cedarbrook B	Kitchen	Smoke burned food	0	0	0
8-16-2025	250816 043282	11:25	Luckyday	Room 541	Smoke	0	0	0
8-26-2025	250826 045331	23:58	Cedarbrook	D-26	Electrical outlet smoking	0	0	0
9-14-2025	250914 049133	20:33	CP South A	Room 541	Smoke burnt popcorn	0	0	0
1-26-2026	260116 002630	18:42	Cedarbrook A	Apt 12	Smoke food burnt on stove	0	0	0
3-24-2026	260324 013889	13:15	Cedarbrook E	Apt 53	Smoke from cooking	0	0	0
3-29-26	260329 014735	20:18	CP North 2	Room 327	Smoke from noodles in microwave	0	0	0
4-7-2026	260407 016055	20:45	Hillcrest	First Floor Kitchen	Smoke burnt food	0	0	0
6-20-2026	260620 028014	22:37	Cedarbrook B	Apt 85	Smoke burnt food	0	0	0

FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS

Residence Hall	Central Monitored Fire Alarm System	Fire Sprinkler System	Fire Extinguishers	Fire Pump	Stand-Alone Smoke Detectors	Number of Fire Drills Per Year
HATTIESBURG CAMPUS						
Century Park North	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Hattiesburg	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Hillcrest	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
McCarty	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	2
Wilber	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2
Century Park South	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2
Cedarbrook	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Duplex	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Scholarship Hall	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Pi Beta Phi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Alpha Delta Pi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Phi Mu	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Delta Gamma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Alpha Kappa Alpha	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2

Residence Hall	Central Monitored Fire Alarm System	Fire Sprinkler System	Fire Extinguishers	Fire Pump	Stand-Alone Smoke Detectors	Number of Fire Drills Per Year
Kappa Delta	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Alpha Chi Omega	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Chi Omega	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Delta Delta Delta	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
Phi Kappa Tau	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Sigma Alpha Epsilon	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Kappa Sigma	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Pi Kappa Alpha	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Sigma Phi Epsilon	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Delta Tau Delta	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Pi Kappa Phi	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Sigma Nu	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Alpha Tau Omega	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Sigma Chi	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	2

GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY

Building	Currently Sprinkled	Alarm Monitoring Panel
HALSTEAD SITE		
Faculty House	Yes	Yes
Dormitory	Yes	Yes
Cottage #2 – 2 Bdrm	Yes	Yes
Cottage #3 – 1 Bdrm	Yes	Yes
Cottage #4 – 1 Bdrm	Yes	Yes

STUDENT HOUSING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Tobacco Policy

In compliance with the University Tobacco Policy, all residence halls are tobacco-free.

Fire and Safety Equipment

The State Fire Code prohibits anyone from tampering with fire and safety equipment in the residence halls or in any campus building. Tampering includes pulling false fire alarms, discharging fire extinguishers, removing exit signs and interfering with smoke detectors. Interference with smoke detectors mandates immediate attention. Students responsible will be assessed for the damages and for the hourly rate of the repair person's labor. All violators are subject to disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution. The civil penalty for malicious use of fire and safety equipment is a $500 fine and/or 90 days in jail.

Air Conditioners/Space Heaters - Individual air conditioners and/or heaters are not permitted in the residence halls at any time. Due to fire hazards, items of this type will be confiscated if they are found in the halls. Although all the halls are air-conditioned, residents may wish to bring small fans for use in their rooms.

Combustible Materials - Due to the threat of fire, combustible decorative materials, such as dry vegetation, natural Christmas trees, excessive trash and similar materials are not permitted in the residence halls.

Cooking and Appliances - Due to the nature of residence hall living, the physical facilities of the halls, and the concerns for fire and safety standards, only microwave cooking is permitted in student rooms. Micro-Fridges are provided in the residence halls. Small refrigerators and Micro-Fridges (combination microwave, refrigerator and freezer) are allowed. Cooking appliances (such as percolators, toasters and hot plates) are not allowed in student rooms. George Foreman grills or similar products also are not permitted.

Electrical Requirements - Only heavy-duty, single-receptacle extension cords should be used in residence hall rooms. Due to threat of fire, extension cords should never be placed under carpets. Outlet-multiplier cubes and household extension cords are prohibited. A power strip with a built-in circuit breaker should be used if more receptacles are needed. All appliances must be UL-approved.

Halogen Lamps - Due to high operating temperatures that could result in threat of a fire, halogen lamps are prohibited in the residence halls.

Incense/Candles - Incense, candles and heated potpourri pots are not permitted in the residence halls. Burning substances in any form creates a fire hazard.

Fire Alarm Procedures

1. Leave your room immediately, as required by state law.
2. Leave the wall or overhead light on.
3. Close the room door and lock it (only if time permits).
4. Walk quietly and quickly outside via the stairwells.
5. Do not use the elevators.
6. Remain outside until the signal is given to return to your room.
7. For your own protection, obey all fire regulations. Failure to evacuate a hall when an alarm sounds, and failure to comply with staff directors, constitutes grounds for disciplinary action, which may include eviction from the residence halls. Housing and Residence Life staff and University Police reserve the right to

enter student rooms to locate the source of the problem and to ensure that everyone has evacuated the building.

The most important tool to remember in case of fire is to stay calm and know your exits.

If You Hear a Fire Alarm

1. Immediately evacuate the building via the shortest and safest route.
2. Do not use elevators.
3. If you notice smoke, use the alternative escape route.
4. As you leave the building, knock on doors and yell, "Fire!"
5. Do not hesitate or stray from your path as you leave.
6. Do not stop or go back for belongings.
7. Test doors with the back of your hand before opening them. If the door is warm or if you notice smoke, use an alternative escape route. Check paths for safety before proceeding and close doors behind you.
8. Crawl low if you have to go through smoke.
9. Go to a safe area or pre-assigned exterior area for your building. If you suspect that someone is missing or trapped, contact the emergency personnel outside the building.
10. If you are trapped during a fire emergency, close all doors between you and the fire. Stuff cracks around the doors to keep out smoke. Wait at a safe window and signal/call for help. If there is a phone in the room, call the fire department or **911** and tell them exactly where you are.
11. Stop, drop and roll if your clothing catches fire.

If You Discover a Fire

1. Leave the fire area and close the door to the area.
2. Sound the fire alarm.
3. Immediately evacuate the building via the shortest and safest route.
4. Proper use of fire extinguishers within extinguisher limits and by trained individuals is optional but should not be attempted until building alarm is actuated and people are evacuated.
5. Do not use elevators. A fire can disrupt the operation of elevators and trap occupants inside.
6. If you notice smoke, use the alternate escape route.
7. Test doors with the back of your hand before opening them. If the door is warm or if you notice smoke, use an alternative escape route. Check paths for safety before proceeding and close doors behind you.
8. Crawl low if you have to go through smoke.
9. Go to a safe area or to a pre-assigned exterior area for your building.
10. From the nearest phone in a safe area, call **911**.
11. Await emergency response personnel at a safe location and direct them to the scene.
12. If you suspect that someone is missing or trapped, contact the emergency personnel outside the building.
13. If you are trapped during a fire emergency, close all doors between you and the fire and stuff cracks around the doors to keep out smoke. Wait at a safe window and signal/call for help. If there is a phone in the room, call **911** and tell them exactly where you are.
14. Stop, drop and roll if your clothing catches fire.

Once You Have Evacuated

1. From the nearest phone in the safe area, call **911**.
2. If you suspect that someone is missing or trapped, contact firefighters on scene or at the fire engine, police officers or ambulance personnel.
3. Await emergency response personnel at a safe location and direct them to the scene. Report the fire to the hall office or the nearest available resident advisor. Do not re-enter the building until instructed to do so by the fire department.
4. Follow directions of fire and police personnel.
5. Report to the person who is taking roll.
6. Never re-enter the building to save your personal belongings.
7. Stay calm.

Your safety is our number one concern.

LIFE SAFETY GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR RESIDENCE HALLS AND SORORITY HOUSES

1. **Never prop or block open fire doors.**
   - If it has an automatic door closer, then it should be closed. In the event of a fire, these doors will help control the spread of smoke and fire.
   - Hallways, stairways and exits must be kept clear at all times.
   - Bicycles should never be stored in hallways or stairways (use bike racks).
2. **Exits can never be blocked or locked.**
3. **Never store flammable liquids inside the building.**
   - Examples include gasoline, kerosene, propane bottles, flammable paints, paint thinner, mineral spirits, charcoal lighter fluid, or any other liquid that has flammable on the label.
   - Tiki lamps are prohibited.
   - All paper towels or cleaning cloths that have been used with oils or flammable liquids must be promptly disposed of outside the building.
4. **Limit the amount of combustibles you keep in your room.**
   - Examples include excess amounts of boxes, books, papers, or an excess of clothing. Limit the amount of posters on walls; this greatly increases the spread of fire.
   - Vegetation is a fire hazard and is prohibited from use in or around the residence halls; this includes live Christmas trees.
5. **Do not use electrical outlet multipliers or outlet cubes.**
   - If you need more outlets than you have, use a power strip with a built-in circuit breaker.
6. **All electrical extension cords must be heavy-duty, single-receptacle.**
   - They should never extend through walls, ceilings or doorways.
   - They should never be run under rugs or carpet; this creates a fire hazard.
   - All extension cords used outside must be protected by a GFCI.
   - Never use frayed or broken extension cords.
   - Do not join or overload extension cords.
7. **Exit signs and emergency lighting should never be covered or blocked from view.**
8. **Smoke machines are prohibited. They decrease visibility, causing a hazard, and they may cause a false fire alarm.**

9. **Halogen lamps are prohibited from use on campus.**
10. **Never have a fire ignition source in the building.**
    - Examples include candles, incense, fire works, space heaters, etc.
    - All personal appliances should be unplugged when not in use (irons, curling irons, hair dryers, etc.).
    - Coffee pots, hot plates, toaster ovens, etc. must be kept and used in the kitchen.
11. **Smoking is not allowed inside the building.**
12. **Always exit the building during a fire alarm. This is a state law and university policy.**
    - Always know the location of the nearest fire extinguisher and two ways out of the building.
    - All discharged fire extinguishers must be reported to the Safety Department.
13. **Never tamper with or attach anything to any life safety equipment, such as smoke alarms, sprinklers systems, etc.**
    - All sprinkler closets must be locked and never used for storage.
14. **No bonfires, camp fires or open fires are allowed.**
15. **All alterations inside or outside of the building, such as construction, excavation, etc. must be pre-approved by the Safety Department.**
    - Examples include haunted houses, platforms, stages, room changes, etc.
16. **A minimum of 36 inches of clear space shall be maintained in front of all electrical boxes.**
17. **Electrical and mechanical rooms must be locked and never used for storage.**
18. **Any raised platform or stage higher than 30 inches shall require a 42-inch high guardrail. Platforms shall not be more than 48 inches high.**
    - All structures shall be secured and have no sharp edges.

The University Police officers and the fire/safety officers have the right to seize prohibited materials and/or shut down any party found to be in violation of safety rules.

LIFE SAFETY GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR FRATERNITY HOUSES

1. **Never prop or block open fire doors.**
    - If it has an automatic door closer, then it should be closed. In the event of a fire, these doors will help control the spread of smoke and fire.
    - Hallways, stairways and exits must be kept clear at all times.
    - Bicycles should never be stored in hallways or stairways (use bike racks).
2. **Exits can never be blocked or locked.**
3. **Never store flammable liquids inside the house.**
    - Examples include gasoline, kerosene, propane bottles, flammable paints, paint thinner, mineral spirits, charcoal lighter fluid, or any other liquid that has flammable on the label.
    - Tiki lamps are prohibited.
    - All paper towels or cleaning cloths that have been used with oils or flammable liquids must be promptly disposed of outside the building.
4. **Limit the amount of combustibles you keep in your room.**
    - Examples include excess amounts of boxes, books, papers, or an excess of clothing. Limit the amount of posters on walls; this greatly increases the spread of fire.
    - Vegetation is a fire hazard and is prohibited from use in or around the fraternity houses; this includes live Christmas trees.
5. **Do not use electrical outlet multipliers or outlet cubes.**
    - If you need more outlets than you have, use a power strip with a built-in circuit breaker.
6. **All electrical extension cords must be heavy-duty, single-receptacle.**
    - They should never extend through walls, ceilings or doorways.
    - They should never be run under rugs or carpet; this creates a fire hazard.
    - All extension cords used outside must be protected by a GFCI.
    - Never use frayed or broken extension cords.
    - Do not join or overload extension cords.
7. **Exit signs and emergency lighting should never be covered or blocked from view.**
8. **Smoke machines are prohibited. They decrease visibility, causing a hazard, and may cause a false fire alarm.**
9. **Halogen lamps are prohibited from use on campus.**
10. **Never have a fire ignition source in the house.**
    - Examples include candles, incense, fireworks, space heaters, etc.
    - All personal appliances should be unplugged when not in use (irons, curling irons, hair dryers, etc.).
    - Coffee pots, hot plates, toaster ovens, etc. must be kept and used in the kitchen.
11. **No bonfires, camp fires or any open fires are allowed.**
12. **Smoking is not allowed inside the fraternity houses.**
13. **Always exit the building during a fire alarm. This is a state law and university policy.**
    - Always know the location of the nearest fire extinguisher and two ways out of the building.
    - All discharged fire extinguishers must be reported to the Safety Department.
14. **Never tamper with or attach anything to any life safety equipment: smoke alarms, sprinklers systems, etc.**
    - All sprinkler closets must be locked and never used for storage.
15. **All alterations inside or outside of the building, such as construction, excavation, etc. must be pre-approved by the Safety Department** Examples include haunted houses, platforms, stages, room changes, etc.
16. **No platforms or diving boards are allowed around swimming pools.**
17. **A minimum of 36 inches of clear space shall be maintained in front of all electrical boxes.**
18. **Electrical and mechanical rooms should be locked and never used for storage.**
19. **Swimming pools:**
    - Pools should be a minimum of 20 feet away from the house.
    - Pools should be no more than 24 inches at the deepest point. Side walls of pool must have a maximum height of 30 inches. Materials used to form sides of pool, such as crossties or lumber, must be secured, braced and sturdy (no cement blocks).

20. **Any raised platform or stage higher than 30 inches shall require a 42-inch high guardrail. Platforms shall not be more than 48 inches high.**
    - All structures shall be secured and have no sharp edges.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

In order to minimize the potential fire hazards associated with some holiday seasons, the following decoration guidelines should be followed for the protection of those students living in the residence halls:

- Cut or live trees and wreaths are not allowed in residence halls. No cut or live vegetation is allowed in residence halls.
- Students are allowed to have artificial trees in their rooms, but they must be marked **UL-approved and fire-resistant**.
- Only nonflammable or fire-retardant holiday decorations may be used.
- Electric miniature lights are permitted but are limited to three strands per connection or less, as listed on the manufacturer's instructions.
- All electrical decorations must bear the UL label and should only be used as rated for indoor applications.
- All cords and lighting strings should be checked for fraying, bare wires, loose connections and cracked plugs. Use only UL-approved, heavy-duty extension cords with built-in overload protection (breakers).
- Doors shall not be gift-wrapped. Excessive decorations or decorations made of highly flammable materials (crepe paper, leaves, etc.) are not permitted.
- Decorations will not be attached to, blocking or suspended from sprinkler pipes, smoke detectors, electrical systems, ceilings, stairways, exits, etc.
- All lights and decorations should be kept away from all combustibles.
- All decorations must be turned off before leaving the room.
- All decorations must be removed before leaving for the holiday break.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON FIRE AND SAFETY

1. Two (2) fire drills per semester
   - One scheduled fire drill will take place each semester in every residence hall.
   - The local fire department is involved.
   - Another fire drill will take place sometime during the semester. This drill is random.
2. The state fire marshal does a room-to-room inspection in each residence hall during each fall semester.
3. All fire/safety policies and rules are listed in detail in the Housing and Residence Life Handbook.
   - Checklists, residence hall safety guidelines, etc. are also posted on the safety webpage.
4. Training is required for all hall directors and RAs.
   - They are trained in all aspects of fire safety.
   - Fire safety classes, fire extinguisher classes and general safety classes are given at any time upon request.

Fire Drills

During the 2023, 2024 and 2025 years, the Fire/Safety Department conducted two fire drills per residence hall each year.

Training

In addition to monthly inspections, the Fire/Safety Department conducts classes upon request for Southern Miss departments and university organizations.

Most-requested classes:

- Proper use of fire extinguishers
- What to do if fire alarm sounds
- What to do if you discover a fire
- Lab safety
- Residence hall safety
- Fraternity safety

The Fire/Safety Department also conducts fire drills throughout the year in residence halls and fraternity houses.

Once a year, we meet with all hall directors, their staff and fraternity officers. During this time, we fill a residence hall or fraternity house with theatrical smoke and let them see what it would be like to be in a smoke-filled building. Fire drills are also a part of the alarm systems test.

Inspections

- Academic and administration buildings – once a year
- Science buildings – twice a year
- Residence halls, sorority and fraternity houses, common areas – once a month
- Residence halls, sorority and fraternity houses, each room – once a year
- Cedarbrook Apartments – once a year

All fire alarm systems are tested and inspected once a year by a third party.

All fire sprinkler systems are tested and inspected once a year by a third party.

Persons to Be Notified in Case of Fire

University Police Department	Chief Rusty Keyes
Physical Plant	Brian Hauff
Fire/Safety	Clint Atkins, Candis Tidwell
Housing Maintenance	Bill Barrett
Housing and Residence Life	Teresa Crum
Dean of Students	Dr. Sirena Cantrell
Student Affairs	Dr. Kristi Motter
University Communications	Nicole Ruhnke

Future Improvements

All new construction will have fire alarm and sprinkler systems installed in them.

Additional fire safety training will be made available to students to help them become better educated and more aware of fire safety on campus.

The University of Southern Mississippi
Police Department
Bond Hall, First Floor West
118 College Drive #5061
Hattiesburg, MS 39406

The University of Southern Mississippi is firmly committed to promoting a safe campus environment for all students, faculty, staff and visitors. Southern Miss takes great pride in its long history of safe campus conditions. Public safety involves a cooperative effort between law enforcement, the community and individuals.

Division of Student Affairs

EOE/VETS/DISABILITY UC88588