



WORCESTER
STATE
UNIVERSITY

Annual Security and Fire Safety Report:
Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act

Published October 2025

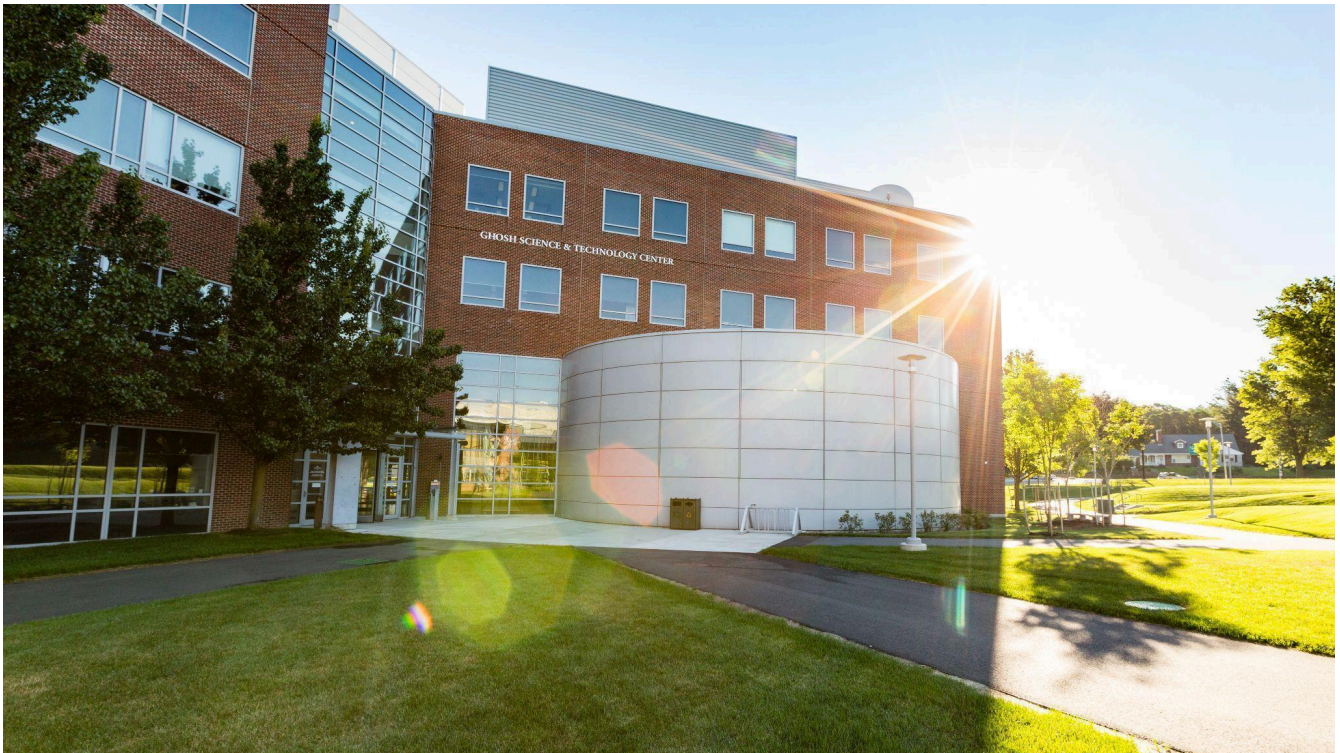


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Welcome from the Executive Director of Emergency Management and Institutional Safety

Dear members of the Worcester State University community,

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report for 2024. This report is a testament to our ongoing commitment to fostering a safe and secure environment for our whole community: students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

The safety of our community is our highest priority, and we believe that transparency and education are essential to achieving that goal. In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, this report provides a comprehensive overview of campus safety and security information. It includes crime statistics for the past three calendar years, details on institutional policies, and information on the resources and support services available to our community.

It is important to remember that campus safety is a shared responsibility. We encourage you to read this report thoroughly, familiarize yourself with our safety protocols, and take an active role in maintaining a secure campus. By working together, we can create a culture of safety that benefits everyone.

We appreciate your partnership in keeping our campus a safe and welcoming place. Our University Police Department is available 24/7, 365 days a year to assist you.

I personally welcome your input, ideas and thoughts on how we can work together to safeguard your well-being and property. I encourage you to be an active community member with your safety as a priority.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bosselait, MSEM, CEM

Executive Director of Emergency Management and Institutional Safety

Worcester State University

24/7 Emergency Dispatch: 508-929-8911

1. INTRODUCTION

Worcester State University is committed to the safety of its students, staff, faculty, guests and visitors. We accept the responsibility to employ security measures, prevention education and law enforcement practices to help provide the University community with a safe, secure environment in which to live and pursue academic goals.

This report is prepared in collaboration with Worcester State Division of Student Affairs (including the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, and Title IX Coordinator), Office of Emergency Management and Institutional Safety, The Clery Compliance Committee and local law enforcement agencies. Each entity provides updated information on their educational efforts and programs in accordance with the Act. Worcester State University Clery Compliance Committee, prepares this report in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act. This report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus; in certain off campus buildings or property owned or controlled by Worcester State University and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from, the campus. This report also outlines institutional policies related to campus security, including those addressing alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, crime reporting, sex-based discrimination, and related issues.

Annually, by October 1st an email notification is made to all enrolled students, faculty, and staff providing the web link and how to access this report. Copies may also be obtained at the Worcester State University Police Department in Wasylean Hall, and the Office of Student Affairs, third floor of the Student Center, 486 Chandler Street, Worcester, MA 01602. Prospective students and employees may also obtain a copy through the University's webpage.

1.1 - Statement of University Clery Geography

Under the Clery Act, the on-campus category includes the following:

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 any building or property that is within or reasonably contiguous to the area identified in paragraph (1) of this definition, 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 other retail vendor). The first part of this definition states that, for Clery Act reporting purposes, your campus includes buildings and properties that meet all of the following criteria:

- Your institution owns or controls them;
- They are reasonably contiguous to one another; and
- They directly support or relate to the institution's educational purposes.

Clery Geography Definitions

On Campus is defined as:

- Student Housing indicated in dormitories or other residential facilities for students on campus. This is a subset of on-campus. The term “on campus” means:
 - 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
 - Any building or property that is within or reasonably contiguous to the area identified in paragraph 1 of this definition, that is owned by the University, but controlled by another person, is frequently used by students, and supports institutional purposes (such as a food or other retail vendor).
- Non-Campus Building or Property is defined as:
 - Any building or property owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the institution. (Worcester State University does not have any recognized student organizations which have off-campus locations or housing facilities.)
 - 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 is defined as:
 - All public property, including thoroughfares, streets, sidewalks, and parking facilities, within the campus, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus.

1.2 - Statement of Policy for Addressing Campus Law Enforcement Authority and Jurisdiction

The Worcester State University Police Department (WSUPD) is dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of the university’s students, staff, faculty, and visitors. The department provides direct law enforcement protection and emergency services to the Worcester State community. WSUPD’s jurisdiction covers the Clery geography, which includes the main campus, residence halls, non-campus properties, adjacent public property, and any leased or controlled facilities.

WSUPD consists of 15-20 full-time sworn officers, supported by civilian personnel including institutional security officers (ISO’s) and dispatchers. The department also oversees Emergency Management and Parking & Transportation. Officers patrol the campus on foot and in vehicles, offering emergency response services to anyone in need.

All WSU officers are academy-trained and possess full police authority, including the power to make arrests. They enforce state laws, motor vehicle laws, and university regulations. In line with Massachusetts Police Reform, officers are certified through the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST-C).

Effective communication is vital to campus security. The department operates a communications center that handles emergency dispatch, monitors Rave Guardian and sends emergency alerts when necessary. The center

also monitors smoke, fire, and carbon monoxide alarms and campus surveillance cameras to aid in deterring and investigating crimes.

1.3 - Law Enforcement and Arrest Authority

WSUPD is recognized as a criminal justice agency by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Under state law (Chapter 15A, § 22 and Chapter 73, § 18), the university's Board of Trustees grants officers the same powers as state and municipal police, including making arrests, handling prisoners, and enforcing traffic laws on university-controlled properties.

WSUPD officers are also Special State Police Officers (SSPOs) under Chapter 22C, § 63, giving them the authority to detain, arrest, and search individuals for criminal offenses occurring on university-owned or controlled property. Their authority covers all felonies, misdemeanors, and motor vehicle offenses, allowing them to stop vehicles on reasonable suspicion of a crime.

1.4 - Officer Training and Certification

The Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission and the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee oversee the training of all police officers, including those at Worcester State. Officers must complete continuing education and annual training to maintain POST-C certification, which includes in-service training, CPR, First Responder courses, and firearms qualifications.

1.5 - Working Relationship with Other Law Enforcement Agencies

The Worcester State University Police Department (WSUPD) maintains strong connections with several professional associations, including the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Massachusetts Association of College Law Enforcement Administrators. The department also collaborates closely with the Worcester Police Department, Massachusetts State Police, Worcester County District Attorney's Office, and the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC).

These relationships enhance the department's access to critical information and improve the quality of services provided to the Worcester State University community.

1.6 - Written Memoranda of Understanding

The Worcester State University Police Department (WSUPD) has a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Worcester Police Department to define jurisdiction, collaboration and protocols for handling investigations related to sexual misconduct. WSUPD utilizes partnerships with the Worcester Police Department and Massachusetts State Police for the use of their holding facility for arrestees. Additionally, through the Consortium, Worcester State University collaborates with other institutions and local, state, and federal agencies to ensure a coordinated response to emergency situations.

2. STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR ADDRESSING GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING A CRIME OR EMERGENCY

Campus community members - students, faculty, staff, visitors and guests - are encouraged to report all criminal actions, emergencies, fires, suspicious behavior or other public safety related incidents occurring within the University's Clery geography to the Worcester State University Police Department (WSUPD) in an accurate, prompt, and timely manner. The University's Clery geography is defined in the "Statement of University Clery Geography" section 1.1 of this Annual Report.

The Worcester State University Police Department (WSUPD) is the designated office for reporting campus crimes and emergencies. WSUPD encourages accurate and prompt crime reporting to enable timely evaluations, emergency notifications, updates to the Daily Crime Log, and proper documentation in the Clery annual security report.

Criminal incidents occurring off-campus can be reported to the Worcester Police Department or the appropriate local agency.

2.1 - Campus Security Authorities

A Campus Security Authority (CSA) is a designated individual or group within the institution that is responsible for receiving and reporting crime information. CSAs are typically individuals who have a significant responsibility for student and campus activities, and they are required to report any information they receive about crimes or suspicious activities to University Police. The role of a CSA is crucial in ensuring that all relevant crime information is collected and reported accurately, contributing to the overall safety and transparency of campus security operations. Those deemed to be Campus Security Authorities based on their position or role within the University, under the Clery Act reporting requirements, are identified, notified and provided training on their responsibilities as CSAs.

The function of a campus security authority is to report to University Police information on any crimes that they receive. CSAs are responsible for reporting allegations of Clery Act crimes that are reported to them in their capacity as a CSA. This means that CSAs are not responsible for investigating or reporting incidents that they overhear students talking about in a hallway conversation; that a classmate or student mentions during an in-class discussion; that a victim mentions during a speech, workshop, or any other form of group presentation; or that the CSA otherwise learns about in an indirect manner.

Primary Campus Security Authorities (CSA) or preferred receivers of reports:

- Call the Worcester State University Police by dialing (508) 929-8911 or on-campus extension 8911
- Report in person to the Worcester State University Police office located at 102 Wasylean Hall
- Sexual Misconduct reports and other incidents of sexual or relationship violence can also be reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator, by dialing (508) 929-8243 or on-campus extension 8243, or in person at the Student Center room C-344 or by email at: wsu_titleix@worchester.edu

- Emergency Red Phones, located at select locations on campus can also be used to contact University Police to report a crime or emergency

2.2 - CSA Exemption: Pastoral and Professional Counselors

There are two types of individuals who, although they may have significant responsibility for student and campus activities, are not campus security authorities under the Clery Act. Under Massachusetts law, reports and information shared with Worcester State's professional licensed mental health counselors, and clergy members acting in their official capacity are considered legally protected or 'privileged.' As a result, these individuals will not disclose information learned from survivors to others within the institution, including the University's Title IX Coordinator, or to any third parties, except in cases of imminent danger to the victim or others, or to fulfill legal obligations such as reporting child abuse. Outside of these exceptions, they will only provide statistical information that does not identify the survivor, ensuring the incident is included in the University's crime statistics for the annual Clery reports and the Title IX trend report maintained by the University.

2.2.1 - Pastoral Services

A recognized volunteer of the institution who is associated with a religious order or denomination, recognized by that religious order or denomination as someone who provides confidential counseling and who is functioning within the scope of that recognition as a pastoral counselor.

2.2.2 - Counseling Services

An employee of an institution whose official responsibilities include providing psychological counseling to members of the institution's community, and who is functioning within the scope of his or her license or certification.

2.3 - Anonymous Reporting

The Worcester State University Police Department discourages anonymous reporting in order to better facilitate rapid and complete investigations, however, it is recognized that in certain scenarios persons may want to make a report anonymously. The following are tools used to facilitate such reports:

2.3.1 - Facilitated Anonymous Reporting

Students may request a Pastoral Counselor or a Professional Counselor in the Counseling Center to facilitate anonymous reporting using internal procedures designed to capture general details about the incident (date, time, location, and brief description of the incident type) to ensure a statistical disclosure in the University's Annual Security and Fire Safety report.

2.3.2 - Online Anonymous Reporting

The University allows faculty, staff, and students opportunities to report incidents anonymously, which allows a reporting person to complete a report without providing any personal identifying information.

Anonymous reporting can be accomplished using the RAVE Guardian App or Text-a-Tip system. Both options are third-party vendors available 24/7/365 and responses are sent directly to WSUPD Dispatch.

- WSUPD Anonymous Tip can be found at the link below. Instructions for sending the tip are provided on the webpage: <https://www.worcester.edu/university-police/anonymous-crime-tip/>

2.4 - Response to Reports

Dispatchers are available 24 hours a day to answer campus community calls. In response to a call, WSUPD will take the required action by either dispatching an officer or asking the reporting party to go to the WSUPD Office to file an incident report in person. All reported crimes will be investigated by the University and may become a matter of public record. Incident reports may be forwarded to the Division of Student Affairs for review and referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for potential action, as appropriate. Crime victims are given on and off campus resource information as necessary and appropriate. WSUPD procedures require an immediate response to emergency calls. WSUPD works closely with a full range of city and regional resources to assure a complete and timely response to all emergency calls. WSUPD responds to and investigates all reports of crimes and/or emergencies that occur within the University's Clery geography.

2.5 - Quick Reference Resources

EMERGENCY	911 or 508 929-8911
WSU Police (WSUPD) Non-Emergency Dispatch	508 929-8044
WSUPD Chief of Police	508 929-8044
WSU Student Health Services	508 929-8875
Pathways for Change Crisis Hotline	800-870-5905 Hotline, 888-877-7130
Title IX Coordinator	508 929-8243
WSU Counseling Services	508 929-8072
Resilient U-24 Hour Student Support Line	833-646-1526
Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S)	508 929-8781
Student Affairs/Dean of Students Office	508 929-8077
City of Worcester Police Department	508 799-8600

2.6 - Statistical Disclosure of Incidents

Information about criminal incidents and safety concerns that are reported to any University officials, including but not limited to members of the Worcester State University Police Department (WSUPD) will be treated with the greatest degree of respect and privacy possible while fulfilling Worcester State's obligation to investigate and respond to the report. Every effort will be made to limit the scope of information shared to a minimum amount of detail, and only share information when absolutely necessary.

While federal law requires the WSUPD to report certain types of criminal incidents in its annual campus crime statistics, statistics reported do not include identifiable information in the ASR.

Data is reported to the Worcester State University Police Department, to be included in the statistics generated by the University Police Department, as well as those collected from other agencies; to include but not limited to the Massachusetts State Police and Worcester Police Department.

3. CAMPUS FACILITIES

3.1 - Statement of Policy for Addressing Security and Access

The majority of academic and administrative buildings on campus are open to the public during normal business hours (typically, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, excluding holidays). Some buildings have established additional hours based on the needs of specific departments located within, to conduct evening classes, or facilitate events.

Worcester State University resident students occupy four on campus residential facilities. Within these facilities, undergraduate and graduate students are offered the opportunity to live in corridor style, suite, or apartment style residence halls. Access to the residence halls is limited to students and their guests according to university regulations (see the Student Code of Conduct and Residence Hall Handbook). Each Residence Hall is supervised by either an area coordinator or a residence director. These are all full-time professional staff at the University. The Residence Directors and Area Coordinator are assisted by and supervise resident assistants (RA's) who are students. Individual floors or areas within a residence hall are supervised by a Resident Assistants (RA's) at an approximate ratio of 1 RA to every 35 resident students. All residence life staff receive extensive training prior to the academic year as well as ongoing training throughout the year on topics such as, but not limited to, safety and security, policy enforcement, crisis intervention, conflict mediation, mental health, sexual misconduct, activity planning, and community development. Residence Life staff are available to respond to resident concerns at all times the residence halls are open and participate in a 24/7 on call rotation.

All residence halls are equipped with electronic security card access at the main entry to each building. All entry doors that lead to student living areas are secured 24 hours daily during the year while classes are in session.

In addition, all outside vendors/contractors accessing the residence halls require a university staff member to remain present with the party at all times while they are performing the service, regardless of the location within the building where the service is being performed.

The WSU Facilities Department has responsibility for the delivery of custodial services, maintenance and operation of the residence halls, the maintenance and operation of utility, heating, ventilating, and cooling distribution systems, and the upkeep of university grounds and roadways including snow removal.

University Police officers perform routine patrols of all residential and non-residential facilities 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The University Police Department has oversight for all locks and controlling/monitoring access to the academic buildings. All requests for the residence hall access are made through the Office of Residence Life and Housing. All other requests must be made through the University Police Department located in Wasylean Hall. The University reserves the right to make changes to these policies and procedures without notice, especially in the event of emergencies or other unusual situations.

3.2 - Maintenance of Campus Facilities

The Facilities Department maintains campus facilities in a manner that minimizes hazardous and unsafe conditions. The Facilities Department will promptly address physical conditions that, if left unattended, could affect campus security. Concepts of crime prevention through environmental design are incorporated into new construction planning, as well as renovations to existing campus physical assets.

University Police, along with Residential Life staff monitor for lighting issues, and any findings are shared with Facilities staff who will perform any needed repairs in a timely manner. Campus grounds staff control vegetation around lighting fixtures and along campus walkways and roadways on a regular schedule dependent upon seasonal requirements. The security of doors and windows are reviewed periodically and locks are replaced when needed.

The University has emergency call boxes at select locations on campus. These phones are identifiable by the blue light affixed to the top of each one. Campus community members are encouraged to report any safety hazard on campus such as malfunctioning lights, icy sidewalks, and broken windows to either University Police or Facilities.

3.3 - Off-Campus Housing

Although Worcester State University does not own, control, or monitor off-campus housing, or any officially recognized student organizations housing, the University Police Department works closely with the City of Worcester Police Department to collect crime statistics from the Worcester City Police for incidents that occur on public property adjacent to campus and within the contiguous geographic area of the University.

4. STATEMENT OF POLICIES REGARDING EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS, TIMELY WARNINGS AND EVACUATION

4.1 - Emergency Notifications

An Emergency Notification is sent upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students, faculty and staff occurring on the campus, or when there is an event that requires closing the campus or limiting access (e.g., severe weather). The emergency notification system will NOT be used to send messages about criminal activity in the area unless the crime presents an immediate threat to safety on campus.

Notice of any significant emergency or dangerous situation occurring on the campus involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees on campus.

Emergency Notifications are issued upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students, faculty or staff on campus. Some examples of situations that would be considered for Emergency Notifications include, but are not limited to the following:

- Outbreak of meningitis, norovirus or other serious illness
- Approaching extreme weather condition
- Gas leak
- Terrorist incident
- Armed intruder
- Bomb threat
- Civil unrest or rioting
- Explosion or nearby chemical or hazardous waste spill
- Environmental emergency

Once University Police has received such a report, the Chief of Police or designee will confer with the appropriate public official (e.g. fire chief, health department) and any campus officials responsible for managing the on-campus emergency to confirm the following:

- A legitimate emergency or dangerous situation exists in on-campus geography

AND

- The emergency or dangerous situation poses an immediate or imminent threat to members of the campus community

Emergency Notifications may also serve as a Timely Warning if the reported incident is also defined as a Clery crime. The following individuals may be contacted for coordination and collaboration about the emergency warning notifications:

- President, or designee, includes members of the Executive Cabinet
- Executive Director of Emergency Management & Institutional Safety or designee
- Associate Vice President for Communications and Marketing or Public Information Officer (PIO) designee

4.2 - Content of an Emergency Notification

Worcester State University will, without delay, and taking into account the safety of the community, determine the content of the notification and initiate the WSU Rave Mobile Safety/WSU Alert notification system, unless issuing a notification will in the professional judgment of responsible authorities, compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to or otherwise mitigate the emergency.

Some key information required in the warnings include:

- Hazard at issue prompting the warning
- Location, timing, suspect information and direction of travel (if applicable)
- Actions to take for safety
- Where to seek additional information as applicable, i.e., local media, WSU Home Page, University phone lines, email, texts, etc.
- Any other information to address safety

4.3 - Method of Emergency Notification

Worcester State University utilizes Rave Mobile Safety/WSU Alert ("Rave Alert"), a multicontact communication service which allows Worcester State University leaders and police personnel to deliver time sensitive notifications to students, faculty and staff during unforeseen events or emergencies. A Rave Alert will be used when it is determined that there is a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving immediate threat to the health or safety of students or staff occurring on or immediately adjacent to the University. In addition to the Rave Alert, Worcester State University Police and the Office of Communications and Marketing may rely on other communication systems to provide information regarding an emergency situation, including:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| • Social Media | • Desktop PC notification (Alertus) |
| • WSU website | • Media outlets including local radio and television |
| • Fire alarms within buildings | • Outdoor sound system at Coughlin Field |

- WSUPD Police sirens
- Handheld megaphones

RAVE Alert is operated by the University Police and Information Technology Services (ITS), in conjunction with the Office of Communications and Marketing (MARCOM). This system may be used to send messages to the University community utilizing the following electronic WSU communication resources: Email, Text Messaging, Social Media, and RAVE Guardian (if enrolled).

All members of the Worcester State community are automatically “opted in” or enrolled in the RAVE Alert system. The Rave Alert system primarily works through mobile communication devices (text and voice) and is the most efficient method to disseminate messages to large groups, followed by email and traditional land-line communication. While users have the option to “opt out” of text messaging, they do so, acknowledging forfeiture to receive timely communication in the event of an emergency, including inclement weather. Email and voicemail through Rave Alert are not “opt out” optional. Members of the community are advised to download the RAVE Guardian App or directly on the campus website to update their contact information.

Emergency Communication methods include activating WSU ALERT, the WSU Emergency Notification System utilizing email, text messaging, social media platforms and/or; messages displayed on electronic message boards on campus; or messages on the home page of WSU website.

4.4 - Statement on Procedures for Issuance of Rave Alert

When an emergency occurs, the Worcester State University Police Department (WSUPD) is responsible for the initial Rave Alerts about the unfolding emergency. If an incident continues to escalate, WSUPD’s Dispatch Center may become inundated with calls to continue issuing Rave Alerts. The responsibility for Rave Alerts then passes to a trained Public Information Officer (PIO) from the Office of Communications and Marketing.

Criteria for Rave Alert handoff to Communications Lead/Personnel:

Any of these criteria or a combination of them warrant a handoff of responsibility for Rave Alerts.

- Incident is escalating in seriousness.
- Dispatch lines are being inundated with emergency calls.
- Outside law enforcement is called in to support WSUPD.

The decision to hand off Rave Alerts rests jointly with the lead PIO and with the incident commander or the chief of police. The incident commander / police chief will alert communications lead by phone or text that a handoff is needed. The communications lead will confirm they are prepared to issue Rave Alerts. If this handoff does not occur, WSUPD retains responsibility for continuing to issue Rave Alerts.

Other Systems may be utilized to convey vital information during an imminent or ongoing threat to safety, security or health. Such systems include:

- Social Media (i.e., Facebook, X)
- Desktop PC notification (Alertus)
- WSU website
- Local radio and television media
- Fire alarms within buildings
- Outdoor loudspeaker at Coughlin Field
- WSUPD Police sirens
- Handheld megaphones

4.5 - Procedure to Test Emergency Notification Systems

The Worcester State University Police Department in collaboration with MARCOM and ITS will test the RAVE/WSU Alert system on an annual basis. These notifications may be announced and/or unannounced. Tests are designed to test the notification system, scheduled drills, exercises and appropriate follow-through activities, designed for assessment and evaluation of emergency plans and capabilities. The following modalities will be tested during on an annual basis:

- Broadcast WSU email
- Text messaging
- Social Media
- Desktop PC notification (Alertus)

This system is tested monthly within the Worcester State University Police Department to ensure department members are familiar with how to send an alert during an emergency.

4.6 - Timely Warnings

Timely warnings are correspondence provided to notify students, faculty, and staff of Clery Act crimes, or Non-Clery Act crimes that may represent a serious or ongoing threat to the campus community and to heighten safety awareness. A timely warning also seeks information that may lead to the arrest and conviction of the offender when violent crimes against persons or substantial crimes against property have been reported. Timely warnings are triggered by crimes that have already occurred, but represent an ongoing threat. Decisions to issue a timely warning are made on a case by case basis, for any Clery Act crime committed on your Clery Act geography that is reported to your campus security authorities, University Police or a local law enforcement agency, and that is considered by the institution to represent a serious or continuing threat to students and employees. Timely warnings are disseminated as soon pertinent information is available. Additional information may be provided as it becomes available. The Timely Warning will include all information that will promote safety and will aid in the prevention of similar crimes. A timely warning notice will typically include the following, unless issuing any of this information would risk compromising law enforcement efforts:

- Date and time or timeframe of the incident
- A brief description of the incident
- Information that will promote safety and potentially aid in the prevention of similar crimes (crime prevention or safety tips)
- Suspect description(s) when deemed appropriate and if there is sufficient detail. The description of subjects in a case will only be included in the alert if there is a sufficient amount of detail to describe the individual.
- University Police Department contact information
- Other information as deemed appropriate by the Chief of Police, or designee

The timely warning notice will not include any information that would identify the reporting party.

Whether to disseminate a timely warning will be decided by the Chief of Police or their designee and in consultation with others, when time permits, on a case-by-case basis in light of all the facts surrounding the crime and the continuing danger to the campus community. The following individuals may be contacted for coordination and collaboration about the timely warning:

- President, or designee, includes members of the Executive Cabinet
- Executive Director of Emergency Management and Institutional Safety
- Associate Vice President for Communications and Marketing or PIO designee

Timely Warning Notifications are written and distributed by staff in the University Police, or the Office of Communications and Marketing (MARCOM).

A *Timely Warning Decision Matrix*, must be completed by staff in University Police or the Office of Communications and Marketing prior to any communication to the campus community. This form will assist in determining to notify or not notify segments of the campus community and aid in creating an outline of information to address in the communication.

Timely Warning Notices are distributed via the RAVE system to the Worcester State University community via campus-wide email, phone calls and posted on the homepage of the website.

4.7 - Emergency Updates and Final Notifications

The University will communicate updates and revised health and safety guidance, as necessary, throughout the duration of an emergency warranting a timely warning or emergency notification. The University will distribute a final notification confirming that emergency conditions have subsided and issue an all clear notice when the campus is safe to return to normal operations. If necessary, additional health or safety instructions will accompany any final notification.

4.8 - Emergency Management Team

The Emergency Management Team (EMT) is the lead emergency response team for Worcester State University. This team uses the Incident Command System and assigns Command and Section Leaders to lead the campus emergency response effort. These members work together to gather incident information, create emergency actions plans and respond to incidents. Training for this group may include: Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses, periodic exercises and other training as appropriate. Duties of EMT during an emergency may include:

- Activation of the Emergency Operations Center
- Notification and activation of response team members
- Verification and release of incident information
- Update WSU community regarding emergency or incident
- Activation of Emergency Plans (e.g. Shelter-in-Place, Evacuate)
- Coordination of additional resources needed for incident

4.9 - Evacuation Procedures

Students and employees should make themselves aware of and learn the locations of the emergency exits in the residence halls as well as other campus buildings. University staff will communicate information to students regarding the developing situation or any evacuation status changes.

In the event of natural disasters, civil disturbances, and active threats, WSUPD shall assist with the safe evacuation of those utilizing the University's facilities whenever possible.

If large-scale events occur that are beyond the resource capabilities of WSUPD and the University, officials will request assistance from outside emergency resources such as the City of Worcester Police and Fire, State Police, City of Worcester Emergency Management, and/or Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. The need to implement evacuation procedures from a building or the entire campus is based upon information received by Worcester State University.

The information may be in the form of instructions or advice from the City of Worcester Emergency Management, the Governor's Office, or another officially recognized agency. Full or partial evacuations may be necessary as a protective action to reduce campus community members' exposure to a hazard. Protective actions reduce TIME of exposure, create DISTANCE, or provide SHIELDING from a specific hazard. Hazards that may require an evacuation include:

- Fire
- HAZMAT release
- Bomb threat or suspicious device/package
- Hostile intruder
- Hostile intruder
- Massive utility failure
- Severe weather conditions
- Hazard that renders facilities uninhabitable

4.9.1 - Exercise of Judgment and Contingencies

When situations arise for which the procedures to be followed are not fully prescribed in the University's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), responsible personnel will be expected to exercise good judgment, make appropriate decisions, and provide any support necessitated by the situation.

As part of the decision-making process relative to an evacuation, the evacuation must be able to be completed before the arrival of a hazard. When there is little to no warning time, a shelter-in-place order may be more appropriate. Additional factors to consider beyond warning time when deciding on whether or not to evacuate include:

- Size and geographical area affected
- Population density of the surrounding area
- Capacity and condition of the road network
- Are sufficient transportation resources available – University transportation, public transportation, and private transportation?
- Are there safe alternatives?
- Ability of campus facilities to provide shielding from the hazard

- Ability of facilities to support the population
- Local considerations and local police and emergency resources support

4.9.2 - Scope of an Evacuation

The scope of an evacuation can include a single building, a group of buildings, and/or a large geographical area. The scope could go beyond the borders of the institution, and/or the University may be impacted by an evacuation initiated by the local authorities. Size and scope considerations must be included in the overall decision-making process.

- All building occupants are required to evacuate when the fire alarm sounds or upon the order of an authorized University official, such as a WSU Police Officer.
- If time permits, stabilize lab procedures, turn off stoves and ovens, and unplug or disable any device that could make a dangerous situation even worse.
- Move to the closest exit and proceed down the EXIT stairwell in a safe and orderly manner. Take personal belongings with you. Do NOT use elevators.
- Remain at least three hundred (300) feet outside of the building and await further instructions.
- Keep roadways open, and beware of approaching emergency vehicles. Notify emergency responders of anyone trapped, especially anyone with a physical disability.
- If evacuation of part or all of the campus is necessary, monitor text message/voice alert system, email, and the University's website for additional information.
- Those in need of transportation will be directed to areas to await transport to an off-campus site.

4.9.3 - General Evacuation Procedures

At the sound of a fire alarm or if you are instructed to evacuate, leave your work area immediately and proceed to the nearest exit, and leave the building. If you are the first to recognize a fire situation, activate the alarm, evacuate to a safe location using the nearest exit, and notify WSUPD by dialing (508) 929-8911 or on-campus extension 8911 or by dialing 911 for outside emergency responders.

- Remain Calm.
- Do NOT use Elevators. Use the Stairs.
- Assist the physically impaired. If they are unable to exit without using an elevator, secure a safe location near a stairwell, and immediately inform WSUPD or the responding fire department of the individual's location.
- Once outside, proceed to a clear area at least 300 feet from the building.
- Keep all walkways clear for emergency vehicles.
- Make sure all personnel are out of the building.
- Do not re-enter the building.

4.10 - Sheltering in Place/Lockdown during an Emergency

If an incident occurs and the buildings or areas in or near your location become unstable, if the outdoor air becomes dangerous due to airborne toxins or irritating substances, or a threat exists outside of the building you are currently in it is usually safer to remain indoors because leaving your immediate location may expose you to the danger outside. Thus, to "shelter in place" means to make a shelter of the building you are in, and, with a few adjustments, this location can be made even safer and more comfortable until it is safe to go outside.

4.10.1 - Basic "Shelter in Place" Guidance

If an incident occurs and the building you are in is not damaged, stay inside and seek an interior room until you are informed by emergency responders that it is safe to exit. If the building in which you are located is damaged, follow the evacuation procedures for your building (close your door, proceed to the nearest exit, and use the stairs instead of the elevators). Once you have evacuated the building, immediately seek shelter in the nearest safe Worcester State University building. If the Worcester State University Police Department, the City of Worcester Police, or Fire Department personnel are on scene, follow their directions.

4.10.2 - How You Will Know When to "Shelter in Place?"

A shelter in place notification can come from several sources, including the Worcester State University Police Department, the WSU Emergency Management Team, the City of Worcester Fire Department, or the City of Worcester Police Department. In addition, notification of a need to shelter in place may come over the radio or television or by any of the communication methods mentioned above.

4.10.3 - How to "Shelter in Place" from an Environmental Emergency

No matter where you are, the basic steps to shelter in place will generally remain the same. Should the need to shelter in place from an environmental situation (such as a hazardous material) ever arise, follow these steps unless instructed otherwise by local emergency personnel:

- If you are inside, stay where you are. Collect any emergency shelter in place supplies and a telephone to be used in case of emergency. If you are outdoors, proceed into the closest building quickly or follow instructions from emergency personnel on the scene.
- Locate a room to shelter inside. It should be an interior room above ground level without windows (or with the least number of windows).
- Shut, lock, and tightly seal windows and exterior doors.
- Turn off air conditioners, heaters, and fans.
- Close vents to ventilation systems as you are able.
- Turn on a radio or TV, listen for further instructions, and to the extent possible, monitor the internet from a computer or phone.

4.10.4 - How to "Shelter in Place" from an Active Threat

Should the need to shelter in place due to an active threat ever arise, follow these steps unless instructed otherwise by local emergency personnel:

- If you are inside, stay where you are. If you are outdoors, proceed into the closest building quickly or follow instructions from emergency personnel on the scene.
- Locate a room to shelter inside. It should be an interior room above ground level without windows (or with the least number of windows).
- Shut, lock, and if possible barricade doors and windows.
- Silence phones, TV's, and other devices.
- Remain calm.

5. STATEMENT OF SECURITY AND PERSONAL SAFETY AWARENESS AND CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Worcester State University believes that through safety and crime prevention education, community members are better prepared to prevent and to respond if crime does occur. During orientation, incoming students receive information on personal safety and campus awareness programs and support offered by the Worcester State University Police Department, Office of Title IX, Counseling Services, Office of Community Standards, and Health Services.

Prevention Programs related to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and other crimes are offered throughout the academic year. A common theme of all awareness and crime prevention programs is to encourage students to be aware of their responsibility for their own security, the security of others, and to be an active bystander. In addition, representatives from University Police, Counseling Services, Title IX and Office of Inclusive Excellence and Belonging offer presentations and facilitate passive programs.

5.1 - Campus Safety Workshops and Crime (Including Sexual Violence) Prevention and Awareness Programs

Worcester State University works collectively across campus to offer students, faculty and staff workshops and programming on a wide variety of safety and security related subjects including, but not limited to alcohol and drug awareness and bystander intervention. Worcester State Police Officers, and experienced staff, when invited, take part as guest lecturers in classes or assist student leaders with programming needs upon request.

5.1.1 - Active Threat Seminars

The Worcester State University Police Department offers sessions to increase employee and student situational awareness and alertness in the event they find themselves in harm's way. This seminar focuses on the principles of "Run, Hide, Fight".

5.1.2 - Community Liaison

The Worcester State University Police Department works to provide groups and clubs on campus the opportunity to have an officer take part in a meeting(s). This allows officers to address areas of concern for specific groups, provide familiarity with officers, and the opportunity to collaborate towards an educational goal.

5.1.3 - Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Program

Worcester State's Police Department has offered R.A.D. course (Rape Aggression Defense) trainings designed to teach basic self-defense techniques. R.A.D. training is an opportunity to learn more about how to reduce risks of harm for themselves and the community. Participants are trained to be alert for aggressive behavior, to recognize how this behavior negatively impacts lives, to take steps to avoid aggressive behavior, and to look at how everyone can be part of reducing aggression and violence. This is offered each semester; however, it can also be requested by a group or team. Additional classes, within the R.A.D. program, are also offered as requested, including: RAD Keychain Defense, Advanced Self Defense, and Weapons Defense. Contact WSU Police to schedule.

5.1.4 - Online Sexual Assault Prevention Modules (Vector Solutions)

Currently four programs are required for all incoming first year students: Alcohol Edu, Sexual Violence Prevention, Hazing Prevention and Awareness, and Mental Wellbeing. These programs offer educational information and personalized feedback for students. The first part of the program is typically completed in the summer before first year students arrive on campus, with the second part being completed during the fall. Students must complete the knowledge-based quizzes in order to complete the course. These courses are also required for transfer students, graduate students, and athletes.

5.1.5 - BASICS (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students)

An evidence-based intervention program that helps students examine their own alcohol use. Students may self-refer or be referred through the student-conduct process as needed, throughout the year.

5.1.6 - Behind Closed Doors

RA training in which RAs practice supporting a survivor held annually during summer training.

5.1.7 - Clothesline Project

Sexual Violence Awareness Campaign displayed annually in Sheehan Hall in the spring semester.

5.1.8 - Can I Kiss You?

Is a live, interactive presentation that provides a thought-provoking look at relationships, intimacy, and sexual assault with a focus on consent. Presented by the Center for Respect. Hosted annually during new student orientation.

5.1.9 - Consent and F.R.I.E.S

(Freely Given, Reversible, Informed, Enthusiastic, and Specific) tabling at Wellness Expo and a social media/awareness campaign held in the spring.

5.1.10 - Dragon-line Project

Panel display of stories of violence against ALANA/BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ women.

5.1.11 - Empty Place at the Table

Memorial display by YWCA Central MA honoring those who have lost their lives to domestic violence in MA over the past year.

5.1.12 - Fresh Check Day/Rise Up One Love Booth

Is a yearly event to boost awareness about healthy relationships at the annual mental health event.

5.1.13 - NCAA Life Skills

NCAA Life Skills is coordinated by Athletics with collaboration from the Office of Title IX, Counseling Services and Residence Life. The Life Skills program offers a variety of programs for student athletes. Topics vary from team building, mental health awareness, leadership building, sexual misconduct, etc. Varsity athletes are required to attend, typically held in the fall.

5.1.14 - One Love, Behind the Post

One Love class workshop on healthy vs unhealthy relationships and the impact of social media. Offered multiple times in the fall semester, for classroom workshops, athletics and residence life staff.

5.1.15 - Pathways for Change

Is a local (Central MA) support service for any person impacted by sexual violence and provides education to help end sexual violence; biweekly tabling throughout the year.

5.1.16 - Red Flag Campaign

Flags to represent signs of unhealthy relationships are displayed on campus in October each year.

5.1.17 - Sexual Violence Education and Prevention

Class presentation/workshop on sexual violence and prevention provided six times throughout the year with a primary audience of first year students.

5.1.18 - Title IX and Trauma Informed Approach

Training to faculty, staff, student leaders, and first year students offered multiple times throughout the year.

5.1.19 - We Speak Up

WSU's pro-social behavior and bystander empowerment/intervention program that educates students to be proactive in helping others and offered multiple times throughout the year.

5.2 - Sexual Assault Violence Education (SAVE) Task Force

The Sexual Assault and Violence Education (SAVE) Task Force is a collaborative effort of individuals across academic and student affairs, working together to coordinate sexual and relational violence education and prevention efforts campus wide. The Task Force is composed of administrators, staff, faculty and students representing various campus divisions, departments and disciplines, who are committed to "cultivating a

vibrant campus life in which all members of the WSU community feel welcomed, included, respected, empowered and valued” (Worcester State University, Strategic Plan). Through campus wide programming, training and resources, the task force will help to provide a safe, healthy and supportive campus climate, free of sexual and relational violence.

5.3 - Sexual Misconduct Response Team

The Sexual Misconduct Response Team (SMRT) is a collaborative multi-disciplinary team focused on a comprehensive approach to evaluating and improving the campus response, policies and protocols of sexual and gender based misconduct and discrimination. The SMRT model has become the standard for responding to victims of sexual assault on college campuses and in communities. There is significant research on the effectiveness of such teams on improving prevention and response of sexual violence on college campuses. In 2025 The SMRT continues the important work initiated by the collaboration with NASPA’s Culture of Respect Collective creating meaningful changes to campus policies and services.

5.4 - Bias Incident Review Team (BIRT)

The Bias Incident Review Team (BIRT) is responsible for examining the response to incidents of bias that impact the University's mission, core values, civility policies, policy against discrimination, discriminatory harassment and retaliation, and efforts toward improving campus climate. The Bias Incident Review Team is not a mechanism for investigative or formal disciplinary action. It allows WSU to track incidents of bias, compile aggregate data, identify educational and training opportunities, and connect individuals or groups affected by bias incidents with support and resources.

5.5 - Behavioral Intervention Team

The Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) at Worcester State University takes a multidisciplinary approach to address reports of disruptive, problematic, or concerning student behavior prior to a critical incident and tracks case trends over time, detecting patterns, trends, and disturbances in individual or group behavior. BIT serves as a central network focused on prevention and early intervention in community situations involving students who experience extreme distress or engage in harmful or disruptive behaviors.

5.6 - CARE Team

The Worcester State University Collaboration, Assessment, Response, and Education (CARE) Team is a collaborative group that promotes student well-being through proactive, compassionate, and transparent assistance. The team is composed of personnel with expertise in academic affairs, enrollment management, and student affairs, and its mission is to provide intervention services for students who may require one-time or ongoing support.

The CARE Team is not a threat assessment team or responsible for responding to emergencies. If a referral/report is deemed a threat, it will be referred to the University Police and/or the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT).

5.7 - Working Together for Campus Safety - Tips for Community Members

Members of the Worcester State University community must assume responsibility for their own personal safety and the security of their personal property and are encouraged to assist others. The following precautions provide guidance.

- Report all suspicious activity to WSUPD immediately.
- Never take personal safety for granted.
- Try to avoid walking alone at night. Use the RAVE Guardian App or WSUPD escort service.
- Limit your alcohol consumption, and leave social functions that get too loud, too crowded, or that have too many people drinking excessively. Remember to call WSUPD or WPD for help at the first sign of trouble.
- Elect to use the “buddy system” when going out, leaving together and returning together.
- Carry only small amounts of cash.
- Never leave valuables (wallets, purses, books, phones, etc.) unattended.
- Carry your WSU ID and keys at all times and do not lend them to anyone.
- Lock up bicycles and motorcycles. Lock car doors and close windows when leaving your car.
- Always lock the door to your residence hall room, whether or not you are there. Be certain that your door is locked when you go to sleep, and keep windows closed and locked when you are not at home. DO NOT PROP INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR DOORS.
- Do not leave valuables in your car, especially if they can be easily noticed.
- Engrave serial numbers or owner’s recognized numbers, such as a driver’s license number, on items of value.
- Inventory your personal property and insure it appropriately with personal insurance coverage.

6. STATEMENT OF ALCOHOL POLICIES AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS

All policies and regulations regarding the consumption and/or sale of alcoholic beverages on the Worcester State University premises or off-campus where Worcester State University jurisdiction applies shall be in strict conformity to the appropriate Massachusetts General Laws, the regulations of the License Commission of the City of Worcester and in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA), and the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations¹ and the Worcester State Code of Conduct.

In addition to the preceding laws and others which may be established by legislative bodies, the following rules and regulations apply to Worcester State University premises or off-campus where Worcester State University jurisdiction applies:

¹ References: Mass. General Law, Chap. 138, Sec. 34: Alcoholic Beverages (Procuring for persons under 21); Mass. General Law, Chap. 138, Sec 34A: Alcoholic Beverages (Procuring by false pretenses); Mass. General Law, Chap. 138, Sec. 3413: Alcoholic Beverages (Liquor Purchase Identification Cards); Mass. General Law, Chap. 138, Sec. 34C: Alcoholic Beverages (Transportation by those under 21 years of age); Worcester City Ordinances Chap. 9 re: Open Alcoholic Beverage Containers.

- Worcester State University prohibits the possession, consumption, storage or service of alcohol by students with the exception of prior approval from the Vice President of Student Affairs Office or designee, and 21+ apartments designated by the Office of Residence Life and Housing.
- Students are not allowed in the presence of or in possession of empty or full containers of alcohol, including decorative containers.
- Public intoxication is prohibited.
- Operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol is prohibited.
- The manufacturing of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited.
- Students are responsible for informing their guests of Worcester State University's Alcohol Policy prior to any campus visit. The student will be held strictly accountable for an alcohol violation when their guest violates the alcohol policy. Guests are defined as any person visiting the student whether or not the guest has signed-in to the residence halls through official procedures. Guests, regardless of their age are not permitted to bring alcohol onto the Worcester State University campus.
- Providing alcoholic beverages to a person under age twenty-one (21), whether gratuitously or for sale, is prohibited.
- The possession or use of alcoholic container(s) which indicates the probability of common source drinking (e.g. kegs, punch bowls, or the functional equivalent) is prohibited and shall result in a more severe sanction(s).
- Drinking devices that encourage the rapid consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or endangering behavior is prohibited.
- Drinking games that encourage the rapid consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or endangering behavior is prohibited.
- Open alcoholic beverage containers (including cups containing alcohol) are prohibited.

6.1 - Drug Policy

All policies and regulations regarding illegal consumption/use, possession, sale/ traffic and/or manufacture of narcotics, controlled substances, prescription drugs, counterfeit substances, drug paraphernalia and substances releasing toxic vapor on the Worcester State University campus and its properties shall be in strict conformity to the appropriate Massachusetts General Laws and in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Community Act (DFSCA) and the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations. Detailed descriptions of infractions and penalties can be found in the Massachusetts General Laws, sections 94C and 270. Federal Drug Statute Title 21, USC 841 may also apply. Listed is a summation of these laws. *These laws are subject to change.*

Controlled Substances are classified according to their chemical characteristics and their effect on the human body.

Class A

Heroin, Morphine, Flunitrazepam, Gamma Hydroxy Butyric Acid (aka GHB), Ketamine Hydrochloride (aka "Special K")

Class B

Cocaine, Codeine, Methadone, Oxycontin and Oxycodone, Amphetamines, Fentanyl, Methamphetamine and its isomers and salts, Phencyclidine (PCP, Angel Dust), Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD), Opium in certain amounts, P2P, PCH, PCC, MDMA (ecstasy), Phenmetrazine, Percodan, Dilaudid

Class C

Valium, Librium, Morphine and Codeine in certain amounts, Flurazepam, Hallucinogenic substances including Dimethoxyamphetamine, Mescaline, Peyote, Psilocybin (aka Mexican Mushrooms), Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC, active ingredient in marijuana)

Class D

Marijuana, Barbital, Phenobarbital

Class E

Compounds containing a small percentage of Codeine, morphine or opium, prescription drugs not included in any other class.

Smelling Substance Releasing Toxic Vapor

Although not illegal to possess under certain conditions, these substance offenses occur when a person intentionally smells or inhales them. They include but are not limited to: glue, paint thinners, etc.

Drug Paraphernalia are objects used for the purpose of ingesting, injecting, inhaling, etc. any or all of the above substances. These include, but are not limited to, pipes (ceramic, metal, glass, etc.), syringes, or any other object modified for this purpose, (e.g., plastic containers, toilet paper rolls, etc.).

Possession of a Controlled Substance is simply proof the individual directly or constructively possessed some amount of a controlled substance without lawful authority.

Possession with Intent to Distribute does not require possession of a minimum quantity of a controlled substance where other signs of distribution exist, e.g., quantity (even a minute quantity can suffice), purity, street value, possession of a large amount of cash, uniform packaging, known drug area, behavior, possession of drug paraphernalia, etc. Penalties as outlined under Massachusetts General Laws are included in subsequent pages.

Counterfeit Substances are imitations intended to be offered off deceptively as a genuine controlled substance. Because fake substances are often more dangerous to ingest and because the dealer is attempting to make a profit while eliminating the risk of being caught with a controlled substance, possession and sale of a counterfeit substance are punishable crimes under the law.

The Drug-Free School and Park Zone Law was designed to heighten safety and deter drug distribution in areas where children congregate most: schools and public parks. This law provides for an enhanced penalty for individuals who possess any illegal drug with the intent to distribute. This applies to a suspect within 100 feet of a public park or playground or 1000 feet of a public or private elementary, secondary or vocational school. **Worcester State University is within 1000 feet of two schools.**

6.2 - Medical/Recreational Marijuana

Massachusetts state law permits the use of medical and recreational marijuana. However, federal laws prohibit marijuana use, possession, and/or cultivation at educational institutions therefore the use, possession or cultivation of marijuana for medical or recreational purposes is not allowed in any Worcester State University property; nor is it allowed at any University-sponsored event, program or activity off campus.

In addition, no accommodations will be made for any student in possession of a medical marijuana registration card. Worcester State University will release students from the occupancy license (with documentation) who need to use or possess marijuana for medical purposes. Anyone who possesses or uses marijuana at Worcester State University may be subject to civil citation, state or federal prosecution, and university discipline.

6.3 - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs and Resources

Resources

Worcester State University recognizes that at the foundation of every positive student experience is a safe and healthy learning environment.

The misuse and abuse of alcohol and drugs can be detrimental to the health, safety, learning, and well-being of individuals as well as the Worcester State community. Therefore, the University offers substance abuse prevention programs for its members and will identify resources and provide assistance for students, faculty and staff who have or develop problems with alcohol and other drugs.

Online Alcohol Prevention Programs

Online prevention/awareness programs are designed to increase an intercultural community that engages in civility, promotes personal growth and engagement, and embraces responsibility for the health and safety of ourselves and our community.

The required Vector online courses are comprehensive, research-based, online training programs assigned that provide essential information that empower students to make thoughtful and healthy choices.

Failure to complete/comply with these educational and prevention programs may result in a disciplinary/student affairs hold being placed on a student's account until the original required prevention education has been completed

6.4 - Alcohol and Drug Emergency Transport/Amnesty Policy

Worcester State University considers the safety and personal well being of the student body a priority.

Worcester State University recognizes that there may be alcohol or other drug-related medical or safety emergencies in which the potential for disciplinary action could act as a deterrent to students who want to seek assistance for themselves or others.

When a student aids an intoxicated or impaired individual by contacting Worcester State University Police or Residence Life staff, neither the intoxicated individual nor the individual or student reporting the emergency will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students who undergo a substance-related wellness check, whether or not they are transported to a local hospital, are required to follow up with WSU's Counseling Center and complete a Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) meeting within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving a notification letter from the office. Failure to schedule and attend the required sessions may result in conduct action.

In the case of a second (2nd) transport; the student will attend two (2) educational meetings with a BASICS instructor followed by a minimum of three (3) sessions with a member of the Counseling Services staff.

In the unlikely case of subsequent transports, the student will meet with an administrative team to discuss the student's well-being, evaluate their residency status and/or visitation privileges within the residence halls, and potential conduct action.

6.5 - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program (DAAPP)

The Drug Free Schools Campuses Regulations (34 CFR Part 86) of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) requires an institution of higher education (IHE) such as Worcester State University, to certify that it has implemented programs to prevent the abuse of alcohol and use and/or distribution of illicit drugs both by Worcester State University students and employees both on its premises and as a part of any of its activities. The Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program (DAAPP) is provided to the Worcester State University community each semester as required.

7. SUMMARY STATEMENT ON UNIVERSITY POLICY CONCERNING SEX-BASED DISCRIMINATION

7.1 - Statement of Policy on Sex-Based Discrimination

Worcester State University is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment free from discrimination and harassment. In accordance with federal and state laws and University Policy, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, The Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 6, Sections 168D–168F, "An Act Relative to Sexual Violence on College Campuses" (2021) and The MA Equal Opportunity, Nondiscrimination and Title IX Plan, the University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in all educational programs and activities, including admission and employment.

7.2 - Sex-Based Discrimination

Under Worcester State University's Equal Opportunity, Nondiscrimination and Title IX Plan (EO Plan), the University prohibits discrimination or harassment based on:

- Sex characteristics
- Sex stereotypes

- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity or expression
- Pregnancy and related medical conditions

7.3 - VAWA/Clery/Title IX Crimes

Under The Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Worcester State University reports and responds to the following crimes when they occur within University programs and activities:

- Sexual Assault – Nonconsensual sexual contact or penetration
- Domestic Violence – Violence committed by a current or former intimate partner or other protected relationship
- Dating Violence – Violence committed by someone in a romantic or intimate relationship with the victim
- Stalking – A course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes fear for safety or substantial emotional distress

These crimes are also addressed under Title IX when they meet the definitions of quid pro quo harassment or hostile environment harassment.

8. JURISDICTION - UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Title IX Policy and EO plan applies to all members of the University community (students, faculty, staff, applicants, visitors, and contractors) and covers conduct in University programs and activities, including academics, athletics, housing, employment, admissions, and recognized student organization facilities. Some conduct occurring outside of University programs or the United States may also fall under these policies if it impacts the work or learning environment.

9. COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION AND RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Worcester State University has established equitable procedures for investigating and resolving complaints of sex-based discrimination, sexual harassment, and VAWA crimes. Complaints may be filed by any individual with the University's Title IX Coordinator or Equal Opportunity Officer, in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic communication. Reports may be made at any time, including outside of business hours.

Once a complaint is submitted:

1. **Initial Assessment** - The Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to discuss available supportive measures, explain options for resolution, and determine whether a formal complaint will be filed.
2. **Investigation** - Trained, impartial investigators gather evidence, interview parties and witnesses, and review relevant materials. Both parties have an opportunity to provide evidence and identify witnesses.

3. **Draft Investigation Report** - A summary of findings and evidence is provided to the parties for review and written response.
4. **Administrative Review and Decision Maker** - An administrative reviewer assesses the investigation for completeness and impartiality, addresses any credibility issues, and ensures that all relevant and permissible evidence has been considered. In complaints involving sexual assault under Title IX, the process may include a live hearing with cross-examination, conducted by the decision-maker or through a structured questioning process, in accordance with federal Title IX regulations.
5. **Determination of Responsibility** - A decision-maker issues a determination of responsibility using the preponderance of the evidence standard. If prohibited conduct is found, remedies and disciplinary sanctions may be applied. Disciplinary action taken against an employee shall be regarded as an administrative action, up to and including termination. A student who has been found to have violated the Sexual Harassment Policy may be subject to sanctions including, but not limited to: • reprimand • fines and/or restitution • warning • disciplinary hold • disciplinary probation • assessment • loss of privileges • educational program or project • relocation of residence • revocation of admission or degree • restriction from facilities or activities • withholding of degree • temporary or permanent residence hall suspension • suspension
6. **Appeal** - Both parties have the right to appeal the determination on specified grounds.

10. SUPPORTIVE MEASURES

Available to both complainants and respondents, supportive measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to education and protect the safety of all parties. Examples include counseling, no-contact orders, housing or workplace modifications, and academic adjustments.

11. AMNESTY

To encourage reporting, students who disclose prohibited conduct will not face disciplinary action for personal use of alcohol or drugs in connection with the reported incident.

The full Equal Opportunity, Nondiscrimination, and Title IX Plan, which contains complete definitions, (including definitions of consent, coercion, force and incapacitation), procedures, and policy details and resources (both on and off campus) for sexual misconduct, including safety and evidence preservation, can be found on the [WSU Title IX Webpage](#).

12. STATEMENT OF POLICY ADDRESSING SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

The Federal Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act, enacted on October 28, 2000, went into effect on October 28, 2002. The law requires institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement agency information provided by the State concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. The act also requires sex offenders already required to register in a State to provide notice, as required, under State Law, of each institution of higher education in that State at which a person is employed, carries on a vocation, volunteers service, or is a student.

At Worcester State University, all publicly available information received from state Sex Offender Registry offices will be maintained by the Worcester State University Police Department. Any member of the public who is at least 18 years of age or older may request sex offender information. The information will be provided to any person who is seeking the information for their own protection, for the protection of a child under the age of 18, or for the protection of another person for whom the requesting person has responsibility, care, or custody.

Persons seeking Sex Offender Registry information should be aware there are criminal penalties for use of Sex Offender Registry information to commit a crime or to engage in illegal discrimination or harassment of an offender.

13. MISSING STUDENT POLICY FOR STUDENTS WHO RESIDE ON-CAMPUS

If a member of the University community has reason to believe that a student who resides in on-campus housing is missing, they should immediately notify WSUPD at (508) 929-8650. WSUPD will generate a missing person report and begin an investigation.

After investigating the missing person report, should WSUPD determine that the student is missing, WSUPD will notify local law enforcement and the student's missing person contact within 24 hours after the student is determined to be missing. If the missing student is under the age of 18 and is not an emancipated individual, the University will notify the student's parent or legal guardian.

In addition to providing an emergency contact with the university, students residing in on-campus housing may choose to confidentially designate a person to be contacted by a WSU Official if they are determined to be missing. This confidential contact information will be accessible only to authorized campus officials, and may only be shared with law enforcement personnel in connection with a missing person investigation. If such a contact has been identified, the University will notify that individual within 24 hours determining that the student is missing.

Students provide emergency contact information (including any confidential contacts) during the room selection and license agreement process managed by the Office of Residence Life and Housing. This information will remain in effect unless the student updates or revokes it. All emergency contact information will be stored electronically.

14. CRIME STATISTICS

The Clery Act requires that crime statistics concerning the occurrence of certain crimes reported to campus security authorities be published for the most recent calendar year and the two preceding calendar years for which data is available in the following geographical categories:

- On-campus
- In dormitories or other residential facilities for students on campus
- In or on a non-campus building or property

- On public property

14.1 - Clery Crime Definitions

The Clery Act requires that statistics for the following crimes be reported:

Criminal Homicide

- Murder (non-negligent manslaughter): the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another
- Manslaughter by Negligence: the killing of another person through gross negligence

Sexual Assault (Sex Offenses)

An offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest, or statutory rape as used in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Per the National Incident-Based Reporting System User Manual from the FBI UCR Program, A sex offense is "any sexual act directed against another person, without consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

- Rape: the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus, with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.
- Fondling: the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.
- Incest: sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
- Statutory Rape: sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

Hazing

In compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 269, Sections 17–19 and the federal Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, including the Stop Campus Hazing Act, Worcester State University prohibits all forms of hazing. These laws require institutions of higher education to take proactive steps to prevent hazing, to educate their communities, and to report incidents in a timely and transparent manner.

Hazing is defined as any conduct or method of initiation into a student organization, group, or team—whether on or off campus—that willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. This includes, but is not limited to, acts that are degrading, humiliating, abusive, psychologically harmful, physically dangerous, or potentially life-threatening. Consent to hazing is not a defense.

Worcester State University considers hazing to be a serious violation of University policy and community standards. It is strictly prohibited by individuals, groups, and student organizations, regardless of recognition status or location of the conduct.

All student groups, organizations, and athletic teams are expected to foster environments of respect, inclusion, and integrity. They must adhere to this policy and the Student Code of Conduct in all activities and

interactions.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action by the University, including suspension or expulsion, and may also be subject to criminal prosecution under Massachusetts state and federal law.

Robbery

The taking or attempting to take anything of value from 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

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.

Burglary

The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

Motor Vehicle Theft

The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

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.

Weapons Violations

The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, concealment, or use of firearms, cutting instruments, explosives, incendiary devices or other deadly weapons. This classification encompasses weapons offenses that are regulatory in nature.

Drug Abuse Violations

The violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution and/or use of certain controlled substances and the equipment or devices utilized in their preparation and/or use. The unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance. Arrests for violations of state and local laws, specifically those relating to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, manufacturing, and making of narcotic drugs.

Liquor Law Violations

The violation of state or local laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession or alcoholic beverages, not including driving under the influence and drunkenness.

Domestic Violence

A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed

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

To categorize an incident as Domestic Violence, the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim 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.

Dating Violence

Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. For the purposes of this definition:

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

Stalking:

- Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:
 - Fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or
 - Suffer substantial emotional distress.
- For the purposes of this definition:
 - Course of conduct means two or more acts, including but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property.
 - A reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.
 - Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

Stalking may occur in a range of formats including, but not limited to, in-person, written letters or notes, voice mail, email, texting, following someone utilizing global position system (GPS), video and audio recording, and social networking.

Hate Crime

A criminal offense that manifests evidence that the victim was intentionally selected because of the perpetrator's bias against the victim. For purposes of the Clery Act, hate crimes are those that manifest evidence the victim was intentionally selected because of his or her actual or perceived race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, national origin or gender identity. In accordance with the Clery Act, "Before an incident can be classified as a Hate Crime, sufficient objective facts must be present to lead a reasonable and prudent person to conclude that the offender's actions were motivated, in whole or in part, by bias."

Statistics included in this report are taken from a variety of sources, including the Worcester State University Police Department, other campus security authorities, and the Worcester Police Department. The Worcester State University Police Department gathers, compiles, and prepares all statistics for this report.

14.2 - STATEMENT FOR REPORTING THE ANNUAL DISCLOSURE OF CRIME STATISTICS

As required by federal law, Worcester State University Police Departments yearly crime statistics for this report are compiled on a calendar year basis in accordance with the definitions of crimes provided by the FBI for use in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. The report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning crimes that occurred on campus and were reported to University Police, Worcester City Police and Campus Security Authorities.

In addition, these statistics also include persons referred for campus disciplinary action for categories required under the Clery Act, including liquor and drug law violations, and illegal weapons possession. Statistical information for certain off-campus locations or property owned or controlled by Worcester State University as well as public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus are requested and collected from Worcester City Police Department, and Campus Security Authorities. For statistical purposes, crimes reported to any of these sources are recorded in the calendar year during which the crime was reported.

All statistics are gathered, compiled, and reported to the Worcester State University community via this report, entitled "Annual Security Report" which is published by the Worcester State Clery Compliance Committee. Worcester State submits the annual crime statistics published in this brochure to the Dept. of Education (ED). The statistical information gathered by the Department of Education is available to the public through the ED website.

By Oct. 1, Worcester State sends an email to every enrolled student and current employee on an annual basis. The email includes a brief summary of the contents of this report. The email also includes the address of the WSUPD website where the Annual Security Report can be found. Copies of this report may also be obtained at the University Police Department and the Vice President of Students Office.

14.3 - CRIME REPORT STATISTICS FOR 2022, 2023, and 2024

2022-2024 REPORTED CRIMINAL OFFENSES					
		GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION			
OFFENSE	YEAR	ON-CAMPUS PROPERTY*	STUDENT HOUSING	NON-CAMPU S PROPERTY	PUBLIC PROPERTY
MURDER / NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	1	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
MANSLAUGHTER BY NEGLIGENCE	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
RAPE	2022	6	6	0	0
	2023	6	6	0	0
	2024	1	1	0	0
FONDLING	2022	6	4	0	0
	2023	5	5	0	0
	2024	4	4	0	0
INCEST	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
STATUATORY RAPE	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
BURGLARY	2022	1	1	0	0
	2023	1	1	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
ARSON	2022	0	0	0	0

	2023	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0

* On-campus property statistics are INCLUSIVE of, not in addition to, student housing.

2022-2024 VAWA REPORTED OFFENSES					
		GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION			
OFFENSE	YEAR	ON-CAMPUS PROPERTY*	STUDENT HOUSING	NON-CAMPUS PROPERTY	PUBLIC PROPERTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	2022	1	1	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
DATING VIOLENCE	2022	1	0	0	0
	2023	1	1	0	0
	2024	2	2	0	0
STALKING	2022	3	2	0	0
	2023	2	0	0	0
	2024	4	3	0	0
2022-2024 ARRESTS AND DISCIPLINARY REFERRALS					
		GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION			
OFFENSE	YEAR	ON-CAMPUS PROPERTY*	STUDENT HOUSING	NON-CAMPUS PROPERTY	PUBLIC PROPERTY
ARRESTS: WEAPONS: CARRYING, POSSESSION, ETC.	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	1	1	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
DISCIPLINARY REFERRALS: WEAPONS: CARRYING, POSSESSION, ETC.	2022	1	1	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
	2024	1	1	0	0
ARRESTS: DRUG ABUSE VIOLATIONS	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
	2024	2	2	0	0

DISCIPLINARY REFERRALS: DRUG ABUSE VIOLATIONS	2022	35	35	0	0
	2023	26	26	0	0
	2024	30	27	0	0
ARRESTS: LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
DISCIPLINARY REFERRALS: LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	2022	75	75	0	0
	2023	82	82	0	0
	2024	21	21	0	0

* On-campus property statistics are INCLUSIVE of, not in addition to, student housing.

14.4 - HATE CRIME REPORT STATISTICS FOR 2022, 2023, or 2024

There were no reported Hate Crimes for the years 2022, 2023, or 2024.

15. 2023 CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315), enacted in August 2008, requires Worcester State University to produce an annual fire safety report outlining fire safety practices, standards and fire related statistics for on campus housing facilities.

15.1 - Fire Alarm and Suppression Systems

All on-campus residence halls are equipped with fire alarm and sprinkler systems which meet state and local fire safety codes. The fire systems in all on-campus residence halls consist of horns and strobe lights that alert residents to an alarm and which are remotely monitored at the University Police Department operation center. On-campus residence halls are also equipped with fire rated smoke/fire doors designed to impede the spread of smoke and/or fire. Regular and frequent inspections are conducted by University Police, Residence Life and Facilities who report fire hazards in the residence halls and facilitate prompt resolutions. Upon receipt of a fire alarm, University Police are immediately dispatched and the Worcester Fire Department is notified. Worcester State University's on-campus housing consists of a variety of configurations, including traditional dormitory style buildings, apartments and suite style facilities. Fire safety equipment is reviewed and tested annually to identify areas of concern or where additional equipment may be necessary.

15.2 - Policies on Rules for Electrical Appliances, Smoking and Open Flames

All electrical appliances must be UL approved. Cooking appliances such as hot pots, hot plates, coil water-heaters and any other appliances with open heating elements may be fire hazards and are prohibited. See the Residence Hall Occupancy License and Residence Hall Handbook for more information.

The use of microwave ovens is permitted within the residence halls provided that such use is in full accordance with manufacturer operating instructions. For safety reasons, students are not to leave microwave ovens unattended while food is being prepared. It is suggested that students make arrangements with their

roommate(s) so that microwave ovens are limited to one per bedroom. Worcester State furnishes student rooms with beds, desks, desk chairs, chest of drawers, and wardrobes.

Fire codes prohibit students from bringing their own furniture unless it has a CAL 133 fire-rating and does not violate fire and safety policies. If you choose to bring your own furniture, please note that it must meet fire code ratings. If our staff cannot verify its compliance, you will be required to remove it. Additionally, personal furniture must not obstruct fire evacuation routes.

Flammable decorations larger than 2'x3' (e.g., large paper posters, flags, fishnets, blankets, tapestries, carpeting hung from ceiling or on walls, etc.) in all housing units are prohibited.

Open-air fires are prohibited in the residence halls and surrounding areas. This includes but is not limited to candles, incense, and space heaters. The only exceptions to this rule are the barbecue grills (charcoal only) placed in several areas throughout Chandler Village. These are the only areas to be used for barbecues and outdoor cooking. All privately owned gas or charcoal grills, hibachis, etc. are strictly prohibited. Wood fires are not allowed anywhere on campus. Violators are subject to all penalties associated with relevant fire codes, including but not limited to a \$100.00 fine and judicial action. Chapter 143 of the Massachusetts General Laws prohibits smoking in schools, colleges, universities, public buildings and institutions.

15.3 - Fire Safety Training and Evacuation Plans for Residence Hall Staff and Residents

The Office of Residence Life in conjunction with the University's safety officer regularly reviews evacuation plans for all on-campus residence halls. Equipment vendors/manufacturers complete annual testing of smoke detectors and other individual system components to ensure their proper operation and communication with the fire alarm reporting systems. Fire evacuation drills are performed annually to evaluate all aspects of the evacuation process and to review/implement changes as necessary. Students residing on campus are referred to the Residence Hall Handbook located on the Residence Life Department website, fire safety specific policies are identified below.

15.4 - Fire Drills

A fire drill is a supervised practice of a mandatory evacuation of a building. Fire drills are conducted in every residence hall each year in coordination with the Worcester State University Police Department, Facilities, and the Office of Residence Life and Housing. These drills are unannounced and are performed to test:

- Residents' reaction to the fire alarm signal;
- Residents' knowledge of building emergency evacuation plans; and
- Systems functionality

All fire drills are monitored by the Worcester State University Police Department. The Worcester State University Facilities and/or Police Department may recommend improvements or to repeat the drill based on the outcome of any given drill.

15.5 - Specific Fire Related Policies

Worcester State University students, staff, and faculty are instructed to report all fire-related emergencies to the University Police Department at 8911 from any campus phone, or 508-929-8911 or 911 from a cell phone or outside line. All calls to WSUPD go through the department's recorded emergency line. WSUPD will in turn notify the Worcester Fire Department.

Residence Hall Handbook Policies

All policies can be located in the Residence Hall handbook.

<https://www.worcester.edu/campus-life/housing-dining/residence-hall-handbook/>

Emergency Exits

Numerous emergency exit doors are located in Dowden Hall, Sheehan Hall, and Wasylean Hall on the first floor and in several stairways. Additionally, each apartment in Chandler Village has one or more emergency/fire exit doors. All of these doors are alarmed, are clearly marked, and are intended for emergency use only.

Inappropriate and/ or unauthorized use of these emergency exits by students may result in fines of up to \$100 and/or judicial action.

Fire Alarms

Do not pull the fire alarm unless there is a fire. Students will be charged for false fire alarms that have to be reset by the Fire Department. Any fire alarm may result in some level of panic or falling during evacuation, which may lead to students being injured. False alarms may also contribute to student complacency and, should there be a real fire, students may not respond. Any student who causes a fire, tampers with fire extinguishers, or falsely pulls a fire alarm may be removed from housing immediately and will face judicial action.

- Do not let garbage accumulate. Take your trash out to the dumpster.
- All electrical appliances must be UL approved.
- Cooking appliances such as hotplates, hot pots, coil water-heaters, toaster ovens, crockpots, etc., may be fire hazards. THEY ARE PROHIBITED.
- Fire Drills are performed annually. Failure to leave your apartment/room may result in judicial action and residential status review.
- Tampering with/ destruction of smoke detectors, heat detectors and other fire safety equipment will result in a \$100.00 fine, along with judicial action, possible removal from the residence halls, plus the cost of parts and labor for all repairs. This includes the covering of smoke detectors.

Any resident who may be aware of a potential fire hazard in his or her area should inform the Office of Residence Life and Housing immediately.

Chandler Village Fire Escapes and Fire Deck Doors

The use of all fire escapes and roof decks is strictly prohibited except in the event of an emergency. Students found using them during non-emergency situations may face judicial action and/or fines. Many third-floor apartments have fire decks adjacent to the upper levels. These areas are prohibited and cannot be used except in the case of an emergency. The fire doors are alarmed, and any unauthorized openings may result in fines of up to \$100.00 and/or additional judicial action.

15.6 - Fire Safety Systems

The table below outlines the fire safety systems currently in use in the Worcester State Residence Halls:

Residence Hall	Fire Alarm Monitoring	Sprinkler System	Smoke Detectors	Fire Extinguishers	Evacuation plans & Placards	Fire Drills
Chandler Village 1-26	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	1
Dowden Hall	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	1
Sheehan Hall	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	1
Wasylean Hall	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	1

15.7 - Fire Statistics for On-Campus Residential Facilities

The following are 2022-2024 fire statistics as reported to the Worcester State University Police Department. The statistics are current as of publication of this report.

2022-2024 FIRE LOG

Location	Total Fires in Each Building	Fire Number	Cause of Fire	Injuries Requiring Treatment	Number of Deaths	Value
No fires reported						

REFERENCES

[Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct | Worcester State University](#)

[Residence Hall Handbook | Worcester State University](#)

[Worcester State University Employee Handbook](#)

