

Campus Safety and Security

How safe is the Oberlin College Campus?

The suburban rural setting of the City of Oberlin has a crime index that is similar to that of similar municipalities and the nation in general. The Oberlin City Police Department maintains a full-time professional police staff to provide law enforcement and public safety services to the residents of the city and to the campus community.

The mission of the Safety and Security Office is to support a safe environment within which all members of the College community can learn, live, teach, and work. The Safety and Security Office strives to provide a high quality of general and emergency response services; life and property protection; and educational programming on safety and security issues.

Uniformed Safety and Security officers are the most easily recognizable representatives of Safety and Security while on mobile, foot, or bicycle patrol. Providing services twenty-four hours a day, the Safety and Security Office responds immediately to potential criminal incidents, suspicious activity, requests for assistance, and emergency situations. The office acts to communicate, refer, and notify representatives of College services after hours when needed by the College community. Crime prevention information and community safety education programming is also a part of the services provided by the Safety and Security Office.

What is the size of the Safety and Security Office?

The Safety and Security Office is staffed by a director, an assistant director, four shift supervisors, twelve full-time and three part-time officers, five full-time communication officers, and an office manager. It is also staffed by three full-time museum officers and three part-time officers.

What services are provided?

- *Safety Escort Services.* Students who may be walking alone on campus after dark are encouraged to utilize the Student Shuttle Service that provides a stop to stop service on a perimeter loop that serves academic and residential areas and limited areas off campus. Upon request, an officer or student patrol member will provide

a walking escort to residential halls, residences, or academic buildings.

- *Fire Safety.* Safety and Security Officers are the first response to fire alarms and fire incidents. Safety and Security provides fire safety information, assists in reporting fire safety concerns for repair or improvement, and initiates regular fire drills for the safety of students living in residential halls.
- *Crime Prevention.* The responsibility for the safety of everyone in our community belongs to the individual as well as the Safety and Security Office. In supporting this shared responsibility, the Safety and Security Office provides information and education on crime prevention, personal safety, sexual assault prevention, property protection, residential hall security and safety, bicycle thefts, and additional timely issues.
- *Medical Emergencies.* Safety and Security officers provide American Red Cross first aid/CPR assistance in cases of injury or illness and contact the hospital ambulance services when necessary. Additionally, limited medical transports are available to and from Student Health Services for students who are ill or whose mobility is impaired.
- *Facilities Access.* On occasions when faculty provide written permission for after-hours access to academic services, access is provided by presentation of an I.D. Card at the Safety and Security Office. When resident assistants are not available, officers may assist a student to gain entry to his or her room when locked.
- *Crime Statistics.* Oberlin College's annual security report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus; in certain off-campus buildings owned or controlled by Oberlin College; and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as policies concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other matters. You can obtain a copy of this report by contacting the Office of Safety and Security or by accessing the web site at www.oberlin.edu/~security.

- *Special Alert* notices are distributed to the campus community advising of facts of serious incidents affecting the campus community; media reports are published weekly.
- *Student Patrol Program*. Organized to increase safety and security support services to the Campus community through the primary role of visibility in patrol on Campus, the Student Patrol provides an opportunity for employment in support of the Safety and Security Office in the role of providing walking patrols, walking safety escorts, and in driving the Student Shuttle.

Is there an emergency phone system?

Seventy-two emergency "Blue Light" and residential hall door phones are located throughout campus near walkways, in parking lots, and at residential hall entrances. These phones may be used to report emergencies, seek immediate assistance, or report suspicious activity. They signal the location of the caller to the Safety and Security Office so that immediate response may be given simply by the caller pressing a button to initiate the contact.

Is the campus well lit at night?

The College has an exterior system of lighting that provides pedestrians with well-lighted corridors of travel throughout the campus. Inspections of the exterior lighting are done by Safety and Security officers and Facilities Operations Technicians regularly. There is an Annual Lighting Walk to assess the conditions, long- and short-term needs of providing additional lighting on campus.

Are parking facilities well-lit and close to classrooms and other buildings?

Parking facilities throughout campus are within reasonable walking distance of most buildings and facilities. The lots are afforded the same exterior lighting as are open space areas of the campus and inspection and maintenance are carried out on a regular basis. While primarily a walking campus, all parking facilities are patrolled frequently by Safety and Security officers and safety escorts are available to all parking lots.

Are residence halls secure?

The College is served by a card access system to residence halls, and maintains an ongoing inspection and maintenance effort in regard to all security/safety hardware and life safety systems. Staffs of the Safety and Security Office, Residential Education, and Facilities Operations are all involved in assuring that the systems are checked and maintained in appropriate condition.

Is parking regulated on campus?

Students, faculty, staff, and any visitors using campus lots are required to register motor vehicles and display parking permits for assigned areas. There is a sixty-dollar fee for a student to register a vehicle. Cooperation with current parking regulations assists the office serve the entire College community in utilizing available parking. Contact the Safety and Security Office upon arrival for information, registration, and a copy of parking regulations. While first year students are not prohibited from bringing a vehicle to campus, they are asked to assess the necessity of bringing a car.

Who can I contact with questions and concerns?

Students and parents are invited to ask questions, seek assistance, and share concerns on safety and security issues by contacting the Director of the Safety and Security Office. The Director is also available and participates in community meetings planned each semester by the Office of the Dean of Students, and actively participates in Orientation and Parent Weekend Programs, and programs during the academic year. The Director can be reached at (440) 775-8877.

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