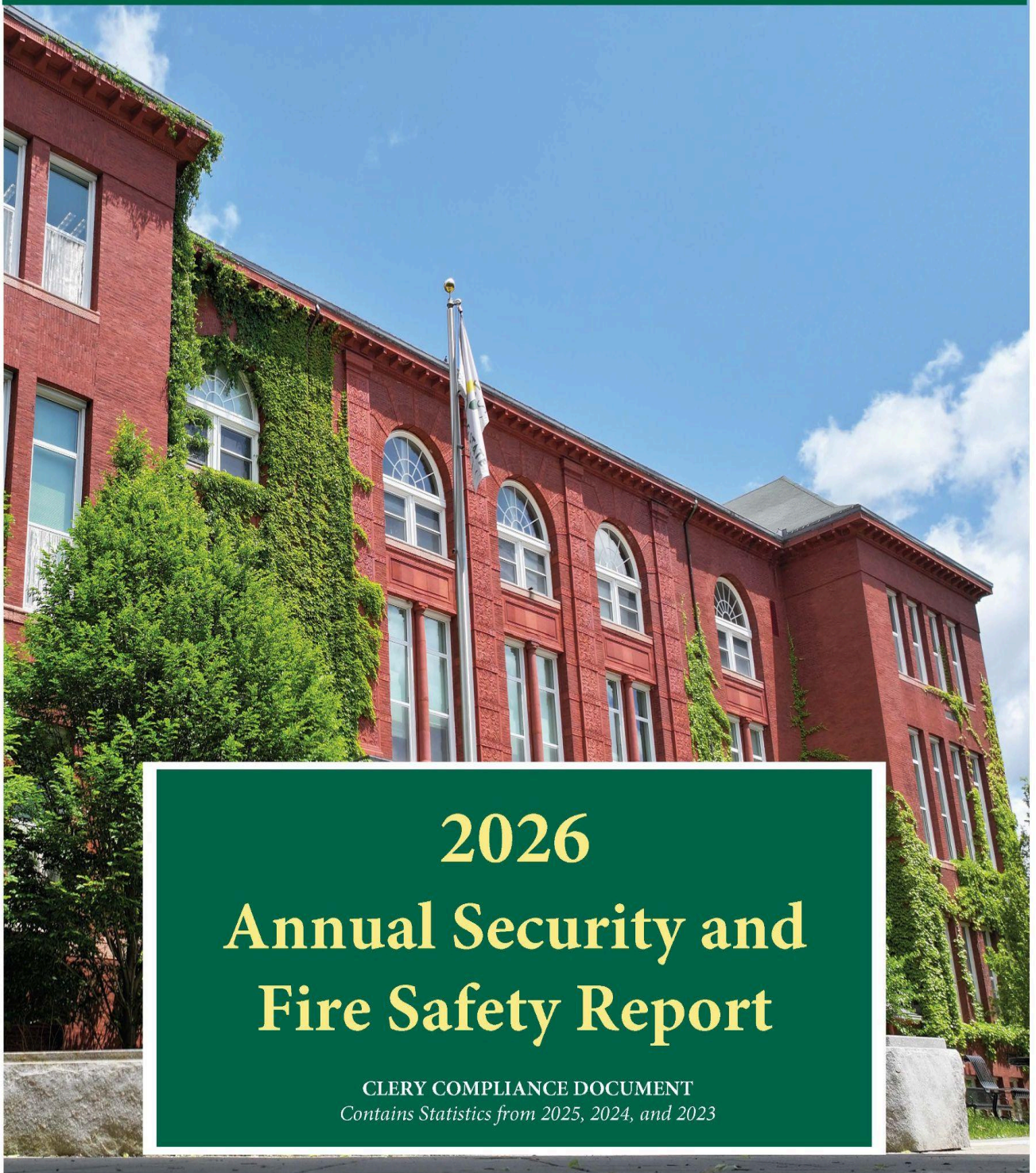




FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY



2026

Annual Security and Fire Safety Report

CLERY COMPLIANCE DOCUMENT
Contains Statistics from 2025, 2024, and 2023



The 2026 Fitchburg State University's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report

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A Message From President Hodge



At Fitchburg State University, we believe that creating and sustaining a safe and healthy campus community is a shared responsibility. Whatever one's role on campus, we all have a part to play in remaining vigilant and working with our campus partners to foster an environment where all can thrive.

In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, commonly known as the Clery Act, the university publishes this report each year to provide students, faculty, librarians, and staff with an overview of our crime statistics, public safety resources, policies, and procedures.

The statistics included in this report are gathered from sources including local law enforcement as well as campus officials with significant responsibility for student and campus activities. The data they describe are reported to the U.S. Department of Education, where they are compiled into a searchable database that can be found at ope.ed.gov/campussafety.

We embrace the spirit of transparency called for in the Clery Act, and take seriously its required protocols for emergency response procedures, timely notifications for on-campus crimes, missing students, fire incident reporting, and more.

We pursue our shared objectives for campus safety through a coordinated approach involving a number of campus offices and administrators, and by engaging with public safety professionals in our city and region. This report will describe the work that is taking place, and I invite you to learn more about our efforts and what we all can do to support them.

Sincerely,

Donna Hodge, Ph.D.

President



Introduction

The information in this report is provided as part of Fitchburg State University's commitment to campus safety. It complies with the requirements of The Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act ("Clery Act"), The Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 6 § 168C.

Beyond the statutory requirements of this report, it is designed to provide a better understanding of the steps the university and its partners have taken to contribute to the safety of this institution.

This report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings, on property owned or controlled by the University, and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The statistics encompass campus crimes, arrests, and referrals are collected from the Fitchburg State University Police Department, Campus Security Authorities, and local law enforcement agencies.

This report also includes institutional policies as they relate to campus security; policies regarding alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual violence, fire safety, and other matters.

At the beginning of each calendar year, the University Police Department begins the process of collecting the required data, statistics, and policy statements from various internal and external entities, with the assistance of the University's Clery Compliance Working Group.

This includes verifying any change in property ownership by the university, university policies and programs. The information obtained is used to complete this Annual Security Report.

Before publication, the University Police Department verifies that this report meets the Federal requirements of the Clery Act and state laws and that all updated policies are properly reflected.

Each year, an email notification is sent to all enrolled students, faculty, and staff, which provides information on how to access the Annual Security Report online. As all students and employees receive this publication, all content and resources contained within it are considered "provided in writing", where applicable requirements apply.

Questions regarding the information contained in this report may be addressed to:

Rebecca H. Newell, Title IX Coordinator & EO Officer
Rnewell7@fitchburgstate.edu

Michael J. Cloutier, Chief of Police and Executive in Charge of University Operations
mclouti4@fitchburgstate.edu

Phillip Karampatsos, Lieutenant
pkarampa@fitchburgstate.edu

Hard copies of this report may be obtained at the following locations or by request:

- **Office of the President**, located in the Sanders Administration Building, Room 212
- **Admissions**, located in the Anthony Student Service Center, Room 102
- **Human Resources**, located in the Sanders Administration Building, Room 202
- **Office of Student Engagement**, located in the Hammond Hall, Room G 13
- **Fitchburg State University Police Department**, Public Lobby



Security And Access

Access to Campus Facilities and Residence Halls

During normal business hours, Fitchburg State University's academic and administrative buildings are accessible to the public for academic and official university purposes. Individual academic buildings establish their specific hours of operation based on departmental needs. The University Police Department conducts regular patrols of all academic and administrative facilities.

The Fitchburg State University Police Department's Communication Center maintains 24-hour monitoring of entry into most residence halls. This is achieved through the university's alarm monitoring system, electronic access control system, and, where available, security cameras. Communication Center dispatchers can track the authorization and denial of access via University Identification Cards (OneCards) and identify instances where entryways are held open. In response to security concerns, University Police personnel are dispatched, or Residence Life is contacted as appropriate.

Statement of Policy for Addressing Safety and Security in Residence Halls

The Fitchburg State University Police Department and Residence Life collaborate closely to ensure the safety and security of students within the residence halls. This partnership is exemplified by the Housing Liaison Program, which is overseen by the FSUPD and designed to address the specific needs of each residence hall and its residents.

The Housing Liaison Program extends beyond routine police presence. Fitchburg State University Police Department officers regularly meet with Residence Life Staff and periodically with students to discuss any issues or concerns. Officers also participate in Residence Life-sponsored events, fostering positive relationships and providing opportunities for students to interact with law enforcement in a relaxed setting.

Each residence hall and residential area has a designated Residence Life staff member available to assist students with a wide range of housing-related concerns. These staff members undergo comprehensive training before each academic year. This training covers protocols for responding to various emergencies, including medical issues, fire alarms, and building evacuations, sexual and domestic violence, vandalism, substance abuse, and disruptive behavior.

Professional staff members are available to assist students during normal business hours. After business hours and on weekends, live-in student staff provide support to residents in their respective areas.

Students access their rooms using their university-issued identification (OneCard). To maintain a secure environment, resident students are strictly prohibited from propping open residence hall entrance doors or from disabling or tampering with any fire or security system devices. Tampering with or disabling any security device or system poses a significant risk to the entire University community and may result in criminal charges and/or university disciplinary action.

Off-Campus Housing

Fitchburg State University does not have officially recognized student organizations that own or control housing facilities inside or outside of Fitchburg State University's core campus. However, the City of Fitchburg Police Department responds to and keeps a record of criminal activity within the city. The city police department works closely with the university police department to refer students who may violate the university's Good Neighbor Policy or other violations of the University's Code of Conduct. All crime statistics and reports of crimes that occur adjacent to the



campus are collected from the local police (City of Fitchburg). Students who choose to live off-campus may do so; however, rental properties are not controlled, maintained, or monitored by the University.

Fitchburg State University also does not own, sponsor, or recommend the suitability of any off-campus housing. Students seeking off-campus housing are cautioned to thoroughly check with local police and the property owner of any rental property about the incidence of crime in the area. It is also important to check for adequate safety devices in any building or apartment before signing any lease agreement.

To access the City of Fitchburg data through their Police Department, one can visit their website at <http://www.fitchburgpolice.com>.

Maintenance of Campus Facilities

The Fitchburg State University Police Department collaborates with Capital Planning and Maintenance, Residence Life, and the OneCard Office to bolster the security of campus facilities. This includes utilizing a card access system and secondary locking devices. These systems are crucial for ensuring that only authorized faculty, staff, and students can access University resources after business hours.

To further enhance campus safety, the University's Student Security Team, supervised by the Fitchburg State University Police Department, conducts monthly surveys of exterior lighting and emergency call boxes. This proactive measure ensures these critical safety features are in proper working order. Any defects or necessary repairs are promptly reported to Capital Planning and Maintenance and/or the Technology Department for immediate remedy.

Members of the university community can request maintenance service in their room or area by submitting a work order online through the University Work Request system. You can find this system on the Capital Planning and Maintenance website:

<https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/about/campus-planning-and-policies/capital-planning-and-maintenance>.

We encourage all members of the Fitchburg State University community to report any concerns or hazards they encounter. You can report these issues directly to either Capital Planning and Maintenance or the University Police Department

Law Enforcement And Jurisdiction

The Fitchburg State University Police Department strives to provide exemplary community-oriented policing services by creating partnerships and problem-solving strategies that promote the safety, security, and well-being of the campus community.

Members of the University's Police Department are graduates of a Massachusetts Police Academy, operated and/or sanctioned by the Municipal Police Training Committee. In addition, each officer receives annual in-service training, as required by the M.P.T.C., as well as specialized training regarding current issues in law enforcement.

Officers are appointed as Special State Police Officers under MGL: Ch.22c §63 granting all Fitchburg State University Police Department Officers the power to exercise law enforcement authority (enforcement of state and local laws), including detentions, arrests, and searches;



concerning any criminal offense; occurring in or on buildings, structures, facilities, lands, or roads; owned, occupied or used by the university.

All Fitchburg State University Police Department sworn members are certified by the Massachusetts Police Officer Standards and Training Commission.

The jurisdiction of the University Police Department is not confined to the property owned by the university but extends to the curtilage of the campus when special vigilance is required on behalf of the university. This means that officers may take proactive steps to protect the university and those conducting business in the area immediately surrounding the campus, often referred to as the university's 'patrol area.'

Authority to Arrest & Relationship with Local Law Enforcement

The Fitchburg State University Police Department is the primary law enforcement agency for Fitchburg State University. Since Fitchburg State University is located within the city of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, the local police department (City of Fitchburg) and the Massachusetts State Police may at times assist the university, as well as, conduct law enforcement activities separate from the University Police Department within the boundaries of the University's property.

The three agencies, the Fitchburg State University Police Department, the City of Fitchburg Police Department, and the Massachusetts State Police maintain a collaborative relationship. Information is routinely shared between these agencies, which also work together throughout the year.

The University Police Department conducts its own investigations, arrests, and bookings. However, a memorandum is in place for the University to utilize either the City of Fitchburg Police Department or the local State Police barracks to hold arrested individuals.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Fitchburg State University Police Department and the Fitchburg Police Department is in place to establish, promote, and maintain a continued, harmonious working relationship and cooperative effort between both agencies. The Memorandum of Understanding addresses the investigation of criminal incidents between FSUPD and the local police department, highlighting that each department holds the legal authority to investigate crimes in its respective jurisdiction and will assist the other as necessary. Sworn members of the University's Police Department are also sworn in as a "City Special Police Officer" for the City of Fitchburg, allowing the Fitchburg State University Police Department officers to assist the City when called upon.

This Memorandum of Understanding also identifies each entity's roles and responsibilities regarding preventing and responding to incidents of on and off-campus sexual misconduct, as outlined in M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(c), and the Department of Higher Education's role in implementing that requirement; as well as a standard procedure for handling incidents and reports of sexual violence and issuing Timely Warnings and Emergency Notifications.

Some students choose to live off-campus in the neighborhood immediately adjacent to the campus perimeter. The properties rented by students are not owned by the university, nor are they owned or maintained by any organization or groups associated with the university. Due to the proximity of these properties, the area is routinely patrolled by the University Police Department. The University Police Department, together with the City of Fitchburg Police Department help to ensure students living in privately owned off-campus properties adhere to the University's Good Neighbor Policy, which governs student behavior both on and off-campus.



Reporting

Fitchburg State University encourages accurate and prompt reporting of crimes to the University Police Department and local police when the victim of a crime elects to or is unable to make such a report. Crimes that occur off-campus should be reported to the city police department; however, one may also report such instances to the University Police. The University Police Department will take basic information before transferring the call to the department of jurisdiction. This allows the University Police Department to be aware of the incident, assist in the determination of a Timely Warning Notification, and assist in rendering aid if the matter is of urgent concern.

Response to Reports

Fitchburg State University Police officers will respond to all requests for service and are the investigating authority for all crimes unless otherwise specified by statute that occur on Fitchburg State University property. In instances where an incident is not a crime, but has been deemed a violation of the University Code of Conduct, or is deemed a Discrimination or Title IX matter, the University Police Department may refer the report to the appropriate office or jurisdiction for review or disciplinary action. Although incidents may also be brought to the University Police Department's attention for further investigation through the filing of an incident report through other university departments, it is always best to contact the University Police Department directly for a prompt response and investigation when the matter constitutes a crime.

To report a crime or an emergency to the University Police Department, the following methods can be utilized:

- From an on-campus phone, dial **3111**.
- From outside the University telephone system, dial **978-665-3111**.
- If using a cellular telephone, please remember that calling **911** will reach the City of Fitchburg Police Department, which may then transfer the caller to the Fitchburg State University Police Department.
- Reports can be filed anonymously at:
<https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices-services-directory/campus-police/anonymous-witness-form/>
- By either pressing the red Call button on any of the 32 strategically placed emergency towers across campus or by dialing 3111 from any of the more than 20 emergency call phones.

When calling for either emergency or non-emergency service, individuals should be prepared to:

- Clearly identify themselves;
- State their location;
- Briefly state the nature of the emergency of the crime that has occurred.

If possible, callers are asked to stay on the line unless otherwise advised by the dispatcher. If assistance is required from off-campus, the dispatcher will summon the appropriate police, fire, and/or medical service.



Campus Security Authority (C.S.A.)

Per the Clery Act, certain Fitchburg State University employees are designated as Campus Security Authorities. The term "Campus Security Authority" is defined as:

- A campus (university) police department or a campus security department of an institution;
- Any individual or individuals who have responsibility for campus security but who do not constitute a campus (university) police department or a campus security department (e.g., an individual who is responsible for monitoring the entrance into institutional property);
- Any individual or organization specified in an institution's statement of campus security policy as an individual or organization to which students and employees should report criminal offenses.
- An official of an institution who has significant responsibility for student and campus activities, including, but not limited to, student housing, student discipline, and campus judicial proceedings. An official is defined as any person who has the authority and the duty to act or respond to particular issues on behalf of the institution. For example, staff responsible for campus student and family housing, a student center, or student extra-curricular activities; a director of athletics, coaches, and trainers, faculty advisors to student groups, staff responsible for student discipline, and campus judicial staff.

Those deemed to be Campus Security Authorities (C.S.A.) by Fitchburg State University, under the Clery Act, receive annual training by the University. This training includes the role of a C.S.A., C.S.A. responsibilities, how to report crimes, and to whom a report should be submitted. A list of on-campus and off-campus resources is also provided as part of the training so C.S.A.s can assist those who disclose crimes to them.

All information collected by the University's C.S.A.s is reported to the Fitchburg State University Police Department to be evaluated for timely warning and to be included in the Crime Statistics, as part of the Annual Security Report. C.S.A.s may report anytime by calling University Police, submitting a report through the University's Maxient reporting system, or submitting via the Campus Security Authority Incident Report Form.

Campus Security Authority (CSA) Incident Report Form:

<https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/student-support/office-student-affairs/student-conduct-and-case-management>

C.S.A.s should refer to the following when reporting crimes:

- If the reported incident constitutes a threat to the safety of the university community, C.S.A.s should immediately call **911** or **978-665-3111** to connect directly with the Fitchburg State University Police Department.
- Anonymous reports to a C.S.A. reports are accepted. However, if the reporting party is a survivor of a sex offense, CSA must also report the crime directly to the University Police Department or the Title IX Coordinator.
 - A Confidential Report is one where the identity of the reporter is not made known to personnel beyond the official receiving the report.
 - An Anonymous Report means that the identity of the person making the report isn't known to any campus official.
- While secondhand (third-party) reports are inherently unreliable and are difficult to verify, such reports shall also be accepted. The potential for duplication of reported incidents shall not be a factor in determining whether or not a report is taken.



- Clery Act reporting, via the C.S.A. Incident Report form, does not replace or change any existing reporting requirements or procedures for disciplinary referrals or misconduct.
- Hate Crimes present a special reporting challenge. C.S.A. must report any suspected hate crime occurrence and the related category of prejudice.

For a list of CSAs, please contact:

DIRECTOR OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE

Sanders Administration Building Room 202

978-665-3236

rnewell7@fitchburgstate.edu.

Voluntary And Confidential Reporting

It is the policy of Fitchburg State University that all crimes should be **reported to the University's Police Department**. Anyone who is the victim or witness to a crime on campus is encouraged to promptly report the incident to the Fitchburg State University Police Department.

When reporting a crime to the University Police Department, one is doing so knowing that some information may not be kept private and may be shared with others on campus who need to know, such as the Title IX Coordinator and Student Conduct. Also, some reports may become public records under state law, and therefore, the Fitchburg State University Police Department cannot hold all reports of a crime in strict confidence.

All reports of crime will be investigated by the Fitchburg State University Police Department unless the victim of such crime elects not to pursue criminal charges, requests no further investigation be conducted on their behalf, and/or the crime committed does not pose a larger threat to the community.

When a potentially dangerous threat to the Fitchburg State University community arises, alerts will be issued to notify individuals of the threat promptly. These alerts will also inform the community of any recommended action to be taken.

Due to the sensitive nature of certain types of crime, survivors of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking may choose to disclose crimes to an advocate from Pathways for Change, Fitchburg State University's Counseling Services, or another victim's assistance program. Survivors/ victims who report crimes to these individuals may elect not to have police investigate the reported crime, especially if solely seeking support services. Per the Massachusetts Campus Sexual Violence Act, the University has appointed a Confidential Resource Provider. This Confidential Resource Provider is a designated campus employee who is not required to report disclosures to the Title IX Coordinator or University Police Department. A current list of services and confidential reporting resources can be found later in this publication, in the section titled **"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PLAN: NONDISCRIMINATION AND TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT"**.

Any information provided to the Fitchburg State University Police Department may be provided absent of personal identifying information, in a way that allows for an accurate accounting of crimes that occurred within the university's Clery geography, and determination of a Timely Warning Notification to the community. An individual receiving confidential services offered by a professional or pastoral counselor may request that the counselor report the incident to the



University Police Department on their behalf. Such a report typically includes the nature of the offense, the location at which it occurred, and the date and time of its occurrence.

The option of survivors/ victims, pastoral counselors, and professional counselors to report crimes to the Fitchburg State University Police Department in the aforementioned manner allows for the protection of the survivor/ victim's identity while ensuring necessary information required to comply with federal regulations is provided.

The University uses these confidential reports to maintain accurate records for the number of incidents involving students, employees, and visitors; to determine if there is a pattern of crime concerning a particular location, method, or assailant; and to alert the campus community to potential dangers.

Reports filed confidentially are counted and disclosed in the annual crime statistics for the institution. Reporting procedures applicable to allegations of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking are further discussed later in this report, in the section titled "**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PLAN: NONDISCRIMINATION AND TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT**". Pastoral counselors, and professional counselors acting in their professional roles, are not obligated to report any information if their client so chooses, but are required to explain the process by which one may report a crime confidentially.

This publication also contains information concerning on and off campus resources, and is intended for all members of the university community. The information regarding "resources" is not provided to infer that those resources are "crime reporting entities" for Fitchburg State University. Crimes should be reported to the **Fitchburg State University Police Department** (978.665.3111), the **Student Conduct Office** (978.665.3887), the **Title IX Office** (978.665.3236), or the **City of Fitchburg Police Department** (978.345.4355), to ensure a police response, provide a Timely Warning Notification (if appropriate), and inclusion in the Annual Security Report.



Statistical Reporting And Timely Warnings Under The Clery Act

The Clery Act requires the University to maintain a daily log of reports of crimes that occurred on campus, University-controlled property, or public property immediately adjacent to campus, including reports of sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, and stalking. The University must also publish an Annual Campus Crime Report (this document) concerning reported incidents. The Universities do not include names or other personally identifying information in the daily logs, the Annual Security Reports, or any other Public Records. Additionally, when the University becomes aware that an incident of sexual misconduct or violence occurred, and there is a potential for bodily harm or danger to members of the campus community, the University may issue a timely warning to the campus. The University prioritizes the safety of our campus community. To achieve this, we issue timely warnings about certain incidents, providing enough information for individuals to take appropriate precautions. However, to protect the privacy and well-being of victims, we will never disclose a victim's name or any other personally identifying information in these warnings.

Our commitment to transparent record-keeping aligns with this principle. All publicly available records from the University, including those mandated by the Clery Act, adhere strictly to Massachusetts laws governing public records, ensuring both community awareness and victim confidentiality.

Timely Warning Notices

Timely Warning Notices (Fitchburg State University Police Department Policy 16.3.2) are specifically related to compliance with the Federal Clery Act, which requires colleges and universities to notify students and employees whenever a crime covered by the Clery Act occurs, within the institution's Clery geography, reported to a campus security authority, or the institution by local law enforcement that is considered to be a serious or ongoing threat.

In the event such a crime is reported, within Fitchburg State University's Clery Geography, that, in the judgment of the Chief of Police, or designee, and consultation with responsible authorities when time permits, constitutes a serious or continuing threat, a campus-wide "timely warning" notice may be issued.

Fitchburg State University takes its responsibility to inform campus community members of criminal incidents seriously and provides them with information to assist with protecting themselves from harm. Information shared about criminal activity is provided in an accurate and timely fashion and can be used by university community members to reduce their chances of becoming victims of similar crimes. These notices will be issued as a means of a Timely Warning Notice (TWN), otherwise called an **FSU Crime Alert**.

The Chief of Police, or designee, in conjunction with Public Affairs, will develop the content of the Timely Warning Notices for the University community.

A Timely Warning Notice will typically include the following information, unless sharing any of this information would compromise 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 are sufficient details (see below).
- Police/Public Safety agency contact information.
- Other information as deemed appropriate by the Chief of Police, or designee.

Timely Warning Notices will be distributed as soon as pertinent information is available, in a manner that withholds the names of victims as confidential, and to aid in the prevention of similar occurrences.

The institution **is not** required to issue a Timely Warning Notice for crimes reported to a pastoral or professional counselor. The description of subjects in a case will only be included if there is a sufficient amount of detail to describe the individual. If the only known descriptors are sex or race, that information will not be included in the alert. Timely Warning Notices will not include any information that would identify the victim.

The issuing of a Timely Warning Notice will be decided on a case-by-case basis, in light of all of the facts surrounding a crime, including the nature of the crime, any ongoing risk to the campus community, and the possible risk of compromising law enforcement efforts.

The decision to issue a Timely Warning Notice is made in coordination and consultation with at least two of the following personnel. However, in an extreme emergency, the notification process may be implemented at the sole direction of the Chief of Police or designee.

Decision Team:

- President, or designee, which may include members of the President's Cabinet
- Chief of Staff
- Executive Director of Communication and Public Affairs
- Chief of University Police and Executive in Charge of University Operations
- Deputy Chief of Police

The Chief of Police, or designee, in conjunction with the Director of Communication, will develop a Timely Warning Notice for the university community. The Chief, or designee, will transmit the email containing the Crime Alert to the university community by utilizing the university's mass notification system, RAVE Alert®. Updates to the university community about any particular case resulting in a Timely Warning Notice may also be distributed electronically via the university email system.

Members of the larger campus community, those not actively enrolled in a course of study at the University, vendors, and contractors doing business on campus and not issued a University email, and other interested parties are encouraged to "Opt-In" to receive University Crime Alerts by **texting FSUAlerts** to **672836** or **226787**. Please note, that SMS TEXT messages and data rates may apply. Text messages are sent on an as-needed basis. This service is provided per the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Individuals may text **STOP** to **67283** to cancel or **HELP** for tech support.

The decision of whether or not to issue a Timely Warning Notice will be documented using a Timely Warning Notice Determination Form. FSU Crime Alerts and/or Timely Warning Notice Determination Forms are memorialized in the case folder with the corresponding incident report.



Timely Warning Notifications will not be issued if:

- The subject(s) are apprehended and the threat of imminent danger for members of the university community has been mitigated by the apprehension.
- If a report was not filed with the Fitchburg State University Police Department, or if the University Police Department was not notified of the crime in a manner that would allow the department to post a "timely" warning to the community.
- A report that is filed more than five days after the date of the alleged incident may not allow the University Police Department to post a "timely" warning to the community. (This type of situation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis).
- In instances where an Emergency Notification (Fitchburg State University Police Department Policy 17.1.4) is issued, a Timely Warning Notice may not be issued.
- When a Clery Crime is reported to the University Police Department, but did not occur within the Clery Geography.

Emergency Notification & Evacuation

Fitchburg State University utilizes the RAVE Alert system, otherwise known as **FSU Alert**, to provide immediate emergency notification to the community. This is done when confirmation of an incident or emergency that poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of the university community is discovered or reported.

In most situations, emergencies will first be encountered by faculty, staff, and/or students. When any member of the campus community encounters a potential emergency, they should contact the University Police Department, which will serve as the initial point of contact. An officer from the University Police Department will speak with the reporting party to verify the nature of the incident and investigate on the scene whether an emergency exists that would require substantial additional resources or impact a portion of the university community. If the latter occurs, the officer will convey this information to the department's command staff, who will immediately notify the Chief of Police. Information relayed to the Chief will include the nature of the emergency, the area or areas potentially impacted, and what has been done to mitigate the emergency thus far. Emergencies such as disease outbreaks and utility outages could potentially be reported in other manners. Additional means to confirm an emergency may include speaking with eyewitnesses, checking with relevant departments on campus, or consulting with other law enforcement or government agencies.

Upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health and safety of students or employees occurring on campus, the Fitchburg State University Police Department will immediately notify the University community using a mass notification system (RAVE Alert Mass Notification System).

The University Police Department is responsible for responding to reported emergencies and confirming the existence of an emergency, sometimes in conjunction with speaking with eyewitnesses, checking with relevant departments on campus and/ or university administrators, local first responders, and/or the National Weather Service, and other governmental agencies.

This system is tested monthly by the Fitchburg State University Police Department's Communication Center to ensure the system functionality to send an alert during an emergency.



All current members of the University Community will receive the alert via their university email address. However, individuals **must opt-in** to receive notifications via text or voice recording by visiting: <https://alert.fitchburgstate.edu>

Members of the larger campus community, those not actively enrolled in a course of study at the University, vendors, and contractors doing business on campus and not issued a University email, and other interested parties may “Opt-In” to receive University Crime Alerts **by texting FSUAlert to 672836 or 226787**. This service is provided per the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Individuals may text **STOP** to **67283** to cancel or **HELP** for tech support.

Those who choose to opt in will receive all notifications via text messages. The University provides Opt-In informational cards and signage at various events and locations around campus. Fitchburg State University’s Emergency notifications are also sent to the city fire and police departments.

To distribute alerts, Fitchburg State University utilizes the RAVE messaging system. The university has established a comprehensive protocol that integrates multiple emergency alert mechanisms, including text messages, cellular phone calls, emails, voicemails, indoor notification monitors, social media platforms, website announcements, and the Wide Area Broadcasting System (WEBS), which employs a siren voice alert system.

Follow-up information will be distributed using some or all of the identified communication systems (except fire alarm).

The Fitchburg State University Police Department will, without delay and taking into account the safety of the community, determine the content of the notification and initiate the notification system, unless the notification will, in the professional judgment of responsible authorities, compromise efforts to assist victims or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency.

Campus State of Emergency

The decision to issue an Emergency Notification is made at the discretion of the President, or designee, or the Chief of Police, or designee. The decision to issue subsequent Emergency Notifications for a situation, incident, or emergency shall be issued by the Director of Public Relations, or designee, in consultation with the President, or designee (to include Chief of Staff), and members of the Fitchburg State University Emergency Management Team.

Emergency Response

Authority and Responsibility

The Fitchburg State University Police Department is the primary agency responsible for managing campus emergencies and issuing emergency notifications. The Chief of Police, or their designee, will immediately notify the University President or their designee regarding any emergency.

The on-duty supervisor or officer-in-charge for the Fitchburg State University Police Department is responsible for immediately notifying the Chief of Police, or their designee, of any situation that poses an immediate threat to the Fitchburg State University community.



Immediate Threat Determination

Federal law mandates that the institution immediately notify the campus community when they may be affected by an immediate threat, significant emergency, or dangerous situation.

The FSUPD has the responsibility to respond to incidents and make a critical determination: Does this situation pose an immediate threat to the health and safety of students or employees on campus? This confirmation is a prerequisite for issuing an Emergency Notification.

Types of Incidents Triggering Notification

Incidents that may cause an immediate threat to the Fitchburg State University Community include, but are not limited to, emergencies such as:

- Active shooter on or near campus
- Hostage/barricade situation
- Riot
- Suspicious package with confirmation of a device
- Weather emergency (e.g., tornado, severe blizzard)
- Fire/explosion
- Suspicious death
- Outbreak of serious illness, disease, or viruses
- Structural damage to a University-owned or controlled facility
- Biological threats (e.g., anthrax)
- Significant flooding
- Gas leak
- Hazardous materials spill

Emergency Notification Issuance

Once an immediate threat is confirmed, the Chief of Police, or their designee, is responsible for issuing an Emergency Notification to the University community via an RAVE Alert. This notification is issued without delay and takes into account the safety of the community.

A notification **will not** be issued if it is determined that doing so would compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency. This decision will be made by the agency of jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, the Fitchburg State University Police Department, the City of Fitchburg Police Department, the Massachusetts State Police, or the Fitchburg Fire Department. Any such delay will be brief, and the notification will be issued as soon as it is safe and strategically appropriate.

Message Creation and Approval

Upon determining the necessity of a notification, the Chief of Police or designee will rapidly draft a concise, actionable alert message. This message will include verified facts about the emergency, the nature of the threat, and clear instructions on what community members should do to protect themselves (e.g., "shelter in place," "evacuate," "avoid a specific area"). The message is crafted to be clear, unambiguous, and suitable for rapid consumption across various communication channels.



RAVE Alert Activation (Multi-Channel Dissemination)

The approved message is then entered into the FSU Alert (RAVE Alert) system. This mass notification platform allows for simultaneous delivery across multiple communication channels to maximize reach to all affected individuals. These channels typically include:

- **SMS Text Messages:** Sent to all registered mobile phone numbers (students, faculty, staff, and guests who have opted in by texting "FSUalert" to 67283 or 226787).
- **Email:** Sent to all official Fitchburg State University email addresses.
- **Voice Calls:** Placed to registered landlines and mobile phones.
- **Desktop Pop-ups:** Messages that appear on university-owned computers in labs, offices, and classrooms.
- **University Website/Emergency Page:** A dedicated emergency information webpage (e.g., fitchburgstate.edu/emergency-notifications) is immediately updated with the alert and any subsequent information, serving as a central hub for detailed, ongoing updates.
- **Social Media:** Posts on official university social media accounts (e.g., Facebook, X/Twitter) may be used to disseminate alerts and direct followers to the official emergency webpage for more details.

Monitoring and Updates

Following the initial notification, the Fitchburg State University Police Department and other relevant emergency management personnel continuously monitor the situation. As the emergency evolves, follow-up messages, "all clear" notifications, or revised instructions are sent through the RAVE Alert system to keep the community informed of developments and the resolution of the threat.

Community Engagement and Preparedness

To ensure the effectiveness of this system, Fitchburg State University proactively educates its community. Annually, all students, faculty, and staff are reminded to update their contact information within the RAVE Alert system to ensure they receive critical messages. They are also informed of their responsibility to report any situation or incident on campus that involves a significant emergency or dangerous situation that may pose an immediate or ongoing threat to the health and safety of students and/or employees on campus to the FSUPD.

This comprehensive approach, leveraging technology and clear protocols, enables Fitchburg State University to rapidly inform and guide its community during emergencies, fulfilling its federal obligations and prioritizing the safety of everyone on campus.

Release of Information: General Guidelines

If the University's Chief of Police, or designee, in conjunction with other University administrators, local first responders, Public Health Officials, and/or the National Weather Service, confirms that there is an emergency or dangerous situation that poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of some or all members of the Fitchburg State University Community, the Fitchburg State University Police and Media Relations will collaborate to determine the content of the message. Initial messaging will be sent out using a pre-scripted message or template. Some or all of the systems described below are used to communicate the threat to the Fitchburg State University



Community or the appropriate segment of the community if the threat is limited to a particular building or segment of the population.

- Emergency Notification messages will be issued to students and employees upon the confirmation of a significant emergency, dangerous situation, incident, or crime impacting the campus community and/or the immediate surrounding area.
- Upon confirmation of an emergency that requires an immediate response, the Chief of Police, or designee, should, without delay, implement the notification process.
- The Chief of Police, or designee, may confer with external public safety officials to confirm emergencies before issuing the notification if time allows.
- This information may be disseminated to the campus community by issuing an FSU Alert (RAVE Alert).

If there is an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees occurring on campus, an institution must follow its emergency notification procedures. An institution that follows its emergency notification procedures is not required to issue a timely warning based on the same circumstances; however, the institution must provide adequate follow-up information to the community as needed.

Testing of the Emergency Management Plan

Fitchburg State University maintains an Emergency Management Plan (EMP) that outlines the functional responsibilities of campus departments during emergencies. This plan and its accompanying Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) outline incident priorities, scope, concept of operations, response, and specific responsibilities of particular departments or positions.

University departments are responsible for developing emergency response and continuity of operations plans for their functional areas and staff. The University's Emergency Management Team provides resources and guidance for the development of these plans.

The Fitchburg State University Emergency Management Team, in conjunction with the Fitchburg State University Police Department, is responsible for overseeing various aspects of the University Emergency Management Plan, including testing of the Emergency Notification System, response to, and evacuation for any emergency or dangerous situation.

Fitchburg State University defines the following terms as follows:

- **Test** is defined as regularly scheduled drills, exercises, and appropriate follow-through activities, designed for assessment and evaluation of emergency plans and capabilities.
- **Drill** is defined as an activity that tests a single procedural operation.
- **Exercise** is defined as a test involving the coordination of efforts.

Fitchburg State University utilizes the RAVE Alert System to notify the campus community of vital information as described above. This system is tested annually at the beginning of the fall semester in conjunction with the Fitchburg State University Technology Department. (Testing includes sending out a test alert through the RAVE System, which tests the following systems; university email, text messaging, wide-area broadcasting call boxes, Alertus, voice, website, and social media).

Fitchburg State University tests its evacuation plan during biannual fire alarm drills. One drill occurs during the fall semester and is announced to the community; the second occurs during the spring semester and is not announced to the community. Each drill tests the evacuation of Fitchburg State University on-campus buildings as well as the Klondike Service Center .



Fitchburg State University's Emergency Management Team has a dedicated subcommittee for coordinating drills and exercises for the team and the University. The subcommittee is responsible for coordinating tabletop exercises and various training during the monthly Emergency Management Meeting. These trainings consist of testing portions of the University's Emergency Management Plan, including response to active shooter incidents, communicable disease outbreaks, and other emergencies.

University Police Department Officers are designated as the individuals to verify and respond to an emergency and receive additional training in connection with their roles and responsibilities.

In conjunction with other emergency agencies, the University conducts emergency response drills and exercises each year, such as tabletop exercises, field exercises, and tests of the emergency notification systems on campus. These tests, which may be announced or unannounced, are designed to assess and evaluate the emergency plans and capabilities of the institution.

Each test is documented and includes a description of the exercise, the date and time of the exercise, and whether it was announced or unannounced.

The campus publicizes a summary of the emergency response and evacuation procedures via email at least once each year in conjunction with a test (exercise and drill) that meets all of the requirements of the Higher Education Opportunity Act.

Summary of Emergency Test, Drill, and Exercises

Test of the University's Emergency Notification System

Beyond UPD's routine monthly assessments, the university police collaborate with the Technology Department each fall semester to test the emergency communication system (Rave Alert). This evaluation helps pinpoint potential issues across various notification channels, including university email, text messaging, wide-area broadcasting call boxes, Alertus, voicemail, and social media. Any identified deficiencies are subsequently resolved by the Technology Department. This system wide test was conducted on September 19, 2025, January 30, 2026, and August 21, 2026.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

The Emergency Evacuation Procedures are typically tested at least twice each year. Students and employees learn the locations of the emergency exits in the buildings and are guided in the direction they should travel when exiting each facility for a short-term building evacuation. The University Police Department does not tell building occupants in advance about the designated locations for long-term evacuations because those decisions are affected by the time of day, the location of the building being evacuated, the availability of the various designated emergency gathering locations on campus, and other factors such as the location and nature of the threat. In both cases, UPD Officers on the scene will communicate information to students and employees regarding the developing situation or any evacuation status changes.

The purpose of evacuation drills is to prepare building occupants for an organized evacuation in case of a fire or other emergency. At Fitchburg State University, evacuation drills are used as a way to educate and train occupants on fire safety issues specific to their building. During the drill, occupants practice drill procedures and familiarize themselves with the location of exits and the sound of the fire alarm.



General Evacuation Procedures

All individuals on campus are encouraged to plan for emergencies by identifying primary and secondary evacuation routes to exits.

Medical Emergencies

- Do not move a seriously ill or injured person unless it is a life-threatening situation.
- Call the emergency number for the University Police Department **978-665-3111**.
- Give as much of the following information as possible:
 - Your name and location
 - Type of illness or injury
 - Condition of an ill or injured person
- Remain with the person until emergency personnel arrive and have an opportunity to speak with you.

Acts of Violence

- Do not try to intervene!
- Stay calm. Go to a safe location and call the University Police
- Give as much of the following information as possible:
 - Your name and location
 - Type of incident
 - Briefly, provide details of the incident
- Stay on the line until help arrives.

Fire or Explosion

At the sound of a fire alarm or if you are instructed to evacuate, leave your area immediately, 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 FSUPD (978-665-3111), or dial 911.

- Stay calm and activate the nearest fire alarm pull station.
- Immediately leave the building by the nearest unobstructed exit.
- Do not attempt to recover personal property!
- If no one is following, close all doors behind you, go to a safe location, and call University Police.
- Give as much of the following information as possible:
 - Your name and location
 - Type of incident
 - Briefly provide details of the incident

Assisting People With Disabilities During An Emergency

General Guidelines

- Ask the person how you can help before attempting any rescue technique or giving assistance.
- Listen to the answer; the person is the best authority on their disability.
- Keep service animals with their human partners.

Visually Impaired

- Tell the person the nature of the emergency and offer guidance to the nearest exit.



- Have the person take your elbow and escort you out of the building. Advise of obstacles as you walk.
- When you reach safety, help orient the person to the location and ask if any further assistance is necessary.

Deaf, deaf, and Hard of Hearing

- Alert the person that there is an emergency by turning a light switch on and off several times.
- Look directly at the individual, verbalize, speak clearly, do not exaggerate mouth movements, give instructions, and write a short note on paper or text with a cell phone.
- Offer assistance as you leave the building.

Mobility Impaired

- If there is no immediate danger, take the person to the nearest accessible exit.
- If you cannot safely accompany the person to an accessible exit, notify University Police of the person's exact location by calling (978) 665-3111 on a cell phone or 3111 from a campus phone.
- Whenever possible, remain with the person until help arrives.
- Elevators should not be used for evacuation during an emergency. Move to a stairwell or a protected area near the stairwell that is protected from the emergency and **notify University Police (978) 665-3111**. If you do not have a phone, notify a student, staff member, or faculty member of your location and have them alert University Police or Emergency Responders.
- Do not attempt to carry an electric wheelchair if it cannot be driven out of the building. **ONLY** in situations of extreme and immediate danger should you try to evacuate a wheelchair user without assistance. This person is the best authority on how they can be moved. Ask before attempting to move.
- It is best to let professional emergency personnel conduct the evacuation; however, a person with a mobility impairment can be carried by two people who have interlocked their arms to form a "chair," or by carrying the person in a sturdy office chair. This should be considered **ONLY** as a last resort.

Shelter-In-Place

If hazardous materials or structural hazards make the outdoors unsafe, remaining inside is your best protection. To "shelter-in-place," adapt your current building into a secure refuge until cleared by officials.

Core Guidelines

- **Undamaged Building:** Stay inside an interior room until cleared.
- **Damaged Building:** Grab essentials (wallet, keys, ID card), close your door, and evacuate using stairs—never elevators. Enter the nearest safe campus building and follow all emergency responder instructions.

Notifications Directives are issued via emergency notifications by the Fitchburg State University Police Department, Residence Life Staff, University officials, or local law enforcement.

Action Steps

- **Assess:** Stay inside or enter the nearest building immediately. Grab emergency supplies and a phone.



- **Select a Room:** Choose an interior room on an upper floor with few or no windows. Spread large groups across multiple rooms if needed.
- **Seal the Space:** Close and lock all exterior doors and windows.
- **Control Ventilation:** Turn off fans, AC units, and heaters, and close vents if possible (main HVAC systems will be shut down centrally).
- **Account & Report:** List all occupants and have one person call Fitchburg State University Police Department to report your location and head count.
- **Stay Informed:** Monitor official communications and await further instructions.

General Prevention Education & Awareness Programs

Fitchburg State University believes that crime prevention and safety awareness education empower our community members to better prevent and respond to incidents if they occur. During New Student Orientation, all new students and their parents receive information on resources provided by the Fitchburg State University Police Department (FSUPD) and other campus partners.

The University encourages and expects students and staff to be actively involved in preventing crime on campus. Disinterest or complacency are often key factors in criminal activity. Since the police can't be everywhere at once, we rely on the entire campus community to recognize and report suspicious or criminal incidents to the FSUPD.

Throughout the academic year, FSUPD offered or participated in a variety of community engagement programs, many of which focused on crime prevention and security awareness. These initiatives consistently encourage students and employees to take responsibility for their own security and the security of others.

Annually, the Fitchburg State University Police Department sponsored several crime prevention and security awareness programs and presentations, including:

Community Response to Active Shooter Events (C.R.A.S.E.)

The Active Threat Presentation is a 2 hour training session available to all students, staff, and faculty. Led by members of the Fitchburg State University Police Department, this presentation explores various options to consider during an active shooter or hostile event. Key objectives of the class include identification, prevention, and response strategies for such incidents. This training has been a core part of first-year student orientation since 2017. Any member of the university community can request a presentation for their class, organization, or group by contacting the Fitchburg State University Police Department.

Community Liaison Officer Program

The objective of our community liaison program is to partner a police officers with specific groups within the university community to achieve:

- A designated contact person to allow ease of communication
- A feeling of familiarity and comfort
- Collaboration on community educational programs
- Collaboration on identifying and addressing issues of concern



The collaboration within the Liaison Program is open to students, staff, and advisors. The Liaison Program is a year-round effort that includes over a dozen planned events, including the “Housing Liaison Program.”

Housing Liaison Program

The Fitchburg State University Police Department works closely with members of Residence Life to provide programs in the residence halls for our resident students throughout the academic year. Programs such as “Cookies with Cops” provide a relaxed atmosphere where students and officers engage in an open dialogue about crime prevention, societal issues that are prevalent to students, and how the department might be able to assist them.

Residential Engagement

Live-in support staff provide educational programming to students through the use of a Residential Programming Model. The model includes both in-person and passive programming. The programs may be floor-specific and/or building-wide. The Live-in support staff may invite other members of the community to assist and discuss various topics, including representatives from the University Police Department, Counseling Services, and Disability Services.

Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.)

Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. It is a comprehensive course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction, and avoidance while progressing to the basics of hands-on defense training.

RAD is not a martial arts program. Our courses are taught by certified RAD instructors and provide participants with a workbook/reference manual. This manual outlines the entire physical defense program for reference and continuous personal growth. The RAD System of physical defense is taught at many colleges and universities. The growing, widespread acceptance of this system is primarily due to the ease, simplicity, and effectiveness of the tactics, solid research, and unique teaching methodology.

The RAD System is dedicated to teaching defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault by using easy, effective, and proven self-defense tactics. The system of realistic defense will provide the knowledge to make an educated decision about resistance.

RAD classes are offered at no charge to the University community.

Notice of Programs

The Fitchburg State University Police Department often provides information at “Rock the Block” regarding the dates and times of the various programs offered as part of our department’s Personal Safety Offerings. For the upcoming academic year.



Violence Against Women Act (V.A.W.A) Related Prevention And Awareness

Education And Prevention Programs

As part of the University's commitment to providing working, living, and learning environments free from sexual violence, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and retaliation, information is disseminated widely to the campus communities through publications, new employee and student orientations, physical posting in places where students and employees are likely to see it, and other appropriate communications to help prevent such crimes. The University also transmits the related policies and procedures by e-mail to all community members and posts them prominently on the University's website at fitchburgstate.edu/titleix.

The University engages in comprehensive, intentional, and integrated programming, initiatives, strategies, and campaigns intended to end dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking that:

1. are culturally relevant, inclusive of diverse communities and identities, sustainable, responsive to community needs, and informed by research, or assessed for value, effectiveness, or outcome; and
2. consider environmental risk and protective factors as they occur on the individual, relationship, institutional, community, and societal levels.

The University provides sustained and comprehensive training to the campus community, including but not limited to:

1. prevention and awareness programs that address domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
2. the provisions of the University's policies and procedures related to sexual violence and prohibited conduct, including complaint and investigation procedures for alleged violations;
3. programming for new students and new employees during onboarding initiatives, including the distribution of educational materials

In addition to training programs for students and employees, the University addresses the following:

- The University's prohibition of the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking;
- The jurisdictional definitions of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking;
- The University's policies and procedures related to sexual violence and prohibited conduct, including the complaint, investigation, and resolution procedures for addressing complaints of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking;
- The University's definition of consent and the purposes for which that definition is used;
- The rights and remedies of students and employees under Title IX;
- Practical information about identifying, preventing, and reporting sexual violence and sexual harassment;
- The reporting options are available to survivors, both on and off campus.
- The confidential resources available on and off campus;



- How to obtain accommodations and/or supportive measures;
- How the University reviews and responds to complaints;
- Positive and safe options for bystander intervention that an individual may take to prevent harm or intervene in a risky situation.
- Information on risk reduction, specifically, options designed to decrease perpetration and bystander inaction and to increase empowerment for survivors, as well as to promote safety and to help individuals and communities address conditions that facilitate violence;
- Information regarding:
 - Procedures one should follow if a crime of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking occurs.
 - How the institution will protect the confidentiality of survivors and other necessary parties (as described in “Assistance for Victims: Rights and Options” elsewhere in this document);
 - Counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other services available for survivors, both within the institution and in the community (as described in “Assistance for Victims: Rights and Options” elsewhere in this document); and
 - Options for and available assistance regarding changes to academic, living, transportation, and working situations or protective measures (as described in “Resources and Notice of Rights” elsewhere in this document);
 - Procedures for institutional disciplinary action in cases of alleged dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking (as described in “Adjudication of Violations” elsewhere in this document);
- The role of alcohol, drugs, and student safety;
- How employees should respond to reports of sexual assault and gender-based harassment, domestic and dating violence, and stalking; employees’ duty to make reports to the University and how to make such reports; and
- The University’s prohibition against retaliation.

In addition, the University provides annual training to its Title IX Coordinators, Deputy Coordinators, EO Officers, Administrative Investigators, Advisors, Decision Makers, Appellate Officers, Informal Resolution Facilitators, Confidential Resource Providers, Mandated Reporters, University Police Department, and all others involved with the administration of this Policy on specific topics related to their role as well as the complaint, investigation, and resolution procedures on the topics listed above. Additionally, the following topics are covered annually:

- The obligations of employees when interacting with students or colleagues making reports of sexual assault, sexual and gender-based harassment, domestic and dating violence, and stalking;
- The obligations to forward reports to the Title IX Coordinator and/or UPD;
- The dynamics of sexual violence and the unique toll it can take on self-blaming and traumatized individuals.
- Understanding how sexual violence occurs, how it is perpetrated, and how survivors may naturally respond during and after an assault;
- Updates to sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking laws.
- How to investigate in a manner that protects the safety of the parties and promotes accountability;
- How to conduct prompt, fair, impartial, and thorough investigations.

Furthermore, the University pledges to routinely:

- Evaluate current policies, procedures, and practices;



- Ensure appropriate training of all persons charged with administering this policy and/or involved in the complaint investigation and resolution process;
- Evaluate who are designated Mandated Reporters for Title IX reporting purposes and/or C.S.A. for Clery Act reporting purposes, and disseminate and publish an applicable list of mandated reporters and C.S.A.s;
- Ensure appropriate training of all employees, with additional information for C.S.A.s;
- Assess the campus climate, including determining barriers to reporting and evaluate and publicize campus climate assessment survey data;
- Provide education and prevention programming for students and employees; and
- Evaluate physical security needs on campus.

How to Be an Active Bystander

Bystanders play a critical role in the prevention of sexual and relationship violence. They are individuals who observe violence or witness the conditions that perpetuate violence. They are not directly involved but have the choice to intervene, speak up, or do something about it. Fitchburg State University aims to promote safe and positive options that may be carried out by an individual or individuals to prevent harm or intervene when there is a risk of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Bystander intervention includes recognizing situations of potential harm, understanding institutional structures and cultural conditions that facilitate violence, overcoming barriers to intervening, identifying safe and effective intervention options, and taking action to intervene. Some ways to be an active bystander include:

- Watching out for friends and fellow students/employees and asking someone who looks like they could be in trouble or need help, if they are ok;
- Confronting people who seclude, hit on, try to make out with, or have sex with people who are incapacitated;
- Speaking up when someone discusses plans to take sexual advantage of another person;
- Believing someone who discloses sexual assault, abusive behavior, or experience with stalking;
- Referring people to on or off-campus resources listed in this document for support in health, counseling, or legal assistance.

Risk Reduction

Risk Reduction, as defined in the Clery Act statute and regulations, means options designed to decrease perpetration and bystander inaction, and to increase empowerment for victims in order to promote safety and to help individuals and communities address conditions that facilitate violence.

Fitchburg State University is committed to fostering a safe and secure environment through comprehensive risk reduction strategies that align with this definition.

We offer a variety of prevention and awareness programs designed to help all new and current students and employees recognize the warning signs of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These programs are provided on both an introductory and ongoing basis to ensure everyone has access to vital information.

We emphasize that inaction can have serious consequences, and that even small actions can make a significant difference. The University encourages bystanders to safely intervene by utilizing the 5 D's when determining safe intervention:



- **Direct:** Directly addressing the situation if you feel safe doing so.
- **Distract:** Creating a simple (or elaborate) distraction to diffuse the situation.
- **Delegate:** Finding someone else (e.g., a staff member, security, or another trusted individual) to address the concern.
- **Delay:** If immediate intervention isn't possible or safe, report and support after the incident.
- **Document:** Making note of potentially important factors such as witnesses, time of day, and other relevant details.

Risk reduction strategies designed to decrease perpetration include promoting healthy relationship skills and communication, teaching conflict resolution, and referring for anger management support. By addressing individual risk factors in a variety of settings, the University aims to lower the likelihood of violence or harmful behaviors and reduce the number of individuals who engage in those behaviors.

Risk reduction strategies designed to increase empowerment for victims and promote safety include, but are not limited to the following (from Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, www.rainn.org):

We maintain that those who inflict abuse are the ones responsible for their actions.

- Be aware of your surroundings. Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you find a way to get out of a dangerous situation.
- Try to avoid isolated areas. It is more difficult to get help if no one is around.
- Walk with purpose. Even if you don't know where you are going, act as you do.
- Trust your instincts. If a situation or location feels unsafe or uncomfortable, it probably isn't the best place to be.
- Try not to load yourself down with packages or bags as this can make you appear more vulnerable.
- Make sure your cell phone is with you and charged and that you have cab money.
- Don't allow yourself to be isolated with someone you don't trust or someone you don't know.
- Avoid putting music headphones in both ears so that you can be more aware of your surroundings, especially if you are walking alone.
- When you go to a social gathering, go with a group of friends. Arrive together, check in with each other throughout the evening, and leave together. Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you to find a way out of a dangerous situation.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel unsafe in any situation, go with your gut. If you see something suspicious, contact law enforcement immediately (local authorities can be reached by calling 911).
- Do not leave your drink unattended while talking, dancing, using the restroom, or making a phone call. If you have left your drink alone, just get a new one.



- Do not accept drinks from people you do not know or trust. If you choose to accept a drink, go with the person to the bar to order it, watch it being poured, and carry it yourself. At parties, do not drink from the punch bowls or other large, common open containers.
- If you suspect you or a friend has been drugged, contact law enforcement immediately (local authorities can be reached by calling 911 in most areas of the U.S.). Be explicit with doctors so they can give you the correct tests (you will need a urine test and possibly others).

If You Need to Get Out of an Uncomfortable or Scary Situation:

- Remember that being in this situation is not your fault. You did not do anything wrong; the person who is making you uncomfortable is to blame.
- Be true to yourself. Do not feel obligated to do anything you do not want to do. "I don't want to" is always a good enough reason. Do what feels right to you and what you are comfortable with.
- Have a code word with your friends or family so that if you do not feel comfortable, you can call them and communicate your discomfort without the person you are with knowing. Your friends or family can then come to get you or make up an excuse for you to leave.
- Make an excuse. If you are feeling pressured or uncomfortable, use a reason to leave such as: needing to take care of a friend or family member, feeling sick, or having other plans.
- **Contact the University Police Department for a Safety Escort if concerned for your safety. (978-665-3111)**
- Try to think of an escape route. How would you try to get out of the room? Where are the doors? Windows? Are there people around who might be able to help you? Is there an emergency phone nearby?
- If you and/or the other person have been drinking, you can say that you would rather wait until you both have your full judgment before doing anything you may regret later.



2025 Primary And Secondary Programming

Name of Program	Intended Audience	Date (2025)	Location	Purpose	Topics Covered	Delivery Method
Employee Onboarding	new employees	Ongoing; upon hire	online	(P), (A), (C), (O)	Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking	Online training module
Valentine's Day Self-Care & Healthy Relationships Table	All students	2/14/25	In Person	(P), (A)	How to build a healthy relationship, signs of unhealthy relationships, how to talk to a friend in an unhealthy or abusive relationship, and on and off-campus resources	Tabling & educational pamphlets
Take Back the Night	FSU Community	4/25/25	In Person	(P), (A)	Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking	Talks and handouts
Denim Day	FSU Community	4/30/25	In Person	(P), (A)	Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking	Tabling & educational pamphlets
Standing in Silence	FSU Community	Late March	Campus Wide	(P) (A)	Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking	Event
Swing-a-thon RAINN Fundraiser	University Community	April 3-4, 2025	Hammond 2nd Floor	(A)	Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking	Event

Prevention (P), Awareness (A), Compliance (C), Onboarding (O)



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PLAN: NONDISCRIMINATION AND TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Policy Introduction

Together, Bridgewater State University, Fitchburg State University, Framingham State University, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Salem State University, Westfield State University, and Worcester State University (collectively, “the Universities”) are committed to maintaining safe and healthy learning, living, and working environments that are free from all forms of discrimination and harassment.

Consistent with their commitment, the Universities do not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activity that they operate, and are required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”) to not discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in the education program or activity extends to admission and employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX to the Universities may be referred to each respective institution’s Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary of the Office for Civil Rights, or both.

This Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy (“Policy”) prohibits sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation as defined under Title IX and outlines the procedures for resolution of reports of these behaviors. The Universities provide educational and prevention programs, services for individuals who have been affected by discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, and accessible, timely, and equitable methods of investigation and resolution of complaints.

The Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy has been amended and renamed to be consistent with the Title IX Regulations that became effective August 14, 2020. Additionally, this policy is intended to comply with the reauthorized Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022 (“VAWA”), including the Campus SaVE Act, and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (“Clery Act”).

The Universities prohibit all forms of discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. These behaviors are antithetical to the mission of the Universities and, if not covered by this Policy, the Universities ensure that such conduct is prohibited and addressed through the Policy Against Discrimination, Discriminatory Harassment, and Retaliation contained in the EO Plan, Student Code of Conduct, and/or employee handbooks and collective bargaining agreements.

Policy Definitions

Actual Knowledge

Notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to the University’s Title IX Coordinator or any official of the University who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the University. The mere ability or obligation to report sexual harassment or to inform a student about how to report sexual harassment, or having been trained to do so, does not qualify



an individual as one who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the University. Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. This standard is not met when the only official of the University with actual knowledge is the Respondent.

Administrative Investigator

The Administrative Investigator is an impartial fact finder who investigates alleged violations of this Policy by interviewing parties and witnesses, collecting and reviewing statements and other relevant evidence, and providing a detailed, unbiased report regarding the findings of the investigation.

Advisor

A single person of the party's choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, who may be present in any meeting or grievance proceeding, and who may inspect and review evidence. It is the advisor's responsibility to conduct cross-examination during the live hearing. The advisor's role is otherwise strictly limited to providing direct and non-disruptive assistance to the party.

Appellate Administrator/Body

The Appellate Administrator/Body is annually trained and authorized by the Title IX Coordinator or designee to conduct a review of a decision made regarding an emergency removal, dismissal of a complaint, or decision reached by a Decision Maker(s).

Coercion

Unreasonable pressure or emotional manipulation to persuade another to engage in sexual activity. When someone makes it clear that they do not want to engage in sexual behavior, or they do not want to go beyond a certain point of sexual activity, continued pressure beyond that point can be considered coercive. Being coerced into sexual activity is not consent to that activity.

Complainant

An individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment under this Policy. At the time of filing a formal complaint, a Complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of the University with which the formal complaint is filed.

Consent

An understandable exchange of affirmative words or actions, which indicates a willingness by all parties to participate in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity. Consent must be informed and freely and actively given. It is the responsibility of the initiator to obtain clear and affirmative responses at each stage of sexual involvement. Consent to sexual activity may be withdrawn at any time, as long as the withdrawal is communicated clearly.



Whether an individual has taken advantage of a position of influence over a Complainant may be a factor in determining consent. A position of influence could include supervisory or disciplinary authority.

Silence, previous sexual relationships or experiences, and/or a current relationship may not, in themselves, be taken to imply consent. While nonverbal consent is possible (through active participation), it is best to obtain verbal consent. Similarly, consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to other forms of sexual activity.

Day

Day may refer to a calendar day or business day and will be specified in each instance in the Policy. A calendar day is any 24-hour period, including weekends and holidays. A business day is a weekday, Monday through Friday, on which the Universities are open. Business days explicitly exclude Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays on which the Universities are closed for regular business.

Decision Maker

The Decision Maker is trained to participate in the hearing process and private deliberations. Decision Makers determine the relevance of proposed questions during hearings and issue written determinations of responsibility that include all findings, sanctions, and remedies.

Education Program or Activity

All operations of the University, including locations, events, or circumstances at or in which the University exercises substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs, including any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the University. Additionally, education programs and activities include:

- Operations on campus or on other property owned or controlled by the University, including networks, digital platforms, social media accounts, and computer hardware or software owned or operated by, or used by the University; or
- Off-campus incidents in which the University exercised substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the behavior occurred.

Evidence

Information that is presented to establish whether a fact is more or less true. The type and extent of evidence available will differ based on the facts of each incident, but explicitly includes the parties' own statements and statements of witnesses. Evidence may be inculpatory or exculpatory.

Exculpatory evidence is evidence that is favorable to the Respondent in that it exonerates or tends to exonerate the Respondent of responsibility.

Inculpatory evidence is evidence that shows, or tends to show, a person's involvement in an act, or evidence that can establish responsibility.

Evidence must be relevant, according to the ordinary meaning of the word.



Information or evidence protected by a legally recognized privilege (e.g., attorney/client, doctor/patient) is excluded from consideration unless the holder of the privilege has waived the privilege in writing to the Title IX Coordinator.

In addition, in accordance with Title IX regulations and the Massachusetts Rape Shield Law (Mass. G.L. c. 233, § 21B) the Respondent or their Advisor are prohibited from asking questions related to the Complainant's alleged prior sexual behavior or alleged sexual reputation unless offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent. Outside of the specific allowable exceptions, such information is not considered relevant.

Force

The use of physical strength or action (no matter how slight), violence, threats of violence or intimidation (implied threats of violence) as a means to engage in sexual activity. A person who is the object of actual or threatened force is not required to physically, verbally or otherwise resist the aggressor, and lack of such resistance cannot be relied upon as the sole indicator of consent.

Formal Complaint

A document filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a Respondent and requesting that the University investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.

Incapacitation

An individual who is incapacitated by alcohol and/or drugs, whether voluntarily or involuntarily consumed, may not give consent. Alcohol or drug related incapacitation is more severe than impairment, being under the influence, or intoxication. Evidence of incapacity may be detected from context clues, such as slurred speech, bloodshot eyes, the smell of alcohol on the breath, shaky equilibrium, vomiting, unusual behavior or unconsciousness. While context clues are important in determining incapacitation, they alone do not necessarily indicate incapacitation.

Persons unable to consent due to incapacitation also include, but are not limited to: persons under age sixteen (16); persons who are intellectually incapable of understanding the implications and consequences of the act or actions in question; and persons who are physically helpless. A physically helpless person is one who is asleep, blacked out, involuntarily physically restrained, unconscious, or, for any other reason, unable to communicate unwillingness to engage in any act. The use of alcohol or drugs to render another person mentally or physically incapacitated as a precursor to or part of a sexual assault is prohibited.

The use of alcohol, medications or other drugs by the Respondent or accused does not excuse a violation of this Policy.

Preponderance of Evidence

Preponderance of evidence is a standard of review. Under this standard, conclusions by the Decision Maker must be based on what "more likely than not" occurred, based on available information and evidence. Accordingly, the Decision Maker must determine whether it is more likely than not that the Respondent violated this Policy.



Respondent

An individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment. A Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

Supportive Measures

Non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the Complainant or the Respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the University's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the University's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to, counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules or dining arrangements, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, restrictions from areas of campus, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, statutorily provided leave to employees, and other similar measures.

The University will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the Complainant or Respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the University to provide the supportive measures.

The Title IX Coordinator, or designee, is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.

Policy Application

The Policy applies to all members of the campus communities, including, but not limited to, students, faculty, librarians, staff, visitors, contractors, and applicants for employment or admission, or any other person participating in an education program or activity of the University. The Policy applies to on-campus and off-campus conduct, including online and virtual, that takes place in the United States within an education program or activity.

The Universities prohibit all forms of discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. These behaviors are antithetical to the mission of the Universities and, if not covered by this Policy, the Universities ensure that such conduct is prohibited and addressed through the Policy Against Discrimination, Discriminatory Harassment, and Retaliation contained in the EO Plan, Student Code of Conduct, and/or employee handbooks and collective bargaining agreements.

Policy Dissemination

Each University will prominently display the contact information for the institution's Title IX Coordinator, including the name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the employee or employees designated as the Title IX Coordinator(s).



Each University will further prominently display the Title IX policy statement on its website and in each handbook or catalog that it makes available to applicants for admission and employment, students, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the University.

Policy Offenses

Title IX Prohibited Sexual Harassment

(a) Sexual Harassment

The Universities prohibit, under this Policy, conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following conditions:

- An employee of the University conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the University on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; or,
- Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the University's education program or activity.

Additionally, the behaviors as outlined in subsections (b) through (e) of this section constitute sexual harassment under this Policy.

(b) Sexual Assault

An offense classified as a forcible or non-forcible sex offense under the Uniform Crime Reporting System of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Attempts to commit any of these acts are also prohibited.

(i) Sexual Assault – Rape

The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus, with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person without the consent of the victim (or attempts to commit the same). This includes any gender of victim or Respondent.

(ii) Sexual Assault – Fondling

Fondling is the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age and/or because of temporary or permanent mental incapacity

(iii) Statutory Rape

Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent, which is 16 years old in Massachusetts.



(iv) Incest

Non-forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

(c) Dating Violence

Any act of violence or threatened 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 determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) the length of the relationship, (ii) The type of relationship, and (iii) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. This includes, but is not limited to, sexual, emotional or physical abuse, or the threat of such abuse.

(d) Domestic Violence

Any felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; or 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 accordance with Chapter 118 of the Acts of 2024 (M.G.L. c. 209A, § 1), domestic abuse explicitly includes **Coercive Control**—a continuous pattern of behavior or severe single act used to threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, control, or compel compliance from a family or household member, effectively compromising their personal autonomy or safety.

(e) Stalking

Engaging in a course of conduct directed (directly, indirectly, through a third party or other means) at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to— (A) fear for their safety or the safety of others; or (B) suffer substantial emotional distress. For the purposes of this Policy, the behaviors must be directly related to that person's sex.

Retaliation

Neither the Universities nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or this policy, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under Title IX or this policy.

Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sexual harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or this policy, constitutes retaliation.

The Universities will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sexual harassment, any Complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sexual harassment, any Respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the FERPA statute, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; or FERPA regulations, 34 CFR part 99; or as



required by law; or to carry out the purposes of Title IX and this policy, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder.

Exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation. Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this policy does not constitute retaliation; however, a determination regarding responsibility alone is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

Conduct That Is Not Prohibited

The Universities are committed to protecting, maintaining and encouraging both freedom of expression and full academic freedom of inquiry, teaching, service and research. Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to penalize a member of the University community for expressing an opinion, theory, or idea in the process of responsible teaching and learning. Any form of speech or conduct, no matter how offensive, unpleasant or even hateful, which is protected by the principles of academic freedom or the U.S. Constitution, is not subject to this policy.

Making a Report

Complainants have the right to not make a complaint to anyone. A number of reporting options are available and the Universities strongly encourage seeking support from medical, counseling, and other support services.

Title IX Coordinator

Each University has designated and authorized at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with its responsibilities under Title IX, who is referred to as the "Title IX Coordinator."

Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment. Reports may be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, electronic form (if available), or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the reporting options available at the time of the report. Reports may also be made anonymously; in such case, the person making the report shall not disclose their name or other identifying information, such as an ID number, and shall submit a written report using any of the previously identified written reporting means in a manner that would not reveal the identity of the reporter. The University may also provide specific anonymous reporting options such as a hot line, tip line, or online web form. A University's ability to respond to an anonymous report may be limited about the level of information about the incident and/or individuals involved. Reports do not constitute a formal complaint under this Policy unless they meet the criteria specified in the Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures.

The Title IX Coordinator will assist Complainants in notifying law enforcement, if requested by the Complainant.

The Title IX Coordinator, or designee, is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures and is responsible for receiving and responding to requests for disability



accommodations related to supportive measures and participation in the grievance process. The Title IX Coordinator may collaborate with other appropriate offices on campus to provide necessary accommodations under this policy.

The Title IX Coordinator for Fitchburg State University is:

Rebecca H. Newell

Sanders Administration Building Room 202

978-665-3236

rnewell7@fitchburgstate.edu

Law Enforcement

Complainants may file a criminal complaint with Campus Police/Public Safety, the local police department where the incident occurred, and/or other state and federal law enforcement agencies. Complainants can make both a criminal report and a report to the University and do not have to choose one or the other. The Universities encourage victims of crimes to report incidents to the police so that the police can take appropriate measures to help victims and prevent future crimes. In addition to the Title IX Coordinator, Campus Police/Public Safety will help in filing a report with local law enforcement, should the Complainant request assistance.

Complainants are never required, however, to report an incident to Campus Police/Public Safety or local law enforcement. If a Complainant elects not to make a criminal report, the Universities will respect that decision; however, the Universities may have an obligation under the Clery Act to inform Campus Police/Public Safety of an alleged crime, but will not disclose the Complainant's name.

If a Complainant chooses to make a report to Campus Police/Public Safety, an investigation will be conducted and, if the Complainant so requests, they will receive assistance in filing criminal charges against the Respondent. Campus Police/Public Safety can also assist a Complainant in the process of obtaining protective restraining orders and abuse prevention orders for sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

Campus Police/Public Safety has specially trained officers to respond to complaints of sexual assault and dating/domestic violence. Whenever possible, Campus Police/Public Safety will make every effort to offer female Complainants/victims an opportunity to have a female officer present during all interviews.

Reports to law enforcement and/or criminal complaints do not constitute a formal complaint to the University under this Policy unless they meet the criteria specified in the Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures.

Campus Police/ Public Safety at Fitchburg State University is:

University Police Department
32 Clinton St., Fitchburg, MA 01420
978-665-3111

Local Police is:

City of Fitchburg Police Department
20 Elm St, Fitchburg, MA 01420
978-345-4355



Confidential Reports

Persons who have experienced prohibited forms of sexual harassment under this policy may share information confidentially with designated employees (“Confidential Employees”) who cannot reveal identifying information to any third party unless one or more of the following conditions is present:

- The individual has provided written consent to disclose information;
- There is a concern about imminent harm to self or others;
- The information concerns the neglect or abuse of someone who is a minor, elderly, or disabled; or
- An employee has been charged with providing non-identifiable information for purposes of the Clery Act.

“Confidential Employees” include:

- licensed mental health counselors,
- licensed health care personnel,
- pastoral counselors,
- clergy who work for the Universities, or
- additional designated individual(s) on campus.

Employees may also report such misconduct in strict confidence through the Employee Assistance Program.

Please bear in mind, however, that if one requests certain supportive measures from the University (e.g., extension for academic work or changing classes, residence halls or work locations), the Dean of Students and/or other University officials as necessary may be contacted only for the purpose of providing the requested measures. In such cases, one’s privacy will be maintained to the extent that respecting confidentiality will not impair the University’s ability to provide the requested measures. One may also confidentially report sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or retaliation, as well as other forms of sexual violence and gender-based harassment to community support resources, which are not required to share information with the Universities.

Resources

The safety, health, and well-being of the campus communities are of paramount importance to the Universities. Any person who experiences any form of sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or retaliation, or similar harmful behaviors regardless of whether they are expressly prohibited by this Policy, is strongly urged to speak with someone to get the support they need, no matter when or where the incident occurred. For information on the location, phone numbers, hours and services provided for the campus and community resources listed below, please contact the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator, the EO Officer, Human Resources, Student Life or Student Conduct, Residence Life, Health Services, the Counseling Center and/or Campus Police/Public Safety. The information is also listed on each University’s website.



Immediate Needs

(a) Assuring One's Safety

If an incident occurs, the Universities encourage one to report the incident and seek both police and medical assistance. Seeking police or medical assistance does not obligate one to make a complaint or take any further action, but the decision to seek medical help and gather evidence allows one to preserve the full range of available options. The Universities will assist any community member to get to a safe place, provide transportation for medical help and, if requested, contact law enforcement. For help at any time, contact Campus Police/Public Safety or, during regular University business hours, contact the Title IX Coordinator.

(b) Preserving Evidence

Any person who has experienced sexual violence is encouraged to take steps to preserve evidence of the incident, as doing so may be necessary to prove that a crime occurred, or to obtain a protection order from the court. After an incident occurs, one should try to refrain from bathing, showering, brushing teeth, drinking, eating, douching or changing clothes until the evidence can be collected. If one changes clothes, one should place each garment in a separate paper (not plastic) bag. If the incident involves any written or electronic communications (e.g., pictures/videos, texts, social media posts, etc.), care should be taken to preserve copies and not delete the original communication.

Confidential Medical Attention

Medical attention is strongly encouraged to treat any possible injuries, including internal injuries, or infections. Please note that there are some medical actions that are more effective if taken within a few days after an offense, such as preventative treatment for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, evidence collection, and toxicology testing, if there are signs that drugs or alcohol facilitated the offense. One may generally discuss the incident with licensed medical personnel confidentially.

(a) Confidential Medical Resources on Campus

Students may access the services of the Student Health Center on a confidential basis. Employees may seek confidential counseling and referral services from the Employee Assistance Program ("EAP").

(b) Confidential Community Medical Resources

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are specially trained, certified professionals skilled in performing quality forensic medical-legal exams. One may find more information about SANE services and where to obtain them here: <https://www.mass.gov/ma-sexual-assault-nurse-examiner-sane-program>.

(c) Confidential Counseling and Support

Generally, one may discuss the incident with a licensed mental health counselor or a counselor recognized by a religious order or denomination on a confidential basis. These counselors are good options if one wishes to discuss one's situation with someone who can keep information about an incident as confidential as possible while assisting in determining next steps, such as



obtaining further counseling, seeking medical attention, preserving evidence, and/or reporting to University or law enforcement authorities then or at a later time.

(d) Confidential Counseling and Support Resources on Campus

Students may access Counseling Services on a confidential basis. Employees may seek the confidential services of the EAP. All community members may access the confidential services of religious/pastoral counselors on campus, if any.

Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures

The Universities have adopted the following grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that would be prohibited by this policy.

Unless otherwise specified, the provisions, rules, or practices in this grievance process for handling formal complaints of sexual harassment under Title IX apply equally to both parties.

Proceedings under the Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures shall be prompt, fair, and impartial, and be conducted by officials who receive annual training, as addressed in Article XV.

The Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures treat Complainants and Respondents equitably by:

- Providing remedies to a Complainant where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the Respondent; and
- Following an investigation and hearing process that complies with this section, before imposing any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a Respondent.

Remedies are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the University's education program or activity. Such remedies may include the same individualized services described as "supportive measures"; however, remedies may be disciplinary or punitive and place burden on the Respondent.

The Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures include an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, and provide for credibility determinations that are not based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.

Freedom from Bias and Conflict of Interest

The University requires that any individual designated as a Title IX Coordinator, investigator, Decision Maker, or any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally, or an individual Complainant or Respondent.



Parties to a Complaint

The parties to a complaint are the Complainant, who is the alleged victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment; and the Respondent, who is the alleged perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

A Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures.

Making a Formal Complaint

A formal complaint is a document filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a Respondent and requesting that the University formally investigate.

At the time of filing a formal complaint, a Complainant must be participating in, or attempting to participate in, the education program or activity of the University with which the formal complaint is filed. Formal complaints may be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, electronic form (if available), or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report.

The "document filed by a Complainant" may be a document or electronic submission (such as by electronic mail) that contains the Complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the Complainant is the person filing the formal complaint.

Reports made to University employees, including the Title IX Coordinator and campus law enforcement, do not constitute a formal complaint under this Policy unless they meet the aforementioned criteria in this section.

Where the Title IX Coordinator signs a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not a Complainant or otherwise a party in the Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures.

While the Universities encourage prompt reporting of incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, as well as retaliation, they do not limit the timeframe for filing a complaint under this Policy. Complaints may be filed at any time, but the University's ability to take action may be limited by the matriculation or employment status of Complainants, Respondents, or witnesses. A prompt report will enable the University to most effectively respond to a complaint.

Dismissal of a Formal Complaint

The University must investigate the allegations in a formal complaint. However, if the conduct alleged in the formal complaint would not constitute sexual harassment as defined by this Policy even if proved, did not occur in the University's education program or activity, or did not occur against a person in the United States, then the University must dismiss the formal complaint with regard to that conduct for purposes of sexual harassment under Title IX and this Policy. A dismissal of a formal complaint under this Policy for one of the aforementioned reasons does not preclude action under another University policy or its Code of Conduct.



The University may dismiss the formal complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation or hearing: a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein; the Respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the University; or specific circumstances prevent the University from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

Upon a dismissal required or permitted pursuant to this section, the University will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and reason(s) therefor simultaneously to the parties. Any party may appeal the dismissal of a formal complaint, in accordance with the appeal process.

Consolidation of Formal Complaints

The University may consolidate formal complaints of sexual harassment allegations against more than one Respondent, or by more than one Complainant against one or more Respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

Where the formal complaint process involves more than one Complainant or more than one Respondent, references in this policy to the singular “party,” “Complainant,” or “Respondent” include the plural, as applicable.

Concurrent Investigations

In some circumstances, the Respondent’s alleged conduct violating this Policy may constitute a potential violation of other University conduct policies, such as the Policy Against Discrimination, Discriminatory Harassment, and Retaliation and/or the Student Code of Conduct. To avoid duplicative efforts, the University may undertake a concurrent investigation of the alleged conduct. Where such concurrent investigation takes place, the University will use the Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures, provided however that cross-examination in the live hearing may be restricted to only questions relevant to allegations of violations of the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy. Based on the findings of the concurrent investigation, the Respondent may be subject to disciplinary action for violations of this Policy as well as the Policy Against Discrimination, Discriminatory Harassment, and Retaliation and/or the Student Code of Conduct, as well as other policy violations.

Notice of Allegations

Upon receipt of a formal complaint in writing, the University will promptly provide the following written notice to the parties who are known:

- Notice of the allegations of behavior potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in this Policy, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known; the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment under this Policy; and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known.
- To a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all investigative interviews, other meetings, or hearings with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.



- Notice of the Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures, including any potential informal resolution process.
- A statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the Title IX Complaint Resolution Procedures.
- A statement to the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice.
- A statement to the parties that they may inspect and review evidence.
- A statement informing the parties of any provision in this Policy or the University's Code of Conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures.

A Respondent has ten (10) calendar days in which to respond to the complaint after the Notification of Allegations. In cases where a Respondent refuses or fails to participate in the investigation and resolution process, the University may continue the process without the Respondent's participation. The failure of the Respondent to participate in the investigation and resolution process will not prevent the University from imposing discipline or other sanctions when a violation is found.

At any point after receiving the notice of allegations, including during the investigation and live hearing, a Respondent to any formal complaint may agree to the allegations and the recommended sanction(s).

Amending Allegations

If, in the course of an investigation, the University decides to investigate allegations about the Respondent or Complainant that are not included in the original notice of complaint, the University will provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

Resolution Options

The Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures offer two options: the Informal Resolution Option and the Formal Resolution Option.

Informal Resolution Option

Parties may have the option to request to resolve their formal complaint through a voluntary informal resolution process offered by the University (such as mediation) that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication. If the University offers it, the option to participate in an informal resolution process can be chosen when the formal complaint is filed or at any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility. The University can facilitate an informal resolution process, provided that the University has:

- Provided to the parties a written notice disclosing:
 - the allegations;
 - the requirements of the informal resolution process including:
 - the parties' inability to resume a formal investigation arising from the same alleged conduct once a mutually agreed upon resolution is reached through the informal process, and



- the parties' right, at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution through the informal resolution process, to withdraw and resume the formal investigation procedures with respect to the formal complaint;
- any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained;
- information on the records that will be maintained or could be shared as a result of participation in the informal resolution process, as required or allowable under FERPA, collective bargaining agreements, employee handbooks, or applicable regulations; as required by law; or as otherwise deemed appropriate;
- Obtained the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process.

The University will not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student. Similarly, the University does not require the parties to participate in an informal resolution process.

The matter will be deemed resolved when all parties expressly agree to an outcome that is acceptable to them and to the University. The University will create a written record of any such agreement. The University will also ensure a reasonably prompt time frame for an informal resolution process, if it is offered and utilized. Every attempt will be made to conclude the Informal Resolution Option within sixty (60) calendar days of the date of the request.

Formal Resolution Option

The process for resolving a formal complaint through the formal resolution option consists of three major stages: the investigation, the live hearing, and a possible appeal.

If a complaint has been properly filed, either by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator, the University will assign the matter to an Administrative Investigator. The University may also designate other trained and knowledgeable University officials to assist with the investigation. Under circumstances where the University deems it necessary or appropriate, the University may also appoint an external investigator.

Following the investigation, a live hearing will be held and presided over by a Decision Maker who is neither the Investigator nor the Title IX Coordinator. All complaints pursued under the Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures will be evaluated under a "preponderance of the evidence" standard. Under this standard, conclusions must be based on what "more likely than not" occurred.

A written determination is issued after the live hearing and parties have the right to appeal the decision on specific permissible grounds.

Formal Resolution Process

Timeframe

The University will attempt to investigate a complaint within sixty (60) calendar days after the notification of allegations. If, for good cause, an investigation is temporarily delayed, the University will provide the parties written status updates at reasonable intervals until the investigation is completed that explains the reason for the delay or extension. Good cause for limited delays may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; the need for language assistance or



accommodation of disabilities; the complexity or severity of a complaint; and breaks in the academic calendar or exam periods. While the University will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the availability of parties, their advisors, and witnesses, a party, their advisor, or a witness may not delay the process indefinitely by refusing to attend or otherwise participate in the process.

The University will attempt to conclude the hearing within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the Investigation Report.

The University will attempt to conclude the appeal process within thirty (30) business days of receipt of the appeal.

Investigation

The investigation may include, but is not limited to:

- interviews of the parties and other individuals and/or witnesses; and/or reviewing certain documents or materials in the possession of either party or any witness that the Administrative Investigator has deemed relevant;
- consideration of all relevant documents, including written statements and other materials presented by the parties and witnesses;
- evidence collection, including but not limited to, documents, text messages, emails, social media posts and messages, photographs, surveillance camera footage, door lock interrogations, card access records, guest sign-in logs, academic records, employee records and personnel documentation, and law enforcement reports;
- the Administrative Investigator's findings of fact based on the preponderance of the evidence standard;
- the Administrative Investigator's analysis of allegations, defenses, and evidence presented in order to make the factual findings.

Burden of Proof

The burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rest on the University and not on the parties. The University cannot access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless the University obtains that party's voluntary, written consent to do so for a formal investigation.

Right to an Advisor of Choice

The Complainant and Respondent have an equal opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by an advisor of their choice. The University does not limit the choice or presence of an advisor for either the Complainant or Respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding; however, the University may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings. The University maintains the right to remove an advisor from any meeting or proceeding if the advisor is disruptive. The meeting or proceeding may then be delayed to allow the party to secure another advisor.



Equal Opportunity to Present, Review, and Respond to Evidence

Both parties are afforded an equal opportunity to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. The University does not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.

So that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation, both parties are provided an equal opportunity to review:

- any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in a formal complaint;
- the evidence upon which the University does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility; and
- inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source.

The University will provide each party and the party's advisor, if any, any evidence subject to review in an electronic format or a hard copy. The parties will have ten (10) calendar days to review the evidence and submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the Investigative Report. Where new substantive evidence becomes available through written response to the review of evidence, the University will provide each party and the party's advisor an opportunity to review and respond to that new substantive evidence.

The Administrative Investigator will review the written responses to the evidence, if any, and, based on the information provided, conduct any additional investigation that may be necessary prior to the completion of the Investigative Report. The University will make all such evidence subject to the parties' review available at any hearing to give each party equal opportunity to refer to such evidence during the hearing, including for purposes of cross-examination.

Investigative Report

Following the opportunity for the parties to review the evidence and respond in writing, the Administrative Investigator will create an Investigative Report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence, the Administrative Investigator's findings of fact based on the preponderance of the evidence standard and the Administrative Investigator's analysis of allegations, defenses, and evidence presented in order to make the factual findings.

At least ten (10) calendar days prior to a hearing the investigator will send each party and the party's advisor, if any, the Investigative Report in an electronic format or a hard copy, for their review and written response. The parties have five (5) calendar days to submit a written response to the Administrative Investigator. The Investigative Report and written responses, if submitted, will be forwarded by the Administrative Investigator to the Decision Maker promptly upon receipt of the written responses or upon the response deadline.

Live Hearing

The Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures include a live hearing presided over by a Decision Maker.



Parties are requested to give the University five (5) business days of advance notice of the advisor who will accompany them to the live hearing. If a party does not have an advisor, they are requested to notify the University five (5) business days in advance of the hearing so the University is able to provide them with an advisor.

At the University's discretion, live hearings may be conducted in-person or virtually where the parties, witnesses, and other participants are able to simultaneously see and hear each other with enabling technology.

At the request of either party, the University will provide for the live hearing to occur with the parties located in separate rooms with technology enabling the Decision Maker(s) and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness answering questions.

The University will create an audio or audiovisual recording, or transcript, of any live hearing and make it available to the parties for review upon request.

Cross-Examination

At the live hearing, the Decision Maker(s) will permit each party's advisor to ask the other party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions, including those challenging credibility.

Such cross-examination at the live hearing must be conducted directly, orally, and in real time by the party's advisor and never by a party personally.

Only relevant cross-examination and other questions may be asked of a party or witness. Before a Complainant, Respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or other question, the Decision Maker(s) must first determine whether the question is relevant and explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant. Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless:

- such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or
- if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent.

If a party does not have an advisor present at the live hearing, the University will provide that party an advisor of the University's choice to conduct cross-examination on the party's behalf.

Determination Regarding Responsibility

The Decision Maker(s) will make every reasonable effort to submit a written determination regarding responsibility to the Title IX Coordinator within seven (7) business days after the conclusion of the live hearing, unless good cause for additional time is shown.

To reach this determination, the Decision Maker(s) will apply the preponderance of evidence standard in all formal complaints of sexual harassment against students, faculty, and staff.

The written determination will include:



- identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment;
- a description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;
- findings of fact supporting the determination;
- conclusions regarding the application of the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy to the facts;
- a statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the University imposes on the Respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the University's education program or activity will be provided by the University to the Complainant; and
- the University's procedures and permissible bases for the Complainant and Respondent to appeal.

The Title IX Coordinator will provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously.

The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that the University provides the parties with the written determination of the result of the appeal, if an appeal is filed, or if an appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely. This is explained in the Notice of Outcome.

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

Possible Sanctions and Remedies

For Faculty and Staff (employee) Respondents

Disciplinary action taken against an employee shall be regarded as an administrative action, up to and including termination, including any of the following when considered in accordance with their respective collective bargaining agreement (if any):

- reprimand
- fines and/or restitution
- warning
- disciplinary probation
- training and development
- assessment
- loss of privileges
- restriction from facilities or activities
- leave with pay
- leave without pay
- termination

Additional disciplinary action shall also be taken against an employee who violates a sanction or sanctions imposed pursuant to this Policy.

For Student Respondents

A student who has been found to have violated the Sexual Harassment Policy may be subject to sanctions, including any of the following:



- 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
- expulsion

In general, the sanction typically imposed for students for rape is expulsion. The sanction typically imposed for students for other forms of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking is suspension or expulsion. All student sanctions, however, are determined on a case-by-case basis in consideration of: the seriousness of the violation; sanctions typically imposed for similar violations; prior disciplinary history; and any other circumstances indicating that the sanction should be more or less severe.

Additional disciplinary action shall also be taken against a student who violates a sanction or sanctions imposed pursuant to this Policy. Depending on the nature of the violation, such discipline may be imposed pursuant to the provisions of this Policy or pursuant to the applicable provision of the Student Code of Conduct.

Additional Remedies Following Finding of a Violation

Where necessary, the University will provide additional measures to remedy the effects of a violation. These remedies are separate from, and in addition to, any supportive measures that may have been provided or sanctions that have been imposed. If the Complainant declined or did not take advantage of a specific service or resource previously offered as a supportive measure, such as counseling, the University will re-offer those services to the Complainant as applicable or necessary.

In addition, the University will consider broader remedial action for the campus community, such as increased monitoring, supervision, or security at locations where the incidents occurred, increased or targeted education and prevention efforts, climate assessments/victimization surveys, and/or revisiting its policies and procedures.

Appeals

Either party may appeal a determination regarding responsibility, a dismissal of a formal complaint, or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

- procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- new evidence that could affect the outcome of the matter was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made; and



- the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or Decision Maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against either Complainants or Respondents generally, or the individual Complainant or Respondent, which affected the outcome of the matter.

Appeals of the written determination made by the Decision Maker(s) must be submitted within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the written determination. Appeals of the dismissal of a formal complaint, or any allegations therein, must be submitted within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the written notification of such action.

The University will notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties. The Appellate Administrator/Body will not be the same person as the Decision Maker(s) who reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the Administrative Investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator.

The Appellate Administrator/Body will issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result, and provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties. This written decision concludes the process and results are final as noted in the notice of outcome.

Where practicable, the appeal process will be concluded within thirty (30) business days of receipt of the appeal.

Non-Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures

Disciplinary Procedures for prohibited conduct that does not fall within the 2020 Title IX Regulations mirror the principles of those above with few exceptions as outlined below. As with the Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures, these procedures include a prompt, fair, and impartial process from the initial investigation to the final result, conducted by officials who receive annual training on the issues and procedures to protect the safety of victims and promote accountability. Decision makers use the preponderance of evidence standard of proof. Parties are afforded the same rights including the opportunity to have an advisor of their choice present during disciplinary meetings, the same range of protective measures, and the list of possible sanctions is the same as those listed above.

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct

- Allegations do not require a formal written complaint. Reports in the Complainant's own words are forwarded to the Equal Opportunity (EO) Officer.
- For the purposes of these procedures, a "day" is a business day. The timeline allows parties one opportunity to review the draft investigation report with relevant evidence only; and
- A live hearing is not required. There is no cross-examination.

Stalking (non-sex-based)

- Allegations do not require a formal written complaint. Reports are made to University Police and the Dean of Students (for students) or Human Resources (for employees);
- Allegations involving accused students will be investigated and adjudicated through the Student Code of Conduct. Allegations involving accused employees will be investigated and adjudicated through protocols aligned with the employee handbook and collective bargaining



agreement (if any). In both cases, individuals retain their due process rights and can appeal the outcome.

- For the purposes of these procedures, a “day” is a business day. The timeline includes the notice of allegations (or charges), an opportunity to be heard, and individuals are provided with a rationale for the decision. These procedures do not include a draft or final investigation report.
- A live hearing is not required. There is no cross-examination.

Confidential Medical Attention

Medical attention is strongly encouraged to treat any possible injuries, including internal injuries, or infections. Please note that some medical actions are more effective if taken within a few days after an offense, such as preventative treatment for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, evidence collection, and toxicology testing, if there are signs that drugs or alcohol facilitated the offense. One may generally discuss the incident with licensed medical personnel confidentially.

a. Confidential Community Medical Resources

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are specially trained, certified professionals skilled in performing quality forensic medical-legal exams. One may find more information about SANE services and where to obtain them here: <https://www.mass.gov/ma-sexual-assault-nurse-examiner-sane-program>

b. Confidential Counseling and Support

Generally, one may discuss the incident with a licensed mental health counselor or a counselor recognized by a religious order or denomination on a confidential basis. These counselors are good options if one wishes to discuss one’s situation with someone who can keep information about an incident as confidential as possible while assisting in determining next steps, such as obtaining further counseling, seeking medical attention, preserving evidence, and/or reporting to University or law enforcement authorities then or at a later time.

c. Confidential Counseling and Support Resources on Campus

Students may access Counseling Services on a confidential basis. Employees may seek the confidential services of the EAP. All community members may access the confidential services of religious/pastoral counselors on campus if any.

d. Confidentiality of Personal Identifying Information (PII)

Personal Identifiable Information means individually identifying information for or about an individual including information likely to disclose the location of a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, regardless of whether the information is encoded, encrypted, hashed, or otherwise protected, including:

- a first and last name;
- a home or other physical address;
- contact information (including a postal, e-mail, or Internet protocol address, or telephone or facsimile number);
- a social security number, driver license number, passport number, or student identification number; and
- any other information, including date of birth, racial or ethnic background, or religious affiliation, that would serve to identify any individual.



Private Non-Confidential Campus Resources

The Universities offer a variety of resources to those community members who have experienced or been affected by sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and retaliation. While the following resources are not bound by confidentiality, they will seek to keep the information as confidential as possible and will only share information within the limited group of University personnel necessary to address the issues of prohibited conduct presented.

- Title IX Coordinator (and any Deputies)
- EO Officer
- University Police
- Human Resources
- Residence Life
- Student Affairs
- Student Conduct
- Disability Services

On-Campus	Type of Services Available	Contact Information
Counseling and Mental Health Services	Individual, couples, and group counseling, crisis intervention, psychoeducational programming, outreach workshops, and community referrals. Counseling services are confidential and are offered at no charge to all enrolled students	Hours of Operation Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. To make an appointment: Stop by our office or call us at 978-665-3152 Hammond Bldg., 3rd Floor, Room 317 https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices-services-directory/counseling-services/
Visa and Immigration Assistance	The Office of International Education advises students on immigration matters, employment questions, and issues of cultural adjustment through a special orientation program, briefings, and individual advising.	Hours of Operation Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 5 pm Hammond, 316 Phone: 978-665-31089 https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/student-support/international-education
Student Financial Aid	Assists students who, without financial assistance, would be unable to attend college	Hours of Operation Monday-Friday 8 am – 5 pm Anthony, Room 108 Phone: 978-665-3156 https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices-services-directory/financial-aid-office/



Care and Case Management	Case Managers can provide information about how to access essential needs, apply for a leave of absence, and how to request changes to academic, living, transportation, and working situations, or other options.	Hours of Operation Monday-Friday 8 am – 5 pm Aubuchon Hall N102A Phone: 978.665.3880. https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/student-support/care-and-case-management
Off-Campus	Type of Services Available	Contact Information
Victim Advocacy Provided by Pathways for Change	24-hour crisis intervention, support groups, counseling, and advocacy for survivors of sexual assault and abuse as well as prevention education, professional training, and community outreach	Pathways for Change No longer maintains an office on campus. However, they can be reached 24/7 by calling their hotline. Hotline: 1-800-870-5905 https://www.pathwaysforchange.help/pfc/
Massachusetts Rape Crisis Centers	Free, confidential support services for adolescent and adult survivors of sexual assault, as well as their families, partners, and friends. Core offerings include 24/7 hotlines, emergency medical and legal accompaniment, short-term counseling, and community prevention education.	https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rape-crisis-centers
UMass Memorial Medical Center	Emergency Mental Health Services (EMHS) provides psychiatric evaluations and assessments of the level of care for patients who self-present or are brought into the hospital in an acute Psychiatric Crisis. The service is available 24 hours a day. Patients who are experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis will be evaluated by the EMHS Team which comprises Nurses, Social Workers, Mental Health Counselors, Ambulatory Service Representatives, Psychiatric Residents, and Attending Psychiatrists.	Address: 60 Hospital Rd, Leominster, MA 01453 (508) 334-3562
YWCA Central Massachusetts Domestic Violence Services	Domestic Violence Classes Confidential Emergency Shelter SAFE PLAN/Court Advocacy Short-term Counselling Support Groups	(Hotline) 508-755-9030 Leominster: 978 401-2290 https://ywcacm.org/domestic-violence



Employees' Duty to Report

Employees of the Universities have reporting obligations, as outlined below.

Reports are not required if knowledge of the potential violations is obtained at public awareness events, in approved research projects, and as part of coursework assignments.

Reports are also not required if made to "Confidential Employees" except where one or more of the following conditions are met:

- The reporting party has provided written consent to disclose information;
- There is a concern about imminent harm to self or others;
- the information concerns the neglect or abuse of someone who is a minor, elderly, or disabled; or
- An employee has been charged with providing non-identifiable information for purposes of the Clery Act.

Employees' Duty to Report Discrimination, Discriminatory Harassment, and Retaliation

Behavior prohibited under this Policy may also be prohibited under the Policy Against Discrimination, Discriminatory Harassment, and Retaliation. In terms of reports of discrimination, discriminatory harassment, or retaliation, any trustee, administrator, department chair, program coordinator, manager or supervisor who has knowledge of or receives such a report from a student or other member of the University community is obligated to report the information to the EO Officer or Title IX Coordinator as soon as the employee becomes aware of it. Likewise, any member of the campus community is encouraged to report to the EO Officer or the Title IX Coordinator any conduct of which they have direct knowledge and which they in good faith believe constitutes discrimination, discriminatory harassment, or retaliation. Any member of the University community who has a question about their reporting responsibilities should contact the Title IX Coordinator or EO Officer.

Mandatory Reports Involving Minors and Vulnerable Adult Populations

Persons under 18 ("minors") may be students or may be engaged in activities sponsored by the Universities or by third parties utilizing University facilities. Where an employee has reasonable cause to believe that a minor is suffering from abuse, sexual abuse or neglect, including the sexual misconduct prohibited by this Policy, the employee and/or the University may be obligated to comply with the mandatory child abuse reporting requirements established at Mass. G.L. c. 119, §§ 51A-E. In such cases, the employee must immediately report the matter to Campus Police/Public Safety, who, in consultation with other officials, shall contact the Department of Children and Families ("DCF") and/or outside law enforcement. An employee may also directly contact law enforcement or DCF in cases of suspected abuse or neglect.

Massachusetts law also imposes mandatory reporting requirements for certain occupations where abuse or neglect of individuals with disabilities or who are over age 60 is suspected. For more information, please contact the Title IX Coordinator or the **Fitchburg State University Police Department**, 32 Clinton St (*across from the Recreation Center*) **978-665-3111**.



Title IX and Campus Sexual Misconduct Employee Training

The University ensures that Title IX Coordinators, Administrative Investigators, Decision Makers, Appellate Administrators, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process receive annual training on:

- the definition of sexual harassment under this policy,
- the scope of the University's education program or activity,
- the Title IX Complaint Resolution Procedures, including how to conduct investigations, hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable, and
- how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias.

Each University ensures that investigators receive training on issues of relevance to create an Investigative Report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.

The University ensures that Decision Makers receive training on any technology to be used at a live hearing and on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.

All available materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, Administrative Investigators, Decision Makers, Appellate Administrators, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process will be made publicly accessible on the University's website.

Employees' Duty to Cooperate

Every faculty member, librarian, administrator, staff member and University employee has a duty to cooperate fully and unconditionally in an investigation conducted pursuant to the Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures of this Policy and of the EO Plan, subject to the provisions of any applicable collective bargaining agreements. This duty includes, among other things, speaking with the EO Officer, Title IX Coordinator, Administrative Investigator, Decision Maker, or Appellate Body, and voluntarily providing all documentation that relates to the claim being investigated. The failure and/or refusal of any employee, other than an employee subject to criminal charges or who invokes a Fifth Amendment privilege, to cooperate in an investigation may result in a separate disciplinary action up to and including termination. Such disciplinary action does not constitute retaliation under this Policy.

Amnesty

Students may be hesitant to report sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or retaliation out of concern that they, or witnesses, might be charged with violations of the Universities' drug/alcohol policies or other student conduct policy violations. While the Universities do not condone such behavior, they place a priority on the need to address sexual harassment and other conduct prohibited by this Policy. Accordingly, the University shall not pursue discipline against a student who, in good faith, reports, witnesses, or participates in an investigation of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or retaliation, unless such violation was egregious. An egregious violation shall include, but not be limited to, taking an action that places the health and safety of another person at serious and imminent risk



False Reporting

The initiation of a knowingly false report of sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or retaliation is a serious offense prohibited by this Policy. A report made in good faith, however, is not considered false merely because the evidence does not ultimately support the allegation of prohibited conduct. If an investigation reveals that a Complainant knowingly filed false charges, the University shall take appropriate actions and issue sanctions pursuant to other applicable University policies, including any applicable collective bargaining agreement. The imposition of such sanctions does not constitute retaliation under this Policy.

University Response to Sexual Harassment

When the University has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in an education program or activity of that University against a person in the United States, it will respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.

The University is deliberately indifferent only if its response to sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

The University's response will treat Complainants and Respondents equitably by offering supportive measures to a Complainant, and by following a grievance process that complies with those outlined in the Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures section of this document before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a Respondent.

Upon actual notice, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the Complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

Emergency Removal of Respondent

The University may remove a Respondent from the University's education program or activity on an emergency basis, provided that the University undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal, and provides the Respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

Administrative Leave of Employee

The University may place an employee on paid administrative leave during the pendency of a grievance process under this Policy when it reasonably concludes that the employee: (a) poses a threat to health or safety; (b) poses a threat to University property or equipment; (c) is disruptive or interferes with an investigation under this Policy or the normal operations of the University; or (d) is charged with a serious violation of state or federal law. The University shall provide the employee the specific reason(s) for the paid administrative leave. During the paid administrative



leave, the University reserves the right to prohibit the employee from entering upon the University's property or participating in any University activities, absent written authorization from an appropriate University official. The status of the paid administrative leave may change over time as determined to be appropriate and effective. The failure of an employee to comply with the paid administrative leave terms may result in further action or discipline consistent with applicable collective bargaining agreements or employee handbooks.

Response to a Formal Complaint

In response to a formal complaint, the University must follow a grievance process that complies with the Title IX Complaint and Resolution Procedures section of this document.

Written Notification of Rights

The Universities will notify Complainants alleging sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking under this Policy in writing that they have the following rights to:

- an explanation of the options available;
- referrals to confidential assistance and support services from both on- and off-campus resources, including 24-hour services;
- a change in on-campus residence and/or an adjustment to their academic schedule if such changes are reasonably available;
- request that the University impose no contact/communication orders or other supportive measures;
- choose whether or not to make a formal complaint, which would initiate a formal investigation, unless the University deems it necessary to investigate to protect the safety of the community or in compliance with applicable law;
- file no complaint with the University, but receive supportive measures from the University;
- a prompt, thorough, and equitable investigation and resolution of a complaint;
- the confidentiality of the investigation process to the extent possible (reference to confidentiality section);
- know, in advance, the names of all persons known to be involved;
- an advisor of their choice who can be present at any time during the complaint resolution proceedings, including the Administrative Investigation. In addition, this Advisor will participate in the live hearing as the representative of the Complainant who shall cross-examine the Respondent and any witnesses, but whose participation in the process is otherwise limited as outlined in this Policy;
- an advisor provided by the University during the live hearing if you do not have one;
- reasonable accommodations for a documented disability during the process;
- not to have irrelevant sexual history discussed;
- be present at certain meetings and inspect, review and respond to evidence before completion of the investigative report;
- speak and present information on their own behalf, including inculpatory and exculpatory evidence;
- provide witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses;
- submit questions for the Administrative Investigator to ask witnesses;
- know the status of the case at any point during the process;
- be provided with a copy of the Investigative Report and an opportunity to respond to the report in advance of the live hearing;



- be informed of the outcome of the process in a timely manner;
- an appeal from the outcome of the process (if proper grounds for appeal exist);
- file a police report and/or take legal action separate from and/or in addition to the University discipline process;
- seek and enforce a harassment prevention order, restraining or similar court order;
- be notified of the procedure for informing the University that a protective order has been issued under federal or state law and the university's responsibilities upon receipt of such notice;
- be assisted by the University in seeking assistance from or filing a complaint with local law enforcement;
- not file a complaint or seek assistance from local law enforcement, but receive supportive measures from the University;
- be free from any behavior that may be construed by the University to be intimidating, harassing or, retaliatory; and
- have the matter handled in accordance with University policy.

The Universities will notify parties who are Respondents to claims of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking under this Policy in writing that they have the following rights to:

- an explanation of the allegation(s) against them, including sufficient details known at the time;
- sufficient time to prepare a response to the allegation(s) before any initial interview;
- referrals to confidential assistance and support measures from both on- and off-campus resources, including 24-hour services;
- request that the University impose no contact/no communication orders or other supportive measures;
- receive a copy of the complaint filed against them;
- know, in advance, the names of all persons known to be involved;
- be presumed not in violation of University Policy and that a determination of responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
- the confidentiality of the investigation process to the extent possible (reference to confidentiality section);
- an advisor of their choice who can be present at any time during the complaint resolution proceedings, including the Administrative Investigation. In addition, this Advisor will participate in the live hearing as the representative of the Respondent who shall cross-examine the Complainant and any witnesses, but whose participation in the process is otherwise limited as outlined in this Policy. Pursuant to Weingarten, Respondent unit members may exercise their right to a union representative or other University employee at meetings which the unit member reasonably believes may result in discipline, in addition to an advisor of their choice unless such advisor is also the Weingarten representative;
- an advisor provided by the University during the live hearing if you do not have one;
- reasonable accommodations for a documented disability during the process;
- not to have irrelevant sexual history discussed;
- be present at certain meetings and inspect, review and respond to evidence before completion of the investigative report;
- speak and present information on their own behalf, including evidence inculpatory and exculpatory evidence;
- provide witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses;
- submit questions for the Administrative Investigator to ask witnesses;
- know the status of the case at any point during the investigation and resolution process;



- be provided with a copy of the Investigative Report and an opportunity to respond to the report in advance of the live hearing;
- be informed of the outcome of the process in a timely manner;
- an appeal from the outcome of the process (if proper grounds for appeal exist);
- be free from any behavior that may be construed by the University to be intimidating, harassing, or retaliatory; and
- have the matter handled in accordance with University policy.

Recordkeeping

The University will create, and maintain for a period of not less than seven years, unless a longer period of retention is required by law, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. In each instance, the University will document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the University's education program or activity.

If the University does not provide a Complainant with supportive measures, then the University will document the reasons why the University did not provide such measures. The documentation of certain bases of measures does not limit the University in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.

Furthermore, the University will maintain for a period of not less than seven years, unless a longer period of retention is required by law, records of:

- each sexual harassment investigation, including any determination regarding responsibility and any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript of the hearing, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the Respondent, and any remedies provided to the Complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the University's education program or activity;
- any appeal and the result therefrom;
- any informal resolution and the result therefrom.

Compliance Concerns

Persons concerned about the University's handling of a Title IX report or investigation may bring their concerns to the attention of the University's Title IX Coordinator.

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

A Complainant may wish to seek an order of protection from a court or appropriate jurisdiction against the alleged perpetrator. In these circumstances, the University Police Department will assist individuals in their attempt to secure these orders. Individuals may also seek restriction of access to the University by non-students or non-employees when appropriate.

The range of protective measures that Fitchburg State University (also referred to as the University or the Institution) may offer to the victim following an allegation of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking is broad and complies with Massachusetts law in recognizing orders of protection as stated in Chapter 209A and Chapter 258E of Massachusetts



General Law. Any person who obtains an order of protection from a Court of Law in Massachusetts or any other state of the United States should provide a copy to the University Police Department and the Office of the Title IX Coordinator. A complainant may then meet with the University Police Department to develop a Personal Safety Plan, which is a plan for the University Police Department and the survivor to reduce the risk of harm while on campus or coming and going from campus. This plan may include, but is not limited to: escorts, special parking arrangements, changing classroom location or allowing a student to complete assignments from home, etc.) The University cannot apply for a legal order of protection on behalf of the survivor but can assist with the process if requested. The survivor is required to apply directly for these services. Protection from abuse orders may be available through the district court of the County of the jurisdiction where the crime occurred, plaintiff or defendant resides.

Types of Orders available through the Courts:

Abuse Prevention Orders

Abuse prevention law (Chapter 209A) is there to protect you against someone who is abusing you. An abuse prevention order is limited to someone with whom you have a specific type of relationship (family, intimate, residential).

Harassment Prevention Orders

The harassment prevention law, commonly called Chapter 258E, is there to protect you against someone who is harassing, stalking, or sexually assaulting you, no matter what your relationship with them might be.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders

An Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO), also known as a red flag law, is an order from a judge that suspends a person's license to possess or carry a gun.

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

University Issued Orders

Interim Restrictions

1. The appropriate University Official may impose upon a student pending disciplinary action and/or in all cases where a student has been accused with and/or is undergoing criminal proceedings for any felony charge, immediate interim restrictions without prior notice whenever there are sufficient facts to show that the accused student's continued presence on the campus endangers the physical safety or well-being of others, or themselves, or disrupts the educational process of the university.

2. Interim restrictions may include, but are not limited to: restriction from class/ university and/or campus housing, assignment to alternate housing, limitation of access to designated housing facilities and/or campus facilities by time and location, restriction of communication with named individuals within the university community, and/or the requirement to secure advance authorization to engage in a specified activity.



- a. All restrictions from the University and/or removal from class and/or attendance at classes shall be subject to review by the appropriate dean and/or the director of student conduct.
3. The Director of Residence Life, or designee, may impose upon a student pending disciplinary action immediate residential restrictions without prior notice whenever there are sufficient facts to show that the accused student's continued presence in the residence halls disrupts or potentially disrupts the residential community.
4. Students wishing to appeal an interim restriction must first do so in writing, by submitting a written appeal to the Office of Student Affairs. Upon receipt of the written appeal, the student shall have the opportunity to meet with the appropriate dean, or designee, to present their own version of the facts and to indicate why interim restrictions should not be imposed. Following this meeting, the decision of the dean or designee will be final.
5. Violations of interim restrictions may result in suspension or dismissal from Fitchburg State University.

Protective Measures and No-Contact Orders

1. The appropriate dean, director of student conduct, or designee may take administrative action, irrespective of the student conduct process, to provide protective measures and/or issue no-contact orders. A student wishing to contest any such measures shall submit a letter in writing to the Office of Student and Academic Life. Such measures may include but are not limited to:
 - "No contact/communication" orders;
 - Escorts to ensure safety while moving between locations on campus;
 - Changes in academic or work schedules;
 - Alternative housing, dining, and/or office accommodations;
 - Restrictions from areas of campus;
 - Assistance in identifying an advocate to help secure additional assistance, such as off-campus and community advocacy, support and services; and/or
 - Appropriate academic accommodations.

How to Request an Order

To request a court order, individuals can apply at any court in the commonwealth or ask assistance from any law enforcement agency in the commonwealth.

To request a university order, an individual may contact UPD, Dean of Students, or professional Residence Life Staff.

Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) Notification to Victims of Crimes of Violence

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

University-Initiated Protective Measures

In addition to those protective measures previously described, the Title IX Coordinator or their designee will determine whether interim interventions and protective measures should be implemented, and, if so, take steps to implement those protective measures as soon as possible. Examples of interim protective measures include, but are not limited to: A University order of no



contact, residence hall relocation, adjustment of course schedules, a leave of absence, or reassignment to a different supervisor or position. These remedies may be applied to one, both, or multiple parties involved. Violations of the Title IX Coordinator's directives and/or protective measures will constitute related violations that may lead to additional disciplinary action. Protective measures imposed may be temporary pending the results of an investigation or may become permanent as determined by Fitchburg State University.

It is unlawful to retaliate against a student, employee, or any other person affiliated with the University for filing a complaint or for cooperating in an investigation of a complaint.

All parties to a complaint may have a personal advisor (for union employees this may be a union representative) assist them throughout the process, per Sexual Violence Policy, Student Code of Conduct, and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Filing this incident report is only for resolution through the University's Complaint Investigation and Resolution Procedure. Completing this form **Does Not** constitute filing an official police report with either the Fitchburg State University Police Department or the City of Fitchburg Police Department.

To file an official police report, please contact the Fitchburg State University Police Department at (978) 665-3111 or in person at 32 Clinton Street (for incidents occurring on Fitchburg State Campus Property) or the City of Fitchburg Police Department at (978) 345-9648 or in person at 20 Elm Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420 (for incidents occurring off-campus in the city of Fitchburg)

Massachusetts Legal Definitions

Alleged incidents of sexual violence, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and retaliation are determined by the language of this Policy rather than by the provisions of the criminal laws of Massachusetts. However, community members who believe they have been the victim of a crime may choose to pursue a criminal investigation through local law enforcement. In those instances, criminal laws will apply. Here are the definitions of Massachusetts crimes related to the conduct prohibited by this Policy:

1. Sexual Assault

Massachusetts uses the term "rape." The definition encompasses (1) the penetration of any orifice by any body part or object (2) by force (or threat) and (3) without consent. Rape also includes instances where the victim is incapacitated ("wholly insensible to be incapable of consenting") and the perpetrator is aware or should have known of the incapacitation. Relatedly, under M.G.L. c. 268, § 40, a person who knows that an individual is a victim of aggravated rape and is at the scene of the crime, must report the crime to law enforcement as soon as is reasonably practicable.

2. Domestic Violence

Section 1 of M.G.L. c. 209A defines domestic abuse as "the occurrence of any of the following acts between family or household members: (a) attempting to cause or causing physical harm; (b) placing another in fear of imminent serious physical harm; (c) causing another to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, threat or duress; (d) coercive control."

"**Coercive Control**", is defined as either: (a) a pattern of behavior intended to threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, control, coerce or compel compliance of a family or household member that causes that family or household member to reasonably fear physical harm or have a reduced sense of physical safety or autonomy, including, but not limited to: (i) isolating the family or household member from friends, relatives or other sources of support; (ii) depriving the



family or household member of basic needs; (iii) controlling, regulating or monitoring the family or household member's activities, communications, movements, finances, economic resources or access to services, including through technological means; (iv) compelling a family or household member to abstain from or engage in a specific behavior or activity, including engaging in criminal activity; (v) threatening to harm a child or relative of the family or household member; (vi) threatening to commit cruelty or abuse to an animal connected to the family or household member; (vii) intentionally damaging property belonging to the family or household member; (viii) threatening to publish sensitive personal information relating to the family or household member, including sexually explicit images; or (ix) using repeated court actions found by a court not to be warranted by existing law or good faith argument; or (b) a single act intended to threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, control, coerce or compel compliance of a family or household member that causes the family or household member to reasonably fear physical harm or have a reduced sense of physical safety or autonomy of: (i) harming or attempting to harm a child or relative of the family or household member; (ii) committing or attempting to commit abuse to an animal connected to the family or household member; or (iii) publishing or attempting to publish sexually explicit images of the family or household member.

For Chapter 209A, "family or household members" are defined as persons who: (a) are or were married to one another; (b) are or were residing together in the same household; (c) are or were related by blood or marriage; (d) having a child in common regardless of whether they have ever married or lived together; or (e) are or have been in a substantive dating or engagement relationship, which shall be adjudged by district, probate or Boston municipal courts consideration of the following factors: (1) the length of time of the relationship; (2) the type of relationship; (3) the frequency of interaction between the parties; and (4) if the relationship has been terminated by either person, the length of time elapsed since the termination of the relationship.

Section 13M of M.G.L. c. 265 prohibits assault and/or assault and battery against a family or household members, which is defined as: "persons who: (i) are or were married to one another, (ii) have a child in common regardless of whether they have ever married or lived together or (iii) are or have been in a substantive dating or engagement relationship."

In determining whether Section 13M applies to a particular relationship, the courts shall consider the following factors: "(1) the length of time of the relationship; (2) the type of relationship; (3) the frequency of interaction between the parties; and (4) if the relationship has been terminated by either person, the length of time that has elapsed since the termination of the relationship."

Section 15D of M.G.L. c. 265 prohibits the strangulation or suffocation of another person.

3. Dating Violence

While Massachusetts does not have a law concerning dating violence, conduct may constitute an assault or assault and battery under M.G.L. c. 265, § 13A. An assault or an assault and battery: (i) upon another and [the perpetrator] by such assault and battery causes serious bodily injury; (ii) upon another who is pregnant at the time of such assault and battery, [the perpetrator] knowing or having reason to know that the person is pregnant; or (iii) upon another who [the perpetrator] knows has an outstanding temporary or permanent vacate, restraining or no-contact order or judgment issued under [applicable law], in effect against him at the time of such assault or assault and battery."

Section 13M of M.G.L. c. 265 prohibits assault and/or assault and battery against a family or household members, which is defined as: "persons who: (i) are or were married to one another,



(ii) have a child in common regardless of whether they have ever married or lived together or (iii) are or have been in a substantive dating or engagement relationship.”

In determining whether Section 13M applies to a particular relationship, the courts shall consider the following factors: “(1) the length of time of the relationship; (2) the type of relationship; (3) the frequency of interaction between the parties; and (4) if the relationship has been terminated by either person, the length of time that has elapsed since the termination of the relationship.”

Section 15D of M.G.L. c. 265 prohibits the strangulation or suffocation of another person.

4. Stalking

Section 43 of M.G.L. c. 265 defines “stalking” as “(1) willfully and maliciously engages in a knowing pattern of conduct or series of acts over a period of time directed at a specific person which seriously alarms or annoys that person and would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, and (2) makes a threat with the intent to place the person in imminent fear of death or bodily harm.”

5. Consent

There is no definition of the term “consent” in the Massachusetts General Laws. Massachusetts courts use the term “against his/her will” which means without consent. Cases have held that consent cannot be compelled or induced by force or threats, and consent is not present when the victim is incapacitated. In other words, consent requires a voluntary agreement demonstrated by words or actions, by a person with sufficient mental capacity to make a conscious choice to do something proposed by another, free of duress. *Commonwealth v. Lopez*, 433 Mass. 722 (2001), *Commonwealth v. Lefkowitz*, 20 Mass. App. Ct. 513 (1985); see also:

6. Criminal Harassment / Criminalization of "Revenge Porn"

The law now explicitly criminalizes the distribution of digitized visual material that depicts a person in a manner that causes harm, harassment, or emotional distress. This includes unauthorized sharing of nude or partially nude images with intent to harm.

Under G.L. c. 265, section 43A, criminal harassment occurs when an individual willfully and maliciously engages in a knowing pattern of conduct or a series of acts over a period of time directed at a specific person, which seriously alarms the person targeted, and would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress.

7. Dissemination or Possession of Obscene Matter

Under G.L. c. 272, section 29D, whoever, while under the age of criminal majority, possesses, purchases, or disseminates, including by uploading to an internet website, any visual material, as defined under section 31, that violates sections 29B or 29C, may be punished in accordance with G.L. c. 119, section 58. Exceptions: It is not a violation for a person to knowingly disseminate visual materials by:

- a.. reporting the matter to a law enforcement agency, to the department of elementary and secondary education or to a parent, foster parent, guardian, teacher, principal or other relevant school personnel; or
- b. affording a law enforcement agency, the department of elementary and secondary education or a parent, foster parent, guardian, teacher, principal or other relevant school



personnel access to the visual material for purposes within the agency's, department's or person's position, authority or capacity.

Domestic Violence Leave Policy (Employees)

According to Massachusetts law, specifically "An Act Relative to Domestic Violence" (the "Act"), the University provides up to fifteen (15) days of job-protected leave, each calendar year, to employees who are victims of domestic violence.

Which Employees Are Eligible for Domestic Violence Leave?

An employee who is a victim, or an employee who has a family member who is a victim of "abusive behavior" is eligible for leave. Covered family members include the employee's spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, grandparent, and grandchild. The Act specifically notes that perpetrators of domestic violence are not entitled to leave.

What is "Domestic Violence" under the Act?

The Act defines "domestic violence" as abuse against an employer or the employee's family member by:

- A current or former spouse of the employee or the employee's family member;
- A person with whom the employee or the employee's family member shares a child in common;
- A person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the employee or the employee's family member;
- A person who is related by blood or marriage to the employee; or
- A person with whom the employee or employee's family member has or had a dating or engagement relationship.

What are "Abuse" and "Abusive Behavior" under the Act?

The Act's definitions of "abuse" and "abusive behavior" are broadly defined.

"Abuse" is defined as:

- Attempting to cause or causing physical harm;
- Placing another in fear of imminent serious physical harm;
- Causing another to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force; threat or duress or engaging or threatening to engage in sexual activity with a dependent child;
- Engaging in mental abuse, which includes threats, intimidation, or acts designed to induce terror;
- Depriving another of medical care, housing, food, or other necessities of life; or
- Restraining the liberty of another.
- Coercive Control (*as of September 18, 2024*)

"Abusive behavior" is any behavior constituting domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, or kidnapping under Massachusetts law.

When is Domestic Violence Leave Available?

If an employee has suffered abusive behavior, or has a family member who is the victim of abusive behavior, the employee may take leave from work for purposes related to the abuse, such as:



- Obtaining medical attention or counseling;
- Obtaining legal help;
- Meeting with law enforcement or a district attorney;
- Security housing;
- Securing an order of protection from a court;
- Attending child custody proceedings;
- Attending other court proceedings related to the abusive behavior, and
- Obtaining other victims' services.

The employee is entitled to up to fifteen (15) days of leave per year.

Is Notice Required?

Yes. Except where there is a threat of imminent danger to the health and safety or safety of the employee or the covered family member, employees must provide "appropriate" notice to their immediate supervisor and/or the Associate Director of Human Resources in advance of their need for leave.

Will Documentation Need to Be Provided to Support a Leave Request?

Yes. Unless there is a threat of imminent danger, the University may also require employees to produce documentation of their need for domestic violence leave. Valid documentation that will support leave under the Act includes:

- A protective order issued by a court;
- A letter from the court or agency addressing the abusive behavior;
- A police report;
- Medical documentation of treatment as a result of abusive behavior;
- A sworn statement signed under the pains and penalties of perjury provided by a counselor, social worker, health care worker, member of the clergy, shelter worker, legal advocate, or professional who has assisted the employee in addressing the abusive behavior; or
- A sworn statement signed under the penalties of perjury from the employee attesting that he or she had been the victim of abusive behavior, or that a family member has been a victim of abusive behavior.

If an unscheduled absence occurs, the employee must produce valid documentation of the reason for the absence within 30 days of the unauthorized absence. The university may not require the employee to produce evidence of an arrest or conviction.

Are There Confidentiality Requirements?

Yes. All documentation should be provided to the Office of Human Resources and will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed except if requested to or consented, in writing, by the employee, or ordered to be released by a court or otherwise required by applicable state or federal law. Additionally, the Office of Human Resources will only retain this documentation for only as long as it is required to determine the employee's eligibility for domestic violence leave.

Are Employees Entitled to Pay During Domestic Violence Leave?

Only employees who are entitled to paid vacation time, sick days, or personal days, will be paid for domestic violence leave and must exhaust this time before taking unpaid leave. This policy does not supersede or replace any benefits or privileges that are provided to employees under their respective collective bargaining agreements. Leave granted under this policy would run



concurrently with any domestic violence leave currently allowed under an employee's collective bargaining agreement.

Questions Regarding Policy?

Employees who have questions regarding the Domestic Violence Leave Policy may contact the Director of Human Resources at ext. 3850 or the Associate Vice President of Human Resources & Payroll Services at ext. 3172.

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 services, or is a student.

The Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board classifies each registered offender into one of three categories:

Level 1: Considered a Low-Risk Offender

Level 2: Considered a Moderate-Risk Offender

Level 3: Considered a High-Risk Offender

How to Inquire

Sex offender information is available to the public by Massachusetts Law only if the person has to register, and has been classified by the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board as a level 2 or level 3 offender.

Any member of the public who is 18 years of age or older may request sex offender information. Sex offender information is provided to any person who is seeking the information for his or her information, or for the protection of a child who is under 18, or for the protection of another person for whom the requesting person has the responsibility, care, or custody.

To provide the Fitchburg State University community with the most up-to-date Sex Offender Registry Information, we are providing the website and location of the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board and the City of Fitchburg Police Department contact information.

Sex Offender Registry Board

P.O. Box 4547 Salem, MA 01970

(978) 740-6400

www.mass.gov/orgs/sex-offender-registry-board

Fitchburg Police Department

20 Elm Street Fitchburg, MA 01420

(978) 345-9648

www.fitchburgpolice.com



Penalties for Improper Use of Sex Offender Registry Information

The information contained in the Sex Offender Registry shall not be used to commit a crime against an offender or to engage in illegal discrimination or harassment of an offender. Any person who improperly uses Sex Offender Registry information shall be punished by not more than two and one-half years in the House of Corrections or by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Missing Student Notification Policy

“Suzanne’s Law” amends Section 3701 (a) of the Crime Control Act of 1990 so that there is no waiting period before a law enforcement agency initiates an investigation of a missing person under the age of 21, and reports the missing person to the National Crime Information Center of the Department of Justice. All instances where a student is presumed missing **must be immediately reported to the Fitchburg State University Police Department or local law enforcement.**

The University requires missing student reports to be immediately referred to the University Police Department. The Fitchburg State University Police Department’s policy is to initiate investigations immediately of reported missing persons. Any person (student, staff, or faculty) believed to be missing from the campus unexpectedly, or missing for more than 24 hours, must be immediately reported to the Fitchburg State University Police Department. Any resident student reported missing would be investigated by the Fitchburg State University Police Department, (the local law enforcement of jurisdiction). Any other community member reported missing should be reported to the local law enforcement that has jurisdiction over the individual home address. However, the Fitchburg State University Police Department should also be notified and will assist local law enforcement as needed.

The Fitchburg State University Police Department will investigate any report of a missing person that is filed by someone with knowledge of that student being missing or otherwise not where she/he is expected to be. This report may be filed by a parent/guardian or another family member of the person, by a roommate, Dean of Students or Residence Life staff member (including student staff), faculty member, employment supervisor, or anyone else with information that indicates the person is missing. The Fitchburg State University Police Department will conduct an initial investigation to determine if the person appears to be missing, has simply changed their routine unexpectedly, and whether or not there is a reason to believe the person is endangered.

Students Under the Age of 18 and Not Emancipated

For any student under the age of 18 who is not emancipated, the University must notify a custodial parent or guardian no later than 24 hours after the time the student is determined to be missing, in addition to notifying any additional contact person designated by the student.

For all missing students, Fitchburg State University will notify the local law enforcement agency within 24 hours of the determination that the student is missing, unless the local law enforcement agency was the entity that determined that the student is missing.

For any situation in which a missing person is believed to be endangered, this notification will be made as early as possible while officers are continuing to investigate.

Students under the Age Of 21

For students under the age of 21, Suzanne’s Law requires that students be entered into the national missing persons database as soon as it is determined that the student is missing.



Should a student be determined to be missing for more than 24 hours, the following will occur; Police will notify the Dean of Students. Police will again contact the student's parent or guardian to update them on information known at that time, efforts made to locate the person, and to get further information that may lead to the location of the missing person.

Missing Student Contact Information

Every student who lives in on-campus student housing, regardless of age, should register one or more individuals to be a contact in case of an emergency, or case they are reported missing. The contact person can be anyone. Fitchburg State University does not require students to provide a missing person contact, but it is strongly encouraged that they do so.

If students choose to register either a missing person contact or emergency contact person, they are, in effect, also providing permission for law enforcement personnel to contact the identified individual if they are reported as a missing student. Resident students can register a designated person they wish the university to contact when they register for room assignments, or at any other time by speaking with Residence Life staff at 234 North Street (Aubuchon Hall).

Students residing in campus housing will be informed annually that each student has the option to identify a person designated as a confidential missing person contact to be notified by Fitchburg State University no later than 24 hours after the time the student is determined to be missing by the designated University officials authorized to make that determination (specifically, the Fitchburg State University Police Department) or the local law enforcement agency in which the student went missing.

When students are informed of their option to provide a confidential contact, they are advised that their contact information will be kept confidential and that this information will be accessible only to authorized campus officials and law enforcement, and that it may not be disclosed outside of a missing person investigation.

Missing Student Procedures

A student is determined to be missing when the Fitchburg State University Police Department has verified that reported information is credible and circumstances warrant declaring the person missing. Should the Fitchburg State University Police Department investigate and determine that a residential student is missing, contact will then be made to the missing person contact, if contact information has been provided, within twenty-four (24) hours of the determination that the student is missing by the Fitchburg State University Police Department. If the student is under the age of 18 and is not an emancipated individual, Fitchburg State University Police Department will notify the student's parent or guardian and any other designated contact person within 24 hours. Regardless of whether the student has identified a contact person, is above the age of 18, or is an emancipated minor, Fitchburg State University will inform the local police department (or the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction) that the student is missing within 24 hours.

Drug, Alcohol, And Substance Abuse

The use of illegal substances and abuse of legal substances and alcohol impairs the safety and health of students and employees, inhibits personal and academic growth, and undermines the public's confidence in the university. For these reasons, it is the policy of Fitchburg State University that all University activities and University property shall be free of the unlawful use or abuse of drugs and alcohol.



Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (DFSCA)

Fitchburg State University, following both federal legislation and existing University policy, is committed to providing a drug-free, healthful, and safe environment for all faculty, staff, and students. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance and the unauthorized possession or use of alcoholic beverages on campus or as part of any University activity or business off University premises is prohibited. If it is determined that a violation of this policy has occurred, disciplinary action up to and including, dismissal (expulsion) of students, termination of employment per the employee's respective Collective Bargaining Agreement, and referral for prosecution may result as deemed appropriate. Applicable legal sanctions for the unlawful possession or distribution of drugs and alcohol, as well as further information on FSU's DFSCA compliance, are provided in both the Student Handbook and the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988 in the Employee Handbook and HR Policies:

Students:

<https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/student-support/office-student-affairs/student-handbook>

Employees:

<https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/resources/faculty-staff/human-resources-payroll-services/human-resources-policies>

General Provisions

Fitchburg State University enforces all state laws and city ordinances regarding the possession, use, and sale of alcoholic beverages, including those prohibiting drinking by individuals under 21 years of age. The law also forbids falsifying age and identification cards. University policy restricts when, where and how alcohol may be served on campus or at university-sponsored activities or events and the amount of alcohol that a resident student or guest may bring into the residence halls.

Use or possession of alcoholic beverages in public areas (campus grounds, athletic events, parking lots, academic buildings, dining hall, and campus center) is prohibited, except where a license to serve alcoholic beverages has been obtained. In such cases, alcohol is only permitted within the confines of the license and at the discretion of the permittee.

Open containers of any alcoholic beverage (any beverage where the seal is broken) are prohibited, except when permitted by law.

Public intoxication while on university property or at university-sponsored activities or events is prohibited.

Residents are permitted multiple types of alcohol as long as it does not exceed the occupant count for residents who meet the alcohol consumption of age. Limits apply to full, partially full or empty containers:

- Beer/Seltzer/Malt Beverages: One 6 pack (limit 72 oz)
- Wine: 750 mL bottle (limit 2 bottles)
- Liquor: 375 mL of Liquor (100 proof or less), (one pint of liquor)

Drinking funnels are prohibited on university property or at university-sponsored activities or events. Any activities that promote and/or encourage excessive drinking such as drinking games are prohibited.



University Alcohol Policy Statement

Fitchburg State University is committed to fostering a safe and responsible community that supports student learning and development. This alcohol policy holds all students accountable for their conduct, regardless of whether they have been drinking. Intoxication will not be accepted as an excuse for violating the **Code of Conduct**. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action.

Alcohol Laws

The possession, sale, or furnishing of alcohol on the university campus is governed by the University's Alcohol Policies and Massachusetts state law. Laws regarding the possession, use, sale, consumption, or furnishing of alcohol are controlled by the Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control Commission (ABCC); however, the enforcement of alcohol laws on campus is the primary responsibility of the Fitchburg State University Police Department. The possession, use, sale, manufacture, or distribution of any controlled substance is illegal under both state and federal laws. Such laws, including underage drinking laws, are strictly enforced by the Fitchburg State University Police Department. Violators are subject to university disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, fines, and imprisonment. It is unlawful to sell, furnish, or provide alcohol to a person under the age of 21. The possession of alcohol by anyone under 21 years of age is also illegal.

Federal and State Drug Laws

The following is a summary of legal sanctions for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol provided in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Local, state, and federal laws make the illegal use of drugs and alcohol a serious crime. A conviction can lead to assigned community service, fines, and/or imprisonment. A felony conviction for such an offense can prevent an individual from entering many fields of employment and licensed professions.

Drugs and Other Substances

Fitchburg State University is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and drug-free environment for its students, faculty, and staff. The unlawful use, possession, manufacture, distribution, or sale of illegal drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or misused prescription or over-the-counter medications is strictly prohibited on university property or as part of any university-related activity.

While Massachusetts law may have decriminalized marijuana, its use remains prohibited by federal law. As a recipient of federal funding, Fitchburg State University must comply with the federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Therefore, the possession, use, or distribution of marijuana on campus is not permitted.

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension, expulsion, or termination of employment. The university may also require participation in an approved drug or alcohol assistance program. Criminal offenses may be referred to appropriate law enforcement agencies for prosecution. All university employees and students are required to notify the university within five days of a drug-related conviction occurring in the workplace.



Prevention & Awareness Programs

Substance abuse prevention programs are coordinated through several campus departments. The programs provide training and substance abuse prevention programming to the University community and offer preventative education and outreach activities.

In addition to providing care for mental health issues, the Office of Counseling Services can provide support, counseling, and resources to those who seek services related to substance use. Counseling Services can also act as a liaison to refer students to appropriate levels of care available in the community depending on the specifics of a student's concerns with substance use. Counseling Services are typically not able to accommodate court-ordered (required) drug and alcohol counseling.

Counseling Services Office can deliver the "BASICS" (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students) intervention, which students may seek voluntarily, or on occasion, a referral emerging as part of disciplinary action on campus.

Human Resources and Counseling Services have established working relationships with area hospitals, community mental health centers, and other social service agencies to facilitate referrals when treatment is needed.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP): 1-800-451-1834

The Employee Assistance Program, or EAP, is a free benefit that provides short-term counseling and various referral services to Fitchburg State University faculty and staff, and their household members. This service is provided by Mass4You and sponsored by the Group Insurance Commission (GIC). GIC benefit-eligible employees and their immediate family members can access benefits by either calling Optum's GIC dedicated phone number (1.844.263.1982) or visiting Optum's website (access code Mass4You).

Members with concerns over substance use/abuse issues can call Optum's confidential Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Hotline at 1.855.780.5955. Employees can also download the Optum Assist mobile app on their iPhone or Android device.

Hazing Policy

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 269, Sections 17 through 19 prohibit hazing and requires Fitchburg State University to certify that the university has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants in hazing. Accordingly, the following policy has been adopted:

Hazing is defined as any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, team, group, or otherwise affiliated or unaffiliated student group, whether on or off public property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person, regardless of the person's consent or the perceived "good" intent or outcome. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Forced listening to loud, repetitive music or recordings



- Forced calisthenics, whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, branding, tattoos, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
- Personal servitude
- Forced or coerced wearing of conspicuous clothing not normally in good taste, such as togas
- Extended deprivation of food, water, sleep, adequate study time, rest, or extended isolation
- Exposure to settings or conditions that adversely affect the physical health or safety of any student or that subject such student or other person to extreme mental stress
- Individual or group interrogations
- Involuntary consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any student or other person
- Any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
- any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law or that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.
- Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

Hazing is banned in any form as a practice by an organization, group, or team, etc., using the Fitchburg State University name or claiming to act in any way under the supervision of Fitchburg State University. Any individual or organization found responsible for practicing hazing, in any form, is subject to penalty, including but not limited to dismissal from Fitchburg State University and, in the case of a recognized student organization, loss of recognition. **An individual in an alleged violation of the Hazing Policy may not use consent as an acceptable reason for participation.**

Reporting Procedures and Resources

Anyone with knowledge that another person is the victim of hazing, or has witnessed an act of hazing, shall immediately report such a ct to the Dean of Students or designee, the Title IX Coordinator, or the University Police Department. Failure to report known hazing incidents may result in disciplinary action.

Reports can be made confidentially, and the university will take all reasonable steps to protect the privacy of individuals involved in a hazing investigation. **Retaliation against any person who reports hazing or participates in a hazing investigation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.**

Crimes should be reported to the University Police; however, individuals may also report incidents of hazing to the Dean of Students' Office or to Title IX through the online reporting portal: <https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?FitchburgStateUniv> .



Incidents and reports of hazing will be investigated through the Student Conduct Process, Title IX, and/or by the University Police Department.

Fitchburg State University publishes biannually those cases investigated by the university and were sustained. As of May 1, 2026 there were no sustained violations of the University Hazing policy. This biannual report can be found at [Fitchburgstate.edu/Hazing](https://fitchburgstate.edu/Hazing).

Policy Dissemination

Fitchburg State University shall issue to every student organization, team, group, etc., which is recognized by Fitchburg State University or is known to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team, or student organization, a copy of the Fitchburg State University Hazing Policy and Chapter 269, Sections 17 through 19. This policy will also be readily accessible on the university's website and included in relevant student handbooks.

Counting Clery Act Crimes

In compliance with the Massachusetts Public Records Law and the requirements of the Jeanne Clery Disclosure Act, there is a public police log and a Clery Crime/Fire log available 24 hours a day, at the Fitchburg State University Police Department, located at 32 Clinton Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

A summary of police activity (Public Logs) and the Clery Daily Crime Logs may be viewed at the University Police Station located at 32 Clinton Street. A request for a copy to be emailed to you can be made by emailing Lt Karampatsos @ pkarampa@fitchburgstate.edu or Captain Richard Nelson @ Rnelson4@fitchburgstate.edu.

The Clery Daily Crime Logs records crimes by the date that the crime has been reported to the University Police Department within the department's patrol jurisdiction. This log is also available for public inspection at the Fitchburg State University Police Department and includes the nature, date, time, and general location of each crime reported to the department.

Collection of Annual Crime Statistics

The Fitchburg State University Police Department is the centralized reporting authority for Fitchburg State University. The Fitchburg State University Police Department collects statistics from the Dean of Students, Title IX Office, and the Counseling Services for the Annual Security Report. Statistical information about alcohol, drug, and weapons referrals is compiled through the Dean of Students. The Fitchburg State University Police Department additionally collects statistical information from the City of Fitchburg Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police for all publicly held properties adjacent or contiguous to the campus as defined by federal law.

Fitchburg State University Police Department collects statistical data from the local law enforcement agencies for student organizations for the inclusion of this report. Student Organizations of Fitchburg State do not own or control any space or property outside of that which is owned by the university. Property purchased by the Alumni Association is also included in the year that the property is purchased.



The Title IX Coordinator collects data from confidential reports of sexual assault and forwards those statistics to the University Police. Fitchburg State University Police Department reports statistical information to the Title IX Coordinator to prevent counting incidents more than once.

Fitchburg State University reports crime using the definitions as described in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program. Fitchburg State University also reviews all crimes for evidence that the victim was intentionally selected because of the victim's actual or perceived race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, or disability. Statistics are reported for those reportable crimes that are also considered hate crimes.

Crime Statistics

The crime statistics found in this report represent alleged criminal offenses reported to the Fitchburg State University Police Department and/or local law enforcement agencies. Therefore, the data collected does not necessarily reflect prosecutions or convictions for crimes. Because some statistics are provided by non-police authorities, such as those deemed as Campus Security Authorities, the data are not directly comparable to data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System, which only collects statistics from police authorities. Please note that valid comparisons of campus statistics are possible only with a study and analysis of the conditions affecting each institution. The statistics provided in this report cover the following areas: On-Campus, Residence Halls, Non-Campus Buildings and Property, Public Property, Hate Crimes, VAWA Offenses, Disciplinary Offenses.

Clery Definitions

The Clery Act is provided to assist in the classification of crimes. Clery definitions are taken from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook (UCR) as required by the Clery Act regulations.

Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter: The willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. This includes death or injuries received in a fight, argument, quarrel, assault, or commission of a crime.

Manslaughter by Negligence: The killing of another person through gross negligence

Sexual Assault: 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 the 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 / Criminal Sexual Contact : 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 temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Note on Regulatory Terminology: In June 2025, the FBI updated its National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) User Manual to replace the term "Fondling" with "Criminal Sexual Contact" and expanded the definition to include touching of non-private body parts if done for the purpose of sexual humiliation or degradation. For



Clery Act statistical reporting consistency, these offenses continue to be categorized and tallied under the historical Clery category of "Fondling" in the data charts below, utilizing the updated, broader scope of behavior outlined by NIBRS

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 age of consent.

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

Aggravated Assault: An unlawful attack by one person upon another to inflict 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. This includes the unlawful entry with intent to commit a larceny or felony; breaking and entering with intent to commit a larceny; housebreaking; and safecracking.

Motor Vehicle Theft: The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

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

Domestic Violence: is defined as 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.

Dating Violence: This is defined as 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 determined based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

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: is defined as 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:

- A course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property.
- 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.

Arrest: Persons processed by arrest, citation, or summons. An arrest occurs when a law enforcement officer detains an adult to seek charges against the individual for the specific offense(s) and a record is made of the detention. A juvenile should be counted as "arrested" when the circumstances are such that if the individual were an adult, an arrest would have been counted.

Referred for Disciplinary Action: The referral of any person to any official who initiates a disciplinary action of which a record is kept and which may result in the imposition of a sanction.

Illegal Weapons Possession: 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. This also includes the manufacture, sale, or possession of deadly weapons; carrying deadly weapons, concealed or openly; using, manufacturing, etc., of silencers; furnishing deadly weapons to minors; illegal aliens possessing deadly weapons; and attempts to commit any of the above.

Drug Law 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 the making of narcotic drugs. The relevant substances include opium, or cocaine, and the derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine); marijuana; synthetic narcotics – manufactured narcotics which can cause addiction (Demerol, methadone); and dangerous non-narcotic drugs (barbiturate, Benzedrine). Possession of a small amount of marijuana will no longer be counted as less than an ounce of marijuana has been decriminalized. However, possession will be still considered a violation and subject to a student conduct hearing.

Liquor Law Violations: The violation of state or local laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages, not including driving under the influence and drunkenness. This includes The manufacture, sale, transporting, furnishing, possessing, etc., of intoxicating liquor; maintaining unlawful drinking places; bootlegging; operating a still; furnishing liquor to a minor or intemperate person; underage possession; using a vehicle for illegal transportation of liquor; drinking on a train or public conveyance; and attempts to commit any of the above.

Unfounded Crimes Reported

Since 2015, institutions have been mandated to include in their Annual Security Report (ASR) statistics on the total number of crime reports that were officially designated as "unfounded" and consequently excluded from the overall crime statistics for each of the three most recent



calendar years. A crime report can only be classified as unfounded following a comprehensive investigation conducted by sworn or commissioned law enforcement personnel. Furthermore, for the purposes of the Clery Act, a crime is considered unfounded exclusively when sworn or commissioned law enforcement personnel formally determine that the initial report was false or baseless.



Crime Statistics

2025, 2024, and 2023

Reported Crimes	Year	Campus		Noncampus	Public Property	Total Offense
		On-Campus Student Housing	On-Campus Total			
Murder by Non-negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2025	2	2	0	0	2
	2024	1	1	0	0	1
	2023	3	4	0	0	4
Fondling	2025	1	1	0	0	1
	2024	2	3	0	0	3
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	2025	1	1	0	0	1
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	2	2
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2025	0	0	0	2	2
	2024	0	0	0	3	3
	2023	0	0	0	1	1
Burglary <i>* Identified through an internal audit that this was not reported in 2024.</i>	2025	0	1	2	0	3
	2024	1	2	0	0	2
	2023	0	1*	0	0	1*
Motor Vehicle Theft	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	1	0	0	1
Arson	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Hazing* <i>*New requirement as of October 1, 2026</i>	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2023	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



VAWA Statistics						
Reported Crimes	Year	Campus		Noncampus	Public Property	Total Offense
		On-Campus Student Housing	On-Campus Total			
Domestic Violence	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	3	3	0	0	3
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence	2025	3	3	0	0	3
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking	2025	1	1	0	0	1
	2024	0	2	0	1	3
	2023	0	1	0	0	1
Violations Leading to Arrests						
Reported Crimes	Year	Campus		Noncampus	Public Property	Total Offense
		On-Campus Student Housing	On-Campus Total			
Weapon Violations	2025	0	0	0	1	1
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Violations	2025	0	0	0	2	2
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Violations	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Violations Leading to Judicial Referrals						
Reported Crimes	Year	Campus		Noncampus	Public Property	Total Offense
		On-Campus Student Housing	On-Campus Total			
Weapon Violations	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	1	1	0	0	1
Drug Violations	2025	8	8	0	0	8
	2024	4	4	0	0	4
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Violations	2025	49	49	0	0	49
	2024	40	40	0	0	40
	2023	56	56	0	0	56

Hate Crimes Definitions

A Hate Crime is a criminal offense that manifests evidence that the victim was intentionally selected because of the perpetrator's bias against the victim. Although there are many possible categories of bias, under the Clery Act, only Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity, Ethnicity, National Origin, and Disability are reported in the University's Annual Security Report. Fitchburg State University Police Department also reports monthly Hate Crime to the



Commonwealth, which in turn reports our statistics to the federal government which tracks a broader category of hate crimes.

Race: A preformed negative attitude toward a group of persons who possess common physical characteristics, e.g., color of skin, eyes, and/or hair; facial features, etc., genetically transmitted by descent and heredity which distinguish them as a distinct division of humankind, e.g., Asians, Blacks or African Americans, whites.

Religion: A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons who share the same religious beliefs regarding the origin and purpose of the universe and the existence or nonexistence of a supreme being, e.g., Catholics, Jews, Protestants, atheists.

Sexual Orientation: A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation. Sexual Orientation is the term for a person's physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and heterosexual (straight) individuals.

Gender: A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a person or group of persons based on their actual or perceived gender, e.g., male or female.

Gender Identity: A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a person or group of persons based on their actual or perceived gender identity, e.g., bias against transgender or gender non-conforming individuals. Gender non-conforming describes a person who does not conform to the gender-based expectations of society, e.g., a woman dressed in traditionally male clothing or a man wearing makeup. A gender non-conforming person may or may not be a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender person but may be perceived as such.

Ethnicity: A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of people whose members identify with each other, through a common heritage, often consisting of a common language, common culture (often including a shared religion), and/or ideology that stresses common ancestry. The concept of ethnicity differs from the closely related term "race" in that "race" refers to a grouping based mostly on biological criteria, while "ethnicity" also encompasses additional cultural factors.

National Origin: A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of people based on their actual or perceived country of birth. This bias may be against people who have a name or accent associated with a national origin group, participate in certain customs associated with a national origin group, or are married to or associated with people of a certain national origin.

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

For Clery Act purposes, Hate Crimes include any of the following offenses that are motivated by bias.

- Murder /Non-negligent Manslaughter, (*Negligent manslaughter is not included as a hate crime, as the crime is not directed at a specific individual.*)
- Sexual Offenses (rape, fondling, incest, statutory rape)
- Robbery,
- Aggravated Assault,
- Burglary,
- Motor Vehicle Theft,
- Arson,



- Larceny-Theft,
- Simple Assault,
- Intimidation,
- Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property

The first eight offenses are previously defined, in addition to those offenses, Larceny-Theft, Simple Assault, Intimidation, and Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property are included in the Clery Act statistics only if they are Hate Crimes.

Larceny-Theft: the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Constructive possession is the condition in which a person does not have physical custody or possession, but is in a position to exercise dominion or control over a thing.

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

Included are assaults that do not involve the use of a firearm, knife, cutting instrument, or other dangerous weapons, and in which the victim did not sustain serious or aggravated injuries.

Intimidation: is to unlawfully place another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct, but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to actual physical attack. A person is assumed to be placed in "reasonable fear" if he or she reports threatening words or other conduct to law enforcement personnel. To be the victim of intimidation, one doesn't have to be the intended target of the offender. (For the intimidation to be considered a hate crime there would have to be other supporting evidence of bias as well.)

Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property: to willfully or maliciously destroy, damage, deface, or otherwise injure real or personal property without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it. However, incidents of burning that willfully or maliciously destroy, damage, or deface property would be classified as arson.

Reported Hate Crimes Statistics for 2025, 2024, & 2023

There were no reported hate crimes in 2024 or 2023. We had two reported incidents of Hate Crimes in 2025, these were investigated by the University Police Department.

1 incident of **Intimidation/ Race** and 1 incident of **Vandalism /Sexual Orientation** occurring on campus.

Clery Geography

Fitchburg State's Clery Geography is unique and complex. Our "on-campus" designation covers all university-owned property, including the McKay Campus Complex and adjacent woods, Simonds Hall (45 North St), Elliot Field, and the Wallace Civic Center. These properties are not directly connected and are often interspersed with city or private land. Some non-university properties may still fall under our "routinely patrolled" jurisdiction.

For clarity on our patrolled areas and properties included in crime statistics, we provide official Clery definitions, a comprehensive list of university properties, and a detailed map



The Clery Act geographical reporting area definitions are:

On-Campus:

- 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 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).

Non-Campus Building or Property:

- Any building or property owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the institution; or
- Any building or property owned or controlled by an institution that is used in direct support of, or related 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:

- All public property, including thoroughfares, streets, sidewalks, and parking facilities, that is within the campus, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus.

For this report, all roadways, sidewalks, and crosswalks adjacent to Fitchburg State University's "On Campus" property are considered Public Property. The only exception is the section of Highland Avenue spanning from 230 Highland Avenue to its intersection with Holman Street.

This specific portion is marked as a private way at 230 Highland Avenue and features a gate at the Holman Street end. Consequently, this segment of Highland Avenue is designated as On Campus property.

Incidents that occurred on a remote learning platform or while students were not on Clery Act geography:

A crime is counted for Clery Act purposes if the perpetrator or victim was physically present on the institution's Clery Act geography.

Online threats, intimidation, or stalking are only recordable if they meet the definition of a Clery Act crime AND either the perpetrator or victim was physically on Clery Act geography at the time of the incident.

Private homes of students and employees are generally excluded from Clery Act geography. Exceptions apply only if the institution has a written agreement granting control of the space. Work-from-home agreements do not establish this control.



Fitchburg State University Property and Clery Geography
As of 6/1/2025

Residence Halls

Aubuchon Hall	234 North St	On Campus Residential
Cedar House	30 Cedar Street & 22 Cedar Street	On Campus Residential <i>Not occupied as of 5/2026</i>
Herlihy Hall	320 North Street	On Campus Residential <i>As of 1/1/25</i>
Mara 1	299 Highland Avenue	On Campus Residential
Mara 2	210 Cedar Street	On Campus Residential
Mara 3	220 Cedar Street	On Campus Residential
Mara 4	329 Highland Avenue	On Campus Residential
Mara 5	339 Highland Avenue	On Campus Residential
Mara 6	250 Cedar Street	On Campus Residential
Mara 7	260 Cedar Street	On Campus Residential
Mara 8	349 Highland Avenue	On Campus Residential
Mara Commons Building	319 Highland Avenue	On Campus
North Street Apartment (Graduate Housing)	185 North Street	On Campus Residential <i>As of 1/1/25</i>
Russell Towers	260 North Street	On Campus Residential
Simonds Hall	45 North Street (For Utilities use 26 Willow Street)	On Campus Residential
Townhouse 1 (Apts. 101, 102, 103, 104)	241 Highland Avenue	On Campus Residential
Townhouse 1 (Apts. 105, 106, 107, 108)	243 Highland Avenue	On Campus Residential
Townhouse 2 (Apts. 201, 202, 203, 204)	261 Highland Avenue	On Campus Residential
Townhouse 2 (Apts. 205, 206, 207, 208)	263 Highland Avenue	On Campus Residential
Townhouse 3	170 Cedar Street	On Campus Residential
Townhouse 4	158 Cedar Street	On Campus Residential
Townhouse 5	152 Cedar Street	On Campus Residential



Townhouse 6	150 Cedar Street	On Campus Residential
Townhouse 7	140 Cedar Street	On Campus Residential
Academic & Administrative Buildings		
Anthony Building	280 Highland Avenue	On Campus
Antonucci Science Center	333 North Street	On Campus
Athletic Field House – Elliot Field	53 Pearl Hill Road (1st building on left)	On Campus
Conlon Fine Arts Building	367 North Street	On Campus
Conlon Hall	316 Highland Avenue	On Campus
Dupont Building	299 North Street	On Campus
Edgerly Hall	281 North Street	On Campus
Exercise Science Bldg.	155 North Street	On Campus
Hammond Hall	160 Pearl Street	On Campus
Holmes Dining Hall	280 North Street	On Campus
Mazzaferro Center	291 Highland Avenue	On Campus
Miller Hall	230 Highland Avenue	On Campus
McKay A	67 Rindge Road	On Campus
McKay B	67 Rindge Road	On Campus
McKay C	67 Rindge Road	On Campus
Percival Hall	254 Highland Avenue	On Campus
Recreation Center	130 North Street	On Campus
Sanders Administration Building	300 Highland Avenue	On Campus
Service Center	167 Klondike Avenue	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
Thompson Hall	240 Highland Avenue	On Campus
University Police Station	32 Clinton Street	On Campus
Weston Auditorium	353 North Street	On Campus
Other Buildings Owned On Behalf Of Fsu		
70-78 North Street (Crowne Fried Chicken)	70 North Street (Crowne Fried Chicken) & 78 North Street (Parking Lot on right)	Not A Fitchburg State Property Sold as of May 30, 2024



Highland Employee Housing	340 Highland Avenue	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
164-168 Highland Ave (vacant)	164-168 Highland Ave	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
174 Highland Ave (vacant)	174 Highland Ave	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
66 Day Street (vacant)	66 Day Street	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
153-155 Snow Street (vacant)	153-155 Snow Street	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
Iver Johnson House	131 Highland Avenue	On Campus
46 Clinton Employee Housing	46 Clinton Street	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
132 Highland Employee Housing	132 Highland Avenue	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
Healy Hospitality House	147 North Street	On Campus
9 Ross Street	9 Ross Street	On Campus
675 Main Street (Vacant)	675-717 Main Street (No longer used for institutional educational purposes as of 12/1/2025)	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
<u>Other Buildings Leased By Fsu</u>		
Wallace Civic Center/Gaetz Arena	1000 John Fitch Highway	On Campus
Wallace Civic Center/Landry Arena	990 John Fitch Highway	On Campus
MART East (Center for Prof. Studies)	150 Main Street	Non-Campus
MART West (Grants Center)	152 Main Street	Non-Campus
<u>Vacant Land Owned On Behalf Of Fsu In Fitchburg</u>		
68 Rindge Road	Wooded area across from McKay Campus	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
15 Central Street	15 Central Street	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
145 Rindge Road	Land adjacent to the McKay Campus	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
254 Rindge Road	Steep wooded hill on the south side of the road	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
133 Snow Street	133 Snow Street	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
379 Rindge Road	Martel Preserve - land between road & river	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction



1191 John Fitch Highway	Earth Storage Yard - across from Will Thompson Way	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
221 & 319 Pearl Hill Road	Backland behind Elliot Fields	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
47 Fitch Hill Avenue	Steep wooded hill on the southeast side of the road, behind Aubuchon	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
65 Fitch Hill Avenue	Steep wooded hill on the east side of the road, behind Aubuchon & Russell A Tower	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
143 Snow Street	Vacant grassed slope toward North 1 Lot	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
42-50 Snow Street	Abolitionist Park	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
59 Day Street	The vacant Parking Lot cordoned off	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
67-69 Green Street & 86 North Street	Green 2 Lot (dirt lot)	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
5 Clinton Street	Vacant Lot	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
9 Clinton Street	Vacant dirt Lot	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
52, 54 & 58 Clinton Street	Land behind 185 N. St. Apartments, between Clinton Lot and 48 Clinton	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
105 Clinton Street	105 Clinton Street	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
127 Clinton Street	The fenced grassed lot by the corner of Pearl & Clinton Streets	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
172 Myrtle Ave	Grassed lot at the corner of Pearl St. & Myrtle Ave. with a bench	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
175 Myrtle Ave	Grass area on the corner of Pearl Street and Myrtle Ave.	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
198 Pearl Street	The fenced grassed lot between 192 & 204 Pearl Street	On Campus
188 Highland Avenue	Vacant dirt Lot	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
721-725 Main Street	Wooded/dirt lot down between Theater Building & paved parking lot, to Brook St.	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
739-745 Main Street	Paved parking lot down behind 15 Central Street, access from 9 Central St.	Clery Patrol Jurisdiction
<u>Vacant Land Owned On Behalf Of Fsu In Lancaster</u>		



2191-2253 Lunenburg Road	Biology Preserve - access from Woods Lane by Boy Scouts, a locked gate on the right	Not Used by the Institution
<u>PARKING LOTS - Generally, The Entrance Drives</u>		
Admissions Lot	279 Highland Ave	On-Campus
Antonucci Mini-Lot (by Weston Aud.)	345 North Street - aka Condike Lot	On-Campus
Campus Police Lot	34 Clinton Street	On-Campus
Upper Cedar Lot	174 Cedar Street	On-Campus
Lower Cedar Lot	152-172 Cedar Street	On-Campus
Cedar House Lot	14 Cedar Street	On-Campus
Civic Center Lot	1024 John Fitch Highway	On-Campus
Clinton St Lot above North 2 Lot	62 Clinton Street	On-Campus
Clinton St Lot just after #46 Clinton	40 Clinton Street	On-Campus
Congress St. Lot	3 Congress Street	On-Campus
Conlon FA rear Lot	37 Ross Street	On-Campus
Dupont Lot	299 North Street	On-Campus
Elliot Field Lot	53 Pearl Hill Road	On-Campus
Green 1 Lot	64 Green Street	On-Campus
Green 2 dirt Lot	67 Green Street	On-Campus
Herlihy Lot (rear)	336 North Street	On-Campus
Highland Lot, by Mara 4 & 5	337 Highland Avenue	On-Campus
Highland Avenue, Street Lot	247-289 Highland Avenue	On-Campus
McKay Front Lot	97 Rindge Road	On-Campus
McKay Rear Lot	490 North Street	On-Campus
McKay C Rear Lot	38 Lenox Street	On-Campus
McKay Lower Lot	496 North Street	On-Campus
North 1 Lot	170 North Street	On-Campus
North 2 Lot on North Street	211 North Street	On-Campus



North 2 - Clinton St. Lot	62 Clinton Street	On-Campus
North 4 Lot on North Street	139 North Street	On-Campus
North 4 - Clinton St. Lot	40 Clinton Street	On-Campus
Ross St. Lot	36 Ross Street	On-Campus
Sanders Lot	290 Highland Avenue	On-Campus
Service Center Lot	171 Klondike Avenue	On-Campus
Simonds Hall Lot	45 North Street	On-Campus
Townhouse Lot	235 Highland Avenue	On-Campus
Upper Weston Lot	350 North Street, turn left	On-Campus
Lower Weston Lot	350 North Street, turn right	On-Campus



Annual Fire Safety Report

Fitchburg State University prioritizes fire and life safety through the collaborative efforts of Capital Planning and Maintenance, Residence Life, and University Police. All residence halls meet or exceed local and national fire safety codes. They are equipped with modern fire alarm systems, including smoke detectors and sprinkler systems. These systems undergo routine inspections by the Fitchburg Fire Department and specialized contractors..

To Ensure A Safe Campus The Following Rules And Regulations Have Been Established.

Smoking

All Fitchburg State University Academic, Administration, Athletic, and Residence Halls are smoke-free. This includes all student rooms, hallways, and common areas. As posted, there is no smoking within 25' of any building on campus.

Fire Safety Equipment

Fire alarm systems and fire safety equipment are provided for the protection of the residents. The fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, fire alarm horns, pull stations, and emergency exit signs are critical to the safety equipment.

Failure to Evacuate

Except for emergency response agencies (i.e., Fitchburg Fire Department, and Fitchburg State University Police Department), all occupants in the building will evacuate when a fire alarm has been activated. Individuals or groups failing to evacuate will be subject to disciplinary action. Fitchburg State Residence Halls generally will hold a fire drill each semester and all occupants of the building are required to participate. Failure to participate can result in disciplinary action. Students who fail to vacate the residence hall during a fire alarm are subject to disciplinary action.

Fire Department Access

Persons who intentionally block or otherwise hamper the duties of the Fitchburg Fire Department or Fitchburg State University Police Department during a fire or medical emergency will be subject to disciplinary action, fines, or expulsion from University housing and/or criminal prosecution.

Fire Detection and Suppression Equipment Tampering

Fire alarm systems and safety equipment are here to protect you. This includes fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, fire alarm horns, pull stations, and emergency exit signs. Tampering with any fire safety equipment is strictly prohibited and can result in criminal prosecution, disciplinary action, and/or housing occupancy agreement termination. For units with fire sprinklers, all sprinkler heads must remain clear of obstructions. Nothing should be attached to or placed against any part of the sprinkler system.



False Alarms

Any person who, without proper justification, turns in a false fire alarm by activating a fire alarm pull station or calling in a report of fire may be subject to disciplinary action, fines, or expulsion from University housing, and/or criminal prosecution.

Malicious Burning of Building Component(s) or a Building

Any person who knowingly sets fire to components of a building (i.e. doors, bulletin boards, and furniture) and/or the building itself will face disciplinary action, fines, or expulsion from University housing, and/or criminal prosecution.

Smoke Bombs and Bomb Threats

Any person who possesses and/or activates a smoke bomb in a building without the permission of the Fitchburg State University Police Department, or any person who initiates a bomb threat, will be subject to disciplinary action, fines, or expulsion from University housing and/or criminal prosecution.

Fire Hydrants and Fire Lanes

No vehicle except for emergency response apparatus or cars shall park in designated fire lanes or in front of a fire hydrant. Fitchburg State University shall not be responsible for any damage to a motor vehicle that obstructs the response of the Fitchburg Fire Department or other emergency response agency.

Fire Hazards

Motorcycles, automobiles, mopeds, gasoline, propane, flammable liquids, and other similar items are not allowed in buildings other than those facilities specifically designed for that intended purpose and shall be removed at the owner's expense.

Explosives, Fireworks, and Flammables

The possession and/or storage of fireworks, explosives, gunpowder, ammunition, any flammables, or material that may jeopardize the safety of others is strictly prohibited. Any person possessing and/or discharging these items on campus will face disciplinary action, fines, expulsion from University housing, and/or criminal prosecution.

Exit Doors

Using an Emergency Exit in a non-emergency situation may result in a fine and disciplinary action.

Fire Drills

Fire Drills at Fitchburg State University will be conducted at least once during the academic year. This announced fire drill is performed to familiarize occupants in the building with the sound of the fire alarm, to verify that the system is functioning properly, and to test the evacuation systems for faculty, staff, and students.

Inspections/Fire Drills



Most residence hall fires start in a student's room. The cause of the fire could be the careless disposal of smoking material, cooking equipment, candles, or improper lights and wiring. Wastepaper baskets, sheets, futons, wall hangings, and furniture are fuel sources for a potential fire; if ignited, each will allow smoke and flame to spread throughout the room, floor, or building. If during a scheduled fire drill, fire alarm, or a scheduled health and safety inspection a housing staff member discovers any smoking material, cooking equipment, candles, or improper lights located in a student's suite, the items will be confiscated.

Room Entry

Residence Life respects the student's rights to privacy within the group living-learning environment and will strive to protect and guarantee this privacy. This policy is designed to ensure only legal and appropriate entry into a resident's room by specifically authorized staff and to define the conditions under which authorized personnel may enter a student's room.

Rooms may be entered under the following conditions:

- To provide room maintenance inspections, repair service, or perform a safety inspection.
- When there is reasonable cause to believe that university regulations or laws are being violated.
- For an emergency that requires that a room be entered.
- When a resident vacates a room for a break period, authorized personnel may enter a room to provide room maintenance inspections, repair service or to perform safety inspections.

Portable Electrical Appliances

For health, safety, and sanitation considerations, only the following appliances are authorized for use in the residence halls: small electrical appliances that have a completely enclosed heating element and are UL-approved (i.e. coffeemakers and popcorn poppers); and, small microwaves and refrigerators that meet the residence hall specifications.

Refrigerators

- The maximum size, internal dimensions of less than 4.0 cubic feet.
- Maximum of 2 running amps. Refrigerators must be unplugged during semester break periods.

Microwaves

- Maximum wattage, less than 1000 watts.

Appliances that are not permitted in the student rooms are electric skillets, toaster ovens, electric blankets, hot plates, items with exposed heating elements, air conditioners, and halogen lamps. The high potential of fires and damage from these items make these provisions necessary.

Candles, Open Flames Devices, and Smoking

Open flame devices (except for cigarette lighters and matches) are prohibited in residence halls. Candles, incense, and similar items may not be burned or lit in any residence hall. If lit or previously burned candles or incense are found or reported they will be confiscated. Smoking is prohibited in all academic buildings and residence halls. Smoking is not permitted in buildings or within 25 feet of a building entrance or air intake.

Holiday Decorations



Per the Massachusetts Fire Prevention Regulations, the following decorative items *shall not be permitted* in the Fitchburg State University buildings and residence halls:

- Candles
- Christmas or other sawn trees (except UL or FM-approved artificial Christmas or decorative trees)
- Christmas or other decorative wreaths
- Corn stalks or shucks
- Cotton or confetti
- Dry moss or leaves
- Paper streamers
- Tree branches or leaves

Only UL or FM-approved lighting for indoor use can be used in academic and residential buildings. If used, the lights cannot be run over ceiling tiles grids, or through walls or doorways. The lights must be hung below the ceiling using non-conductive material (i.e., string or tape). Not more than three sets of lights can be attached to a single extension cord. Lights must be turned off when the area is left unattended.

Electrical Extension Cords

Electrical Cords (primary and extension) must not pass through walls, floors, or above-suspended ceilings. Electrical Cords (primary and extension) cannot be beneath carpets or across corridors or fire escapes. This type of placement could cause a fire or be responsible for a personal injury accident. If temporary wiring is required, the cord must be run along the wall, and not across an aisle or overhead.

It must be held up with a non-conductive material such as string or tape, and may not run above a concealed space such as a drop ceiling.

Electrical and mechanical closets and rooms are hazardous locations. They are not to be used for general storage and they must be kept clean at all times to reduce the risk of fire.

Electrical panels shall be properly maintained. Under the Massachusetts Electrical Code, there must be at least three square feet of space around all electrical panels, boxes, disconnects, fuses, and other associated equipment. Students having questions about electrical closets, disconnects, panels, rooms, or service should contact the Capital Planning and Maintenance Department at (978) 665-3115 or (978) 665-3230.

Fire Doors, Escapes, and Exits

For health and safety reasons, all means of egress and their components must be properly maintained at all times per the requirements of the State Building and Fire Prevention Regulations. A means of egress shall include but is not limited to corridors, doorways, fire escapes, and stairwells. They incorporate an “exit access” (corridors and stairs that lead to an exit), an “exit” (the door itself), and the “exit discharge” (the exterior side of the door, which could include a fire escape, another building, or sidewalk).

The corridors in the residence halls are required to be free of hazards and obstructions. Corridors, fire escapes, hallways, and stairwells cannot be used for the placement or storage of combustible material (i.e. boxes, cardboard, and/or paper), bicycles or furniture, waste receptacles, or any other item or equipment that would hinder a safer means of egress or firefighting operations. Corridors, fire escapes, hallways, and stairwells cannot be used as runways for extension cords, telephone wires, or television cables that could create a personal



injury hazard. Fire escapes cannot be used for the storage of grills, regardless of size or fuel. Fire doors in corridors and stairwells cannot be chocked open (except smoke-activated fire doors that close when the fire alarm is activated).

Fire Safety Education and Training Programs

Fire safety education programs for all students living in on-campus student housing are held at the beginning of the academic year. The Fitchburg State University utilizes a documentary, "After the Fire" which is mandatory for all incoming students. "After the Fire" discusses the January 19, 2000, Seton Hall University fire that claimed three lives and injured 56 others.

Copies of their book, "After the Fire," are available in the library. Members of the Fitchburg Fire Department and Fitchburg State University Police Department are also on hand to answer questions.

Fire Drill procedures can be found in the Student's Handbook with additional information on fire safety in the student's housing occupancy agreement. Procedures for fire drill is the same as the University's Emergency Evacuation Plan referenced earlier in this document.

Employee fire safety and evacuation is addressed during new employee orientation through the University Police's Campus Safety Orientation.

Fire Reporting Procedure

The following general procedures should be followed if you discover a **FIRE**:

Smoke is the greatest danger in a fire. As you evacuate, or if you are trapped, always stay near the floor where the air is less toxic. STAY LOW! In advance, familiarize yourself with fire extinguisher locations, exits, and alarm pull stations.

- Close the door to the room involved. This will contain the fire.
- Activate the closest fire pull station.
- Call the Fitchburg State University Police Department when it is safe to do so.
 - Non-Campus Landline phone: **(978) 665-3111**
 - On-Campus Landline phone: **3111**
- Awaken any sleeping roommate.
- Feel the doorknob and the door. If they are hot, do not open the door. If they are cool, open them slowly, if heat or smoke rushes in, close the door immediately and remain inside.
- When leaving your room, be sure to take your key in case it is necessary to return to the room should the condition in the corridor deteriorate.
- Get on your knees or belly and stay low always making your way to the nearest marked exit. Alert others as you exit.
- Do Not Use Elevators!
- Residence Life staff members who are present on their floors should facilitate the evacuation of their floor/section if possible.
- Stay back at least 500 feet or more from the building.

If trapped during a fire:

- Shout at regular intervals to alert emergency crews of your location.
- Find a window and place an article of clothing outside of it to use as a marker for rescue crews.
- If there is no window, stay near the floor where the air is less toxic.



Emergency Fire Procedures

General Procedures for Students and Employees in case of a fire states that “All faculty, staff, and students are required to evacuate the building during a fire alarm”.

Evacuation Procedure

- When evacuating the building, use the most direct means of egress possible.
- Before opening the door, feel the door with the back of your hand. If the door is hot, or you can see fire or smoke in the corridor, do not pass through. Stay in the room. Pack towels (wet if possible) under the door to prevent smoke from entering. Telephone the Fitchburg State University Police Department and report your location.
- If the door is cool, open it slowly. If there is no smoke, proceed to the nearest exit. If the smoke is light, crawl low to the closest exit. If you encounter smoke along the way, choose an alternate escape route. Make sure the doors close behind you to prevent the spread of smoke.

Evacuation Plan for Persons with Disabilities

- If the occupant, resident, or visitor is located on the ground floor of the building, exit through the closest appropriate means of egress.
- If the occupant, resident, or visitor is located above the ground floor, DO NOT USE THE ELEVATOR. Stay in your office or room, or see specific examples below.
- Call the Fitchburg State University Police Department at (978) 665-3111 and give the dispatcher your name, exact location, room number, and telephone number. Remain by the phone until contacted by the Fitchburg State University Police Department. Firefighters will assist persons who are unable to evacuate.
- Persons with hearing impairments can be assisted out of the building, providing that they are made aware of the activation of the fire alarm.
- Persons with visual impairments can be safely helped out of the building, provided that a person is there to assist them and that most of the other building occupants have already left the building. The evacuation of persons with disabilities at the same time as everyone else might increase the risk of an accident or otherwise endanger all persons trying to vacate the building.
- Persons with mobility impairments should most often remain in their rooms until assisted by the Fire Department. Untrained occupants should not attempt to carry people from the building. This could cause stairway restrictions for other evacuees and may also result in serious injury to the parties involved as well as others.

Fire Definitions

The following definitions apply to this section:

Cause of Fire: The factor or factors that give rise to a fire. The causal factors may be but are not limited to, the result of intentional or unintentional action, mechanical failure, or act of nature.

Fire: Any instance of open flame or other burning in a place not intended to contain the burning or in an uncontrolled manner.

Fire Drill: A supervised practice of a mandatory evacuation of a building for a fire.

Fire-Related Injury: Any instance in which a person is injured as a result of a fire, including an injury sustained from a natural or accidental cause, while involved in fire control, attempting



rescue, or escaping from the dangers of a fire. The term “person” may include students, faculty, staff, visitors, firefighters, or any other individuals.

Fire-Related Death: Any instance in which a person:

- Is killed as a result of a fire, including death resulting from a natural or accidental cause while involved in fire control, attempting rescue, or escaping from the dangers of a fire; or
- Dies within one year of injuries sustained as a result of a fire.

Fire-Safety System: Any mechanism or system related to the detection of a fire, the warning resulting from a fire, or the control of a fire. This may include sprinkler systems or other fire extinguishing systems; fire detection devices; stand-alone smoke alarms; devices that alert one to the presence of a fire, such as horns, bells, or strobe lights; smoke-control and reduction mechanisms; and fire doors and walls that reduce the spread of a fire.

Value of Property Damage: The estimated value of the loss of the structure and contents, in terms of the cost of replacement in like kind and quantity. This estimate should include contents damaged by fire, and related damages caused by smoke, water, and overhaul; however, it does not include indirect loss, such as business interruption.

Reporting That a Fire Occurred

Per federal law, Fitchburg State University is required to annually disclose statistical data on all fires that occur in on-campus student housing facilities. Listed below are the non-emergency numbers to call to report fires that have already been extinguished in on-campus student housing.

These numbers should only be used for fires for which you are unsure whether the Fitchburg State University Police Department may already be aware. If you find evidence of such a fire or if you hear about such a fire, please contact one of the Fitchburg State University Police Department **(978) 665-3111**. For an active fire, call **911** and **(978) 665-3111**.

Fire Safety Equipment

Fitchburg State University campus housing facilities are equipped with a comprehensive set of fire safety measures. Across all listed residence halls, apartments, and townhouses, fire alarm monitoring is directly integrated with both the Fitchburg State University Police Department and the Fitchburg Fire Department. Furthermore, every single property features smoke detection, heat detection, and fire extinguishers.

The primary distinction across the various facilities lies in their sprinkler coverage:

Full-Building Sprinkler Systems The vast majority of residential buildings feature full-building sprinkler protection. This includes major residence halls, townhouses, and administrative campus housing buildings such as Aubuchon Hall (234 North St), Cedar St House (30 Cedar St), Herlihy Hall (320 North St), Russell Towers (260 North St), and Simonds Hall (45 North St). Additionally, every location in Mara Village—comprising Mara Village #1 through #8 and the Mara Village Common (spanning Highland Ave and Cedar St addresses)—is outfitted with full-building sprinkler coverage.

Partial-Building Sprinkler Systems A select group of campus properties relies on partial-building sprinkler coverage rather than full coverage. These locations include the North St



Apartments (185 North St) as well as Townhouses #1 through #7 (located along Highland Ave and Cedar St).

Future Fire Safety Improvement

Fitchburg State University complies with state and local fire codes. Fire Safety and monitoring are currently to code, and no further improvements are scheduled for the 2026 Calendar year.

2025 Statistics and Related Information Regarding Fires in Residential Facilities

Fitchburg State University maintains a Fire Log to track fires that may occur in the university's residence halls. This log would document if a fire occurred in the residence halls, the cause of the fire, number of injuries, if the fire resulted in a fatality, and the monetary amount of the damage caused by the fire.

For calendar years 2023, 2024, and 2025, the University did not sustain any fires in the residential living facilities. These residential living facilities includes, Aubuchon Hall, the Cedar Street House, Simonds Hall, Herlihy Hall, Russell Towers, the Mara Village complex (residential units #1 through #8 and the Common), Townhouses #1 through #7, and the North Street Apartments.

Fire Drill Participation

- **Compliance for 2023,2024, & 2025:** Each operational housing site participates in evacuation exercises during our annual fire drills.
 - An announced fire drill was conducted on October 24, 2025.