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GUIDE TO THE ASR

FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

WHAT IS AN ASR?

As part of the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, otherwise known as the Clery Act, every higher education institution that receives Title IV federal funding must publish and distribute an annual security report (ASR) to current and prospective employees and students by October 1 each year. The ASR must include three previous calendar years' worth of Clery crime statistics plus details about efforts taken to improve campus safety. The document must also contain an institution's current policies and procedures concerning campus security.

This document is called an ASR, or annual security report.

An ASR is a resource that anyone can read to better understand an institution's campus safety policies and procedures. It also includes other information that may be important to know, such as fire safety policies.

For students and families considering a college, an ASR can provide important information to consider when deciding where to attend. It can also provide transparency by showing statistics for crimes reported on and around an institution's campus.

Why should students and families read an ASR?

Choosing a college is a big decision. Students and families consider many factors, from academics and cost to campus life and location. Campus safety should be part of that conversation, too.

An ASR can help students and families better understand how an institution approaches campus safety. It includes the institution's current safety-related policies and procedures and provides information about how the institution responds to different situations.

Use an ASR to ask questions

An ASR is more than a document to read once and put away. It can help students and families identify questions they may want to ask a college or university.

For example:

- What safety resources are available to students?
- How does the institution communicate with students during an emergency?
- What prevention programs are offered?
- How are reports of crimes handled?
- What do the institution's crime statistics tell me about reported crime on campus?

An ASR can help you understand:

- How an institution responds to crimes and other emergencies
- How the institution works to prevent crime
- How campus facilities are secured and maintained
- What resources and prevention programs are available
- How the institution responds after a crime occurs
- What crime has been reported on or around campus
- What other safety policies and procedures are in place

An ASR is designed to provide information about both prevention and response. It can help readers understand what an institution does to prevent crimes from occurring and what happens when a crime does occur.



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There is no single “right” way to interpret an ASR. Every student and family will have different experiences, concerns, and priorities when it comes to campus safety.

The goal is not to use an ASR to determine whether a college is simply “safe” or “unsafe.” Instead, use it as one tool to learn more about an institution’s approach to campus safety and to help you make informed decisions about where you want to live and learn.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN AN ASR

An ASR contains several types of information about campus safety. Two important components are statements of policy and Clery Act crime statistics.

Policy Statements

“Statements of policy” are information that must be included in an ASR regarding the institution’s policies to respond to and prevent crimes on campus.

Policy statements can help you understand how an institution approaches campus safety and what procedures are in place when a safety concern or incident occurs. They can also help you identify resources, prevention programs, reporting options, and emergency procedures that may be important to know before or during a student’s time on campus.

The following information must be included as part of the ASR’s statements of policy:

- A statement of policy about **Reporting Crimes and Other Emergencies**
- A statement of policy about **Security of and Access to Campus Facilities**
- A statement of policy about **Campus Law Enforcement**
- A statement of policy about an institution’s **Campus Security Procedures and Practices’ Programs**
- A statement of policy about **Programs for the Prevention of Crimes**
- A statement of policy about the **Monitoring and Recording of Criminal Activity by Police Agencies**
- A statement of policies about **Alcohol and Other Drug Policies**
- A statement of policy about **Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Misconduct, Prevention and Awareness Programs, and Disciplinary Action Procedures**
- A statement about **Information on Registered Sex Offenders**
- A statement of policy about an institution’s **Emergency Response and Evacuation Procedures**
- A statement of policy about an institution’s **Missing Student Notification Procedures** (if the institution has on-campus student housing)



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Clery Act Crime Statistics

Clery Act crime statistics reflect reports of Clery Act crimes made to a campus security authority that occurred within Clery geography.

Clery Act crimes include:

- **Criminal offenses:** criminal homicide, manslaughter by negligence, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson
- **Hate crimes:** all of the criminal offenses above, plus simple assault, larceny-theft, intimidation, and damage/destruction/vandalism of property when those crimes are motivated by a bias on the part of the perpetrator
- **Violence Against Women Act offenses:** dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking
- **Hazing**
- **Arrests and referrals** for disciplinary action for weapons law, drug abuse, and liquor law violations

Who are Campus Security Authorities?

Campus security authorities are defined as individuals that fall within four different functional areas at a college or university to whom reports of Clery crimes occurring within Clery geography should be made. These roles include:

- Campus police or public safety department
- Having responsibility for campus security but not being part of a campus police or public safety department, for example, someone responsible for monitoring access to a building
- Someone identified as one to whom a crime can be reported
- Officials with significant responsibility for student or campus activities

What is Clery Geography?

Institutions must include statistics for Clery crimes that occur in any of these geographic areas:

- On-campus
- On-campus student housing (if an institution has such properties)
- Public property within campus bounds
- Public property immediately adjacent to and accessible from on-campus locations
- Noncampus: Buildings and property owned or controlled by the institution that are used for educational purposes and frequently used by students but not a part of the core campus, or those owned or controlled by a student organization officially recognized by the institution

A Note About Crime Statistics

Remember that crime statistics alone do not give a complete picture of campus safety. When an institution reports higher crime statistics year-to-year, or more than another institution, it is not necessarily indicative of higher rates of crime. Higher reporting rates often indicate that a school has established efficient and accessible reporting systems and that students are encouraged to report and seek support. Additionally, interpersonal crimes are historically under-reported by those that experience them because of systemic barriers and fear of negative consequences, resulting in them being underrepresented in statistics.