

REPORT ON CAMPUS SAFETY

Issued September 2020

For the period January 1-December 31, 2019

Housatonic Community College provides its report on campus safety in compliance with the “Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act”. This report is available to any applicant, student, or employee who requests a copy. The report is published each September.

Housatonic Community College’s Department of Public Safety is located in room A127, on the first floor in Lafayette Hall. There are additional security offices in room C160 and L200 in Lafayette Hall, and on the first, second and third floors of Beacon Hall. Security patrols the campus on a regular basis. The Department of Public Safety is in charge of the college’s “lost and found”. Please turn in any found items to security. If you think you may have lost something on campus, you should check with the department of Public Safety. If it has not been turned in you should fill out a Lost Property form in case your item is turned in at a later time.

The Director of Public Safety is Christopher Gough. Master Sergeant Gough graduated from the Connecticut Police Academy and has special police powers granted by the state Commissioner of Public Safety under the provisions of Sections 7-281, 14-8, 54-1f, 54-33a and 10a-156b of the Connecticut General Statutes and Title 53a. He supervises the security force, which consists of Police and State Officers and a private contract security company, selected through the State bid process. The current contract company, as of September 2017, is Summit Security Services. State Officers supervise each shift. Police and State Officers, and contract security guards are on patrol during all college hours of operation. The Public Safety/Security Department reports to Mario Pierce, Dean of Administration.

College students, employees, and visitors park in the Housatonic Community College parking garage located at 870 Lafayette Boulevard. Students should register their vehicles at the garage Security office, which is located next to the garage entrance on Lafayette Boulevard, to receive their parking hangtag. Employees should register their vehicles at the main Public Safety office in Lafayette Hall. There is State and Security Officers assigned to the garage any time it is open. They perform routine foot and vehicle patrols of the garage.

In accordance with State law, Housatonic Community College has a smoke-free status. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in college buildings. The Department of Public Safety offers upon request, escorts to students, staff and guests to/from their vehicle parked in the college garage. To request an escort, stop by or contact the Security Office.

Policies concerning campus law enforcement, including the enforcement authority of security personnel.

Members of the Department of Public Safety have complete police authority to apprehend and arrest anyone involved in illegal acts on-campus and areas immediately adjacent to the campus. The Department also has State Building and Grounds Officers and contract security through Summit Security Services Inc. Building and Grounds Officers and contract security officers have the authority to enforce campus security policies and procedures. Building and Grounds Officers and contract security officers do not possess arrest powers and refer criminal incidents to the members of the department who have arrest authority or to the State or local police. If minor offenses involving College rules and regulations are committed by a College student, the Department of Public Safety may also refer the individual to the Dean of Students.

Major offenses such as murder, rape, aggravated assault, robbery and auto theft are reported to the local police and joint investigative efforts with investigators from the College, State Police and city police are deployed to solve these serious felony crimes. All criminal offenses, both felony and misdemeanor, are prosecuted at the Superior Court of Connecticut.

No administrator of an institution of higher education shall interfere with the right of a student or employee of such institution to file a complaint with the state police, local police department, or special police force established under section 10a-142 of the general statutes concerning crimes committed within the geographical limits of the property owned or under the control of such institution.

Per agreement with the State and Bridgeport Police Departments, the College Security Department's jurisdiction extends west to the property line of Lafayette Blvd, east to the property line of Broad Street, south to the property line of N. Frontage Street and north to the property line of State Street.