



**2023 ANNUAL**

**MARS HILL UNIVERSITY**

**CAMPUS SECURITY**

**AND FIRE SAFETY REPORT**

**Introduction:** Mars Hill University understands that choosing an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) is a major decision. Along with academic, financial and geographic considerations, prospective students and their families must think about campus safety. The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Crime Statistics Act, previously known as the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 (Title II, Public Law 101-542), which amended the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, requires all postsecondary institutions participating in HEA's Title IV student financial assistance programs to disclose campus crime and fire statistics and safety information. This act was named in memory of Jeanne Clery who was tortured, raped and murdered in her residence hall room at Lehigh University in 1986 and is generally referred to as the *Clery Act*. The Mars Hill University Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Reports are published by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and are made available to all students, faculty and staff on the Campus Security web page.

The Clery Act requires Mars Hill University to:

1. Collect, classify and count crime reports and crime statistics.
2. Issue campus alerts to provide the campus community with information necessary to make informed decisions about their health and safety.
3. Publish an annual security and fire safety report containing safety and security related policy statements, crime statistics and fire safety statistics and make it available to all current students and employees.
4. Submit crime and fire statistics to the Department of Education in the fall of each year via a web-based data collection system to disclose statistics by location, type and year.
5. Disclose missing student notification procedures that pertain to students residing in campus facilities.
6. Keep a fire log and a crime log that are open to public inspection.

Overview of MHU Campus Security

Phone: (828) 689-1230

On-Duty Officer: (828) 206-1230

Fax: (828) 689-1490

Campus PO Box: 6676

Email: [security@mhu.edu](mailto:security@mhu.edu)

Location: [Wren Student Union](#) Room 317A

The Mars Hill University Department of Safety and Security is located on the top floor of the Wren Student Union in the Student Development Suite. The department is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and operates 365 days per year to provide safety and security services to our university community.

**Department Mission Statement:** The mission of the MHU Department of Safety and Security is to enhance the quality of life at MHU by providing a safe and secure environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors that is consistent with the values and educational goals of the university, enhances the pursuit of learning and personal growth and builds community partnerships based on mutual respect, cooperation and trust.

**Department Vision Statement:** It is the vision of the Department of Safety and Security to take an all hazards approach to outpace all threats and proactively manage risk to the students, faculty, staff and visitors to Mars Hill University. This will be accomplished by providing professional and timely safety and security services that values and respects individual concerns while protecting the rights of the community we serve.

**Department Values Statement:** The Department of Safety and Security has adopted the core values of respect, integrity, selfless service and excellence in all we do.

**Department Organization and Authorities:** Mars Hill University has a relatively low crime rate when compared to many college campuses. The rural location, historically low crime rates, and excellent working relationships enjoyed with area Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS and Emergency Management organizations helps the university effectively manage risk and maintain a safe and secure environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors. The Campus Security Officers (CSOs) assist all members of the campus community in emergency situations while making every effort to provide for their safety. CSOs also have the responsibility for the protection of University property and the enforcement of all traffic rules and regulations. The Department of Safety and Security is primarily a non-sworn campus safety and security agency led by a Director of Safety and Security. The Director and one part time officer are sworn Madison County Sheriff's Deputies for the purposes of providing immediate response in an emergency. The staff consists of a Chief of Security, four full-time Campus Security Officers (CSO's), and three part-time Campus Security Officers. The staff is highly trained and the Campus Security Officers have been certified by the University to standards that closely mirror the North Carolina standards for professional security guards and the recently adopted certification standards for Campus Security Officers developed by the state of Virginia. In addition to completing and passing the MHU certification curriculum, all members of the campus security staff are certified in the FEMA Incident Command System (ICS), and are certified in First Aid, CPR and AED use. The staff currently includes several retired or former law enforcement and corrections officers. Having no powers of arrest and carrying no weapons, the CSOs work closely with area law enforcement agencies. Local law enforcement agencies regularly patrol the adjacent streets, visit campus frequently and aid the Department of Safety and Security as required. The Mars Hill Police Department is physically located adjacent to the campus property approximately 1/10<sup>th</sup> mile on North Main St.

The Department of Safety and Security staff is further augmented by interning and hiring students who serve to provide limited safety and security related services such as assisting with campus patrol, parking control and enforcement, providing student escort services, assisting in traffic and crowd control, helping during emergency calls, providing crime prevention information and conducting other duties as required under the supervision of a Campus Security Officer.

Additionally, some limited adult professional staff Student Life personnel live in residence halls where they oversee the behavior of the residents and monitor the condition of the fire safety equipment, exit lighting and report any life safety hazards. Resident Assistants (RA's) are in every Res Hall, they are enrolled students of the divisional Student Life staff, who in conjunction with the Department of Safety and Security, conduct meetings with the residents to discuss life-safety issues and provide programming in areas related to crime prevention, fire safety, sexual assault, drug and alcohol abuse and other life safety related issues. All Student Life staff helps define the behavior expected of students by modeling appropriate behaviors and assisting in the enforcement of campus rules. Student Life staff also monitors access to the buildings and enforces the university visitation policy.

While the Mars Hill University staff works hard to make the campus a safe place to live and work, proactive engagement by the entire MHU community is needed to effectively manage risk to our students, faculty, staff and visitors. Suspicious looking acts or individuals should be reported to security officers immediately and members of our community can take responsibility for their own safety and security by remaining vigilant. Accurate and prompt reporting of crimes and other safety and security issues can serve to deter or prevent future events. If you see something, say something!

**How to Report a Crime or Incident:** The Department of Safety and Security can be contacted 24/7/365 by calling 828-689-1230; 828-206-1230, by submitting a Campus Safety Tip from the link on Self Service and MyMHU pages, or by e-mailing the Department of Safety and Security at: [security@mhu.edu](mailto:security@mhu.edu). There are emergency call boxes located throughout campus where emergency services can be accessed by dialing 911 or 1230. A map of the MHU call box locations is posted in Wren Hall by the Office of the Department of Safety and Security and is also available on the Campus Security web page. A list of applicable MHU and community emergency contact numbers appears below:

<b>Emergency:</b>	<b>Dial 911</b>	
<b>Campus Security:</b>		<b>828-689-1230</b>
<b>Campus Medical:</b>		<b>828-689-1243</b>
<b>Campus Counselor:</b>		<b>828-689-1196</b>
<b>Mars Hill Police:</b>		<b>828-689-2301</b>
<b>Mars Hill Fire:</b>		<b>828-689-2022</b>
<b>Madison Co. Sheriff:</b>		<b>828-649-2721</b>
<b>My Sister's Place 24 Hour Crisis Line:</b>		<b>828-649-2446</b>

**Scope:** The primary focus of the 2022 Mars Hill University Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report is the main campus of Mars Hill University located at 100 Athletic Street in Mars Hill, North Carolina. The report applies to all employees (faculty and staff), students, prospective students, and visitors to Mars Hill University.

The reporting period for statistics compiled and submitted are statistics from years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

**Definitions:** The criminal offenses and violations that must be reported to comply with the Clery Act are defined in accordance with the Clery Act and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting Program, which is a nationwide cooperative statistical effort in which city/municipal, college/university, county, State, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily report data on crimes brought to their attention. The definitions appear below:

**Aggravated Assault:** An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied using a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. (It is not necessary that injury result from an aggravated assault when a gun, knife, or other weapon is used which could and probably would result in serious personal injury) Assaults that require medical attention for serious personal injury such as broken bones, internal injuries, and loss of teeth or stitches would meet this definition.

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

**Bias:** A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on their race, gender, gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity or national origin. The hate crime must be reported according to one of the above categories of bias.

**Burglary:** The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. For reporting purposes this definition includes unlawful entry with intent to commit a larceny or felony; breaking and entering with intent to commit a larceny; housebreaking; safecracking; and all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned.

**Criminal Homicide:** Murder and Manslaughter by negligence - the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. Manslaughter - the killing of another person through gross negligence.

**Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property (Except "Arson"):** To destroy willfully or maliciously, damage, deface, or otherwise injure real or personal property without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it.

**Drug Law Violations:** Violations 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.

**Hate Crimes:** A crime reported to local police agencies or to a campus security authority that manifests evidence that the victim was intentionally selected because of the perpetrator's bias against the victim on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, ethnicity national origin or disability. For Clery Act reporting purposes this includes the above listed crimes, (except manslaughter by negligence, weapons, drug, and liquor violations) and larceny-theft, simple assault, intimidation, and destruction/damage/vandalism of property, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as defined below.

**Intimidation:** 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. (E.g. Communicating Threats, Harassment, Stalking)

**Larceny-Theft:** The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. (Note: Constructive possession is defined by Black's Law Dictionary, 6th ed. as "where one does not have physical custody or possession but is in a position to exercise dominion or control over a thing.")

**Liquor Law Violations:** Violations 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; and all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned.

**Motor Vehicle Theft:** The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. For reporting purposes include all cases where automobiles are taken by persons not having lawful access even if the vehicle was later abandoned, including joyriding.

**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.

**Sex Offenses:** Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

1. Sexual assault – an offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest, or statutory rape as defined below.
2. 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. Rape includes acts of sodomy and sexual assault with an object.
3. Fondling – The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where

the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

4. Incest – Non-forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degree wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
5. Statutory Rape – Non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent. In NC the statutory age for consent is 16 years old.
6. Consent – The Student Code of Conduct defines consent as being clear, knowing, voluntary, and sober permission, through words or actions, for another individual to do something that affects the individual giving consent. Consent is based on choice and must be informed, freely and actively given, and mutually understandable, indicating a willingness to participate in mutually agreed upon activity.

**Simple Assault:** 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.

**Weapon Law Violations:** 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; and all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned.

**The Violence against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013:** Added the following crimes to be reported in the institutions Annual Security Report (ASR):

**Domestic Violence** - A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim or by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common or by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner or 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 or 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** - 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 frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence. The victim's use of terms such as "hanging out" or "hooking up" should not be exclusive.



**Stalking** - Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress. For the purpose of this definition:

1. 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, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about, a person, or interferes with the person's property.
2. Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.
3. Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.

**Offenses are to be reported by separate geographical locations, as defined below:**

**On-campus:** Any building or property owned or controlled by Mars Hill University (the "University") within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area, hereafter called Main Campus, and that is used by the University in direct support of, or in a manner related to, its educational mission, including residence halls; and any property on Main Campus owned by the University, but controlled by another person, if that property is frequently used by students and supports our institutional purposes.

**Residential Facilities:** Any student housing facility that is owned or controlled by the institution or is located on property that is owned or controlled by the institution, and is within the reasonable contiguous geographic area that makes up the Main Campus is considered an on-campus student housing facility. For Clery Act reporting purposes, this requires a separate reporting category. All reportable incidents that occur in a residential facility will be reported under this category and they will also be counted in the "on campus" category or in the "non-campus" category if required.

**Public Property:** All public facilities and property including roads, thoroughfares, streets, sidewalks and parking facilities that are either within the Main Campus or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the Main Campus.

**Non-Campus Building or Property:** Any building or property owned or controlled by a student organization recognized by the University; or any building or property (other than a branch or separate campus) owned or controlled by the University that is used in direct support of its educational mission, is frequently used by students, and is outside the boundaries of Main Campus.

**Clery Geography:** Includes the areas that meet the definitions of On-Campus, Non-Campus Buildings or Property, Public Property and for purposes of maintaining a daily crime log, any other areas within the patrol jurisdiction of the University Department of Safety and Security.

**Separate Campus:** Any location that meets all the following criteria

1. The property is owned or controlled by the University.
2. The property is not reasonably geographically contiguous with the main campus.



3. The University has an organized program of study on the property; and
4. There is at least one person on site acting in an administrative capacity.

**Other Important Definitions:**

**Business Day:** Monday through Friday, excluding any day when the University is closed.

**Test:** Regularly scheduled drills, exercises, and appropriate follow-through activities, designed for assessment and evaluation of emergency plans and capabilities.

**Campus Security Authority:** Is a Clery-specific term that encompasses the following four groups of individuals and organizations associated with the institution:

1. All employees in the MHU Department of Safety and Security.
2. All individuals not employed by the Department of Safety and Security, who have responsibility for campus security (e.g., Campus Guides);
3. Any individual or organization specified in the institution's statement of campus security policy as an individual or organization to which students and employee should report criminal offenses.
4. An official of the institution who has significant responsibility for student and campus activities, including but not limited to, student housing, student discipline and campus conduct proceedings.

**Prospective Employee:** An individual who has contacted an official of the University for the purpose of requesting information concerning employment.

**Prospective Student:** An individual who has contacted an official of the University for the purpose of requesting information concerning admissions.

**University:** Refers to Mars Hill University, a private, co-educational liberal arts institution with its main campus located in Mars Hill, North Carolina.

**Pastoral Counselor:** A person who is associated with a religious order or denomination that recognizes him/her as someone who provides confidential counseling and is functioning within the scope of that recognition as a university pastoral counselor.

**Professional Counselor:** Is a person whose official responsibilities include providing mental health counseling to members of the university community and is functioning within the scope of his/her license or certificate.

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

**Hierarchy Rule:** When more than one offense is committed during a single incident, follow the FBI's Uniform Crime Report Hierarchy Rule, and count only the most serious offense, except for

arson and hate crimes which must always be counted, even if there were other more serious offenses committed during the incident. Additionally, when an individual is the victim of a sex offense and a murder during the same incident, report the incident in both categories.

**Awareness Programs:** Community-wide or audience-specific programming, initiative, and strategies that increase audience knowledge and share information and resources to prevent violence, promote safety, and reduce perpetration.

**Bystander Intervention:** Safe and positive options that may be carried out by an individual or individuals to prevent harm or intervene when there is risk of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking.

**Risk Reduction:** Options designed to decrease perpetration and bystander inaction and to increase empowerment and promote safety for victims by addressing conditions that facilitate violence.

**Primary Prevention Programs:** Consist of programming, initiatives, and strategies informed by research or assessed for value, effectiveness, or outcome that are intended to stop dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking before they occur through the promotion of positive and healthy behaviors that foster mutually respectful relationships and sexuality, encourage safe bystander intervention, and seek to change behavior and social norms in a healthy and safe direction.

**Ongoing Prevention and Awareness Campaigns:** Consist of programming, initiatives, and strategies that are sustained over time and focus on increasing understanding of topics relevant to and skills for addressing dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, using a range of strategies with audiences throughout the institution. They are culturally relevant, inclusive of diverse communities and identities, sustainable, responsive to community needs, and informed by research or assessed for value, effectiveness, or outcomes.

**Proceeding:** All activities related to a non-criminal resolution of a university disciplinary complaint, including, but not limited to, fact-finding investigation, formal or informal meetings, and hearings.

**Result:** Regarding the university's disciplinary proceedings, the terms results, outcomes, resolution and final determination are interchangeable and are defined to mean an initial, interim, and/or final decision by any official or entity authorized to resolve disciplinary matters within the university. The final result shall include any sanctions and disciplinary actions imposed by the university.

**Interpersonal Violence:** For purposes of this policy the term "interpersonal violence" includes only the crimes of dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault.

**Advisor:** For purposes of this policy, any individual who provides the accuser or accused support, guidance, or advice.

**Unfounded:** Crimes investigated by law enforcement and found baseless because the crime was never completed, attempted, or did not meet the elements of the offense reported. Crimes reported and subsequently determined to be unfounded are not included in crime statistics.

## **Policy and Procedures Statements**

### **General Policy**

On November 8, 1990, the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act (Title II, Public Law 101-542) was signed into law. This law requires universities to produce and make available certain policy statements and statistics about campus crime.

MHU policy is adopted to comply with Public Law 101-542, with its amendments and that portion of Public Law 110-315 that pertains to the Higher Education Opportunity Act campus safety disclosure responsibilities. In addition, this policy incorporates the provisions of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA), that were mandated to be included in the Clery Act Annual Security Report.

It is the policy of the University to publish by October 1st of each school year an annual MHU Campus Security and Fire Safety Report that informs current students and employees of the security and fire safety policies, procedures and practices described in this policy. The Director of Safety and Security is responsible for preparing and distributing the annual MHU Campus Security and Fire Safety Report. Coordination with many departments and agencies, such as Associate Vice President for Student Development, Student Conduct, University Housing and area law enforcement is required to compile the report. The annual MHU Campus Security and Fire Safety Report is available for review on the Campus Security web page. Each member of the University community is notified by e-mail with a link to the report when the report is available on the Campus Security web page. The report can be made available to prospective students, prospective employees, and other non-campus individuals upon request. Paper copies of the report may be requested by contacting the Department of Safety and Security at 828-689-1230 or by mail at: Mars Hill University, Department of Safety and Security, PO Box 6676, Mars Hill, NC, 28754.

The annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report will also disclose statistics from the previous three years concerning reported crimes listed under Definitions (section IV), above, that occurred: On-campus; in certain off campus buildings or property, either owned or controlled by the University or owned or controlled by a student organization recognized by the University; and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the main campus. The statistics will be collected from the Department of Safety and Security, Student Conduct Office, local law enforcement agencies, Mars Hill Fire Department and other University officials who have been designated as Campus Security Authorities. All MHU Faculty and staff members will be required to view a power point presentation available on the Campus Security web page that outlines the Clery Act and reporting requirements for Campus Security Requirements.

Mars Hill University is committed to providing a safe learning, living and working environment. Members of the campus community are encouraged to use the annual MHU Campus Security and Fire Safety Report as a guide for safe practices on and off-campus; however, nothing in this policy

or other publications of the University is intended to represent the University as an insurer of any individual's personal safety or security. Ultimately, students, employees and visitors are expected to use caution and good judgment and make decisions to ensure their own safety and security.

The University prohibits retaliation by any University officer, employee, or agent against any individual for exercising their rights or responsibilities under any provision under the Clery Act. Any such retaliation may be the basis for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Compliance with the provisions of the Clery Act does not constitute a violation of section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g), commonly known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

### **Campus Security**

The Main Campus Department of Safety and Security office is located on the third floor of Wren Hall Room 317A on the campus of Mars Hill University. The department is responsible for protecting life and property on campus by providing emergency and non-emergency services, crime prevention, conduct investigations where MHU is or may be a party of interest, and threat assessments or other safety-related services. The department consists of a Director, Assistant Director (Chief of Security), 5 full-time Campus Security Officers (CSOs), one of which is assigned investigation duties; and 4 part-time CSOs. Should the need arise, the Department of Safety and Security staff are available to assist twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays. For non-emergencies or on-campus emergency services call 828-689-1230, for all on-campus police emergencies requiring an armed law enforcement response, dial 911.

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### **Police Services**

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Mars Hill Police Department provides law enforcement response services to the University. A similar MOU exists with the Madison County Sheriff's Office which maintains Law Enforcement certification of MHU Security Officers to provide armed security to campus, as required by state law for firearm possession on campus.

University security officers in that capacity are not sworn, do not carry firearms (by state law prohibition on school property for non-sworn law enforcement), and have no arrest authority. As this is written, three members of the unit are sworn officers of the Madison County Sheriff's office. Currently the Director, one CSO, and the Investigator are sworn as MC Deputies. These officers carry firearms for defensive purposes, and do have arrest authority on campus. As University officials, all security officers do have the authority to investigate matters where the University is, or may be, a party of interest and to gather information and collect evidence on campus for referral to area law enforcement agencies or to Student Conduct authorities. Security officers respond to emergency calls, conduct safety and security checks of campus buildings, provide escorts, provide crowd control and security during special events, and enforce campus rules and regulations to include parking enforcement.

The MHU Department of Safety and Security maintains a close working relationship with the Mars Hill Police Department and the Madison County Sheriff's Office. Area law enforcement agencies maintain jurisdiction and have arrest authority on campus. The Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE), NC State Highway Patrol, and the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) also have investigative jurisdiction on campus and are available upon request to assist or assume control of any felony criminal investigations.

### **Policy for Reporting and Recording Criminal Incidents or Emergencies**

The Department of Safety and Security is the primary on campus authority for the reporting of all campus emergencies and crimes. Campus Security Officers responding to an emergency or crime will assess the situation and obtain additional assistance as needed. Campus Security Officers are trained to evaluate and report all serious crimes and felonies to the Mars Hill Police Dept. If MHPD is contacted directly their protocol is to involve/inform the Security Department in the investigation.

The University encourages all employees, students, and visitors to promptly report crimes that occur on campus to the Department of Safety and Security, which has primary responsibility for security on campus. Prompt reporting of crimes will aid in providing timely warning notices to the campus, when required. The University encourages professional and pastoral counselors and Student Health Service officials, when they deem it appropriate, to inform the persons they are counseling or treating to report crime on a voluntary basis to the MHU Department of Safety and Security or to the Mars Hill Police Department.

Serious crimes and other police emergencies should be immediately reported the Mars Hill Police Department by dialing 911. Report also to the MHU Department of Safety and Security by calling 828-689-1230. Crimes may also be reported by using one of the Emergency phones located throughout campus or by going in person to the Department of Safety and Security in Wren Student Union.

Victims are encouraged to report crimes accurately and promptly to campus security and other local police agencies when they elect to do so. If a victim is unable to make a report, campus security will accept a report from a third party. Victims may also report crimes to campus security authorities, as defined above, who will promptly notify the Department of Safety and Security, so the Director or Assistant Director can decide whether a timely warning report must be sent out and to ensure all Clery reportable crimes are included in the annual crime statistics disclosure.

All crimes reported by a victim to campus security are investigated and referred to the police or referred to Student Conduct authorities for discipline under the Code of Student Conduct, or both. Campus Security Officers prepare reports and can testify in court or disciplinary hearings as necessary.

The Mars Hill Police Department and the Madison County Sheriff's Office have the authority to investigate crimes occurring on campus or other incidents if they feel it is appropriate. Other law enforcement agencies, such as the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation or federal authorities such as the FBI may assist with investigations upon request. Reports of felony

violations and certain misdemeanor violations which occur on campus are routinely reported to the Mars Hill Police Department and other law enforcement agencies as appropriate.

Crimes may also be reported confidentially to one of the campus security authorities listed above, solely for inclusion in the Clery Act crime statistics report. Confidential reports will not trigger a criminal investigation unless there is substantial evidence to suggest that a serious threat to other members of the community exists. Confidential reports may require issuance of a Campus Safety Alert if there appears to be a serious continuing threat to the campus community.

MHU is committed to providing accurate crime statistics in its annual report and will not withhold, or subsequently remove, a reported crime from its crime statistics based on a decision by a court, coroner, jury, prosecutor, or other similar non-campus official. Only crimes investigated by law enforcement that are found to be false or baseless will be classified as “unfounded” and deleted from the crime statistics published in this annual report. (Any “unfounded” crime will be clearly identified as such). All Clery Act reportable crimes reported to any Campus Security Authority will be included in the Annual Security Report Crime Statistics section unless the incident is investigated by law enforcement and subsequently classified as unfounded.

Filing a Complaint under the Code of Student Conduct: Complaints of misconduct against a student may be submitted to Student Conduct authorities at any time.

## **SEARCH POLICY**

Mars Hill University is a private, co-educational, liberal arts institution and as such residence halls and residence hall rooms may be entered for inspection by approved Mars Hill University officials at any reasonable time for:

- Safety and Maintenance checks.
- Maintenance of University property within a residence hall room.
- Reasonable suspicion by staff that University policies are being violated or a reasonable suspicion that illegal activity is taking place inside.
- Emergency conditions such as fire or threatening weather.
- Closing or locking doors or windows prior to the closing of the building.

A resident’s room may be searched under normal circumstances, with reasonable suspicion, by a University official who has received authorization from the occupying student, the Vice President for Student Life, the Associate Dean of Students, or the Director of Safety and Security or Assistant. The search may include, but is not limited to, opening drawers and refrigerators, examining furnishings and personal effects, and searching an adjoining bath/suite. In a crisis/emergency, other University officials may enter student rooms with no search warrant or notice given for emergencies such as:

- Incident to and following a lawful arrest.
- For and in the pursuit of a fleeing dangerous criminal suspect.
- Under urgent necessity (i.e., persistent loud screaming) or potential threat to life.
- Necessary to prevent loss of or destruction of an item to be seized.
- Searching for missing University property.



In any room inspection/search, illegal drugs, alcohol, or other items which violate University policy or civil law may be confiscated by those conducting the search and disciplinary action may result. If there is probable cause to believe a violation of local, state, or federal law has occurred, the matter may be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency for further investigation or action. Felony law violations will be referred to law enforcement for prosecution.

Every attempt will be made to have the student whose room is being searched present. All searches will have a minimum of two (2) University personnel present during the search.

**Vehicle Searches:** Upon suspicion of violation of University policy or local, state, or federal law, the Department of Safety and Security reserves the right to search vehicles parked on campus property.

### **Monitoring and Recording Criminal Activity of Students Off-Campus**

The University relies on local, non-University law enforcement agencies for response to off-campus crimes. However, the Department of Safety and Security and Student Conduct authorities collect off-campus arrest information on felony arrests, assaults, drug arrests and certain alcohol related arrests. The University reserves the right to address allegations of off-campus crimes through the Code of Student Conduct when appropriate.

The Department of Safety and Security monitor local law enforcement daily shift logs for incidents that might involve students or incidents that might warrant a campus safety alert. The Department of Safety and Security also requests crime statistics from local law enforcement agencies for disclosure in the annual security report for crimes that meet the Clery geography, including property owned or controlled by officially recognized student organizations.

### **Security Considerations in the Maintenance of Campus Facilities**

Campus Security Officers conduct routine building security checks, fire safety checks and lighting surveys during both shifts each day. Security breaches and lighting outages are promptly reported. In addition, Department of Safety and Security officers report unsafe facility and grounds conditions, such as handrails, steps and unsafe roadway conditions (ice/snow) as required. The University maintains an emergency call box system that enables persons to make direct telephone contact with the Department of Safety and Security if assistance is needed. The telephones are in every elevator and placed at strategic points throughout the main campus and are checked regularly to ensure they are operational. The Department of Safety and Security conducts a regular review of campus lighting. The Facilities Department maintains all locking/security hardware and pursues upgrades to locking systems when funding is available. The Department of Safety and Security maintains copies of keys required for building access and promptly reports any missing or inoperable key issues to Facilities. All after hour's maintenance issues with a life-safety implication are immediately reported to on-call Facilities for immediate action. A comprehensive campus life-safety walk is scheduled annually in the summer with the Department of Safety and Security, the Facilities Department and the Mars Hill Police and Fire Departments. Upon completion of the walk, a report is issued to the University executive staff for review and necessary action.



## **Timely Warning Reports - Safety Alerts and Safety Awareness Messages**

To provide timely notice to the campus community in the event of a Clery Act crime that may pose a serious or ongoing threat to members of the community, the Department of Safety and Security in coordination with the MHU Communications Director issues Safety Alerts. Crimes reported to the University Safety and Security Department by any method are also evaluated to determine if a Safety Alert should be sent out. The University may issue a Safety Alert for other crimes but will evaluate all arsons, aggravated assaults, criminal homicides, robberies, sexual assaults, burglaries, and hate crimes to determine whether a Safety Alert should be sent out. The Director will confer if possible with campus stakeholders to determine whether a Safety Alert should be sent out. Safety Alerts should be sent out in a timely manner, within a reasonable amount of time as soon as practicable after pertinent information has been gathered by the Department of Safety and Security.

The Safety Alert wording will be prepared by the Director of the Department of Safety and Security or his/her designee and vetted through the University Communications Director whenever possible and will be sent through “Regroup” the emergency notification system. This system notifies by text, email, and telephone call to the campus community.

If there is an emergency or immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees occurring on campus, the University will activate its emergency notification system.

The Director of Safety and Security may also issue MHU Safety and Security Awareness Messages as a proactive and preventative strategy to increase awareness about specific safety and security related issues. These will typically be sent via “MyMHU” but may also be disseminated via campus e-mail or posted on the University web page. The purpose of these messages is to provide increased awareness of safety and security related issues of concern to the community.

## **Daily Activities Log, Incident Reports, Crime Log and Campus Crime Statistics**

The Department of Safety and Security maintains a Daily Activities Log that records the day-to-day activities conducted by the security staff. The Department of Safety and Security also maintains a Crime Log that is available for public inspection and records by the date the incident was reported to the Department of Safety and Security, all crimes and other serious incidents that occur on campus or within the Department’s jurisdiction. Campus Security Authority (CSA) reports submitted to the Department of Safety and Security, meeting the Clery geography and crime definitions are also posted in the Crime Log. The Crime Log is available for public inspection by appointment at the Department of Safety and Security. Incidents are normally posted to the Crime Log within two business days of receiving a report (except for holidays, weekends and when the University is closed). The department may delay posting the information if it is considered detrimental to an ongoing investigation. Specific Information required by the Clery Act for inclusion in the Crime Log includes:

1. Date the crime was reported, regardless of how much time passed since the crime occurred.
2. Date and time crime occurred or a range if exact date and time is not known

3. Nature of the crime committed using an easy-to-understand description rather than a code or acronym
4. General location of the crime that will mean something to the campus community but will not identify the victim. (e.g., “North Campus hall in a resident’s room” NOT “North Campus Hall Room 419”)
5. Disposition or status of the complaint, if known (e.g., “pending” or “criminal arrest”) update the disposition, when a new status is known.

The MHU Department of Safety and Security produces and maintains Incident Reports for each complaint or incident that is referred to campus conduct authorities or law enforcement for further action or any other activities requiring more detail than an entry in the Daily Activities Log. The Daily Activities Log and Incident Reports contain sensitive information to include the identities of victims and suspects and are not available for public review. The MHU Department of Safety and Security collects and discloses crime statistics in its Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report, that are reported to campus security authorities as well as crime statistics that are provided by off-campus law enforcement agencies in accordance with Clery Act requirements.

For daily crime log information MHU students and faculty, staff and other interested parties are encouraged to contact the appropriate law enforcement agency at each instructional site location as listed above.

### **University Emergency Notifications and Preparedness**

Mars Hill University recognizes the importance of comprehensive all-hazard planning for campus emergencies. The MHU Emergency Operations Plan is founded on the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and the University operates during a crisis or emergency under the Incident Command System (ICS). All members of the Department of Safety and Security are required to complete the FEMA Incident Command System of Institutions of Higher Education course as part of their certification process. The MHU Emergency Operations Plans are currently updated in 2021, and the University has conducted tabletop exercises to validate the newly revised plans. An Incident Response Team consisting of key university employees meets as needed to prepare response plans, discuss emerging threats, and proactively address upcoming emergency or potentially emergency situations.

The Mars Hill University Director of Communications maintains a campus-wide emergency notification system using the company Regroup. This system is activated during an emergency or during other hazardous events such as a hazardous weather condition event. Notification is made via global e-mail, phone calls, and text messaging. Messages concerning emergency conditions can also be posted on the university web site.

Additionally, Mars Hill University has 20 strategically placed emergency call boxes across the campus. If you don't have a cell phone, you can reach campus security quickly, through the emergency telephone call boxes, installed across the campus.

Emergency Siren: A full three (3) minute blast is the warning for emergency weather alert. Stay where you are and get behind a locked door, toward the center of the building or lower locations

away from any windows. Remain there until you hear three (3) short, half-minute bursts. Regroup messaging will also be activated to communicate information to the university population. This siren cannot be heard all over the campus, so students are strongly encouraged to update the emergency contact information.

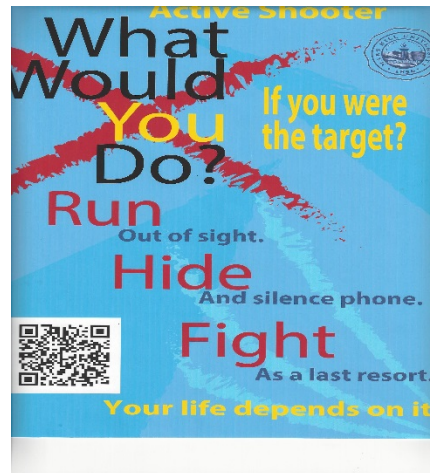
Building evacuation drills are conducted each year as part of the university's fire safety program and are both announced and unannounced. If an emergency condition requires the evacuation of a building, the fire alarm may be sounded. If an emergency condition requires a mass evacuation of multiple buildings, a Regroup alert message identifying specific buildings/areas to be evacuated and directing occupants to another location may be sent. Emergency guidelines detailing what to do in case of fire or other emergencies are posted in residence halls and in academic and administrative buildings. Evacuation plans for each building are reviewed and updated annually during July buildings inspections by the Department of Safety and Security.

### **Ongoing/Primary Crime Prevention Education and Awareness Programs/Campaigns**

MHU provides a variety of programs to promote awareness and provide information and services related to safety/security practices and crime prevention. The number and types of programs offered to educate the campus community vary from year to year.

Programs that inform students and employees about campus safety/security procedures and practices include orientations for first year/transfer students and their parents, new faculty/employees, and international students, which address reporting suspicious persons and crime to the Department of Safety and Security, alcohol and drug policies, prohibited items, and procedures for emergency notifications on campus. The Department of Safety and Security advocates a proactive approach to crime prevention as part of its Community Oriented Safety and Security philosophy. This approach is exemplified by the various education and awareness programs provided to students, faculty, and staff. Programs that range from teaching students and employees how to respond to an active shooter on campus to Bystander training are being developed and offered to the community.

The Department of Safety and Security collaborated with a graphic design class to develop a “Run, Hide, Fight” poster to bring awareness to active shooter survival strategies. The final version of the poster will be featured across campus as part of a security awareness campaign.



### University Drug and Alcohol Policies

Mars Hill University is committed to providing an appropriate environment for the intellectual, spiritual, and personal growth of its students. The institution affirms that illegal drugs, among any segment of the University population, conflict seriously with this institutional goal; therefore, the University strives to maintain a drug-free campus and workplace environment as mandated by the provisions of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988.

Alcohol and illegal drugs are **NOT** allowed on campus. The complete policies on these and all University policies are found in the Student and Faculty/Staff Handbooks.

The selling, transfer, possession, use or collection of alcoholic beverages or containers on the Mars Hill University Campus or at University sponsored events is prohibited. This includes off-campus parties sponsored by campus organizations. The student and/or sponsoring organization is subject to disciplinary action.

Persons who provide alcoholic beverages to anyone who is not of legal drinking age are in violation of North Carolina law and University policies and may be subject to both criminal prosecution and University disciplinary action. They may also be liable for personal injuries or property damages resulting from acts committed by intoxicated persons, whether underage or otherwise.

Drugs and/or narcotics are not permitted on campus. The illegal manufacture, sale, transfer, possession and/or use of narcotics, marijuana, or other hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, steroids, or similar drugs is a violation of University policy. The possession of drug paraphernalia of any kind is prohibited. The use and/or possession and/or provision of a place for the use of illegal/controlled drugs are governed by local, state, and federal laws and are strictly prohibited. All cases of evidence of use, possession, cultivation, distribution, or sale of drugs will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies as well as being subject to University disciplinary action.

After due process, a student found responsible of possessing, or using, or distributing such substances may be disciplined, suspended or expelled from the university. The selling, manufacturing, or transfer of illegal drugs as indicated above is considered a more serious

violation. After due process, a student found guilty of the selling, manufacturing, or transfer of illegal drugs shall be suspended for no less than one year and may be expelled. In the event that staff members (or any member of the University community) suspect that illegal drugs are being used or stored in the residence halls or apartments, Campus Security can be summoned. It is the responsibility of Campus Security to question the occupants of the room and determine through approved policy if illegal drugs are present. Criminal charges may be filed against all occupants of a room where illegal drugs are found.

### **Alcohol and Drug Education Resources**

The University annually distributes a statement of Policy and Procedure on the Illegal or Abusive Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs that complies with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act and related regulations (34 CFR Part 86).

Mars Hill University has a multi-faceted approach to substance abuse. The first level involves referral for personal counseling coupled with alcohol and substance abuse education offered on campus by the Counseling Center.

Drug and alcohol educational and counseling services are offered through the University Counseling Center, and Student Health Services. The University schedules alcohol and substance abuse programs that are attended on a voluntary basis. The programs are scheduled through the semester and are organized by the Counseling Center. Additional substance abuse education may be provided for the Campus population through health fairs sponsored by the University Student Health Services (Wellness Center).

### **Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Violence: Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence and Stalking**

In compliance with federal laws the University has adopted policies and procedures to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual violence which include but are not limited to incidents of sexual misconduct, sexual assault, including date or acquaintance rape, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking involving members of our campus community. These guidelines apply to all students, faculty, staff, contractors and visitors to our campus. Incidents of sexual violence are a serious concern to the University and a person responsible for such acts will be subject to the most serious sanctions or disciplinary actions, up to and including dismissal (employees) or expulsion (students).

**Reporting an Incident of Sexual Violence:** MHU has adopted a victim-informed response to issues related to sexual misconduct or sexual violence. MHU strives to inform victims of the various options they have to obtain assistance. If any MHU student or employee has been the victim of an incident of sexual violence they can immediately report it to the University Department of Safety and Security by calling 828-689-1230 or the Mars Hill Police Department by calling 828-689-2301. In case of an emergency or an ongoing threat victim should first move to a safe location and then call 911. Upon the request of victims, the Department of Safety and Security would assist victims in reporting the crime to the appropriate law enforcement agency if the incident happened at an off-campus location.

***Reporting the incident to law enforcement (Mars Hill Police Department, 689- 2301, or 911 from the residential facilities, does NOT mean the complainant must file charges and agree to prosecute the case. Timely reporting of the incident may assist in providing appropriate warning to other members of the MHU community and help prevent future attacks.***

**Preserving Evidence:** To preserve the widest range of options, including pursuing a successful criminal prosecution, victims of sexual violence need to understand the importance of preserving evidence:

1. Completing a forensic exam at a hospital does not require a victim to be named in a police report. An anonymous report naming the responsible jurisdictional law enforcement agency should accompany any sexual assault forensic examination kit to enable future analysis at the victim's request.
2. The victim of a sexual assault should not wash, douche, use the toilet, or change clothing prior to a medical exam, which is important both to address any health issues that may arise or have occurred as a result of the sexual assault and to preserve evidence should the victim wish to pursue criminal charges at a later date. Any clothing removed should be placed in a paper, not plastic bag.
3. Evidence of violence such as bruising or other visible injuries, following an incident of sexual violence should be documented by taking photographs. Evidence of stalking including any communication, such as written notes, voice mail, texts, Facebook posts or other electronic communications should be saved and not altered in any way.

**If you are a victim:** If you are the victim of sexual misconduct, and, in particular, sexual violence, you should:

- Get to a safe place as soon as possible.
- In the case of an emergency or an actual or an imminent act or threat of violence, call Campus Safety & Security, Mars Hill Police Department, or 911
- Talk with a counselor
- Try to preserve all physical evidence
- Get medical attention as soon as possible to address physical health needs and to collect important evidence in the event of a later decision to take legal action
- Understand that the act of sexual misconduct was not your fault
- Additional steps are listed in the Sexual Misconduct Policy section of the [Student Handbook](#)



There are trained professionals available at Mars Hill University who can confidentially provide information and support to victims:

Phillip Brantley  
828-689-1196

Counseling Center

Judith Harris  
828-689-1196

Counseling Center

Stephanie McLeskey  
828-689-1299

Chaplain

Vacant  
828-689-1664

Assistant Chaplain

Renee Sprinkle, RN  
828-689-1243

Director University Wellness Center

**Medical, Counseling and Other Services:** Medical treatment, counseling, and advocacy services for victims of interpersonal violence are available both on-campus and off-campus. The University has many advocacy offices that are available to assist any student or employee free of charge and will help them consider their options and navigate through any resources they elect to pursue. A victim need not make a formal report to law enforcement or the University to access these resources that include but are not limited to the following:

- **Campus Security:** 828-689-1230
- **Campus Medical:** 828-689-1243
- **Campus Counselor:** 828-689-1196
- **Mars Hill Police:** 828-689-2301
- **Madison Co. Sheriff:** 828- 649-2721
- **My Sister's Place**
- **24 Hour Crisis Line:** 828-649-2446

**Assistance Options:** Whether a student or employee reports to law enforcement and/or pursues any formal action, if they report an incident of misconduct or sexual violence, the University is committed to providing them a safe learning or working environment. Upon request, the University will make every reasonable effort available to ensure that a victim's academic, living, transportation, and/or working situation are viewed by the victim as safe and supportive. If a victim reports to the University, the University will assist the victim in obtaining a domestic violence and/or civil no-contact order from a criminal court if the victim requests assistance. The University is committed to ensuring that any such order is fully upheld on all institutional owned and controlled property. The University is also committed to protecting victims from any further harm and may issue University no-contact orders for students or employees and may ban students or employees from certain University property and may ban non-university persons from campus.



**Victim Confidentiality:** The University recognizes the sensitive nature of sexual violence incidents and is committed to protecting the privacy of any individual who makes a report. Different university officials and personnel are, however, only able to offer varying levels of privacy protection to victims of sexual violence. Reports made to law enforcement, including if criminal prosecution is pursued, may be made public under Chapter 132 of the NC General Statutes, Public Records law as follows, a public law enforcement agency shall temporarily withhold the name or address of a complaining witness (victim) if release of the information is reasonably likely to pose a threat to the mental health, physical health, or personal safety of the complaining witness (victim) or materially compromise a continuing or future criminal investigation or criminal intelligence operation. Information temporarily withheld under this subsection shall be made available for release to the public in accordance with G.S. 132-6 as soon as the circumstances that justify withholding it cease to exist.

Reports made to non-law enforcement officials will be kept confidential and identifying information about the victim shall not be made public, to the extent permitted by law. Information about victims who report incidents of interpersonal violence and any assistance provided a victim will only be shared with university personnel as needed to respond effectively to the incident. Every effort will be made to limit the scope of information shared, keeping it to a minimum of detail, and only shared when necessary. Reports made to medical professionals, licensed mental health professionals, pastoral counselors, and crisis counselors will not be shared with any third parties except in cases of imminent danger to the victim or a third party.

Mars Hill University is dedicated to maintaining an environment wherein academic freedom flourishes and in which the rights of each member of the university community are respected. Mars Hill University recognizes and upholds the inherent dignity and value of every person, and everyone's inalienable right to personal sovereignty. Acts of sexual violation can jeopardize the health and welfare of members of the university community. To address such threats to the quality of campus life, Mars Hill University adopts this policy.

The University will take seriously every report of sexual misconduct it receives, and if desired by the complainant, will conduct a careful and fair investigation and hearing. The University will work to ensure that complainants are given appropriate support and accused students treated fairly. All forms of sexual misconduct included in this policy are also violations of North Carolina state law. The university always encourages any student that reports an incident of sexual misconduct to also report the incident to university security and law enforcement and pursue prosecution and seek a timely medical exam to address any health issues and collect forensic evidence.

In keeping with the Christian tradition of Mars Hill University, the existence of this policy does not condone or encourage sexual activity of any kind among its students.

**Sexual Misconduct Defined:** Sexual misconduct is defined as any act of a sexual nature perpetrated against an individual without consent or when an individual is unable to freely give consent. Acts of a sexual nature include the following:

**Non-consensual Sexual Intercourse:** Non-consensual sexual intercourse is any intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object by a person upon another person that is

without consent, including but not limited to vaginal or anal penetration by a penis, tongue, finger, or object, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact.

**Non-consensual Sexual Contact:** Non-consensual sexual contact is any intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object by a person upon another person that is without consent, including but not limited to any bodily contact with breasts, groin, genitals, mouth, or other bodily orifice of another individual, or any other bodily contact in a sexual manner.

**Sexual Exploitation:** When a person takes non-consensual; unjust or abusive sexual advantage of another, for his/her own advantage or benefit; or to benefit or advantage anyone other than the one being exploited; and that behavior does not otherwise constitute rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, or sexual harassment. Examples include but are not limited to: Inducing incapacitation with the intent to rape or sexually assault another student; non-consensual video- or audio-recording of sexual activity; allowing others to observe a personal act of consensual sex without knowledge or consent of the partner; voyeurism; knowingly transmitting an STD or HIV to another student; prostituting another student (i.e.-personally gaining money, privilege, or power from the sexual activities of another student).

**Consent Defined:** The University's definition of sexual misconduct mandates that each participant obtains and gives consent in each instance of sexual activity. Consent is an affirmative decision to engage in mutually acceptable sexual activity given by clear actions or words. It is an informed decision made actively and free of force by all parties. For consent to be effectively and validly given, these conditions must be met:

The person must be willing. The person must agree to the sexual activity of his/her own free will, meaning that force cannot be present. There are two main types of force. Physical: Includes but not limited to use of a weapon; punching, kicking, holding, strangling, or restraining, kidnapping; use of a drug or substance (including alcohol) to incapacitate the victim. Emotional: Includes but not limited to use of threats (including threats of use of a weapon or violence); intimidation, coercion, compulsion, duress, or guilt.

**Consent:** Consent is knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action to engage in mutually agreed upon activity, such as sexual contact or intercourse. Each party must make certain that the other has consented before engaging in sexual activity, since individuals may experience the same interaction in different ways. Either party can withdraw consent at any time by expressing in words or actions that he or she no longer wants the act to continue. If either party withdraws consent, the other person must stop the activity immediately.

- An individual cannot be coerced, pressured, threatened, or emotionally intimidated into giving consent.
- An individual cannot be forced into giving consent. This includes instances in which an individual has been given intoxicating or incapacitating agents against his or her will.
- An individual cannot give consent when he or she is incapacitated (see incapacitation).
- An individual who is not at least 16 years of age cannot give consent to engage in sexual contact or intercourse.

- Silence or the absence of resistance alone cannot be construed as consent to any activity.
- Consent to a particular activity (e.g., kissing) cannot be presumed to be consent for other activity (e.g., intercourse).
- A current or previous dating relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent.

If the above conditions cannot be met, then a person cannot effectively or validly give consent for sexual activity. A student who engages in sexual activity with another who has not or is unable to give consent will be considered to have violated the Sexual Misconduct Policy. It should be noted that “intent to rape” is not required under this policy. The requisite intent for rape or sexual assault is demonstrated by engaging in the act of intercourse intentionally.

Relying solely upon non-verbal communication can lead to miscommunication. It is important not to make assumptions; if confusion or ambiguity on the issue of consent arises anytime during the sexual interaction, it is essential that each participant stops and clarifies, verbally, willingness to continue. Agreeing to a particular kind of sexual activity does not imply agreement to any other kind of sexual activity. Students should understand that consent may not be inferred from silence, passivity, or lack of active resistance alone. Furthermore, a current or previous dating or sexual relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent. Consent cannot be implied by attire or inferred from the buying of dinner or the spending of money on a date. As well, a person who agrees to get in a car with someone or go back to someone’s room does not mean that they are consenting to sexual activity.

Consent to sexual activity may be withdrawn at any time, if the withdrawal is communicated clearly; upon clear communication, all sexual activity must cease. If it continues, sexual misconduct has occurred.

**The Use of Alcohol or Other Drugs:** The use of alcohol or other drugs can have unintended consequences. Alcohol or other drugs can lower inhibitions and create an atmosphere of confusion over whether consent is freely and effectively given. The perspective of a reasonable person will be the basis for determining whether one should have known about the impact of the use of alcohol or drugs on another’s ability to give consent. *Being intoxicated or under the influence of drugs does not diminish one’s responsibility to obtain consent and is never an excuse for perpetrating sexual misconduct.*

**Conduct Proceedings:** The University strictly prohibits all acts of sexual violence, including sexual misconduct, regardless of where the alleged incident occurred. In addition to facing possible criminal investigation and prosecution, students, staff and faculty may also face disciplinary action by the University for violating the Student Code of Conduct or university policies. Individuals found responsible for having committed such a violation could face expulsion, termination of employment, suspension, and/or probation.

All conduct proceedings, whether the reported conduct occurred on or off campus, shall provide a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation, and resolution. All interpersonal violence investigations and proceedings shall be conducted by officials who have received annual training on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, on how to investigate, and on how to conduct a proceeding in a manner that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability.

Any official the University determines to possibly have a conflict of interest or bias for or against the accuser or the accused will be disqualified from participating in the conduct proceeding.

The University strives to conclude investigations and achieve resolutions of complaints in a timely manner. All parties involved will be kept informed of the projected timeline for completion. Resolutions of the complaint are usually made within 60 days of the receipt of the complaint, unless there are mitigating circumstances in which case the accuser and accused shall be notified in writing with an explanation, and the amount of additional time required.

**Standard of Proof:** All cases that are handled administratively through a student conduct or employee disciplinary process will be adjudicated by the university official having jurisdiction over the accused and the University will use the preponderance of the evidence standard in determining the outcome of the allegation(s). Preponderance of evidence means it is more likely than not that the alleged misconduct occurred.

In all proceedings, including any related meetings or hearings, both the accused and accuser are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present. This includes the right to be accompanied by an advisor of their choice. Both the accused and accuser shall simultaneously be informed in writing of the outcome of the proceeding, the procedures and timeframe within which an appeal of the results may be submitted, any change to the outcome that occurs because of an appeal or any other change that happens prior to the time the outcome becomes final, and when such outcome becomes final. Disclosure of the outcome shall be made to both parties consistent with applicable policies and law.

**Reporting Sexual Misconduct for University Action:** The Title IX Coordinator receives complaints of possible violation of this policy. A student may report an incident of sexual misconduct anonymously (student does not identify themselves), confidentially (student identifies themselves but their identity is not shared with anyone else), or as a third party (student was not a victim in the incident but has knowledge that the incident occurred). All such complaints will be filed and reported statistically as required by federal law (Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act). The university may be able to take other actions as well to intercede.

Mars Hill University recognizes incidents of sexual misconduct as not only violations of university policy but also illegal and criminal acts. As such, the university will support and encourage university action. However, the university will not automatically file charges with local law enforcement if it is made aware of an incident of sexual violation unless specifically requested by the reporting student. The incident itself must be reported statistically and anonymously in the university's annual security report, pursuant to federal Clery Act regulations. As well, the incident must be reported statistically to local law enforcement, but the decision to identify the complainant or have the case investigated remains with the complainant. ***Reporting the incident to law enforcement (Mars Hill Police Department, 828-689-2301, or 911 from the residential facilities) does NOT mean the complainant has to file charges and agree to prosecute the case.***

**Limited Immunity:** The University considers the reporting and adjudication of sexual misconduct cases on campus to be of paramount importance. The university does not condone underage drinking or any violations of law and the university's alcohol policy. However, the university will extend limited immunity from sanctioning in the case (on campus) of illegal alcohol use to victims and to those reporting incidents and/or assisting the victims of sexual misconduct. Limited immunity means that, depending on the nature of the victim's or the reporting student's violation, it will still be dealt with by the university, through education or counseling, if possible. The decision rests with the Vice President for Student Life.

**Title IX Grievance Procedures:** The Title IX Grievance Procedures outline the procedures that should be followed when reporting a violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy, a gender-based violation of the Safe Academic & Work Environment Policies, and any other gender-based discrimination, as well as the procedures the university will utilize to investigate all such reports.

**Where to Report Grievances:** The University encourages victims of gender discrimination, sexual misconduct and specifically, sexual violence, to talk to someone about what happened to them. The university also encourages victims to report incidents of gender discrimination, sexual misconduct, and specifically, sexual violence, so that it can respond appropriately. A victimized student may not know who to trust or turn to for help and may also not realize that there are different individuals on campus that have different abilities to maintain confidentiality for the victim.

**When to Report Grievances:** Grievances should be reported as soon as reasonably possible and within 60 calendar days of the incident resulting in the grievance.

**How to Report Grievances:** Grievances may be reported in person, over the phone or in writing. The initial report, if in writing, should include the following basic information:

- Name and contact information of grievant(s)
- Nature of the alleged violation
- Name of the respondent, or other persons involved and responsible for the alleged violation, if known
- Indication of whether the grievant consents to the disclosure of their identity to the respondent
- Relief or corrective action requested by the grievant(s)
- Any other information the grievant believes to be relevant including to the investigation of the grievance, including the names of other groups or persons affected by the alleged violation

For more information on Title IX procedures, see the Title IX Grievance Procedures section of the [student handbook](#). If you have questions regarding your confidentiality options, the university has designated the following individuals to evaluate requests for confidentiality once a responsible employee is on notice of alleged sexual misconduct:

Joanie Grimm  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
Nash Building  
Mars Hill University  
Mars Hill, NC 28754  
828-689-1712  
[mary\\_grimm@mhu.edu](mailto:mary_grimm@mhu.edu)

Jennie Matthews  
Title IX Coordinator  
Nash Building  
Mars Hill University  
Mars Hill, NC 28754  
828-689-1197  
[jmatthews@mhu.edu](mailto:jmatthews@mhu.edu)

**Additional Non-Confidential Reporting:**

Dr. Dave Rozeboom  
VP for Student Life  
Wren 307  
828-689-1212  
[dave\\_rozeboom@mhu.edu](mailto:dave_rozeboom@mhu.edu)

Kevin West  
Director MHU Campus Security  
828-689-1230  
[kwest@mhu.edu](mailto:kwest@mhu.edu)

\*See [2022-2023 Mars Hill University Student Handbook](#) for additional information.

**Victim’s Rights and Options:** Any student or employee who reports to the University as a victim of an incident of interpersonal or sexual violence, whether the incident occurred on or off campus, shall receive an explanation of their options and rights as provided in this policy.

**Education Programs:** The University is committed to increasing the awareness of and preventing all types of sexual violence. All incoming students and new employees are provided with programming and strategies intended to prevent sexual misconduct and sexual violence before an incident occurs through the changing of social norms and other approaches. Ongoing prevention and awareness programs and campaigns are also offered throughout the year.

**Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry**

North Carolina law requires sex offenders to register with the Sheriff of the county in which they live. The law also requires non-resident students or non-resident workers to register with the Sheriff of the county in which they work or attend school. The NC Registry of Sex Offenders may



be viewed at the Madison County Sheriff's office or you may access it directly on-line at <http://sexoffender.ncsbi.gov/>.

## **Missing Student Notification Policy and Procedures**

The Higher Education Act Reauthorization bill was signed into law by the president on August 14, 2008. This act requires institutions that both participate in any federal higher education programs and maintain on-campus housing to establish a missing student notification policy for students who reside in on-campus housing and have been determined after an investigation by campus security officials to be missing for 24 hours. The MHU policy, with its accompanying procedures, establishes a framework for cooperation among members of the University community focused on locating and assisting students who are reported missing. Mars Hill University defines a student as missing when he or she is absent from the University for more than 24 hours without any known reason. Every member of the University community is responsible for reporting a missing student to the Department of Safety and Security by calling 828-689-1230. All reports of missing students shall be directed to Campus Security when a member of the community suspects a student is missing, and that office shall investigate each report and decide whether the student is missing in accordance with this policy. All students shall have the opportunity to identify an individual to be contacted by the University in case a student is determined to be missing. *We will utilize the confidential emergency contact number listed on the "Regroup" system if no other number is provided.* If a missing student is under 18 years of age, the University is required to notify the parent or guardian of the missing student no later than 24 hours after the student is determined missing by the Campus Security Investigation. The Vice President for Student Life and the Director of Safety and Security have the responsibility to make the provisions of this policy and the procedures set forth below available to students.

### **Notification Procedures:**

- Any report of a missing student, from whatever source, should be immediately directed to Campus Security at 828 689-1230.
- When a student is reported missing Campus Security shall:
  1. Initiate an investigation to determine the validity of the missing person report.
  2. Contact the Vice President for Student Life.
  3. Decide as to the status of the missing student.
  4. Notify the individual identified by the missing student as the emergency contact within 24 hours of making the determination that the student is missing (using the "Regroup" system).
  5. For students missing under the age of 18 the student's custodial parent or guardian as contained in the records of the University on power campus will be notified within 24 hours of the determination that the student is missing.
  6. Notify Mars Hill Police Department as soon as practicable within 24 hours after determining the student is missing.
- The Vice President for Student Life shall initiate whatever action is deemed appropriate under the circumstances in the best interest of the missing student to include activating the University crisis team for assistance.



## Annual Campus Fire Safety Compliance Report

**Overview:** The Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315) became law in August, 2008, requiring all United States academic institutions to produce an annual fire safety report outlining fire safety practices, standards, and all fire-related on-campus statistics. The following public disclosure report details information required by this law as it relates to Mars Hill University

**On-campus Student Housing Fire Detection/Suppression Equipment:** All residence halls are equipped with automatic fire alarms and many have sprinkler systems which are remotely monitored by the Department of Safety and Security and the Mars Hill Fire Department. Annual inspections of residence hall fire alarm and sprinkler systems are contracted through an outside vendor. Fire extinguishers are provided in all residence halls and are serviced annually by an outside vendor. Monthly checks of fire extinguishers are conducted by MHU Department of Safety and Security.

### Fire Safety Education

1. Residence Hall Staff are provided with a fire safety awareness program along with hands-on fire extinguisher training as part of their annual orientation. Hands-on fire extinguisher training for residence hall occupants may be requested by Residence Hall Staff as part of their programming activities.
2. In accordance with North Carolina Fire Code, Mars Hill University conducts evacuation drills annually in residential facilities. The first drill should occur within 10 days of the commencement of fall classes. Of the required drills, one must occur between the hours of sunset and sunrise. Additional drills for specialty groups such as summer camps are conducted upon request. Drills are utilized to familiarize occupants with the sound of the alarm system, practice evacuation procedures, and evaluate alarm systems for proper operation.
3. Residence Hall Staff members will be given advanced notice of drill dates and times, unless the drill is an unannounced or “surprise drill” designed to test response of the MHU staff. Staff members are expected to participate in drills by assisting with evacuation, directing occupants to evacuation assembly areas, and evaluating alarm systems for proper operation. Residence Hall Staff should immediately report any malfunctions or problems observed with the fire alarm to Environmental Health & Safety Staff or Housing Personnel. Problems experienced during drills such as residents who do not follow evacuation procedures (fail to leave the building, fail to leave promptly, ride elevators during the alarm), prohibited items, etc. should be reviewed with occupants and/or referred to Student Conduct or Campus Security by Residence Hall Staff members.
4. Coordinators, Residence Directors and Resident Assistants have the primary responsibility of communicating and executing the fire safety policies and procedures within their building(s), which include:
  - a. Communicating the importance and purpose of fire safety, fire drills and evacuation procedures to residents during house/floor meetings. Coordinators, Residence Directors and Resident Assistants should conduct floor meetings which incorporate discussions on fire safety and emergency evacuation procedures. Residents should

- be provided with emergency evacuation procedures, fire safety information and fire safety policies.
- b. Attendance and participation in fire drills.
  - c. Maintaining current fire drill/emergency evacuation procedures for their residence hall.
  - d. Conduct periodic health and safety inspections and document/correct any violations/hazards which are observed.
  - e. Ensure that fire safety policies are being followed by occupants and staff members.
5. In the event of a fire alarm, occupants must immediately evacuate the building and proceed to their predetermined evacuation assembly area. There, they will await instructions from hall staff or emergency personnel. Also see Fire Alarm Procedures as outlined below.

**Building Maintenance:** Any unsafe hazard or condition should be reported to Facilities and Maintenance for correction. Corrections are made by Facilities and Maintenance Personnel, or if necessary, by outside vendors.

### **Health & Safety Inspections**

1. Residence hall rooms and common areas are inspected each semester for health and safety by Residence Hall Staff members. Written reports are filed with the University Housing Office. Prior notice of these inspections will be made through notices on hall bulletin boards or at the main building entrance.
2. If violations are observed there shall be a mandatory cleanup/correction (by the student) and re-inspection (by a staff member) within 3 days. If the violation(s) have not been corrected within the cleanup/correction period, the student will be subject to conduct action.
3. An annual fire safety inspection is conducted by a representative from the Mars Hill Fire Department. Additional inspections may also be conducted by the Department of Safety and Security.

**Fire Prevention & Safety Policies:** The following fire prevention & safety policies are in effect:

1. All fires no matter how small should be reported to the Department of Safety and Security and the Mars Hill Fire Department immediately, even if the fire has been extinguished.
2. Candles (other than battery powered), incense burners, potpourri burners, oil lamps, tiki torches, Bunsen burners, fireworks, hazardous chemicals, heaters, etc. are prohibited in residence halls.
3. The use and storage of gasoline, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid, art supplies such as paint thinner, oil-based paint or any similar flammable liquid is prohibited in residence halls.
4. No objects may be attached to or suspended from the ceiling and no objects may be hung around the top two feet of the walls. Storage should not be within two feet of the ceiling. Decorations may not exceed/cover more than 50% of any wall surface in a resident's room. Decorations/postings in hallways/common areas may not exceed 10% of any individual wall. Residents may not decorate or cover more than 10% (2 square feet) of any individual room door.

5. The following decorative materials are not permitted: foam plastics, cotton batting, dry/cut vegetation, moss, straw, hay, vines, leaves, twigs, or other similar material. Decorative light sets should not be anchored/taped or allowed to touch metal items such as window or door frames. Cords may not be placed through doorways, under doors, under carpeting or across hallways. Decorative light sets or other electrical items should be unplugged whenever the area is unattended.
6. Posting - notices or flyers should be placed only on designated bulletin boards. Notices or flyers should not be placed on hallway walls, stairwell doors, in stairwells, around elevator call buttons or inside elevators.
7. Holiday Decorations - Holiday decorations must comply with guidelines issued by MHU.
8. Halogen lamps, lava lamps, and multi-bulb (spider) floor lamps with plastic shades are prohibited in the residence halls.
9. Extension cords are not allowed. Care should be taken in the use of all electrical cords and sockets throughout the building. Do not overload circuits. UL approved heavy duty power strips equipped with circuit breakers are permitted. Power strips may have a maximum of 6 outlets and must have a minimum 15-amp rating. Power strips should not be overloaded. Appliances that exceed 700 watts or 10 amps are not permitted.
10. Cooking - Personal microwaves are not allowed in community kitchens or spaces. Only one microwave not exceeding 700 watts, or 10 amps is permitted per room. Open coil appliances including, but not limited to hot plates, toasters, toaster ovens, deep fat fryers, George Foreman grills, electric grills and coffee pots are not allowed. Never leave cooking food unattended. Use caution when cooking to avoid unnecessary smoke or burnt food which may result in fire alarm activation. Over 50% of fire alarms that occur in residence halls are cooking related. Practice courtesy to others in your building and stay with your food for the entire cooking period.
11. Grilling/BBQ - Grills must be located at least 10 feet away from residence halls and other combustible materials. This applies to combustible materials which may be located vertically and horizontally from the grill. Propane, charcoal, and lighter fluid may not be stored inside University residence halls. Hot coals should be disposed of in a safe location and not allowed to come in contact with anything which will burn. Grills must be completely cool before being stored.

Smoking –All residence halls are smoke free-living environments. Smoking is prohibited in all residence halls. Smoking on campus is only permitted in designated areas and not closer than 50 feet of any campus building.

Propping/Wedging Fire Doors - Fire doors are to be kept closed (except for where electromagnets are provided). These doors are installed to prevent the spread of deadly smoke and fire but cannot perform their job if they are propped/wedged open. Fire doors may be located throughout the residence halls, in stairwells, kitchen and laundry areas, corridors and lobbies.

Fire Alarm Equipment - Fire alarm equipment such as smoke/heat detectors, sprinklers, pull stations, fire extinguishers, etc. should not be tampered with or obstructed. Do not cover, hang or place any objects on smoke detectors, heat detectors or sprinkler heads, etc. If you discover a problem with any portion of the fire alarm system, immediately report it to University Housing Staff and Facilities Staff

Bicycles are not to be stored or placed in stairwells, hallways, fire exits, or chained/locked to outside stair railings, lamp posts or shrubbery. Bicycles should be properly secured to bicycle racks provided outside of residence halls. Motorcycles, motorbikes, mopeds, and scooters are not allowed inside residence halls.

### **Holiday Decorating Policy for On-Campus Housing**

1. Decorations/Displays will only be permitted in lounge areas.
2. No items may be hung, taped, or displayed in hallways or corridors (other than items on bulletin boards and 10% of individual room doors).
3. No items may be hung, taped, displayed, or placed in stairwells or exits.
4. All exit doors must always remain clear and accessible. Exit doors may not be decorated or disguised.
5. All fire alarm equipment (pull stations, fire extinguishers, smoke/heat detector heads, etc.) must always remain clear/visible and accessible.
6. All exit signs must remain visible and always illuminated.
7. Please note that the following decorative materials will not be permitted: foam plastics, cotton batting, dry/cut vegetation, moss, straw, hay, vines, leaves, twigs, or other similar materials.
8. Non-combustible, non-flammable or flame-retardant materials should be utilized, if possible. No items may be hung from ceilings or placed within 24 inches of the ceilings.
9. The quantity of decorations placed in the lounge area must not exceed 10% of any individual wall or area. Paper, plastic, cloth, or other combustible materials in excess of the 10% allowance, may not be used to cover/drape any area.
10. Use only U.L. approved lights and wiring and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
11. Ensure that light sets have no noticeable damage such as burned-out bulbs, frayed or kinked cords, or bent or broken plug ends. Test lights to ensure that they work prior to use.
12. Decorative light sets should not be anchored/taped or allowed to touch metal items such as window or door frames. Cords may not be placed through doorways, under doors or across hallways. Decorative light sets or other electrical items should be unplugged whenever the area is unattended.
13. Any residence hall wishing to decorate for university sponsored Trick or Treat activities must have their decorations completed no later than 24 hours prior to the established Trick or Treat date.
14. Haunted houses and mazes are not permitted in university buildings. The use of smoke/fog machines is not allowed in residential facilities.
15. Jack-O-Lanterns (artificial or natural) may be illuminated only using battery powered or electrical lighting sources. Candles (other than battery powered) are prohibited in all residence halls.
16. Natural trees and other natural, combustible decorations such as wreaths and garland are not allowed in residence halls. Residence halls wishing to decorate should utilize artificial trees, wreaths, and garland.
17. All artificial trees, wreaths and garland must be labeled or certified by the manufacturer as being "flame retardant or flame resistive".
18. Decorations may not be placed in emergency egress areas such as stairwells, hallways or exit passageways.

19. Properly dispose of gift wrapping and packing materials soon after opening gifts.
20. Remove all trees and combustible decorations prior to leaving for winter break.

**Fire Hazard Notice:** If any decorative item(s) are determined to be unsafe or present an undue fire/safety hazard to the building the item(s) shall be removed immediately.

**Fire Alarm Procedures:** If you discover any type of fire/smoke or hear an audible alarm (bell, horn, etc.) in your area, evacuate the building immediately and treat the situation as an emergency. Occupants are required to evacuate the building during alarm situations, this includes fire drills. If the alarm system has not been activated, do so immediately. Contact Mars Hill Fire Department (911) and evacuate the building. If time permits, warn others as you leave. If it would place you in danger to remain in the area long enough to activate the alarm, contact emergency response personnel or warn others, **EVACUATE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY**. Move to a safe location such as an emergency telephone or another building that is unaffected by the emergency. Continue with the following procedures:

1. Contact Mars Hill Fire Department (911). Describe the nature, extent and location of the emergency situation (e.g., fire/smoke present or alarm sounding). Await the arrival of Fire Department personnel and Department of Safety and Security at the pre-designated evacuation assembly area.
2. Inform arriving emergency personnel of any areas where occupants may still be located inside the building (e.g., mobility impaired, trapped, injured or unaccounted for individuals).
3. If requested, provide Department of Safety and Security and Mars Hill Fire Department personnel with keys.
4. Remain outside the building while emergency personnel inspect the premises, extinguish fires, remove trapped individuals, and restore the alarm system.
5. Do not re-enter or allow others to re-enter the building until Fire Department Officials, Campus Security, or other designated safety personnel communicate that it is safe to return.
6. If the fire alarm system cannot be reset, Campus Security will contact personnel to correct the problem. If the fire alarm system cannot be immediately restored, a determination by emergency personnel will be made regarding the appropriate measures to re-occupy the building (fire watch, etc.).
7. When it has been determined that it is safe for occupants to return to the building, assist emergency personnel in providing orderly re-entry into the building.
8. The Coordinator/Residence Director should return the completed Residence Hall Fire and Safety Report to the Residence Life Assistant Director's Office no later than noon the next business day following the date of the incident.
  - a. Note #1: During inclement weather, occupants should be directed towards the nearest residence hall lobby(s). Residence hall staff should assist with access to the building.
  - b. Note #2: Fire alarm cabinets are to remain locked and must always remain clear of furniture or other obstructions.

## **Fire Watch Procedures**

1. If a fire alarm or sprinkler system is disabled or out of service a fire watch must be conducted to ensure the safety of the building and its occupants. Staff members will be asked to make hourly rounds throughout the building to monitor for hazardous conditions.
2. If smoke, fire or other emergency situation is observed by staff during the fire watch period, Mars Hill Fire Department should be contacted immediately by calling 911 and room by room evacuation/notification given, if possible. Fire alarm procedures should be followed.

## **Fire Incident Statistics**

1. Per federal law, Mars Hill 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 are fires for which you are unsure whether the Mars Hill University Department of Safety and Security may already be aware. If you find evidence of such a fire or if you hear about such a fire, please contact the Mars Hill University Department of Safety and Security at 828-689-1230  
When calling, please provide as much information as possible about the location, date, time and cause of the fire.

## CRIME STATISTICS

MHU CRIMINAL OFFENSES									
Offense Type	On Campus			On-Campus Student Housing Facilities			Public Property		
Year	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Murder/Non-negligent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0				0		0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	2	0
Burglary	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



MHU Hate Crimes – On Campus							
Criminal Offenses	2023 Total	Category of Bias for Crimes reported in 2023					
		Race	Religion	Sexual Orientation	Gender	Disability	Ethnicity/ National Origin
Murder/ Non-negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intimidation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Destruction/ damage/vandalism of property	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gender Identity	Ethnicity						
0	0						
0	0						
0	0						
0	0						
0	0						
0	0						
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0	0						
0	0						

MHU VAMA Offenses									
Crime Type	On Campus			On-Campus Student Housing Facilities			Non-Campus		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Domestic Violence	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

MHU Arrests									
Crime Type	On Campus			On-Campus Student Housing Facilities			Non-Campus		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Weapons: Carrying. Possessing, etc.	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0
Drug Abuse violations	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	1
Liquor Law violations	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Public Property</i>									
	2021	2022	2023						
	0	0	0						
	0	0	0						
	0	0	0						

MHU Disciplinary Actions									
Crime Type	On Campus			On-Campus Student Housing Facilities			Non Campus		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Weapons: Carrying. Possessing, etc.	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Drug Abuse violations	6	4	13	6	4	13	0	0	0
Liquor Law violations	13	14	11	12	14	11	1	0	0

<i>Public Property</i>
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<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>
0	0	0
0	0	0
1	0	0

MHU Unfounded Crimes			
	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>
Total unfounded crimes	0	8	2

### Fire Safety Statistics

MHU Fires- Summary									
Name of Facility	2021			2022			2023		
	Injuries	Fires	Injuries	Fires	Injuries	Fires	Fires	Injuries	Fires
Bailey Mountain/Lunsford Residential Apartments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dickson Palmer Unit A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dickson Palmer Unit C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edna Moore Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fox Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gibson Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huffman Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jarvis Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Myers Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stroup Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turner Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Azalea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dickson Palmer Unit B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laurel Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dogwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Completed September 2024