



Governors State

UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



2024

**ANNUAL SECURITY &
FIRE SAFETY REPORT**

Crime Statistics Security Report, Fire Safety
and On-Campus Student Housing Report



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DEAR CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Many prospective students and their families, as well as prospective employees, have indicated their concern and interest in measures taken by colleges and universities regarding campus safety.

Safety at Governors State University is everybody's business. Governors State University students, faculty and staff are partners with the University in creating an atmosphere that is safe and conducive to learning. Together we form a powerful team.

The key to preventing crime is awareness through education. While it is not likely that you will become a victim of crime on campus, Governors State University has taken many steps to reduce the risks. The information in this handy guide, combined with practical precautions, can promote your safety and the safety of all members of the Governors State University family.

Please read this guide carefully and use the information to help maintain a safe environment. Only with your help can we succeed in keeping Governors State University a great place to live, work and study.

This edition of Governors State University Safety and Security Report is in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act of 1998. We hope the information in this brochure will help to increase your personal awareness of safety and security on campus.

Sincerely,

James R. McGee

Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police

GOVSTATE CAMPUS CRIME STATISTICS

The Governors State University Police Department gathers statistical data for this publication. Information about crime is gathered from University Police crime statistics, University employees, campus judicial records, Governors State University Police, and University Park Police. Information about criminal activity engaged in by students at off-campus locations of student organizations officially recognized by the University is collected annually from the Governors State University Police Department.

Individuals who wish to report crimes for inclusion in the campus security document may contact the Governors State University Police Department at 708-534-4900. In seeking to maintain a safe, secure and educational setting, the Governors State University Police Department encourages the reporting of crimes and other emergencies. Individuals who report crimes are not compelled to seek criminal prosecution of suspects.

Information about crime on campus can be found in this brochure. Crime data is presented in separate tables because federal and state laws governing the reporting and presentation of statistics differ. This

publication can be obtained by contacting the Governors State University Police at 708-534-4900.

ELECTRONIC VERSION OF CAMPUS RIGHT TO KNOW REPORT

In addition, an electronic version of the report is published at:

http://www.govst.edu/Campus_Life/Campus_Safety/Campus_Right_to_Know/

AUTHORITY – GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Governors State University Police Department is here to help all members of the Governors State University community. The Governors State University Police Department, located in the Main Building C1375, serves as the administrative office responsible for law enforcement on the Governors State campus. University police officers are on duty 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The Governors State University Police Department has full arrest powers and its officers are responsible for enforcing all state and federal laws on campus. University Police receive their arrest powers through the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

The Governors State University Police Department consists of a full-time chief and full-time commissioned officers, community service officers and dispatchers. All police officers have completed the required training by the Illinois Training and Standards Board. All officers are required to maintain certifications in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), including the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) and first aid, mental health awareness, firearms and annual update training through the Illinois Training and Standard Board. The officers also attend additional specialized training, such as active-shooter training and cultural diversity training, as it becomes available. The department patrols consist of marked units, bicycle, ATV, and foot patrols for the Governors State University campus.

The Governors State University Police Department maintains a 24-hour dispatch center to answer all calls for service and immediate assistance. Upon receiving a request for assistance, an officer, along with appropriate personnel, will be immediately dispatched to the location. In cases involving criminal activity, University police officers will respond and conduct an investigation. Information regarding all arrests made by University Police for criminal violations on campus is forwarded to the Office of Community Standards and Student Advocacy. The Governors State University Police Department maintains a liaison with the University Park Police Department for any crimes committed by a student off campus; these violations also are reported to the Office of Community Standards and Student Advocacy on campus. The Governors State University Police Department also maintains an excellent relationship with all local police agencies, Illinois State Police and all federal agencies. If the need for additional police officers arises, these agencies may be called for assistance.

When necessary, physical evidence is processed by the Illinois State Police Crime Laboratory or the FBI Laboratory Division. University Police regularly use the National Crime Information Center to assist in the investigation of criminal offenses, giving them access to more than 20 million files.

Campus Security Authorities

Campus Security Authorities (CSAs) are mandatory crime reporters specified under the Clery Act. GSU is required to identify CSAs using guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, which defines CSAs in four categories:

1. **Campus Police Departments** (e.g., GSU Police Department)
2. **Individuals in security roles** (e.g., someone who monitors access to a campus property)
3. **Individuals or offices to which GSU instructs students to report crimes** (e.g., GSU Police Department)
4. **Individuals with “significant responsibility for student or campus activities** (e.g., certain staff in Campus Housing, Intercollegiate Athletics, Center for Student Involvement, etc.)

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

The Daily Logs are records of all the incidents that have occurred within the patrol jurisdiction of the Governors State University Police Department. The Daily Logs are kept in the dispatch area of the Office of Public Safety. Log entries for the most recent 60 days may be viewed by the general public, except when prohibited by law or when disclosure jeopardizes an investigation or the confidentiality of the victim. If a request is made to inspect entries in the Daily Logs that are more than 60 days old, these must be made available within two (2) business days of the request.

Crime statistics, as well as security policies and procedures reports, are available at the Department of Public Safety in the C Building, C1375. Special alert notifications are posted online at <http://www.govst.edu/> and/or on University bulletin boards across the campus when the need arises.

University Police make a weekly check with the local police and receive all information concerning student criminal activity. This information, in addition to being retained by the Governors State University Police Department, is also provided to the dean of student conduct, who may subject the violator to university discipline procedures.

TIMELY WARNING NOTICE

The Governors State University Police Department will inform the University police chief, the vice president for Administration and Finance and the vice president for Student Affairs about any criminal activity, whether it happens on campus or off, that may present a continuing threat, so that the campus community can take reasonable precautions. A TIMELY WARNING NOTICE will be issued via e-mail, posted on the University website (www.govst.edu) and also posted in all academic buildings and in the residence hall at the discretion of the chief of police.

REPORTING CRIMES

The University and the Governors State University Police Department strongly encourage faculty, staff, students and guests to report any illegal or suspicious activity in a timely manner to the University Police. Those incidents reported to pastoral or professional counselors are not included in campus crime statistics. However, reports of criminal activity that are brought to the attention of the Dean of Students, University Housing, any student organization or activity adviser, athletic coaches, intramural sport advisers or medical health professionals are required to be reported annually and, as such are brought to the attention of the University Police either by the victims or by the person receiving the report. Those who report criminal incidents to pastoral or professional counselors are encouraged to report the incident voluntarily to University Police on a confidential basis.

Providing safety and security is the primary responsibility of the Governors State University Police Department, and its main goal is to serve and protect the University community. However, the police department cannot achieve this goal alone. We need the cooperation of everyone in the community. As members of the University community, we all have a moral responsibility and a personal interest in the maintenance of a safe environment on campus. Taking responsibility and reporting crime and suspicious activities in a timely manner will be beneficial to you, the University, and the entire community.

POSSESSION AND USE OF WEAPONS

The possession or carrying of any weapon by any person is prohibited in University academic buildings, administrative buildings, student residence building, dining

facilities, or while attending a sporting, entertainment, recreational or educational event on the University's property. Entry upon University property in violation of this prohibition is expressly forbidden and will result in the individual(s) being directed to remove the weapon immediately from university property; or to have the weapon

securely stored at the University Police station, per the procedures of the Handling and Storage of Firearms Policy. Failure to comply with this directive may result in further disciplinary actions for students or employees.

TITLE IX AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Governors State University (GovState) has committed itself, unequivocally, to ensuring a working and learning environment in which the dignity of every individual is respected. GovState continues to provide an environment for employees, students, and campus visitors that is free from any form of sexual violence. Likewise, the University prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in all University activities and programs. Any form of sexual harassment or discrimination is a violation of University Policy 78 and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

At GovState, we strive to comply with all applicable legal requirements prohibiting sexual violence against any member of the GovState community. In addition to facing University consequences, those who engage in acts of sexual violence may also be prosecuted criminally.

The information contained on this site will provide the necessary information to obtain needed resources and make a report of sexual violence.

In addition, the University will provide students, who take at least one class on campus, with prevention and awareness programming. On a yearly basis, all students will be provided with an electronic copy the GovState Title IX Policy and Procedures. Employees of the university will also receive annual training regarding addressing sexual violence.

Students who experience any form of sexual violence or know someone that has, are encouraged to report it so that we can provide you with immediate assistance.

Students May Contact the Title IX Coordinator to report an incident:



KAITLYN WILD J.D., M.B.A.

Director of Compliance & Ethics Officer Title IX Coordinator
1 University Parkway G-328 University Park, IL 60484

Email: [Title IX Coordinator](#)

Phone: (708) 534-4846 (Request to speak with the Title IX Coordinator)

Online Reporting: [Submit a secure electronic report](#) to the Title IX Coordinator

[Download the the Title IX Reporting Procedures](#)

[Download the Title IX Response Procedures](#)

[Download the Title IX Grievance Procedures -part 1](#)

[Download the Interim Policy 78 Title IX and Sex Discrimination \(PDF\)](#)

[Download the Title IX Grievance Procedures -part 2](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: Do I have to submit a report?

Members of the GovState community who may have experienced sex discrimination have the right to choose whether or not to report the incident to the University or law enforcement, and, in most circumstances, have the right to choose whether or not to pursue a sex discrimination complaint through the GovState Title IX Grievance Procedures once the University receives a report. GovState encourages reports because they allow the University to offer resources to individuals affected by sex discrimination and take corrective action as appropriate.

Student bystanders who witness possible sex discrimination are not required to submit a report about what they saw, but GovState strongly encourages them to do so.

GovState employees who are “Responsible Employees” under Policy 78 must submit a report when they have knowledge about possible sex discrimination.

Question: When should I submit a report?

Responsible Employees must submit their reports promptly once they learn about possible sex discrimination.

Individuals who personally experience sex discrimination and student bystanders are encouraged to report possible sex discrimination or retaliation as soon as possible in order to maximize GovState’s ability to respond promptly and effectively. However, there is no time limit on reporting violations of Title IX or Policy 78. If the respondent is no longer a student or employee, GovState may not be able to take action against the respondent, but it will still provide support for the complainant (if the complainant is a then-current student or employee) and take corrective action as appropriate.

Question: Will my report remain confidential?

No report to the Title IX Coordinator, law enforcement, or any Responsible Employee will remain completely confidential and private. **If you want the opportunity to discuss an experience with sex discrimination in complete confidence, please reach out to an on- or off-campus Confidential Resource.** Information about Confidential Resources is available [HERE](#).

Reports of sex discrimination made to Responsible Employees will be passed along to the Title IX Coordinator, and reports made to law enforcement may be shared with the Title IX Coordinator and vice versa. Once the Title IX Coordinator and/or law enforcement receive a report, they may need to further share related information as necessary to carry out their duties under applicable law. The Title IX Coordinator and the Title IX Office Team always keep information contained in reports confidential and private to the extent required by law. Where the law allows the Title IX Office Team to share information related to reports and complaints, they do so only to the extent necessary to comply with their duties, including providing support for individuals affected by sex discrimination, resolving any complaints under the Title IX Grievance Procedures, and taking appropriate corrective action.

Question: Can I submit my report anonymously?

If you are a Responsible Employee, you should not attempt to fulfill your reporting obligation through an anonymous report.

For others with information to submit, you may submit an anonymous report through one of the electronic reporting options. Please keep in mind that if you choose to submit an anonymous report, GovState will not be able to follow up with you for additional information or to arrange any supportive services for you. This will limit GovState's ability to support you as an individual and may limit GovState's ability to respond promptly and effectively.

Question: Will my family be told?

Usually no, not unless you tell them. Whether you are the complainant or the respondent, GovState's primary relationship is with you, one of our students or employees, and not with any member of your family. An exception to this would be if your family member is a witness and needs to be interviewed as part of a complaint resolution process under the Title IX Grievance Procedures. Another exception would be if your family member is a GovState employee or student and, for some reason, was affected by any supportive measure, remedy, or corrective action instituted by the University.

Question: Do I have to name the perpetrator?

If you are a Responsible Employee, you must provide the Title IX Coordinator with all relevant information you have, including the names of all individuals involved, if you know them.

Otherwise, you are not required to name the perpetrator of the possible sex discrimination. However, without the name of the accused, GovState is limited in its ability to respond to allegations, offer supportive measures for the parties, and to sanction the accused. Sometimes complainants are hesitant to report for fear of retaliation. GovState vigorously enforces its prohibition against retaliation under Policy 78.

Question: Will I get in trouble if I was drinking/using drugs during the incident?

As a means of removing barriers to reporting, GovState will generally offer any student, whether the complainant or a bystander, who reports possible sex discrimination, limited immunity from being charged for policy violations related to the personal use of alcohol or other drugs, provided that any such violations did not and do not place the health and safety of another individual at risk. GovState may choose, however, to pursue educational or therapeutic remedies for those individuals.

Question: What if I'm not sure it was sex discrimination?

If you believe you may have experienced or witnessed sex discrimination but are unsure of whether it was a violation of Policy 78 or Title IX, you should contact the Title IX Coordinator. It is important that all good-faith accounts of possible sex discrimination reported, in order to maintain the safety of the GovState community. The Title IX Coordinator will help clearly define acts that constitute sex discrimination and provide information regarding options.

Question: Will my report remain confidential?

Students and employees who, in good faith, report what they believe to be sex discrimination, or who cooperate in any investigation under the Title IX Procedures, will be protected from the effects of retaliation because such retaliation is prohibited under Policy 78. If you believe you have been the victim of retaliation for reporting sex discrimination or cooperating in an investigation, you should immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator.

Emergency/Crisis Resources

If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual harassment and/or assault or other misconduct and are in need of immediate help, please contact one of the following.

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Location: C-1375 (Next door to Human Resources Dept.)

24-Hour Number: 708.534.4900

Campus Emergencies

Dial ext. 911 from any campus phone (not pay phones). Calls go directly to DPS dispatch.

- Dial **911** on any cell or pay phone. Calls will go directly to University Park Police and DPS will also be notified.
- From any campus emergency phones (located throughout campus buildings and in the parking areas), push the emergency button. Calls go directly to DPS.

CONFIDENTIAL/COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ON-CAMPUS/GOVSTATE RESOURCES

GovState has made the following Confidential Resources available for students and/or employees wishing to talk about sex discrimination without a report being made to the Title IX Coordinator:

CONFIDENTIAL ADVISORS

Confidential Advisors provide emergency and ongoing support to student and employee survivors of sexual violence and relationship violence. A Confidential Advisor will provide confidential services and have privileged and confidential communications with survivors. They will inform the survivor of possible next steps regarding reporting options and possible outcomes, will notify the survivor of resources and services available on campus and in the community and will inform the survivor of their rights and GovState's responsibilities to enforce orders of protection and no contact orders. If requested by the survivor, a Confidential Advisor will liaise with appropriate University personnel to secure supportive measures (as described in Policy 78), and will liaise with appropriate University personnel, law enforcement and community resources to assist the survivor with making contact and/or reporting an incident. Confidential Advisor services are provided to students and employees by:

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

320 West 202nd St.
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
708.754.0486
ywcachicago.org/

Rape Crisis Hotline:

888.293.2080

[Hotline Webpage](#)

THE UNIVERSITY COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER (CWC)

GovState's CWC provides individual counseling, support and resources to students who have experienced sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. Speaking with a licensed counselor at the CWC may be helpful for complainants or survivors trying to decide how to proceed. Because of the privileged nature of these conversations, the CWC will not share information about a patient/client (including whether that individual has received services) with the Title IX Coordinator or any other employee of the University without that patient/client's express written permission. The CWC may submit, however, non-identifying information about the incident for purposes of making a statistical report under the Clery Act. The CWC can be accessed as follows:

Campus Location: Room A1120

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30AM – 5:00PM

Telephone: 708.235.7334

Email: studentcounseling@govst.edu

govst.edu/counselingcenter

THE UNIVERSITY'S HEALTH CENTER (RUN BY ADVOCATE AURORA HEALTH)

The GovState Health Center, which is part of the CWC, can provide students with non-emergency or follow-up medical services, including testing for pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections, and provide an opportunity to discuss any health care concerns related to the incident in a confidential medical setting. The Health Center is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all patient/client health information. All patient interactions with the Health Center are considered strictly confidential.

Campus Location: Room A1120

Hours: Mondays - Thursdays, 9:00PM – 4:00PM;
Fridays, 9:00AM – 1:00PM

Telephone: 708.235.2114

govst.edu/cwc-health-center

THE STATE OF ILLINOIS' EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

The EAP is a free, voluntary, and confidential program available to GovState employees that provides a valuable resource for support and information during difficult times, including problem identification, counseling, and referral services for employees regardless of the health plan chosen by the employee. Through the EAP, employees will be directed to counseling services to assist them with a variety of concerns, including, but not limited to sexual violence and domestic violence, conflict at work, and stress. Any employees who access these services should be sure to identify themselves as an employee of the State of Illinois.

More information is available from the [Illinois Department of Central Management Services website](#).

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More information is available from the [Illinois Department of Central Management Services website](#).

OFF-CAMPUS/COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Individuals affected by sex discrimination, especially (but not limited to) survivors of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, have options for reporting their experiences to off-campus agencies and groups that may be able to provide supportive services as part of their work in local communities.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

Local medical care providers can provide emergency and/or follow-up medical services beyond what is available on campus and provide an opportunity to discuss any health care concerns related to an incident in a confidential medical setting. Local emergency medical care providers include:

Advocate South Suburban Hospital

Location: 17800 S. Kedzie Ave., Hazel Crest, IL 60429

General Telephone: 708.799.8000

Center Webpage

Franciscan Health Emergency Medicine

Location: 20201 S. Crawford Ave., Olympia Fields, IL 60461

General Telephone: 708.679.2222

General Website

Sexual Assault Treatment Center (staffed with trained medical professionals and equipped to conduct sexual assault forensic examinations free of charge)

Center Telephone: 708.213.4611

Center Webpage

Center of Hope (Sexual Assault Treatment) (staffed with trained medical professionals and equipped to conduct sexual assault forensic examinations free of charge)

Center Webpage

COMMUNITY-BASED SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS CENTERS

Multiple community-based sexual assault crisis centers provide services to survivors in Cook, Will, and Kankakee Counties, including:

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Location: 320 West 202nd St., Chicago Heights, IL 60411

General Telephone: 708.754.0486

General Website

Rape Crisis Hotline: 888.293.2080

Hotline Webpage

Guardian Angel Community Services

Main Office: 168 N. Ottawa St., Joliet, IL 60432

General Telephone: 815.729.0930

General Website

24-Hr. Sexual Assault Hotline: 815.730.8984

Clove Alliance

Main Office: 1440 W. Court St., Kankakee, IL 60901

General Telephone: 815.932.7273

General Website

24-Hr. Crisis Hotline: 815.932.3322

Services provided by community-based sexual assault crises centers are confidential, and information involving a complainant is not reported back to the University without a request from the complainant.

COMMUNITY-BASED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES

Multiple community-based domestic violence agencies provide services to survivors in Cook and Will Counties, including:

Crisis Center for South Suburbia (CCSS Center)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 39, Tinley Park, IL 60477

General Website

24-Hr. Hotline: 708.429.SAFE (7233)

Anew: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 937, Homewood, IL 60430

General Telephone: 708.794.2140

General Website

Client Services: 708.798.7737

Hotline: 708.335.3028

Guardian Angel Community Services

Main Office: 168 N. Ottawa St., Joliet, IL 60432

General Telephone: 815.729.0930

General Website

24-Hr. Domestic Violence Hotline: 815.729.1228

Services provided by community-based domestic violence agencies are confidential, and information involving a complainant is not reported back to the University without a request from the complainant.

OTHER LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

Whether or not an individual affected by sex discrimination chooses to make a report to the University, they are urged to seek appropriate help. There are numerous resources available in this region and nationally in addition to the ones listed above. Each resource can assist a person to access the full range of services available.

Apna Ghar (community-based gender violence agency)

Office: 4350 N. Broadway, 2nd Fl., Chicago, IL 60613

General Telephone: 773.883.4663

General Website

24-Hr. Crisis Line: 773.334.4663 (talk); 773.899.1041 (text)

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE)

Office: 307 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1020, Chicago, IL 60601

General Telephone: 773.244.2230

General Website

Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA)

Main Office: 100 North 16th Street, Springfield, IL 62703

General Telephone: 217.753.4117

General Website

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network)

General Website

National Sexual Assault Hotline (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Talk: 800.656.HOPE (4613)

Online chat

Hotline Information Webpage

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Talk: 800.799.SAFE (7233)

Text: text "START" to 88788

Online chat available through general website

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

General Website

Know Your IX is a campaign that aims to educate all college students in the U.S. about their rights under Title IX. Founded in 2013, Know Your IX is a national survivor-run, student-driven campaign to end campus sexual violence. For more information on your Title IX rights or to learn more about Know Your IX please visit their website at <http://knowyourix.org/>.

ADDITIONAL PRIMARY PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS

DEFINITIONS OF CONSENT AND RETALIATION

Consent is informed, freely given, and a mutually understood agreement to sexual activity. Consent requires an affirmative act or statement by each person; a person's lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the use or threat of force does not constitute consent. If coercion, intimidation, threats and/or physical force are used, there is no consent. If a person is under age, mentally or physically incapacitated or impaired so that the person cannot understand the fact, nature or extent of the sexual situation, there is no consent; this includes conditions due to alcohol or drug consumption or being asleep or unconscious. A person's manner of dress does not constitute consent. A participant's consent to past sexual activity does not constitute consent to future sexual activity, their consent to sexual activity with one person does not constitute consent to engage in sexual activity with another and consent may be withdrawn at any time. Whether one has taken advantage of a position of influence over another may be a factor in determining consent.

Retaliation is a violation of the Governors State University Policy 52 and Policy 78 to retaliate against any person making a complaint of prohibited conduct or against any person participating in the investigation of any such allegation. Retaliation should be reported promptly to the Title IX Coordinator. Retaliation is grounds for University disciplinary action.

Complainants and their supporters have the unfettered right to be free from retaliation. Retaliation is defined as any adverse reaction taken against a person for alleging any form of prohibited conduct, supporting a party bringing a grievance, or for assisting in providing information relevant to a claim of prohibited conduct and will be investigated immediately and adjudicated separately. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to intimidation, threats or menacing behavior, coercion, or discriminatory actions. Retaliation is a serious violation and may result in immediate removal from the University.

OPTIONS FOR REPORTING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND/OR THE INSTITUTION EITHER WITH OR WITHOUT CONFIDENTIALITY

To report a Title IX concern of Prohibited Conduct, please contact GovState's Title IX Officer: Kaitlyn Wild at Title IX Coordinator or call the Title IX phone line at (708) 534-4846. Complaints may also be submitted electronically by visiting <https://www.govst.edu/report-sex-discrimination/>. Electronic submissions may also be done anonymously, may be done by third parties or bystanders.

There is no time limit for reporting Prohibited conduct to the University under this policy; however, a delay in reporting may hinder the University's ability to respond, as evidence may erode, memories of incident may fade, and Respondents may no longer be a member of the University community.

Any GSU student who believes he/she has been subjected to Prohibited Conduct is encouraged to report such concern and may request that an investigation be conducted. Except for University-recognized confidential resources, the following University staff members with knowledge of unreported prohibited conduct (or potentially prohibited conduct) are considered:

Responsible Employees and must report such allegation(s) to the Title IX Coordinator:

- Faculty and teaching staff.
- Unit/department heads.
- Staff within the offices of Residence Housing, Student Affairs, Enrollment, Deans, and Associate Provosts, and other administrators.
- Additionally, any person with knowledge of prohibited conduct is obligated to report the concern to the Title IX Coordinator.

The University will not pursue disciplinary action against students for disclosure of illegal personal consumption of drugs or alcohol where such disclosures are made in good faith regarding a report or investigation of Prohibited Conduct. In addition, students who wish to have their case handled

criminally should contact the Governors State University Department of Public Safety 708.534.4900 or the University Park Police Department 708.534.0913.

INFORMATION ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING AND THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENT SURVIVORS

The University will make reasonable and appropriate efforts to preserve the Complainant's and/or Respondent's privacy and to protect the confidentiality of information. Should a Complainant request confidentiality, the Title IX Coordinator will inform the Complainant that the University's ability to respond may therefore be limited – but that where feasible, the University will take reasonable steps to prevent Prohibited Conduct and limit its effects.

The Title IX Coordinator will further inform the Complainant that it is not possible to provide confidentiality in all cases and that the University's decision to share information with others is subject to the balancing test described below in Section VI. In summary, although the University's goal is to limit the number of individuals who may learn about an allegation of Prohibited Conduct or an investigation, the University cannot guarantee confidentiality in all matters.

STRATEGIES FOR BYSTANDER INTERVENTION/RISK REDUCTION

Risk reduction tips can often take a victim-blaming tone, even unintentionally. With no intention to victim-blame, and with recognition that only those who commit sexual violence are responsible for those actions, these suggestions may nevertheless help you to reduce your risk of experiencing a non-consensual sexual act.

These suggestions to avoid committing a non-consensual sexual act are also offered:

- If you have limits, make them known as early as possible.
- Tell a sexual aggressor “NO” clearly and firmly.
- Try to remove yourself from the physical presence of a sexual aggressor.
- Find someone nearby and ask for help.
- Take affirmative responsibility for your alcohol intake/drug use and acknowledge that alcohol/drugs lower your sexual inhibitions and may make you vulnerable to someone who views a drunk or high person as a sexual opportunity.
- Take care of your friends and ask that they take care of you. A real friend will challenge you if you about to make a mistake. Respect them when they do.

If you find yourself in the position of being the initiator of sexual behavior, you owe sexual respect to your potential partner.

These suggestions may help you to reduce your risk for being accused of sexual misconduct:

- Clearly communicate your intentions to your sexual partner and give them a chance to clearly relate their intentions to you.
- Understand and respect personal boundaries.
- DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS about consent; about someone's sexual availability; about whether they are attracted to you; about how far you can go or about whether they are physically and/or mentally able to consent. If there are any questions or ambiguity, then you DO NOT have consent.
- Mixed messages from your partner are a clear indication that you should stop, defuse any sexual tension and communicate better. You may be misreading them. They may not have figured out how far they want to go with you yet. You must respect the timeline for sexual behaviors with which they are comfortable.
- Don't take advantage of someone's drunkenness or drugged state, even if they did it to themselves.
- Realize that your potential partner could be intimidated by you, or fearful. You may have a power advantage simply because of your gender or size. Don't abuse that power.
- Understand that consent to some form of sexual behavior does not automatically imply consent to any other forms of sexual behavior.
- Silence and passivity cannot be interpreted as an indication of consent. Read your potential partner carefully, paying attention to verbal and non-verbal communication and body language.

And most importantly, as a bystander you have the ability to intervene and help prevent Prohibited Conduct, if you see something that doesn't look right...speak up! Get help...dial 911.

TRAINING INFORMATION

Annual training requirements include:

1. Survivor-centered, trauma-informed training.
2. Ability to understand policy.
3. Relevant state and federal laws.
4. Roles of responding entities.
5. Effects on survivor.
6. Types of prohibited conduct.
7. Consent.
8. Role of alcohol and drugs.
9. Bystander Intervention.

ASAP SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

The YWCA South Suburban Center provides affordable and confidential services for survivors of sexual assault and abuse. The rape crisis hotline (708.748.5672) is available 24 hours, 7 days a week for free, confidential crisis intervention and referral services. For more information on the YWCA visit their website by [clicking here](#).

Members of the University community who may have experienced sexual misconduct have the right to choose whether or not to report the incident to the University or law enforcement, and, in most circumstances, have the right to choose whether or not to pursue a sexual misconduct complaint with the University once the University receives a report.

For more information about Title IX, [Click here](#).

Know Your IX is a campaign that aims to educate all college students in the U.S. about their rights under Title IX. Founded in 2013, Know Your IX is a national survivor-run, student-driven campaign to end campus sexual violence. For more information on your Title IX rights or to learn more about Know Your IX please visit their website [here](#).

Individuals impacted by domestic violence can, [Click here](#) for resources.

COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC), in partnership with Advocate Health Care, offers comprehensive medical, mental health, and case management services. The CWC includes the GSU4U Program that connects students facing personal difficulties, such as food and housing insecurity, to campus and community resources. The center is staffed by a diverse and collaborative team including, a psychologist, licensed counselors, social worker, doctoral externs, a certified family nurse practitioner, a medical assistant, and support staff. The CWC medical and behavioral health team works with currently enrolled GovState students and provides confidential and compassionate individualized counseling services, and crisis support 24/7/365 with the goal of improving academic experiences through facilitating physical, emotional, social, and spiritual growth.

The Counseling and Wellness Center is a therapy practicum training site for Masters and Doctoral level trainees. This site follows the Association of Chicagoland Externship and Practicum Training (ACEPT) procedures for recruitment and selection of counseling interns. Please visit the ACEPT website for more information: www.acceptchicago.org/

Office Location: A-1120

Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Walk-ins (no appointment necessary): Mon. - Fri., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Let's Talk Sessions: Mon. - Fri., 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

*Both in-person and virtual appointments are available

To request an appointment, call 708.235.7334, walk-in, or [Click Here](#)

[COUNSELING CENTER WEBSITE](#)

[SERVICES OFFERED](#)

[Service Offered](#)

All services are **FREE** and confidential to enrolled GovState students.

- [Individual Counseling](#)
- [Group Counseling](#)
- [Couples Counseling](#)
- [Case Management](#)
- [Crisis Services](#)
- [Consultation](#)
- [GSU4U Program](#)
- [Outreach Presentations](#)

LIVINGWELL@GOVSTATE

24/7/365 Support Services

[Virtual Counseling Services](#)

[CRISIS SUPPORT & HELPLINE NUMBERS](#)

[FAQ FOR FACULTY/STAFF](#)

[24/7 CRISIS SUPPORT](#)

Crisis Appointments after hours & weekends (833) 434-1217

TOGETHERALL PEER SUPPORT COMMUNITY

Togetherall is an online 24/7, 365 days a year anonymous peer-to-peer support platform. Managed and monitored by licensed mental health professionals, students will be able to engage with other peers who share similar lived experiences, provide and receive advice, take self-directed courses, join groups based on personal experiences, journal, and access apps and mental health self-assessments. The purpose is to provide a space for students who may be depressed, anxious, lonely, or experiencing other concerns, to access support and share their feelings with other diverse community members to improve their mental health.

MINDWISE MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING

Everyone experiences stress, sadness, and anxiety from time to time—it's part of life. If you are concerned about yourself or someone you love, take a few minutes to complete an anonymous self-assessment.

ECHECKUP TO GO

eCHECKUP TO GO (eCHUG) serves as a resource for enhancing your health and well-being. Within this platform, you'll find screeners that focuses on Emotional wellness, overall Well-Being, Sexual Violence Prevention, and Substance Use all designed to empower you to make informed decisions regarding issues that impact your college experience and beyond. Surveys are anonymous, and take about 5 minutes to complete!

CWC ASAP SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

Advocating for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP)

For more information about Title IX, [Click here](#).

Know Your IX is a campaign that aims to educate all college students in the U.S. about their rights under Title IX. Founded in 2013, Know Your IX is a national survivor-run, student-driven campaign to end campus sexual violence. For more information on your Title IX rights or to learn more about Know Your IX please visit their website [here](#).

Individuals impacted by domestic violence can, [Click here](#) for resources.

CWC HEALTH CENTER

The Health Center at GSU

Location: A-1120

Phone: 708-235-2114

Hours: Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

ADVOCATE SERVICES IMMUNIZATION

Student Services

As part of your Student Health Fees, the following services are available to actively, enrolled students:

- Required immunizations for full compliance with the College Student Immunization Act [110 ILCS 20]
- Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)/Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) screenings

- **Women's Health Screenings**
- **Basic Physicals** and Sports Physicals
- **Minor Illnesses:** Coughs, Colds, Nausea, Ear Aches, Sinus Infections, Fevers, Urinary Tract Infections
- **Diagnostic Testing:** Strep, Influenza (Flu)
- **Minor Injuries:** Abrasions, Sprains, Splinters, Steri-Strip Removal, Minor Burns
- **Skin Conditions:** Rashes, Bites
- **Consultation/Education:** High Blood Pressure, High Cholesterol, etc.

Services beyond what are listed are not covered in the student health fee.

Faculty Services

For flu vaccinations, please contact the health center at 708-235-2114.

THE CARE PROGRAM (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE STUDENT CONCERNS PROGRAM)

The CARE Program (Formerly known as the Student Concerns Program) is designed to ensure timely outreach to students that are believed to be in distress or acting in a manner of concern and connect them to resources best suited to address the conveyed concern. Since members of the campus community play a key role in identifying students who are in distress, the CARE Program depends on referrals that identify students who might benefit from proactive outreach and assistance.

Any member of the campus community is encouraged to report behaviors or concerns of any GSU student by using the online reporting form to identify students and describe their area(s) of concern.

Student concerns can include, but are not limited to academic, physical or emotional concerns such as:

- public outburst
- distressed writing in assignments or
- sporadic attendance at classes
- changes in behavior, appearance or personal habits
- disruptive classroom behavior

A more detailed list of concerns can be found below.

Completed reports will be directed to the Office of the Dean of Students which will identify resources and personnel best suited to address the concern articulated by faculty and staff. Reports will be tracked for themes, repetition, and increased concern(s) to evaluate student and university trends.

Important Note:

Submissions to CARE Program differ from those intended for the [Campus Threat Assessment Team \(CTAT\)](#) because they are early alerts of student concern intended to direct intervention to students in distress, not behavior significant enough to be a threat to the safety and well-being of others. CARE Program coordinates a proactive effort to prevent and/or manage the situation.

CARE Program is NOT for emergencies; if there is an emergency, call the Department of Public Safety at 708.534.4900 or dial 911.

CAMPUS THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM

In an effort to promote a safe and secure learning and work environment, a campus threat assessment team (C.T.A.T.) has been created to discuss issues relating to violence, security and potential threats directed at the University's students, faculty or staff. This team meets regularly and provides a structured way to share information regarding potential acts of violence that also allows for intervention.

Reasons for a C.T.A.T. Referral

- Self-injurious behavior/suicidal ideation or attempt.
- Behaviors include, but are not limited to, suicidal thoughts or action.
- Erratic behavior (including online activities) that disrupts the mission and/or
- normal proceedings of University students, faculty, staff or community.
- Behaviors include but are not limited to weapons on and off campus,
- significant inappropriate disruption to community, potential for safety being
- compromised.
- Involuntary transportation to the hospital for alcohol and drug use/abuse.

Key Objectives

IDENTIFY — often, the accumulation of information identifies a person who poses a threat and helps to identify the level of that threat; therefore, the team ensures appropriate information exchange.

ASSESS — if additional information is needed to assess the level of risk, the team functions as an investigative body charged with gathering relevant and confidential information for the purposes of providing for the safety, security and well-being of the person at risk and the campus community at large.

MANAGE — when a determination is made that the person in question is at risk or poses a risk to others, the team recommends and/or implements steps for intervention, which may be medical, psychological, judicial or legal. In many cases, the standing policies and procedures of the University and external agencies dictate the intervention strategies.

REDUCE — Violence prevention is best accomplished by stopping the process before it gets started. Addressing minor violations of University policy lowers the risk of aggressive responses and increases the possibility of peaceful solutions.

EDUCATE — the campus community must be educated so that it can identify and refer students, staff and faculty at risk for posing a danger to the University community. In addition, the team must seek educational and professional development opportunities to maintain a knowledge base of risk indicators and appropriate laws and policies regarding privacy and confidentiality, proper management of information, educated assessment of risk, and intervention services.

WHY THE TEAM IS NECESSARY

Universities must establish a formal process of sharing information about potential acts of violence. Reviews of the Virginia Tech incident of April 16, 2007, indicate that while some faculty and staff members at Virginia Tech had grave concerns about the student shooter, there was no vehicle for forwarding those concerns to school officials who may have been able to intervene to avoid the tragedy. Often, no single piece of information is enough to prevent a tragedy; however, the accumulation of information helps to identify a person at risk, allowing for intervention and prevention. The threat response, assessment and intervention team serves as the conduit for information flow.

Creation of the team is a proactive way to coordinate and plan an appropriate approach to deal with the complexities often involved with threats and violence. Key objectives of the team are to identify, assess, manage and reduce potential threats to the University community and to educate faculty, staff and students about the dangers of interpersonal violence.

Inherent to the work of this team are concerns about the privacy of all involved. The team members are extremely sensitive to these concerns and will ensure that the highest standards of confidentiality are upheld.

No committee can completely protect the University community from every act of violence. The creation of this team, however, increases the likelihood that potential violence can be identified so that reasonable steps can be taken to avoid it.

REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS

Megan's Law

In compliance with the Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act found in 42 USC 1407(j) of the Wetterling Act, which states that the University must advise the campus community where the registered sex

offenders list may be obtained, the Megan's Law Statute and History may be found at the following website:

<https://smart.ojp.gov/sorna/current-law/legislative-history>.

A copy of the registered sex offender list can be obtained in The Office of Public Safety, C Building Room C1375 or call 708.534.4900.

Registered Sex Offenders additional resources:

- Illinois State Police Sex Offender Registry Database: <https://isp.illinois.gov/Sor>
- Illinois Registered Sex Offender Mapping Tool: <https://isp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/LocalPerspective/index.html?appid=49d-3c90a83794684a4af3b6e22e8f7dd>
- Illinois State Police "Missing" Sex Offenders List: <https://isp.illinois.gov/MissingOffenders>
- Illinois State Police Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database: <https://isp.illinois.gov/MVOAY>
- U.S. Department of Justice's Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website: <https://www.nsopw.gov/>

SUZANNE'S LAW

Suzanne's Law requires that law enforcement notify the National Crime Information Center when someone between the ages of 18 and 21 is reported missing. This mandate was signed into law by President George W. Bush as part of the "Amber Alert" bill. The law was named after Suzanne Lyall, a State University of New York at Albany student who has been missing since 1998. Governors State University has adopted procedures to comply with these provisions.

MISSING PERSONS

Reports of Missing Persons (adults or juvenile) should be made to the Governors State University Police Department at 708-534-4900. The Governors State University Police Department shall initiate a missing person investigation immediately, and for adults between the ages of 18 and 21 years of age that information shall be entered into NCIC and LEADS as soon as practical. Each student living on campus in student housing has the option to register a confidential contact person with the University, and in the event a student is determined to be missing, authorized campus officials or the University Police may have access to that information for investigative purposes. If a student has not registered a confidential contact person, the University Police will contact the appropriate local law enforcement agency for continuity and safety concerns. All official missing student reports must be immediately referred to the University Police department for investigation or referral to the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

The health and well-being of GSU students, faculty, and staff are critical components of the overall health of our university community. Consequently, Governors State University seeks to maintain a campus environment that is free from the illegal use of alcohol and other drugs. Consistent with its mission as a public institution of higher education, the university is committed to educating the students, faculty, and staff on the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, and to establishing standards of conduct that maintain a campus environment in which such abuse is prohibited. These standards are following the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act of 1989.

In compliance with the DFSCA, the Counseling and Wellness Center authors a biennial report of institutional policies and practices that includes the effectiveness and the consistency of the enforcement of sanctions. The biennial report is published each Fall in even-numbered years and focuses on the previous two academic years (i.e., 2018-19 and 2019-20).

GSU students should comply with local, state, and federal laws related to the use of drugs, alcohol, and crimes of violence. The Student Code of Conduct details expectations for students' behavior regarding alcohol and drugs as well as possible sanctions for violations of these policies, which include disciplinary sanctions and educational programs.

RECREATIONAL CANNABIS

Recreational cannabis, while legal in Illinois, is not legal under federal law. Possession, use, manufacture, distribution, or sale of any controlled substance, including cannabis, or drug paraphernalia is prohibited on university property and at any university-sponsored activity. There are no medical exemptions regarding cannabis use on campus.

HEALTH RISKS

The abuse or illegal use of alcohol and the illegal use of controlled substances can seriously injure the health of employees and students, adversely impair the performance of their duties and their academic achievements, and endanger the safety and well-being of fellow employees, students, and others. Substance abuse may involve not only controlled substances and illegal drugs but also alcohol and other substances that pose a health risk. When drugs are combined, their negative effects on the mind and body are often multiplied beyond the effects of the same drugs taken singly, which can be deadly.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Counseling & Wellness Center provides counseling and substance use assessments designed to assist students in examining their use of alcohol and/or other drugs in a judgment-free and confidential environment. An assessment will provide students with a structured opportunity to assess their own risk, identify potential changes that could work for them, and help them to reduce their risk for developing future problems. Students may also be referred to appropriate community treatment programs for a more in-depth assessment and treatment if required. Certain alcohol, drug, and/or violent crimes may be referred to public safety.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

Governors State University does not permit the use or possession of controlled substances on campus. The University enforces all state and federal laws concerning illegal drugs. Anyone who is apprehended by Governors State University Police while in possession of, using, or offering for sale or selling illegal drugs is subject to arrest and referral to The Office of Community Standards and Student Advocacy.

If you have a problem...

The University offers programs for drug and alcohol education. It provides programs that include counseling, education, self-development, substance-free activities and support groups. It also provides an assessment and intervention component designed to assist those who may be harmful to themselves because of alcohol or drug abuse. Staff there will provide referrals and information on other resources and organizations.

GSU Student Counseling Center

Do you need to contact us right away? You can call us at: 708.235.7334
or email us at: studentcounseling@govst.edu.

[> Take an assessment test now.](#)

Hours of Operation: Room A1120
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-7:00pm
Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

Summer hours: Room A1120
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm
After 5:00pm appointments may be available upon request.

Not a GSU student but still interested in counseling services?

Free counseling is available for those who are not currently enrolled GSU students through the University Counseling Lab. For more information, call 708.534.4545 or [click here](#).

Reasons students use The GSU Counseling Center

- Anxiety or stress resulting from academics, coursework, and grades.
- Adjusting to social life at college.
- Feeling disconnected from support systems at home.
- Difficulties communicating with professors, making friends, and developing a support system at college.
- Difficulties in relationships with roommates, friends, or partners.
- Balancing multiple demands (academic, relationships, and finances).
- Feeling unmotivated or depressed.
- Loss of a loved one.
- Dating violence or sexual assault.
- Other concerns resulting from personal issues.
- Some concerns students discuss in counseling:
- Feeling stressed or overwhelmed.
- Difficulties concentrating, feeling confused.
- Feeling less self-confident or less sure of your abilities.
- Loneliness, homesickness, feeling like you “don’t belong”.
- Problems communicating with others.
- Difficulty managing school and life stress.
- Uncertainty about the future.
- Feeling sad, angry, anxious or depressed.
- Relationship difficulties.

Resources:

Know someone in distress? The Counseling Center has created a quick reference guide for all who interact with students. This handbook is an introductory tool to provide support and information to assist faculty and staff to decide if, when, and how to intervene with a student in apparent distress. The following link will take you to the e-book version of the [Helping Students in Distress Handbook](#).

Have a question about relationships, sexuality, sexual health, emotional health, fitness, nutrition, alcohol, nicotine or other drugs? Go Ask Alice! This is a health Q&A Internet resource. It provides readers with reliable, accurate, accessible, culturally competent information and a range of thoughtful perspectives so that they can make responsible decisions concerning their health and well-being. Information provided by Go Ask Alice! Is not medical advice and not meant to replace consultation with a health care professional. Go Ask Alice-www.goaskalice.columbia.edu

ULifeline is your online resources for college mental health. It is an anonymous, confidential, online resource center, where you can be comfortable searching for the information you need regarding emotional health. Please visit the ULifeline website to find facts on emotional health and wellness, learn how to help a friend in need, or even complete anonymous self-evaluations by [clicking here](#).

The YWCA South Suburban Center provides affordable and confidential services for survivors of sexual assault and abuse. The rape crisis hotline (708.748.5672) is available 24 hours, 7 days a week for free, confidential crisis intervention and referral services. For more information on the YWCA visit their website by [clicking here](#).

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For resources on all things related to mental health check out Psych Central <http://psychcentral.com/>

Learn the signs and symptoms of depression, anxiety, eating disorders and others — and find resources that lead to a happier and healthier college career. **Top Five Mental Health Problems Facing College Students:**

<http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/top-5-mental-health-problems-facing-college-students/>

SERVICES OFFERED AT THE STUDENT COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center offers a variety of services to GSU students. All services are at no additional cost to you (your student fees cover the cost of counseling) and all counseling and consultation services are confidential. [Click here for more information.](#)

Outreach schedule and Information

Check out the scheduled group counseling sessions and outreach events provided by the Student Counseling Center by [clicking here.](#)

[Click here for further info](#) on how to schedule an outreach appointment with us.

About Us

Meet the staff for GSU's Counseling Center and see what difference we can make for you.

If you need to talk to someone right away, you can call us at 708.235.7334 or [email us.](#)

Consent is Sexy!

Consent is really about communication. It starts with getting to know each other. [It's important to learn more about preventing sexual assault](#) but more importantly how to ask yourself the right questions so that you know how to express yourself at your choosing.

Stress Less!

Stress is an everyday situation that we can handle at most times. But what happens when it gets too much? [Click here for some stress management information](#) and how you can manage stress in your life.

Why Is Suicide So Common Among College Students?

College is a time of significant transition that comes with uncertainty, sometimes confusion and fear. [Click here on how to find resources](#) to find someone to talk to and help support for you or for someone you know.

RESIDENCE HALL SAFETY

HELP US KEEP YOU SAFE

Governors State University maintains one co-ed residence hall on campus. Each floor has one student staff member in residence who is responsible for monitoring activity, advising and assisting students, and building community. The residence hall has an emergency telephone located at the front of the building and on each floor.

Every effort is made to ensure the safety of campus residents. In order to enter the residence hall, a student must swipe his/her myONECARD at the entry doors. In the residence hall, exit doors are equipped with self-contained alarms. In addition, digital video cameras record activity at all building exits, and other public areas.

Student Safety is our primary concern. Prairie Place has a number of policies and procedures in place to enhance the security of our residents.

Prairie Place will be staffed by trained professionals and para-professionals available to respond to students' needs.

Fire safety is of paramount importance. Fire extinguishers are placed strategically throughout the building; the building is fully sprinklered and smoke detectors are installed in the sleeping rooms and hallways throughout the building. There are policies in place addressing permitted and prohibited appliances, electrical cords, etc.

Security cameras and emergency telephones are located in and around Prairie Place. In the event of a campus or building emergency, students will receive messages through the Emergency Notification System. The system will use students' current directory information to alert them of any emergency.

Office hours for residence hall directors (RAs) and on-call schedules for resident assistants/graduate assistants are posted in the residence hall.

Contact Information

Auxiliary Services & University Housing

Governors State University
1 University Parkway - Room C1330
University Park, IL 60484
Phone: 708.235.7110
Email: housing@govst.edu

Prairie Place - Residence Hall Director Office

708.235.7118
Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 5 pm
Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Prairie Place – Reception Desk

708.235.7115
Hours of operation 24/7

IMPORTANT RULES AND REGULATIONS ABOUT LIVING IN PRAIRIE PLACE

Please make time to review this page and the [2023-2024 University Housing Handbook](#) prior to submitting a housing application. The Handbook contains important information about living in University Housing. Below is information about some of the key rules and regulations that will be in effect in the Prairie Place community:

Smoke-free Campus- The possession or consumption of drugs by residents and their guests in University Housing facilities is prohibited of alcoholic beverages in University Housing. A person 21 years of

age or older, may possess, store, or consume alcohol in the following locations only:

- In his or her contractually assigned bedroom in a non-visible enclosure (e.g. mini fridge, trunk, wardrobe) if the student shares a room/living area with a resident under 21, OR
- In the common area(s) within his/her contractually assigned apartment where all individuals sharing the space are over 21.

EXTERIOR LIGHTING AND VEGETATION

Governors State University maintains a strong commitment to campus safety and security. Exterior lighting is an important part of this commitment. Parking areas, pedestrian walkways and building exteriors are well lit. Surveys of exterior lighting on campus are conducted by University police officers on a regular basis, and the Facilities Management Department gives high priority to maintenance of exterior lights that need to be replaced. Members of the GSU community are encouraged to report any exterior lighting deficiencies to University Police.

Police and the Facilities Management Department also monitor the growth of vegetation on campus. If any member of the campus community believes that the height of vegetation may cause a hazard, he/she is encouraged to report it to either University Police or Facilities Management.

ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

Most University buildings and facilities, other than residence housing, are accessible to members of the University community, their guests and visitors during normal hours of business, during designated hours on weekends and holidays, and at other times when University events and activities may be taking place outside normal business hours.

Academic, administrative and recreational buildings are locked each night at the conclusion of activities and classes. Unauthorized individuals are not permitted to be inside the buildings during these times. Individuals who need to enter after hours may request special access from the Governors State University Police Department. University Police maintains a list of individuals who receive permission to be admitted after hours. Proper identification must be presented to the University Police Department for admittance to closed buildings.

The Governors State University Police Department has adopted a Community- Oriented Policing approach in all campus buildings on all shifts to provide high officer visibility and access. These regular foot patrols act as a deterrent to criminal activity and enable students, staff and visitors to get to know the officers.

CRIME STATISTICS REPORT 2021 THROUGH 2023

Governors State University is committed to providing a safe and secure educational environment for student and employees. Criminal activity exists throughout our society, and college campuses are not exempt from crime. However, in order to maximize security and minimize the opportunity for criminal activity to occur, a number of services and programs have been implemented at Governors State University. All members of the University community share in the responsibility for reporting crime and for taking precautions to discourage its potential.

The following statistics are provided in compliance with Act 1988-73, the College and University Security Information Act, the Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act of 1990, and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Statistics Act of 1998.

The figures represent the calendar years of 2021, 2022 and 2023. Brief definitions of some of the crimes

categories that may not be self-explanatory are provided in the definitions below. Questions regarding this report may be addressed to the Governors State University Police Department at 708-534-4900.

The following definitions for murder, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, weapons law violations, drug abuse violations and liquor law violations are provided from the Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook, in accordance with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The definitions of forcible and non-forcible sex offenses are from the National Incident-Based Reporting System Edition of the Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook, in accordance with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

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.

Criminal Homicide – Manslaughter by Negligence

The killing of another person through gross negligence.

Criminal Homicide – Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter

The willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

Robbery

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

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 by the use of weapons or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. (If necessary, that injury results from an aggravated assault when a gun, knife or other weapon is used which could and probably would result in serious personal injury if the crime were successfully completed.

Burglary

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

Motor Vehicle Theft

The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. All cases where automobiles are taken by a person not having lawful access, even though the vehicles are later abandoned, including joyriding, are included in this definition.

Weapons Law Violations

The violations of laws or ordinances dealing with weapons offences, regulatory in nature, such as: manufacture, sale or possession of deadly weapons; carrying deadly weapons concealed or openly; furnishing deadly weapons to minors; aliens possessing deadly weapons; and all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned.

Drug Abuse Violations

Violations of state and local laws relating to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, manufacturing, and making of narcotic drugs. The relevant substances include opium or cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine), marijuana, synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone), and dangerous non-narcotic drugs (barbiturates, Benzedrine).

Liquor Law Violations

The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, transporting, furnishing or possessing of intoxicating liquor; maintaining unlawful drinking places; bootlegging; operating a still;

furnishing liquor to a minor or intemperate person; using a vehicle for illegal transportation of liquor; drinking in a train or public conveyance; and all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned. (Drunkenness and driving under the influence are not included in this definition).

Sex offenses — Forcible

Any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against the person's will or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

Forcible Rape — The carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and/or against the person's will or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity or because of his/her youth.

Forcible Sodomy — Oral or anal intercourse with another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will or not forcibly against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Sexual Assault with an Object — The use of an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because his/her temporary permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Forcible Fondling — The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, forcibly and/or against that person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Sex Offenses — Non-Forcible

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

Statutory Rape — Non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

Domestic Violence — (1) Felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed- (i) By a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; (ii) By a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; (iii) By a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; (iv) 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 (v) 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 (1) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim and (2) the existence of such a relationship shall be based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of the relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. For the purposes of this definition- (i) Dating Violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse. (ii) Dating Violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence.

Stalking — (1) Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to- (i) fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or (ii) suffer substantial emotional distress. (2) For the purposes of this definition- (i) course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device or means follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about, a person, or interferes with a person's property. (ii) Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim. (iii) Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but may not necessarily; require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

CRIME STATISTICS

CRIMINAL OFFENSES- REPORTED BY HIERARCHY						
Type of offense (Reported by)	Year	On-Campus	Non-campus	Public Property	Total	Residence Facility
Criminal Homicide						
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses						
Forcible sex offenses (Rape, Sodomy, with object or fondling)	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	2	0	0	2	2
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
Non-forcible sex (Incest and Statutory)	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	2	0	0	2	2
	2021	1	0	0	1	1
Burglary						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Arrests						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Arrests						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0

CRIMINAL OFFENSES- REPORTED BY HIERARCHY (CONTINUED)						
Type of offense	Year	On-Campus	Non-campus	Public Property	Total	Residence Facility
Weapons Law Arrests						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	2	0	0	2	2
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action						
	2023	52	0	0	52	52
	2022	22	0	0	22	22
	2021	8	0	0	8	8
Drug Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action						
	2023	32	0	0	32	32
	2022	13	0	0	13	13
	2021	5	0	0	5	5
Weapons Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	2	0	0	2	2
	2021	3	0	0	3	3

CRIMINAL OFFENSES- NOT REPORTED BY HIERARCHY						
Type of Crimes	Year	On-Campus	Non-campus	Public Property	Total	Residence Facility
Arson						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	2	0	0	2	2
	2021	3	0	0	3	3
Hate Crimes						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking						
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2021	0	0	0	0	0

[Crime Prevention and Safety Tips Booklet \(click link to download a copy\)](#)

[Safety Booklet \(click link to download a copy\)](#)

FIRE SAFETY & ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING REPORT

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008 requires each university to report fire safety statistics for on-campus housing.

Enclosed statistics are reported for 2021, 2022, and 2023 calendar years.

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008 requires that each university report fire safety statistics for on-campus student housing. Specifically, the Act requires information on the cause of each fire, the number of injuries and deaths related to a fire, and the value of property damage caused by the fire being reported. Information related to Governors State University of fire safety efforts has been provided to increase awareness of the programs and equipment that exist to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, employees and guests.

Fire Safety Statistics: Governors State University Residential Housing Prairie Place was constructed and opened in the fall of 2014.

Prairie Place is equipped with Simplex 4100U fire alarm panels. The system consists of addressable manual pull stations, visual/audible alarm devices, and integrated automatic detection devices. Each sleeping room in the residence hall is equipped with an addressable smoke detector and sounder base. All smoke detectors, heat detectors, duct detectors, pull stations, and sprinkler controls in the residence hall is supervised and monitored by the building Simplex 4100U panel where each point is assigned an address that identifies the exact location of each initiating device. The display provides the location of the initiating device which is also transmitted to the annunciator panel at University Police. The systems are monitored 24/7 by the main fire alarm panel located in the University Police Dispatch Center.

The residence hall has fire suppression system including the attic spaces, where dry pipe systems exist. The sprinkler systems is supervised and monitored by the building Simplex fire alarm panels which report all alarm and trouble conditions to the annunciator at Campus Police.

Fire extinguishers are located in the residence hall in accordance with NFPA 10, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers.

Fire Alarm Testing and Inspection: Pull station, horns, strobes, bells, smoke/heat detectors, batteries and fire alarm panels are inspected semiannually and annually. Smoke detectors are cleaned, inspected and tested annually. All inspections and testing are performed by a certified fire alarm company in accordance with National Fire Alarm Code NFPA 72.

Automatic Sprinkler System and Fire pump: Automatic sprinklers are tied into the fire alarm system. The sprinkler systems and fire pumps are inspected and tested semiannually by a certified inspection company in accordance with NFPA 13A.

Supervised Fire Drills: At least two fire evacuation drills per calendar year are conducted in the residence hall. The fire evacuation drills are supervised by a team of University employees and are evaluated for effectiveness.

Fire Safety Policies and Rules: Governors State University of has instituted fire safety regulations in order to prevent injuries to members of the campus community and physical damage to facilities. The on-campus housing policies are published in the University housing Handbook.

SMOKE-FREE

Governors State University Smoke Free/Tobacco Free Campus Policy and Principles

Policy: As of July 1, 2015 Governors State University prohibited smoking and tobacco products indoors

and outdoors on campus property including parking lots and in parked cars. Littering the remains of tobacco products or any other related waste product on campus property is further prohibited.

[Click here to read the Higher Education Smoke Free Campus Act from the Illinois General Assembly.](#)

Benefits: The policy was written in support of the Smoke-Free Campus Act (110 ILCS 64/). This law mandates that as of July 1, 2015 smoking is prohibited on each state of Illinois supported institution of higher education. The Smoke-Free Campus Act and the additional measures of the Board of Trustees policy establishes and maintains a healthier campus environment; intends to reduce absenteeism and illness due to medical issues that may be caused by smoking, secondhand smoke, and/or tobacco use; the policy also encourages a cleaner campus.

Scope: This policy applies to any individual on campus property, including but not limited to students, faculty, staff, other employees, contractors, subcontractors, guests, volunteers, visitors and members of the public. It is applicable twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.

“Smoke or Smoking” means (1) the carrying, smoking, burning, inhaling, or exhaling of any kind of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarillo, beedies, kreteks, water pipe, bong, cigarette, hookah, weed, herbs, or other lighted smoking equipment; (2) lighting or burning of non-tobacco plants or marijuana; and (3) using nicotine products not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a smoking cessation product, such as electronic cigarettes.

DEFINITIONS:

“Campus Property” means any property owned, leased, occupied, operated or otherwise controlled by Governors State University, including but not limited to academic and auxiliary buildings, classrooms, laboratories, residences, residence halls, elevators, stairwells, restrooms, roofs, meeting rooms, hallways, lobbies and other common areas, athletic complexes and facilities, exterior open spaces, shuttle buses, shuttle bus stops, driveways, loading docks, university-owned streets, sidewalks and walkways, and as further set forth on the GSU smoke-free campus map (below).

“Tobacco Products” means all forms of tobacco, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, beedies, kreteks, water pipes, bongos, and hookahs, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco and any non-FDA approved nicotine delivery device or product.

“Student” means an individual enrolled in a credit or noncredit course.

“Employee” means an individual who is employed by Governors State University in consideration for direct or indirect monetary wages or profit.

“Guest” means a visitor to the campus who is not a student or employee.

PROCESSES/PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES:

1. The university shall post “No Smoking” signs or “No Smoking” symbols across the campus, such as at building entrances. However, this policy applies to all campus property whether or not such notices are posted.
2. Organizers of and attendees at public events, such as conferences, meetings, public lectures, social events, cultural events, and sporting events, as well as non-university events held on campus property must abide by this policy. Organizers of such events are responsible for informing attendees of this policy.
3. Individuals found to be noncompliant will be subject to existing campus disciplinary measures:
 - a) For students, such noncompliance will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
 - b) For employees, such noncompliance will be referred to the employee’s supervisor or the Human Resources Department, as applicable.
 - c) For contractors and subcontractors, such noncompliance will be referred to the campus unit responsible for monitoring performance of the applicable contract.
 - d) Visitors and members of the public who refuse to comply with this policy may be asked to leave campus.

Exceptions under the Law (110 ILCS 64/5) and University Policy: Ceremonial Smoking: Individuals or groups interested in smoking as part of a ceremony in or on campus property must seek advance approval from the Associate Vice President for Facilities Development and Management by submitting a request for approval. For consideration of an exemption [send an e-mail to the Associate Vice President of Facilities Development and Management](#). For more information on Ceremonial Smoking Exemptions, [click here to read our FAQs](#).

Smoking in Research: Smoking may be allowed in an enclosed area on campus property for a medical, scientific, or research program, provided that smoking is an integral part of such program and the appropriate campus research oversight body has approved the inclusion of smoking in the program pursuant to the applicable procedures for such medical, scientific, or research program.

REPAIR REQUESTS – EMERGENCY AND ROUTINE

Emergency repair requests for both public and living areas that involve electrical, running water or health or safety hazards should be reported to a Resident Assistant or desk staff immediately. Routine requests can be submitted via a work order. Any request that is a result of damage will be charged appropriately to the responsible resident(s). This includes any damages created by a student’s guest.

MAINTENANCE REPAIR SERVICE

All requests for ROUTINE repairs and maintenance are to be submitted via the work order system at 708.534.4515 8am-5pm. To request EMERGENCY service, please call Public Safety 708.534.4900.

Emergency maintenance requests include but are not limited to: broken pipes, clogged sinks, overflowing toilets and bathtubs, fires, noxious odors, gas or electrical service interruption and all items that threaten the life, health and safety of the apartment residents.

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Maintenance Repair Service

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Emergency maintenance requests include but are not limited to: broken pipes, clogged sinks, overflowing toilets and bathtubs, fires, noxious odors, gas or electrical service interruption and all items that threaten the life, health and safety of the apartment residents.

Equipment

Tampering with, altering or changing any university safety equipment, locks, fire alarms, smoke detectors, telephone equipment, TV cable, plumbing, electrical systems, etc. is prohibited.

Ceilings/Walls/False Barriers

Residents are prohibited from affixing any object to ceiling areas and from painting any ceiling areas. Residents are prohibited from tampering with or allowing any objects to come into contact with sprinkler heads.

Students' room should reflect the condition noted on the Room Condition Report that was filled out at time of check in. To prevent damages, care should be taken when affixing items on the walls. The use of nails, adhesive tape, glue, screws and tacks is prohibited.

For fire safety reasons, no items or objects such as tapestries or furniture, may create a false wall and block the clear view of the four walls of the room. Items may not block the main window of the room or be attached to the ceiling or affixed on the door, as they may also interfere with emergency personnel.

Sprinkler Heads

Hanging objects from sprinkler heads or tampering with sprinkler heads in any way is strictly prohibited. Residents and their guests will be responsible for any damage to the sprinkler heads or ceiling tiles or water damage to any personal property which is the direct result of their actions.

Electrical Appliances

Across the country, unattended electrical appliances have led to many fires in residence halls. To prevent such occurrences from happening at GSU, all appliances or heat generating devices (such as an iron) must be properly monitored at all times. Failure to do so will be considered negligent and proper disciplinary actions will be taken.

For safety reasons, the following appliances are NOT PERMITTED in the residence hall:

- Devices with open heating elements
- Toaster ovens
- Freezers
- Lava Lamps
- Window/portable air conditioners
- All indoor grills (e.g. Black and Decker®, George Foreman® etc.)

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- Toaster ovens
- Freezers
- Lava Lamps
- Window/portable air conditioners
- All indoor grills (e.g. Black and Decker®, George Foreman® etc.)
- Halogen light bulbs (used in desk lamps or free standing lamps)
- Candles, incense, lanterns or any similar open flame device
- waterbeds
- The following appliances ARE PERMITTED:
- Automatic, pop-up toaster
- Crock pot or slow food cooker
- Sandwich maker
- Waffle iron
- Blender
- Food processor
- Portable or stand mixer
- Automatic coffee maker (with fully enclosed heating element)
- Hot pot (with fully enclosed heating element and automatic shut-off)
- Corn popper (with fully enclosed heating element and automatic shut-off)
- Clothes iron (with automatic shut-off)
- Curling iron
- Hair straightener/flat iron
- Fish aquarium heater
- Hair dryer
- Hair rollers
- Heating pad (with temperature settings)
- Electric blanket (with temperature settings)

Approval is needed from University Housing for any appliances not included on the above list.

Due to poor ventilation and combustibility, no electrical appliances (including microwave and refrigerator) should be placed in closets, under lofted beds or behind room doors.

Additionally, a MicroFridge®, microwaves and refrigerators must be plugged directly into a wall outlet; they are not permitted to be plugged into a surge protector or extension cord. Misuse of electrical appliances by not following these guidelines is considered a fire hazard in addition to a policy violation.

General Guidelines - Decorations

Only UL Approved fire resistant and noncombustible decorations may be used. All decorations must be placed in such a way that they do not interfere with a person's vision, safe passage or evacuation. No decorations or any other combustible items (including flags, posters, wires, cables etc.) may be placed or hung in a stairway, exit routes or ceilings of any room or lounge.

Life safety devices should not be decorated or obstructed in any way. As such, it is important that an 18-inch clearance is maintained around all safety devices, including exit signs, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, fire alarm pulls, emergency lights, audible fire signals/strobe lights, exit doors, sprinkler heads/cover plates and/or any other life safety devices. Electrical cords or lighting may not be hung around or attached to bed and door frames or placed underneath a carpet.

For fire safety reasons, dry vegetation, such as hay, straw, leaves, corn shocks or evergreen trees and branches are not permitted in the residence hall.

University Housing and the GSU Office of Environmental Health and Safety shall have the final authority as to what material may be used in decorations, should questions arise.

Decorations in violation of University policy must be removed immediately, at the direction of the Environmental Health and Safety Office or University Housing.

Candles and Incense

You may not possess candles, incense, lanterns or any similar open flame devices in your rooms. If these items are found in a room, the University Housing staff reserves the right to confiscate them and pursue disciplinary actions against the student. Candle warmers are permitted only in cases where the

candle is just wax or its wick has been removed.

Candles/Incense used for religious purposes (i.e. Hanukkah, Solstice celebrations) must be kept in the RHD office and tagged appropriately. The RHD reserves the right to determine when and where these items may be used.

Lighting/Extension Cords

- Due to their combustibility and excessive heat, halogen light bulbs (used in desk lamps or free standing lamps) are prohibited in the residence hall. Torchière-style lamps, including multi-armed or flexible floor lamps, are also prohibited for safety reasons.
- The use of fluorescent light bulbs in desk lamps or free-standing lamps is permitted.
- For safety reasons, light fixtures or bulbs may not be covered or painted. Only UL approved lighting sets may be used.
- Only miniature type lighting (no more than one set of 50 miniature lights) or rope decorative lighting (no more than two, 12-foot lengths) is permitted. Under no circumstances, may these lights be left unattended when turned on.
- Only extension cords equipped with a ground (three-pronged plug) and an inline surge protector may be used. It is highly recommended that the proper length of surge protectors be used to ensure that extension cords are used sparingly.
- Multi-plug adapters must have power strips with a safety overload circuit breaker. Only one power strip should be plugged into an outlet at any one time. It is important to not overload the power strip or outlet.
- For safety reasons, power strips, extension cords, rope lighting and decorative light sets must be set at least 18 inches away from all combustible and flammable materials. They should not run through any door openings, be attached or wrapped to furniture or the ceiling or be covered in any way.
- Removal of any university-installed light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, etc., is not permitted. A work order may be placed in the event that a university-provided light does not work.

Christmas Trees

Only artificial trees (excluding metallic trees) certified as fire-resistant and that are 24 inches or shorter are permitted in the residence hall. For safety reasons, students may not use live or cut trees of any kind (branches, boughs, swags, festoons, etc.). Artificial trees taller than 48 inches are only permitted on the first floor main lobby and lounge. Fire extinguishers must be nearby.

Guidelines for Outdoor Grills

- Grills must be used in the designated area located in the West sidewalk that is parallel to the building.
- Charcoal lighter fluid may not be stored inside any University building.
- Gasoline may not be used to light charcoal fires.
- Charcoal grill coals must be cold before disposal and must be dumped into a suitable garbage disposal container.
- Charcoal grill coals, whether hot or cold, may not be dumped onto the ground.
- The owner of the grill is responsible for the grill's operation whenever it is in use or hot.

Safety & Security

The Department of University Housing has developed a number of programs and policies for your protection. In addition, the university employs a full-time 24/7 University Police Department.

EMERGENCIES

GSU is equipped with emergency telephones that automatically ring to the Police Department 24 hours a day. The emergency telephones are either yellow or red.

- Push and release the red button to activate a two-way emergency response call to a Public Safety Telecommunicator. Press the black button to release (terminate) call.
- Dialing 4900 on any ivory-colored phone inside the university automatically connects you to the department without dialing, or go to room C1375 twenty-four (24) hours a day.
- Emergency 9-1-1- is accessible from any phone on campus;
- Just like any other city's 911 system, a computer displays the caller's location if they cannot communicate with the operator. Dialing 911 from a cell phone while on campus will also connect the caller to the University Park Police Department.
- There are "blue light phones" around campus in parking lots and alongside walkways.

In the event of a campus emergency, students are automatically subscribed to receive messages through the emergency notification system. The system will use students' current directory information. Student may check their contact information under Academic Profile and My Profile in the portal. If the information is incorrect the student must contact the Registrar's office at 708.534.4500 or regoffice@govst.edu.

Fire Safety and Prevention

A person, who intentionally causes a false alarm or false warning of a crime, fire or catastrophe, when such report is known to be false, is guilty of Disorderly Conduct. Pulling a fire alarm is considered a type 4 felony under Illinois law. Transmitting or causing to be transmitted a false alarm of a threat or impending destruction, such as a bomb threat, is a Class 3 felony, for which a fine of not less than \$3,000 and no more than \$10,000 shall be assessed in addition to any other penalty imposed.

Fire Extinguishers

Tampering with or using fire extinguishers for purposes other than firefighting is illegal and strictly prohibited. Violations will result in disciplinary action.

Sprinkler Systems

The sprinkler system is connected to the fire alarm systems. Students may not tamper with, cover, hang items from or remove any part of the sprinkler system. Such behavior will result in disciplinary action.

Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors are installed in individual rooms and the building hallways and connected to the fire alarm system. When the smoke detector in the room is activated, the smoke detector alarm will sound off. It is possible that in some cases, the fire system in the building may not activate as a result. In such instances, leave your room and close your door behind you and immediately contact the Governors State University Police at 708.534.4900. You may not re-enter your room until the smoke detector stops sounding.

As a reminder, it is important that an 18-inch clearance is maintained around all safety devices, including smoke detectors, sprinkler systems, fire extinguishers and pull stations. No items may be hung or attached to any of these devices. Failure to comply with fire safety policies will result in disciplinary action.

Fire Evacuation Procedure

In compliance with state law and university housing policy, students must leave the building whenever a fire alarm is sounded. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary charges. The following evacuation directions should be followed:

- A. Walk to the nearest exit. DO NOT run.
- B. If you are inside a building or your room, feel the door with the back of your hand before opening it. If the door is hot, do not open it.
 - 1. Call 9-1-1 immediately. Give all pertinent information and your exact location, including floor and room number. Explain to 9-1-1 dispatcher the extent of the fire, if known.
 - 2. Place an article of clothing or other obstruction along the bottom of the door to keep smoke out.
 - 3. Move as far away from the door and heat source as possible.
 - 4. Wait for the rescue personnel to arrive.
- C. If inside a building or your room, and you feel the door is not hot:
 - 1. Call 9-1-1 immediately. Give all pertinent information and your exact location, including floor and room number. Explain to 9-1-1 dispatcher the extent of the fire, if known.
 - 2. Slowly open the door while standing behind it. Close doors behind you to contain the fire area.
 - 3. If no danger is present, proceed to the nearest exit. If the fire alarm has not been activated, do so as you proceed toward the exit.
 - 4. If the area is filled with smoke, stay low or crawl to the nearest exit.
 - 5. Evacuate the building using the stairs. Do NOT use the elevator. Be aware of alternate stairwells if the nearest stairwell is blocked.
 - 6. Do not run or panic.

7. Use the handrail in the stairwell, keep to the right, and move in a single file line. Do not push or shove.
8. Use red emergency phones located in stairwells and throughout campus if medical aid or assistance is required. Be prepared to give your location and the nature of the problem.
9. Exit the building and proceed to a staging area outside, away from the building. Do not obstruct roadways or the movement of emergency personnel. Remain in the staging area until notified by DPS personnel or other designated authority.
10. Do not re-enter the building unless the "all clear" has been given by emergency officials

FIRE PROCEDURES

- A. If the smoke detector activates in your apartment:
 1. Check the apartment for smoke or actual fire. Should no smoke or fire be present, call 708.534.4900
 2. If there is an actual fire, or if smoke is present, evacuate all apartment occupants to the outside areas, and out of the Fire Department's way (across the street or drive).
 3. In case of an actual fire, warn the neighboring apartments that are along your path of evacuation.
 4. From the nearest available phone, dial 9-1-1. State your name, floor, apartment/suite number, and that the smoke detector is sounding in your apartment/suite.
 5. Do NOT attempt to extinguish the fire.
 6. All occupants should remain outside the building until the Fire Department determines it is safe to re-enter the apartment building.
- B. If you hear a smoke detector alarm coming from another apartment/suite:
 1. Should the smoke detector sound in a vacant (unoccupied) apartment/suite, dial 911. State your name, apartment/suite number, and the location where the smoke detector is sounding.
 2. If the smoke detector is sounding in an occupied apartment/suite, check the apartment/suite by banging on the door or walls, by yelling, etc. to determine if the occupants are home or have evacuated the apartment. Then find the closest phone and dial 9-1-1. State your name, floor and apartment number, and the location where the fire alarm is sounding.
 3. Evacuate the building, warning the neighboring apartments that are along your path of evacuation. Move a safe distance away (across the street or drive), so you will not be in the way of the Fire Department.
 4. All occupants should remain outside the building until the Fire Department determines it is safe to re-enter the apartment building.

Dry Powder Fire Extinguisher

To operate the dry powder fire extinguisher:

1. Remove the fire extinguisher from the holding bracket.
2. Pull the safety release pin near the top of the fire extinguisher. (This pin may be held in place with a breakable plastic strap.)
3. Aim the nozzle of the fire extinguisher at the base of the flames.
4. Squeeze the handles together to discharge the dry powder.
5. Sweep slowly back and forth across the fire with the dry powder stream. To check the dry powder fire extinguisher:
 - a) Examine the circular pressure gauge located near the top of the fire extinguisher.
 - b) If the indicator needle on this pressure gauge is in the center position or slightly to the overcharged position, the fire extinguisher should operate correctly.
 - c) If the indicator needle on this pressure gauge is into the recharge position, the fire extinguisher may not function correctly.

Notify a University Housing staff member or contact University Housing, 708.235.7110, if the fire extinguisher pressure gauge indicator needle is into the recharge position or if the needle is well into the overcharge position.

Fire Safety Training and Education: The Environmental Health and Safety Officer, offers fire safety education and training, such as fire safety awareness and fire extinguisher training. Training and education programs are offered to all University Emergency Volunteers. Fire safety training or education can be scheduled by contacting the office of Facilities at 708 534-4515 or ext. 4515 or campus.

Reporting Fires: As with any emergency, all fires, either active fires or suspected fires that may have occurred, must be reported to University Police at ext. 4900 or 708-534-4900. Upon receipt of information relating to any fire on campus, the relevant information will be posted into the fire log, which is maintained in the Office of Public Safety, in C Bldg. Room 1375. This fire log is available for review by contacting DPS at 708-534-4900. The portion of the log covering the most recent sixty (60) day period may be reviewed by the general public during normal business hours. If a request is made to inspect the fire log that is more than 60 days old, the fire log will be made available within two business days of the request.

FIRE STATISTICS 2023					
HOUSING UNIT	NUMBER OF FIRES	NUMBER OF INJURIES REQUIRING MEDICAL ATTENTION	NUMBER OF DEATHS AS A RESULT OF THE FIRE	VALUE OF THE PROPER- TY CAUSED BY THE FIRE	CAUSE OF THE FIRE
1 PRAIRIE PLACE	0	0	0	0	N/A

FIRE STATISTICS 2022					
HOUSING UNIT	NUMBER OF FIRES	NUMBER OF INJURIES REQUIRING MEDICAL ATTENTION	NUMBER OF DEATHS AS A RESULT OF THE FIRE	VALUE OF THE PROPER- TY CAUSED BY THE FIRE	CAUSE OF THE FIRE
1 PRAIRIE PLACE	0	0	0	0	N/A

FIRE STATISTICS 2021					
HOUSING UNIT	NUMBER OF FIRES	NUMBER OF INJURIES REQUIRING MEDICAL ATTENTION	NUMBER OF DEATHS AS A RESULT OF THE FIRE	VALUE OF THE PROPER- TY CAUSED BY THE FIRE	CAUSE OF THE FIRE
1 PRAIRIE PLACE	0	0	0	0	N/A

