Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety is a full service campus police department, serving all students, staff, faculty, and guests of the College. DPS is a unit of the Division of Student Development, and the Chief of Public Safety oversees the department and reports to the Vice President of Student Development. The department operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Full-time law enforcement staff includes the Chief, two lieutenants, one sergeant, one corporal and eight officers. The department also includes three full-time civilian communication officers, a full-time administrative assistant, and a full-time transportation coordinator. Part-time/casual staff include additional communication officers and non-sworn Special Officers who assist with crowd control and traffic direction at large events.

Law enforcement personnel are commissioned under the Pennsylvania Special Officers Statute (22 PA C.S.A. 501). These officers have virtually the same police powers and responsibilities of Pennsylvania municipal police officers on the college’s property and in immediate and adjacent areas. The officers are required to successfully complete the state lethal weapons training course (Act 235) and receive regular additional advanced law enforcement training. Many of the law enforcement personnel have prior state and municipal police or military experience. DPS also employs student personnel who assist with office duties and dispatch.

Public Safety officers patrol the campus around the clock, year round in marked police vehicles, on foot, and on patrol bicycles. Officers are primarily responsible for maintaining a safe and secure living and working environment, emergency response, facility security and property protection, traffic and enforcement of campus parking regulations, and enforcement of applicable federal, state, and local laws, and College policies and regulations. Officers are assigned as liaisons to specific residence halls and work with Resident Community Directors, Resident Assistants and other Campus Life staff to promote general well-being and safety in the residence halls. Officers work closely with our Campus Life partners in the assigned buildings to provide training and information to promote crime prevention awareness and to develop healthy relationships with the residents of the building.

The department also maintains a twenty-four hour communications and dispatch office. Call 717-245-1111 for emergencies (or dial 1111 from campus telephones) or 717-245-1349 for non-emergency information and general service requests. The communications office has radio and back-up emergency telephone communication links with the local emergency response agencies. The central fire and security alarm receiver is located in the communications office allowing constant monitoring of these systems. Security cameras located throughout campus, and the card access system, are also monitored by the DPS communications office. The office is open and accessible for walk-in comments and assistance twenty-four hours per day. The Department of Public Safety is located in the Kaufman Building at the corner of West Louther and Cherry Streets (400 W. North Street).
Related Information

- Parking and Vehicle Registration
- Weapons Policy
- Bicycle Registration
- Citation Guidelines
- Rape Aggression Defense System
- Safe Walk

History/Revision Information

Responsible Office/Division: Public Safety

Effective Date:  

Last Amended Date: 10/20/2010

Next Review Date:  

Also Found In: DPS Web Site