



2020 Clery Report

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INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1950, Mississippi Valley State University is located in Leflore County, one-mile northeast of Itta Bena, adjacent to U.S. Highway 82. The institution is located on a 450 – acre tract of land. The site for the campus development consists of 200 acres, and with an enrollment of approximately 2400 students, it houses 1000 students in 8 residence halls. As a Carnegie Classified Master’s University, provides comprehensive undergraduate and graduate programs in education, the arts and sciences, and professional studies. The University is driven by its commitment to excellence in teaching, learning, service, and research – a commitment resulting in a learner – centered environment that prepares critical thinkers, exceptional communicators, and service oriented, engaged, and productive citizen

The University offers the bachelor’s degree in engineering technology, teacher education, business administration, criminal justice, English and foreign languages, fine arts, health physical education and recreation, mass communication, mathematics/computer and information sciences, natural sciences and environmental health, and social sciences. The master’s degree is offered in environmental health, elementary education, criminal justice, business administration, special education, rural public policy and the Master of Arts in teaching.

MVSU POLICE DEPARTMENT

The goal of the MVSU University Police Department is to provide a reasonable safe and secure campus community for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The University also encourages students, faculty, staff, and visitors to take appropriate steps to insure their own personal safety and to report suspicious individuals, activities, or hazardous conditions immediately on the campus. Dispatchers are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to answer your call.

If you are the victim of a crime, witness a crime or suspicious activity or observe a potential security or safety hazard, notify University Police immediately. The sooner a crime is reported, the better the chances become that the police will solve the crime, apprehend the suspect(s), and/or recover any property that may have been taken.

If assistance is required from external law enforcement agencies, MVSU Police Department will contact the appropriate unit. If a sexual assault or rape should occur, staff on the scene, including MVSU Police, will offer the victim various types of services. Crimes should be reported to MVSU Police Department to ensure inclusion in the annual crime statistics and to aid in providing timely warning notices to the community, when appropriate. For example, a crime that was reported only to Our House would not be included in the MVSU crime statistics. All criminal activity occurring on campus should be reported immediately to University Police. If you see or suspect criminal activity, you cannot assume that someone else has reported it. Whether you are a victim or an observer, you should report any crime, suspicious activity, or emergency to the MVSU Police Department. When you call MVSU Police Department, please provide the following information; name, description of the location of the incident, description of the suspects, and the nature of the incident.

Emergency 911 calls are routed to the Leflore County Sherriff Department who will immediately contact MVSU Police. Campus community members are encouraged to program the MVSU Police Emergency number (662) 254-2700 into their cell phones to reduce emergency response time.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING CAMPUS CRIME AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

Community members, students, faculty, staff, and guests are strongly encouraged to report all crimes and public safety related incidents to the University Police Department at (662) 254-3478 or (662) 254-3479 in a timely manner

JEANNE CLERY DISCLOSURE AND REPORTING

The MVSU Police Department prepares the Combined Annual Security and Fire Safety Report to comply with Clery disclosure. In 1990, Congress enacted the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act (Title II of Public Law 101-542), which amended the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). This Clery Act requires all postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV student financial aid programs to disclose campus crime policy and crime statistics concerning their occurrence on campus, during the most recent school year, and during the two preceding school years of various criminal offenses reported to campus police or local police agencies. Students and employees may request a copy of this report which is also provided to the U.S. Department of Education. For more information on the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, please visit the following site on the world wide web, <http://www.campussafety.org>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING AND CONSENT

Domestic violence includes asserted violent misdemeanor and felony offenses committed by the victim's current or former spouse, current or former cohabitant, person similarly situated under domestic or family violence law, or anyone else protected under domestic or family violence law.

Dating violence means violence by a person who has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the victim. Whether there was such relationship will be gauged by its length, type, and frequency of interaction.

Stalking means a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for her, his, or others' safety, or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

Sexual Assault is an offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest or statutory rape as used in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Per the National Incident-Based Reporting System User Manual from the FBI UCR Program, a sex offense is "any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent."

- Rape is defined as the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim
- Fondling is defined as the touching of the private parts of another person for the purposes of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

Consent refers to words or actions that clearly show an active, knowing and voluntary agreement to engage in a particular sexual activity. Consent is determined objectively. This means that an individual is deemed to have given consent when a reasonable person, under the particular circumstances of the encounter, would understand the individual's words and/or actions as indicating the required agreement. Consent may be withdrawn at any time by words and/or actions that clearly show the individual no longer wishes to participate. Silence and/or the absence of resistance by themselves are not consent. Consent to engage in sexual activity in the past by itself is not consent to future sexual activity. Consent to engage in sexual activity with one person is not consent to engage in sexual activity with another person.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) is a United States federal law (Title IV, sec. 40001-400703 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, H. R. 3355) signed as Pub. L. 103-322 by President Bill Clinton on September 13, 1994. VAWA is a landmark piece of legislation that sought to improve criminal justice and community-based responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking in the United States.

CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE ELIMINATION (SaVE) ACT

The Campus SaVE Act increases transparency on campus about incidents of sexual violence and guarantees victims enhanced rights, sets standards for disciplinary proceedings, and requires campus-wide prevention education programs. The Campus SaVE Act amends the Clery Act, which addresses campus sexual assault policies within the Higher Education Act of 1965. President Obama signed Campus SaVE amends the Clery Act, which requires campuses to provide annual statistics on incidents of campus crimes, including sexual assault occurring on campus and reported to campus authorities or local police. The Campus SaVE Act broadens this requirement to mandate fuller reporting of sexual violence to include incidents of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING PROCEDURES

With your permission, the Chief of Police or a designee of MVSU Police Department can file a report on the details of the incident without revealing your identity. The purpose of a confidential report is to comply with your request to keep the matter confidential, while taking steps to ensure the future safety of yourself and others. With such information, the University can keep an accurate record of the number of incidents involving students, determine whether there is a pattern of crime with regard to a particular location, method, or assailant, and alert the campus community to potential danger. Reports filed in this manner are counted and disclosed in the annual crime statistics for the institution.

FALSE REPORTING OF EMERGENCIES

Any student(s) making a false report of any type of emergency in any building, structure, or facility on University premises in any manner has committed a criminal offense, and will be subject to separation from the University.

RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF CRIME

All crimes reported to the MVSU Police Department are considered serious and are treated with the appropriate concern and attention toward solving the crime. Each officer is trained to perform investigations. There are 2 officers designated as full-time investigators. All reasonable avenues of investigations will be pursued concerning a complaint. The complainant will be notified in a manner of the results of the investigations.

Individuals who wish to report incidents of inappropriate behavior by students but who do not want the incident investigated as a criminal offense should make such reports to the Vice President of Student Affairs (662) 254-3636.

IF YOU SEE A SUSPICIOUS PERSON

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, call the MVSU Police Department immediately. Do not approach the person yourself. Report the type of activity you observed and describe the person(s) involved. Provide as much information as you can, such as sex, race, hair color, length and texture, body size, clothing, scars and other noticeable markings; mode of travel, and vehicle color, type, and license plate number. MVSU Police Department will investigate your report immediately. When all members of the campus community become security conscious and report suspicious activity, thefts and related incidents can be reduced.

ACCESS TO CAMPUS FACILITIES

Although MVSU campus is open to the public, its facilities are limited to university academic and administrative activities and programs sponsored by university groups. University property will be open during business hours to students, parents, employees, contractors, visitors, and invitees. During non-business hours, access to all University facilities is to be by key, if issue or by admittance via the University Police or Housing and Residential Life staff. In the case of periods of extended closing, the University Police will control access. Some particular buildings, such as the library, gym or cafeteria will have varied and individual hours and will be secured by the responsible department. Anyone requesting after-hours access to facilities must have the approval of the appropriate authority prior to allowing access.

Emergencies may necessitate changes or alterations to any posted schedules. Areas that are revealed as problematic have security surveys conducted of them. Administrators from the Division of Student Affairs and other areas review these results. These surveys examine security issues such as landscaping, locks, alarms, lighting, and communications.

SAFETY TIPS

A college campus is a great place to learn and grow, but like any other community, it has its share of accidents, crimes, emergencies, and injuries. While there are no guarantees against being a victim, the following suggestions can help you reduce the “opportunity” and make you less vulnerable.

While Walking On or Off Campus

- Avoid walking alone, especially at night. Call the MVSU Police Department for an escort if necessary (662 -254-3478).
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times; pay attention to what other people are doing
- Avoid unpopulated and poorly or unlit areas after dark
- Be aware of your companions. Ensure that they are people you trust.
- Walk and act with confidence. LOOK alert! BE alert!
- If you feel you are being followed, change directions. Walk towards a populated area.
- Never hitchhike or accept rides from a stranger. If you feel you must give directions to a driver or pedestrian, maintain enough distance to prevent being grabbed.
- Avoid working late at night or on weekends in isolated offices or labs.
- Trust your instincts when you sense danger. Don't be embarrassed “to make a scene” if you feel you are in danger.

At Home or In Residence Hall

- Attend security awareness programs sponsored by MVSU Police Department and Student Affairs throughout the year
- Lock doors, it is a good idea not only to lock doors when you are away, but also when you are in your room or home
- Keep a list of your belongings and give a copy to someone who lives elsewhere. The list should include serial and model numbers and a description of items. Keeping sales receipts and photographing valuables is also a good idea.
- Encourage your roommates to help you maintain security. Look out for one another at all times.
- Never prop doors open or let someone into the residence hall you don't know.
- Remember, all visitors to the residence hall must be cleared at the entrance desk or office.
- Don't open your home or room to strangers – utility companies furnish ID badges.
- Never reveal your phone number to a wrong number caller.
- Don't lend your keys to anyone – PERIOD!!!
- If you notice any signs of forced entry when you come home; DO NOT ENTER. Go to a neighbor and call the police
- Never leave messages on your door or advertise when you will return or indicate that you live alone
- Always have your keys out and ready when you come to your door.
- Don't hide an extra key outside. Rapist and burglars know all the best spots.
- Be wary of a neighbor or casual acquaintance that makes it a habit of "dropping in" when no one else is home.

The on-campus residence halls, apartments, and staff housing is home to nearly 3,000 men and women, both undergraduate and graduate students, mostly in double accommodations. Some buildings are open year-round; most other facilities close during university holidays. Each resident is provided with a key to his or her room. All other doors are marked "Exit Only" or "Emergency Exit Only" and should be locked to prevent entry from outside the building at all times. These doors are to be used only for their designated purposes. Windows are equipped with locks operable by the room occupants.

Residence Hall Security

- A student who enters or leaves the residence hall after closing hours is responsible for securing the outside door.
- A student may not prop open or alter a door so that it will not properly close and lock.
- A student may not admit unauthorized or invite persons into the hall after it has been closed.
- Any maintenance deficiencies that may compromise building security should be reported immediately to a residence hall staff member or the Housing Facilities Office (662-254-3590). When the Residential Life Office is closed (5:00 p.m. on weekdays and during weekends and holidays) potential security problems should first be reported to the Residence Hall front desk or MVSU Police Department.

Security systems and security procedures are provided for your protection. You should follow these procedures at all times.

MVSU POLICE AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION

MVSU Police Department is a full service law enforcement agency as empowered by virtue of 37-101-15 (c) of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated which is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, year-round. Officers are vested with the authority of a constable that includes the power to make arrests and carry firearms. Our sworn and academy-trained officers and our support staff work to enforce the rules and regulations of the university and the laws of the state of Mississippi. Police jurisdiction includes all university-owned, rented, or leased property.

When minor offenses involving University rules and regulations are committed by a University student, the campus police will also refer the individual to the University Judicial Affairs Office. Major offenses such as rape, murder, aggravated assault, robbery, and auto theft are reported to the local police and joint investigative efforts with investigators from MVSU and the applicable law enforcement agency are deployed to solve these serious felony crimes. The prosecution of all criminal offenses, both felony and misdemeanor, are conducted at the county, state, and federal court levels.

MVSU Police Department radio dispatchers operate the department's telephones and two-way radios on a 24-hour basis to provide information and respond to emergencies. Dispatchers can contact the fire department, other law enforcement agencies, or emergency medical service by direct phone line or radio. Personnel also monitor the National Weather Service radio network. The campus is equipped with an alert system to warn of threatening weather conditions.

CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

Crime Prevention Programs on personal safety and theft prevention are sponsored by various campus organizations throughout the year. MVSU Police personnel facilitate programs for students, parents, faculty, staff, and new employee orientations, student organizations in addition to quarterly programs for Residential Life Resident Advisers and residents providing a variety of educational strategies and tips on how to protect themselves from sexual assault, theft and other crimes.

TIP: To enhance personal safety, and especially after an evening class, walk with friends or someone from class that you know well, or call the MVSU Police Department for an escort.

OFF-CAMPUS MONITORING

MVSU does not have any off-campus student organizations, however, there is a privately owned housing in the community in which many of our students reside. Because of this relationship with the community, Mississippi Valley State University endeavors to obtain, to the extent possible, reports of crimes at off-campus locations frequented by students.

MVSU Police Department maintains a working relationship with Greenwood Police Department, Itta Bena Police Department, Leflore County Sherriff's Office, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The MVSU Police Department is also notified by the local law enforcement agencies of criminal threats in the local communities which may pose a threat to the MVSU community.

WEAPONS ON CAMPUS

Mississippi Valley State University has a "zero tolerance" policy with reference to the possession, use or storage of any dangerous weapon or device including, but not limited to rifles, shotguns, handguns, air guns, BB guns, bow and arrows, ammunition, hunting slingshots, martial arts weapons, medieval weapons, darts, bowie knives, daggers, switch blade jack, stun gun, and chemicals on University premises or at University sponsored activities is prohibited and will result in expulsion from MVSU. Additionally, faculty and staff may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

CAMPUS VIOLENCE PREVENTION/INTERVENTION PROGRAM - CVPIP

The CVPIP provides the necessary counseling support, health care, training activities, and resource materials to victims of interpersonal violence. With this program, all campus law enforcement and all members of campus disciplinary boards including project partners, are trained to respond effectively to assault, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; in an effort to decrease interpersonal violence on campus.

Literature on interpersonal violence is available in the Campus Violence Prevention & Intervention Program office, located in the MVSU Police Department, Student Counseling Center, and the Student Health Center.

If you are a victim of a sexual assault at MVSU, your first priority should be to get to a place of safety. You should then obtain necessary medical treatment by contacting or going to the Student Health Center if the assault occurs Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The University Police Department strongly advocates that a victim of sexual assault reports the incident in a timely manner. Time is a critical factor for evidence collection and preservation. An assault should be reported directly to a University officer and /or to a Counseling Center representative. Filing a police report with a University officer will not obligate the victim to prosecute, nor will it subject the victim to scrutiny or judgmental opinions from officers. Filing a police report will:

- Ensure that a victim of sexual assault receives the necessary medical treatment
- Provide the opportunity for collection of evidence helpful in prosecution, which cannot be obtained later (ideally a victim of sexual assault should not wash, douche, use the toilet, or change clothing prior to a medical/legal exam), and
- Assure the victim has access to free confidential counseling from counselors specifically trained in the area of sexual assault crisis intervention.

When a sexual assault victim contacts the MVSU Police Department, the Police Department will contact a representative of Student Counseling and the Student Health Center if a physical injury has occurred. The victim of a sexual assault may choose for the investigation not be pursued through the criminal justice system and the University Judicial Affairs, or only the latter. A university representative from MVSU Police Department or Counseling Services will guide the victim through the available options and support the victim in his or her decision. Various counseling options are available from the University through the Counseling Center. Counseling and support services outside the University system can be obtained through the Counseling Center.

SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

Mississippi Valley State is committed to creating and maintaining a community in which student, faculty, and staff can work together in an atmosphere free of the threat of sexual assault.

Mississippi Valley State views any form of sexual assault as a serious offense, and such behavior is prohibited by state law and by university policy and will not be tolerated in any form. Sexual assault is a violent crime and includes any act of forced, coerced, or non-consensual sexual intercourse or sexual contact against the will and without the consent of the victim. An individual is unable to give an informed consent if they are asleep, intoxicated, unconscious, or in some other way physically or emotionally unable. Sexual assault is also the term used to define any unwanted touching of an intimate part of another person. Sexual assault can occur against males and females, regardless of sexual orientation, race, class, religion, age, or disability and can include:

- Having sexual relations against the victim's will and without the victim's consent
- Having sexual relations with someone who is drunk or high and therefore unable to give consent
- Using physical force or threats of physical force to coerce the victim into sexual relations
- Using emotional manipulation and/or threats to coerce the victim into sexual relations

FREQUENCY AND PREVALENCE

College students of traditional age are vulnerable to being victims of sexual assault. The new setting coupled with sexual impulses and peer pressure may lead to dangerous experimenting with new freedoms. Acquaintance rape is prevalent on college campuses. Acquaintance rape refers to the fact that the victim knows the assailant prior to the rape. The assailant may be a friend or significant other or someone who knows the victim from living in the same residence hall or having a class together.

Most sexual assaults involve the use of alcohol by both the assailant and the victim. The mood-altering effects of alcohol reduce inhibitions, as well as the ability to assess dangerous situations and safeguard one's self. Sexual contact when the victim is intoxicated is sexual assault because a person is unable to give informed consent when drunk. Intoxication of the assailant does not diminish responsibility.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING A SEXUAL OFFENSE

Get to a safe place. For your protection, call the police immediately, especially if the assailant is still nearby.

- Students who have been sexually assaulted on-campus should call MVSU Police Department immediately at 254-3478/3479.
- Students who have been sexually assaulted off-campus should call the local police/sheriff's office immediately - in an emergency, dial 911.
- Get medical attention immediately. The primary purpose of a medical examination is to check for physical injury, the presence of sexually transmitted diseases, or pregnancy as a result of the assault. The secondary purpose of a medical examination is to aid in the police investigation and legal proceedings.
- Do not bathe or douche. It is okay to change clothes, but save the clothing you were wearing at the time of the battery. Place each item of clothing in a separate bag and save for the police.
- Do not disturb the physical surroundings in which the assault took place.
- If the assault occurs on University property, it should also be reported to the Vice President of Student to help safeguard other residents and members of the campus community. A victim who reports a crime may request anonymity to the extent practicable and permitted by local law.

SEXUAL ASSAULT SANCTIONS

Rape and sexual assault are criminal violations. Anyone charged with a sexual assault violation which is campus related may be subject to one or more of the following:

- A criminal charge filed against the individual
- An administrative proceeding initiated by the University

Criminal and administrative proceedings may occur concurrently. Students found guilty will be expelled.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM

As a victim, you have the right to file criminal charges with local law enforcement authorities and, upon request, are entitled to assistance from the University in notifying the local law enforcement authorities.

- The accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during a campus disciplinary proceeding
- Both parties shall be informed of the outcome of any disciplinary proceeding and any sanction that is imposed against the accused.
- Survivors shall be informed of their options to notify law enforcement
- Survivors shall be notified of counseling services
- Survivors shall be notified of options for changing academic and living situations if the changes are reasonably available.

CAMPUS SEX CRIMES PREVENTION ACT (CSCPA)

The Campus Sex Crime Prevention Act (CSCPA) provides requirements relating to registration and community notification for sex offenders who are enrolled in or work at institutions of higher education. Effective October 2003, the law requires institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement agency information provided by a state concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. It also requires sex offenders already required to register in a state to provide notice of each institution of higher education in that state at which the person is employed, carries a vocation, or is a student.

This information is maintained by Mississippi Department of Public Safety and can be obtained by accessing the Mississippi Sex Offender Registry at www.dps.state.ms.us.

This information is made available for the purpose of protecting the public. Anyone who uses this information to commit a criminal act against another person is subject to criminal prosecution. The sale or exchange of sex offender information for profit is prohibited. Misuse of this information is a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisonment in the county jail not more than six (6) months, or both.

In addition to these officials, many MVSU personnel are trained to convey reports of sexual misconduct to the proper authorities on campus. These personnel are called “Responsible Employees” and their duties are discussed below. Whenever possible, however, incidents of sexual misconduct should be reported to one of the individuals listed above to provide the promptest and direct response.

Anonymous Complaints

Anonymous complaints of sexual misconduct or other unethical or unlawful behavior can be made through the MVSU Ethics Line, a comprehensive and confidential online reporting tool. You may use either of the following two methods to submit a report:

Select the “Make a Report” link at the following website:

<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/31499/index.html>

OR

Dial toll-free, within the U.S., Guam, Puerto Rico and Canada: 877-310-0424.

After 5-6 business days, use your report key and password to check your report for feedback or questions. The MVSU Ethics Line is not a 911 or emergency service. If your situation involves any immediate threat, call 911 or the MVSU Police Department, not the Ethics Line. Further, the Ethics Line is not a substitute for reporting under this policy. While the University will take appropriate steps to address threats to safety or other ongoing problems identified by anonymous disclosures, its ability to respond, impose discipline, and/or accommodate the complainant normally will be significantly limited. Members of the community are therefore strongly encouraged to consider the other options for reporting listed in this policy.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Victim refers to an individual who is alleged to have been subject to conduct that violates this policy.

Accused refers to an individual who has been accused of prohibited conduct under this policy.

Complainant refers to the individual filing a complaint with the College under this policy. In addition, the term “complainant” may also be used to refer generally to a person alleged to have been subjected to conduct that violates this policy, whether or not they have filed a complaint.

Respondent refers to the individual named as the accused in a complaint with the College under this policy.

A **complaint** is an alleged policy violation that begins a complaint process as set forth in the procedures for Sexual Misconduct Complaint.

Third party refers to any other participant in the process, including a witness to the incident or an individual who makes a report on behalf of someone else.

A **report** is an account of sexual misconduct that has allegedly occurred that could be provided to the College by the complainant, a third party, or an anonymous source.

Retaliation is adverse action taken against a person for making a good faith report of a possible or potential violation of this policy, for supporting another person’s report, or because of the person’s participation in a complaint or investigation of sexual misconduct. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, threats, coercion, reprisal, or harassment.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Some instances of dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking may not be sexual in nature. For purposes of this policy, the term “sexual misconduct” encompasses all instances of dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking (as those terms are defined in this policy), regardless of whether there is a sexual component to the behavior.

Types of sexual harassment:

1. **Hostile Environment:** Includes any situation in which there is harassing conduct that is sufficiently severe, pervasive/persistent and clearly/objectively offensive that it alters the conditions of education or employment. The circumstances to determine whether an environment is “hostile” could include:

- The frequency of the conduct.
- The nature and severity of the conduct.
- Whether the conduct was physically threatening.
- The effect of the conduct on the victim’s mental or emotional state.
- Whether the conduct was directed at more than one person.
- Whether the conduct arose in the context of other discriminatory conduct.
- Whether the conduct unreasonably interfered with the victim’s educational or work performance.
- Whether the statement is an utterance of an epithet which engenders offense in an employee or student, or offends by rudeness.
- Whether the speech or conduct deserves the protections of academic freedom.

Not all workplace or educational conduct that may be described as inappropriate affects the terms, conditions or privileges of employment or education. Some examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- Requests for sexual favors.
- Verbal abuse of a sexual nature or obscene language.
- Gender- or sexually-oriented jokes and comments.

- Displaying derogatory or sexually suggestive pictures or other objects in an office, on the exterior of a residence hall door, or on a computer monitor in a public space.
- “Rating” individuals’ bodies and sex appeal, commenting suggestively about their clothing and appearance, or other verbal commentary about an individual’s body.
- Visual conduct such as leering or making gestures.
- Gossip about sexual relations.
- Repeated and unwelcome sexual flirtations, attention, or advances.

2. **Quid pro quo sexual harassment** is unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature; and submission to or rejection of such conduct results in adverse educational or employment action. Examples of quid pro quo harassment include, but are not limited to:

- Punishing or threatening to punish a refusal to comply with a sexual-based request.
- Offering a benefit (such as a grade, promotion, or athletic participation) in exchange for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature

Sexual assault includes but is not limited to an offense that meets any of the following definitions:

- Rape: the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, or oral contact with the sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.
- Fondling: the touching of the intimate parts (including the genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast) of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim.
- Incest: sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
- Statutory rape: sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent; in Mississippi the age of consent is 16.

Sexual assault is a crime under Mississippi law. See Mississippi Statutes Section 97-3-65, 97-3-95 & 97-5-23 et seq. As defined by Mississippi law, criminal sexual conduct includes non-consensual sexual contact and non-consensual sexual penetration as those terms are defined in Mississippi Statutes Section 97-3-65, 97-3-95 & 97-5-23. For links to Mississippi Statutes concerning sexual violence please click here:

<https://statelaws.findlaw.com/mississippi-rape-sexual-assault-laws.html>

The legal age of consent in the State of Mississippi is 16 unless the person is in a position of authority; the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated or physically helpless.

- Consent is a mutually understood and freely given “yes,” not the absence of “no.”
- Consent to one form of sexual activity cannot imply consent to other forms of sexual activity.
- Consent can be withdrawn at any time. When consent is withdrawn, the sexual activity for which consent was initially provided must stop.
- Silence or failing to resist does not imply consent.

Domestic/Dating Violence

Dating violence is violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship will be determined based on the statement of the individual alleging the dating violence and with consideration of the following factors:

- The length of the relationship;
- The type of relationship; and
- The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Domestic violence includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by:

- A current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim.
- A person with whom the victim shares a child in common.
- A person who is a current or former cohabitant of the victim as a spouse or intimate partner.
- A person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under Mississippi's domestic or family violence law.

Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence.

Dating violence is also prohibited by Mississippi law. See Mississippi Statutes Section 97-3-7.

- Any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under applicable domestic or family violence laws of Mississippi (or, if the crime occurred outside of Mississippi, the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred). In addition to the relationships described above, Mississippi law defines domestic violence to include violence committed between parents and children, blood relatives, persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past, persons who have a child together, persons involved in a significant romantic or sexual relationship, and a man and women, if the woman is pregnant and the man is alleged to be the father.

Stalking

Stalking is engaging in a **course of conduct** directed at a specific person that would cause a **reasonable person** to (1) fear for their safety or the safety of others or (2) to suffer **substantial emotional distress**.

- **Course of conduct** means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through others (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.
- **Reasonable person** means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.
- **Substantial emotional distress** means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

Stalking behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Repeated, unwanted and intrusive communications by phone, mail, text message, email and/or other electronic communications, including social media.
- Repeatedly leaving or sending the victim unwanted items, presents or flowers.
- Following or lying in wait for the victim at places such as home, school, work or recreational facilities.
- Making direct or indirect threats to harm the victim or the victim's children, relatives, friends or pets.
- Damaging or threatening to damage the victim's property.
- Repeated posting information or spreading rumors about the victim on the internet, in a public place, or by word of mouth that would cause a person to feel threatened or intimidated.
- Unreasonably obtaining personal information about the victim.

Stalking is also prohibited by Mississippi law. See Mississippi Statutes Section 97-3-107(1) & 97-3-107(2) (Aggravated). As defined by Mississippi law, stalking means "to engage in conduct which the actor knows or has reason to know would cause the victim under the circumstances to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated, and causes this reaction on the part of the victim regardless of the relationship between the actor and victim." To become aggravated stalking, the perpetrator used or displayed a deadly weapon with intent, been convicted of stalking or aggravated stalking within 7(seven) years or the person was required register as a sex offender and victim was under the age of 18.

Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation occurs when: (1) a person takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another (2) for their own advantage or benefit or to benefit or advantage anyone else (3) and that behavior does not otherwise constitute one of the other sexual misconduct offenses.

Examples of sexual exploitation include, but are not limited to:

- Prostituting another person.
- Non-consensual video- or audio-taping of sexual activity.
- Going beyond the boundaries of consent (such as letting your friends hide in the closet to watch you having consensual sex).
- Voyeurism.
- Exposing one's genitals or inducing another to expose their genitals in non-consensual circumstances.
- Knowingly transmitting a sexually transmitted disease or sexually transmitted infection to another person.

Possession of child pornography. (Possession of child pornography must be reported immediately.)

- Posting sexually explicit photos or videos in public or on social media sites or other distribution of such photos or videos without consent.

IMMEDIATE AND ONGOING ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING AN INCIDENT OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

The University will seek to support any person adversely impacted by sexual misconduct. Both the University and the community provide a variety of resources to assist and support individuals who have experienced sexual misconduct or are affected by allegations of sexual misconduct. These resources, both immediate and ongoing, are available to all persons irrespective of their decision to report to the University or to law enforcement. Contact information for on- and off-campus resources (including confidential resources) who can provide an immediate response in a crisis situation, including assisting with obtaining needed resources and explaining reporting options, is listed in the Resources section at the end of this policy and on the University's website. Emergency numbers and information about health care options are also listed in the Resources section at the end of this policy and on the University's website.

Support services that may be available include, but are not limited to, connecting the individual with appropriate, fair, and respectful on-campus and off-campus counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and support services; making changes to academic, living, transportation, and/or working arrangements; assistance in filing a criminal complaint; and providing information about restraining orders and other available protections and services. Additional information about ongoing assistance is in the Interim Actions section below. To receive information about obtaining support services, individuals should contact the Title IX Coordinator or a confidential resource.

The University will provide written notification to affected individuals about existing counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other services available for victims, both within the University and in the community. An individual does not need to report sexual misconduct to law enforcement or initiate a complaint in order to receive support services from the University.

A complete description of University and community resources, both confidential and non-confidential.

A complete description of University and community resources, both confidential and non-confidential, and additional information regarding what individuals can do if they experience sexual violence is provided in the Resources section at the end of this policy and on the University's website. Individuals who believe they have been subjected to any form of sexual misconduct are encouraged to seek support from these resources.

Campus Security and will be assisted by campus authorities in notifying law enforcement authorities, if the individual so chooses. The College will comply with an individual's request for

assistance in notifying authorities. Individuals also have the option to decline to notify such authorities. Individuals may file a criminal complaint and a Title IX complaint simultaneously. Reporting to law enforcement is not necessary for the College to proceed with an investigation.

Restraining Orders, Orders for Protection, and No-Contact Orders

Individuals who would like to avoid contact with another individual have several options available to them, including seeking a harassment restraining order or protective order from a civil court or requesting a no-contact order from the College.

Harassment restraining orders and orders for protection are legal orders issued by a state court which forbid someone from harassing and/or making contact with another. A harassment restraining order is a civil court order issued against an alleged harasser, regardless of the relationship between the alleged harasser and the alleged victim, which orders the harasser to stop harassing the victim and/or to have no contact with the victim. An order for protection is a civil court order that protects one family or household member from domestic abuse by another family or household member. The University does not issue harassment restraining orders or orders for protection, but one can be obtained through making an application to the local county district court. In Itta Bena, petition forms to apply for harassment restraining orders or to seek an order for protection are available at the Leflore County Court Sherriff Department located at the Leflore County Court House, 315 E Market Street, Greenwood, MS. The main number is (662) 453-5141. For more information and assistance, individuals should contact the Title IX Coordinator at and the Campus Violence Prevention and Intervention Coordinator at td.hudson@mvsu.edu 662-254-8406.

A no-contact order is a University issued directive that prohibits one or both parties from A no-contact order is a College-issued directive that prohibits one or both parties from communication or contact with another. No-contact orders may be mutual or one-sided. Generally, no-contact orders issued pending the outcome of an investigation will be mutual and serve as notice to both parties that they must not have verbal, electronic, written, or third party communication with one another. To request a no-contact order from the University, individuals should contact

The University is responsible for honoring requests for information about available options for orders for protection, restraining orders, and no-contact orders and has a responsibility to comply with and enforce such orders. To request additional information about available options for orders for protection, restraining orders, and no-contact orders, contact the Title IX Coordinator. An order of protection and/or harassment restraining order can be enforced by contacting local law enforcement. The University will fully cooperate with any harassment restraining order and/or order for protection issued by a criminal, civil, or tribal court.

Crime Victims Bill of Rights

As required by Minnesota law, victims of crime must be informed of their rights under the Crime Victims Bill of Rights. The following is a summary of crime victims' rights under Minnesota law.

When a crime is reported to law enforcement, victims have the right to:

- Request that their identity be kept private in reports available to the public;
- Be notified of crime victim rights and information on the nearest crime victim assistance program or resource;
- Apply for financial assistance for non-property losses related to a crime;
- Participate in prosecution of the case, including the right to be informed of a prosecutor's decision to decline prosecution or dismiss their case;
- Protection from harm, including information about seeking a protective or harassment order at no cost;
- Protection against employer retaliation for taking time off to attend protection or harassment restraining order proceedings; and
- Assistance from the Crime Victims Reparations Board and the Commissioner of Public Safety.

Victims of sexual assault have the right to undergo a confidential sexual assault examination at no cost, make a confidential request for HIV testing of a convicted felon, and are not required to undergo a polygraph examination in order for an investigation or prosecution to proceed. In cases of domestic abuse and violent crime where an arrest has been made, victims also have the right to be provided notice of the release of the offender, including information on the release conditions and supervising agency.

For complete information about crime victims' rights go to The Mississippi Attorney General's Office, Crime Victim Compensation Division, P.O. Box 220, Jackson, MS 39205 or their website: www.agjimhood.com. Information about victims' rights also is available from Campus Violence Prevention & Intervention Project Coordinator or the Title IX Coordinator.

Additional Rights in Cases Involving Allegations of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking:

In cases involving allegations of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, the following rights will be afforded to the complainant and the respondent in addition to those rights described above.

The complainant and respondent will be provided timely notice of meetings at which the complainant or respondent, or both, may be present.

- The complainant and respondent will be provided timely and equal access to any information that will be used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings during the adjudication phase of the complaint procedure.
- The complainant and respondent have the right to the complete and prompt assistance of campus authorities, at the direction of law enforcement authorities, in obtaining, securing, and maintaining evidence in connection with a sexual assault incident.
- The complainant and respondent have the right to the assistance of campus authorities in preserving materials relevant to a campus complaint proceeding.
- The complainant and respondent have the right to the assistance of campus personnel (during and after the complaint process), in cooperation with the appropriate law enforcement authorities, in shielding the complainant or respondent, at their request, from unwanted contact with the complainant or respondent, including but not limited to a college issued no-contact order, transfer to alternative classes or to alternative college-owned housing, if alternative classes or housing are available and feasible, change in work location or schedule, or reassignment, if available and feasible; and to receive assistance with academic issues.
- The complainant has the right to decide when to repeat a description of an incident of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking and the respondent has the right to decide when to repeat a description of a defense to such allegations.
- The complainant and the respondent have the right to be provided access to their description of the incident, as it was reported to the University, including if the individual transfers to another post-secondary institution, subject to compliance with FERPA, the Clery Act, Title IX, and other federal or state law. Requests for an individual's description of the incident should be made to the Title IX Coordinator.

In addition, a complainant who alleges sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking has the following rights:

- to be informed by the University of options to notify proper law enforcement authorities, including on-campus and local police, of a sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking incident, or to decline to notify such authorities;
- to the complete and prompt assistance of campus authorities, at the complainant's request, in notifying the appropriate law enforcement officials and University officials of a sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking] incident and filing criminal charges with local law enforcement officials in sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking cases;
- to be offered fair and respectful health care, counseling services, or referrals to such services and notice of the availability of campus or local programs providing sexual assault advocacy, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking services;
- to assistance from the Crime Victim Compensation Division, Jackson, MS
- for students who choose to transfer to another post-secondary institution, the right to receive information about resources for victims of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking at the institution to which the victim is transferring.
- to the assistance of campus personnel (during and after the complaint process), in cooperation with the appropriate law enforcement authorities, in shielding the complainant, at his or her request, from unwanted contact with the respondent, including but not limited to a college issued no-contact order, transfer to alternative classes or to alternative college-owned housing, if alternative classes or housing are available and feasible, change in work location or schedule, or reassignment, if available and feasible; and to receive assistance with academic issues to assistance from the Crime Victim Reparations Board and the Commissioner of Public Safety;
- to decide when to repeat a description of an incident of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or for students who choose to transfer to another post-secondary institution, the right to receive information about resources for victims of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking at the institution to which the victim is transferring.
- for an individual who reported sexual misconduct, to be provided access to his or her description of the incident, as it was reported to the College, including if the individual transfers to another post-secondary institution, subject to compliance with FERPA, the Clery Act, Title IX, and other federal or state law. Requests for an individual's description of the incident should be made to the Title IX Coordinator.

Bystander Intervention

At MVSU, we believe the safety of our community is EVERYONE'S business. Sometimes the person being targeted isn't able to stop the escalation, and that's when it's important for friends or bystanders to step in.

Bystander Intervention is the act of feeling empowered and equipped with the knowledge and skills to effectively assist in the prevention of sexual violence. Bystanders are individuals who observe violence or witness the conditions that perpetuate violence. They are NOT directly involved but have the choice to intervene, speak up, or do something about it in a SAFE way.

Bystander Strategy:

Safety – you and the other people are safe

Allies – other people that will help you intervene

Friendly – approach better than being aggressive

Emergency – resources to help you

An ongoing Bystander Intervention training will be conducted for students, faculty and staff during the fall and spring semesters. They will be trained on the prevention and awareness of what are the warning signs that a sexual assault is about to occur and when bystander intervention is needed. Also, on what are the effective strategies for preventing sexual assault as a bystander. They will be taught on how often sexual assault occur and the attitude towards sexual assault, and the effects of sexual violence.

DISCLOSURE OF CRIME STATISTICS

The University Police Department prepares this report to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act. The full text of this report can be located on our web site at www.mvsu.edu/upd. You will also be able to connect to our site via the MVSU Home page at www.mvsu.edu. This report is prepared in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies and the division of Student Affairs. Each entity provides updated information on their educational efforts and programs to comply with the Act. Campus crime, arrest and referral statistics include those reported to the MVSU Police, designated campus officials (including but not limited to directors, deans, department heads, designated staff, judicial affairs, advisors to student's/student organizations, athletic coaches), and local law enforcement agencies. The report includes a three- year statistical history of crime data for each campus, and facilities owned or used by MVSU.

Each year, a notification is made to all enrolled students, staff, and faculty that provide the web site to access this report. Copies of the report may also be obtained at MVSU Police Department Headquarters located in the Annex I Building or by calling (662) 254-3478 or 254-3479. A notice containing a statement of the annual security report's availability, a description of its content and the opportunity to request a copy will be provided to prospective students and prospective employees.

The annual security report must be published and accessible to current students and employees by October 1st of each year

STUDENT RIGHT TO KNOW AND CAMPUS SECURITY ACT CRIME REPORTING POLICIES

The University Police department is the office to which all criminal reports should be made. Everyone on campus (including students, faculty, staff and visitors) is encouraged to report immediately any potential criminal activity to the University Police.

MVSU will issue an annual report of criminal activities disclosed to the University Police Department for crimes that occur on college property and certain non-campus facilities including remote classrooms. The annual report includes reported crimes alleged to have occurred on the campus and facilities owned or rented by MVSU. It includes the following categories:

Criminal Homicide

- Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter
- Negligent Manslaughter

Sex Offenses (Forcible)

- Forcible rape
- Sexual assault with an object
- Forcible sodomy
- Forcible fondling

Sex Offenses Non-Forcible

- Incest
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Negligent Manslaughter
- Arson Any of the above crimes evidencing hate crimes
- Statutory rape
- Aggravated Assault
- Motor Vehicle theft
- Simple Assault

This report also includes arrests of persons referred for campus disciplinary action: Liquor Law Violations Drug Law Violations Illegal Weapons Possession The statistics are cited by geographic location to campus, on-campus student residential facilities, non-campus building and property, or on public property such as streets and sidewalks. Listed below are MVSU's crime statistics for the most recent 3-year period including 2016, 2017, and 2018.

On Campus

Any building or property owned or controlled by an institution of higher education within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area of the institution and used by the institution in direct support of, or in a manner related to, the institution's educational purposes, including the residence hall.

Any property within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area of the institution that is owned by the institution but controlled by another person, is used by students, and supports institutional purposes (such as food or other retail vendors).

Offenses	2017	2018	2019
Murder/ Non-negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Sex offenses- forcible	0	1	2
Sex offenses- Non-forcible	0	0	0
Robbery	3	0	0
Aggravated assault	0	2	1
Burglary	8	1	3
Motor vehicle theft	1	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Illegal weapons possession	3	4	3
Drug law violations	7	0	4
Liquor law violations	1	0	0
Domestic Violence	3	2	9
Stalking	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	0
Total	26	10	22

Non-Campus

Any building or property owned or controlled by a student organization. Any building or property (other than a branch campus) owned or controlled by an institution of higher education that is direct support of, or in relation to, the institution's educational purposes, is used by students, and is not within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area.

Offenses	2017	2018	2019
Murder/ Non-negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Sex offenses- forcible	0	0	0
Sex offenses- Non-forcible	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated assault	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0
Motor vehicle theft	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Illegal weapons possession	0	0	0
Drug law violations	0	0	0
Liquor law violations	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	0
Total	00	00	00

Public Property

All public property that is within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area of the institution, such as a sidewalk, a street, other thoroughfare, or parking facility, and is adjacent to a facility owned or controlled by the institution if the facility is used in direct support of or in a manner related to the institution's purposes.

Offenses	2017	2018	2019
Murder/ Non-negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Sex offenses- forcible	0	0	0
Sex offenses- Non-forcible	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated assault	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0
Motor vehicle theft	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Illegal weapons possession	0	0	0
Drug law violations	0	0	0
Liquor law violations	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	0
Totally	00	00	00

Student Residences

An "on campus" crime statistics, which includes only those crimes that were reported to have occurred in residence halls or other residential facilities for students on campus

Offenses	2017	2018	2019
Murder/ Non-negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Sex offenses- forcible	0	0	0
Sex offenses- Non-forcible	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated assault	3	1	0
Burglary	8	0	3
Motor vehicle theft	1	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Illegal weapons possession	3	2	0
Drug law violations	7	0	0
Liquor law violations	1	0	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	0
Dating Violence	3	0	0
Total	26	3	3

DAILY CRIME LOG

The MVSU Police Department maintains a daily crime log of all crimes reported to the department. This log includes the nature of the crime, the date, time, and the general location, as well as the disposition of the crime. Crimes are logged in the order they are received by the Police Department. The daily crime log is available on the web at www.mvsu.edu/upd Entries or updates may be withheld if the information is protected by statute, or if there is a danger to the victim or a need to keep the investigation confidential. If there is reason to believe the release of information will result in the perpetrator fleeing the area, or that evidence will be destroyed, the information also may be withheld until the jeopardy no longer exists.

TIMELY WARNINGS

In the event a situation arises, either on or off campus, that, in the judgment of the President, the President's designee, and/or MVSU Chief of Police constitutes an ongoing or continuing threat, a campus-wide "timely warning" will be issued. The warnings will be issued throughout the campus in partnership with the office of Public Relations through e-mail announcements, emergency notification system, in-class announcements, the university's website as well as the police department's website at www.mvsu.edu/upd and other appropriate means.

Anyone with information warranting a timely warning should report the circumstances to the MVSU Police Department by phone 662-254-3478 or 662-254- 3479 or in person at police headquarters located in the Annex I Building.

LOST AND FOUND MVSU

Police Department serves as the central clearing place for lost and found items. Contact the police department to report a lost item, or to turn in a found item. Items are kept for 30 days. After that time, items that remain unclaimed will be disposed of. To retrieve found property, contact the MVSU Police Department, Monday through Friday, between 8:80 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The Code of Student Conduct and other appropriately published rules of conduct play an important role in the university's commitment to provide for the safety and security of all its community members. Failure of students, faculty, staff, or student organizations to comply with duly established laws or university regulations may subject violator(s) to appropriate action by university or other appropriate civil authorities. Such action might include referral to university disciplinary processes and even the possibility of arrest. MVSU does not attempt to shelter students or employees from federal, state, or local laws.

SECURITY AWARENESS PROGRAMS

During orientation in August, students are informed of services offered by the MVSU Police Department. Students are told about crime on-campus and in surrounding neighborhoods. Similar information is presented to new employees.

Periodically during the academic year, the MVSU Police, in cooperation with other university organizations and departments, present crime prevention awareness sessions on sexual assault (rape and acquaintance rape), theft, and vandalism, as well as educational sessions on personal safety and residence hall security.

PROCEDURES FOR CAMPUS DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The victim may file a complaint against the accused either independent of, or in conjunction with, criminal or civil charges, if any, are brought against the accused. The complaint will be investigated and heard through the internal campus judicial system if the accused is an MVSU student or through other processes if the accused is a University employee.

MVSU is dedicated to providing a timely and appropriate response to complaints of sexual assault which recognizes that certain due process regulations are followed. Both parties have the right to present evidence or witnesses, and both parties have the opportunity to have immediate members of their family and/or advisor present at the hearing. Accused students will be afforded and opportunity to hear all testimony against them and question witnesses testifying against them. The accuser and the accused will be informed of the final determination of the disciplinary proceeding. The student hand book provides additional hearing procedures and outlines the sanctions which may be applied when any disciplinary case is brought forward. In the case of an affirmative finding of sexual assault, the accused student may expect serious punishment, including expulsion from the University.

Upon request of the Vice President for Student Affairs, MVSU will change a victim's academic and/or living situation if reasonably available.

It is the intention of the University to take whatever action is needed to prevent, correct, and if necessary, discipline behavior that violates this policy. Prosecution of students for crimes they commit, whether by state or federal prosecutors, is independent of and in addition to the charges or disciplinary proceeding instituted by the University.

Students and employees of the university who engage in sexual misconduct may be disciplined or discharged, notwithstanding the judicial remedies offered by criminal authorities.

Campus disciplinary action is possible only when the complainant is willing to make a written statement describing the specific incident. The accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during university disciplinary proceeding, and both will be notified of the outcome of such proceedings. When the university determines that the presence of a student or employee would reasonably constitute a clear and present danger to the university community, the university will take immediate action to suspend the student or employee on an interim basis, pending the final outcome of disciplinary or legal proceedings.

If you are assaulted, call the MVSU Police Department as soon as possible. Try to remember as much about the assailant as possible. Characteristics important in locating and identifying suspects include sex, race, hair color, length and texture, body size, clothing, scars and other noticeable markings; mode of travel, vehicle color, type, and license plate number. In some incidents, the victim may already know the name of the person that committed the assault. If you

report an assault, the campus will be searched immediately for suspects, and neighboring police agencies will be notified.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE POLICY

In support of the educational mission of Mississippi Valley State University, the following alcohol and drug policies are in place to create a safer campus environment which support the academic and social success of all students and maintain a drug-free workplace and workforce for all student and employees.

ALCOHOL

The possession, sale or the furnishing of alcohol on the campus of MVSU is governed by MVSU's Alcohol Policy and Mississippi state law. The enforcement of alcohol laws on-campus is the primary responsibility of the MVSU Police Department. It is unlawful to sell, furnish or provide alcohol to a person under the age of 21. The possession of alcohol by anyone less than 21 years of age in a public place or a place open to the public is illegal. It is also a violation of the MVSU Alcohol Policy for anyone to consume or possess alcohol in any public or private area of campus. Organizations or groups violating alcohol/substance policies or laws may be subject to sanctions by the University

ILLEGAL DRUGS

The MVSU Campus has been designated "Drug Free." The possession, sale manufacture or distribution of any controlled substance is illegal under both state and federal laws. Such laws are strictly enforced by the MVSU Police Department. Violators are subject to University disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, fine, imprisonment, or both.

HEALTH RISKS

Mississippi Valley State University recognizes that illicit drug use and alcohol abuse are both prohibited and harmful. Drugs are designed to produce physical and/or psychological change(s) within the body. However, there are health risks associated with the use of illegal/illicit drugs and alcohol such as: damage to the brain; high blood pressure, seizures, strokes, heart attacks, cardiac arrest, and/or respiratory arrest; impaired judgment, loss of memory, poor hand and eye coordination and poor concentration; sleep disturbances, depression, paranoia, and anxiety. The abuse of alcohol and other drugs is not only destructive to the physical health, but it also erodes the self-discipline and motivation necessary for learning. Pervasive drug use and alcohol abuse create an environment that is destructive to learning and working they are associated with crime and misconduct that disrupt the maintenance of an orderly and safe university atmosphere.

VIOLATION OF POLICY

Mississippi Valley State University expects all students and university employees to adhere to the current policy. The University reserves the right to prescribe the nature and type of corrective action to be imposed on faculty, staff or students found in violation of this policy. Anyone found in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate sanctions and penalties set forth by the university that is consistent with local, state, and federal law. Such penalties and sanctions may include but are not limited to written or oral reprimands, suspensions with or without pay, expulsion or termination.

DESCRIPTION OF SANCTIONS

All employees/students of Mississippi Valley State University are expected to abide by the terms of this policy. An employee/student found in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate sanctions and penalties. Such penalties and sanctions may include but are not limited to referral for counseling, written or oral reprimands, suspensions with or without pay, or termination, in accordance with the established rights of the employee/student, including the right to due process. Legal sanctions as specified in Section, 37- 105-9, 41-29-139, 41-29-142, and 97-29-47 of the Mississippi Code Annotated are applied to the following actions: possession of alcohol on University property; public drunkenness on University property; utilization of false ID to obtain alcohol; driving under the influence of alcohol; possession of illicit drugs; sale of illicit drugs; sale of illicit drugs near schools; possession of paraphernalia; and sale of paraphernalia. Legal sanctions under local, state, and federal laws may include fines, imprisonment, or both.

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE INFORMATION

The University makes available to all its students the services of the Counseling Center. On campus alcohol and drug services are provided for students that include prevention workshops, seminars and intervention counseling. The Counseling Center offers direct services to students experiencing problems with alcohol or substance abuse, as well as referral services to off campus alcohol and drug agencies. In addition, programs are offered in the residence halls by the substance abuse and peer educators' programs sponsored by the Counseling Center. For information on the types of educational programs available, visit:http://www.mvsu.edu/images/admin/spotedit/attach/380/Alcohol_Drug_PREVENTION_AND_EDUCATIONAL_PROGRAMS_2.pdf

LAWS GOVERNING ALCOHOL

The State of Mississippi sets 21 as the minimum age to purchase or possess any alcoholic beverage. Specific ordinances regarding violations of alcohol laws, including driving while intoxicated, are available from MVSU Police Department.

SELF HELP AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS

Alcoholics Anonymous <http://aa-mississippi.org>

Al-Anon (1888-4AL-Anon) 1-888-425-2666

Life Help Mental Health Center (Alcohol/Drug Treatment Program) 662-453-6211

St. Dominic Behavioral Health Services 1-800-632-

5907 NAMI (National Alliance Mental Illness) 1-800-357-0388

MISSING STUDENT NOTIFICATION POLICY

The Higher Education Opportunity Act which became law August 14, 2008 requires all post-secondary institutions to establish official notification policies and procedures for students who reside in on-campus housing. This policy, with its accompanying procedures, establishes a framework for cooperation among members of the University community aimed at locating and assisting students who are reported missing.

A student shall be deemed missing when he or she is absent from the University for more than 24 hours without any known reason. All reports of missing student shall be directed to MVSU Police which shall investigate each report and make a determination whether the student is missing in accordance with this policy. All students shall have the opportunity to identify an individual to be contacted by the University in case a student is determined to be missing. If a student is under 18 years of age, MVSU Police Department is required to notify the parent or guardian of the missing student not later than 24 hours after it determines that the student is missing. MVSU Police Department will also notify the Itta Bena Police not later than 24 hours after it determines that the student is missing. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall have the responsibility to make the provisions of this policy and the procedures set forth below available to students.

NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURE

Any report of a missing student, from whatever source, should immediately be directed to MVSU Police Department.

When a student is reported missing MVSU Police shall:

- Initiate an investigation to determine the validity of the missing person report
- Contact the Vice President of Student Affairs
- Make a determination as to the status of the missing student
- Notify the individual identified by the missing student as the emergency contact within 24 hours of making the determination that the student is missing.
- If the student is under the age of 18, notify the student's custodial parent or guardian listed in the records of the University within 24 hours of the determination that the student is missing
- Notify Itta Bena Police Department within 24 hours after determining that the student is missing.
- The Vice President for Student Affairs or the Chief of Police will notify the Director of Residential Life/Student Housing, and the Provost
- The Vice President for Student Affairs shall initiate whatever action he or she deems appropriate under the circumstances in the best interest of the missing student.

If the student cannot be located, and the student is determined to be missing for more than 24 hours, the Mississippi Valley State University Police Department will file a Missing Person's Report with the state of Mississippi and contact any emergency contact persons listed. This information would be disseminated through the University's e-mail and web page). The MVSU Police Department will continue an open investigation and advise local law enforcement.

ESCORT SERVICES

Mississippi Valley State University Police escorts are available day and night on the main campus to accompany you to any on-campus location safely. To arrange this free safety service, contact the office at (662) 254-3478 or 254-3479.

FIRE SAFETY

As a Mississippi Valley State University student you have certain rights regarding personal safety and security. In order to insure these rights for you and your fellow students, you must abide by certain policies. Fulfilling these policies and requirements is your responsibility as a residence hall student. In all cases of fire, contact MVSU Police Department at 254-2700 immediately. The Police Department will contact the Fire Department and Facilities Management.

FIRE ALARMS

When the fire alarm in your building sounds, it is your **RESPONSIBILITY** to immediately leave the building. Although some fire alarms are false or maliciously pulled as a prank, you must treat every fire alarm as if a real fire is occurring. Maliciously pulling a fire alarm is a serious offense. Not only does it disrupt the lives of every resident in the building, it also places at risk the lives of the responding fire personnel and the resident staff.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fire extinguishers are placed in specific locations throughout each residence hall. These extinguishers are not toys and should only be used in the event of an actual fire. Misuse of a fire extinguisher is very dangerous.

FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

Fire prevention requires the efforts and cooperation of all Mississippi Valley State University community members. As students, you are expected to adhere to strict guidelines regarding this matter. Failure to comply with these expectations will jeopardize your safety and the safety of others.

When it comes to campus fire safety, knowing your surroundings is a tremendous asset. A map of the hall and directions on where to go are a great start, but they are just that: a start. Take the time to get to know your surroundings. Go for a tour of the building and locate all of the exits and stairwells. When an emergency happens, preparation can help to avoid panic.

And since fires aren't just limited to the residence halls, the same advice goes for all other locations on campus where you will spend time. From lecture halls to cafeterias to bookstores and university centers, finding the exits and stairwells just takes a few minutes. Ideally, you will never have to use this information, but having it if you need it is a distinct advantage when it comes to campus fire safety.

PARTICIPATE IN ALL FIRE DRILLS.

When a fire occurs and the alarms sound, you must leave right away. Treat every alarm as real. Do not stop to put on shoes or find your sweater. Do not stop for anything you do not need to get out.

Before opening any doors feel them to see if they are hot. If the door is hot use your second way out. Do you live on a second story? Do you have an escape ladder?

If you do not feel heat, open the door slowly. If you feel heat or see smoke stay low to the ground and crawl toward your exits. Staying low will help to avoid the dangerous heat and smoke.

As you leave, close doors behind you. This will help to contain the fire. Do Not Lock Doors. Never try to stay and fight a fire. Never try to return once you have escaped. Assist the handicapped in exiting the building. Do not use the elevators during a fire or fire drill.

Once outside, move to a clear area at least 500 feet away from the affected building. Keep streets, fire lanes, hydrants and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and crews

If you cannot get out then follow these steps:

- Keep the door closed, seal cracks and vents to keep smoke from entering. If you do not see smoke outside your window, open it slightly to let fresh air in.
- Signal for help – yell or scream to attract attention. Hang an object from the window that can easily be seen.
- If you have a phone, call the fire department and report that you are trapped. Be sure to give your room number and location.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency, determine the nearest exit to your location and the best route to follow. If time permits during the evacuation, secure your workplace and take personal items. In most emergencies, complete evacuation of the campus is not necessary. If, however, there are hazardous materials released, flooding or other major incident, it may be necessary to relocate all university students, faculty, and staff to a safer location.

It is possible that some emergency scenarios could result in one of these protective actions being ordered for one part of campus and the other protective action for a different area of campus. When such actions are warranted, you will be appropriately advised by campus police, fire, safety or university officials via radio and television stations and the Emergency Alert System (Regroup), MVSU News, door-to-door notifications, or other appropriate means.

Campus-wide Evacuation

- Evacuation orders to be disseminated via Regroup Messaging alert system;
- Do not activate the building fire alarm system to achieve evacuation;
- Promptly secure equipment, research, etc. in safe shutdown condition before leaving;
- Remain calm but act quickly;
- Leave by the nearest marked exit and alert others to do the same. **DO NOT USE THE ELEVATOR;**
- ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN EXITING THE BUILDING!**
- Spread the word of the evacuation order to others as you exit the building;
- Remember to take personal belongings with you (backpacks, briefcases, purses, car keys, personal computing devices, etc.); pedestrians should exit campus by the shortest route; •Exit campus as directed;
- You may use your vehicle to leave campus unless directed otherwise;
- If possible, will continue to operate off-campus routes, outbound only;
- Transportation Services can be reached at 662.254.3348;
- Campus Police may direct traffic at some on-campus intersections, and
- Do not call 911 unless there is an immediate, life threatening emergency;
- Once outside, proceed to a clear area that is at least 500 feet away from the affected building. Keep streets, fire lanes, hydrant areas, and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel.
- DO NOT** return to an evacuated building unless told to do so by an authorized person.

Shelter in Place

When emergency conditions do not warrant or allow evacuation, the safest method to protect individuals may be to take shelter inside a campus building and await further instructions.

- Follow reverse evacuation procedures to bring students, faculty, and staff indoors.
- If there are visitors in the building, provide for their safety by asking them to stay – not leave. If authorities provide directions to shelter-in-place, please do as instructed.
- Move indoors or remain there – avoid windows and areas with glass;
- Select interior room(s) above the ground floor, with the fewest windows or vents. Avoid overcrowding by selecting several rooms if necessary. Consider large storage closets, utility rooms, meeting rooms, and gymnasium.
- If available, take a radio or television to the room to track emergency status, and
- Keep telephone lines free for emergency responders; do not call 911 for information.

If Hazardous Materials Are Involved

- Turn off all ventilation systems and close all inlets from the outside;
- Select a room(s) which is easy to seal and, if possible, have a water supply and access to restrooms, and
- If you smell gas or vapor, hold a wet cloth loosely over your nose and mouth and breathe through it in as normal a fashion as possible.

Transportation During Evacuation

The Mass Transit system or other means of University transportation may be utilized. When carrying out emergency transportation activities, immediate needs will be considered first, followed by continuing requirements. Immediate transportation needs normally involve the evacuation of people. Continuing transportation needs typically involve the movement of relief supplies, equipment, and emergency workers during response and recovery operations.

Where possible, emergency passenger transportation requirements will be satisfied with the following resources:

- Voluntary use of personal vehicles
- County-owned vehicles
- School/University buses
- Leased or rented buses
- Donated transportation equipment or services
- State-owned or contracted vehicles

Evacuating from A Building

- Walk, Do Not Run!
- Do not use elevators.
- Those that are unable to rapidly evacuate the building should move to a stairwell landing and wait for assistance from trained first responders. Elevators should not be used in the case of fire. Inform first responders and the Campus Police Department of persons who have not been evacuated.
- Gather outside at your designated area. Report any special circumstances to the Emergency Response Team or Campus Police.
- If you cannot return to your building, wait for instructions from Campus Police.

Evacuation for Physically Disabled or Hearing Impaired

- If on ground floor – Leave the building at the nearest safe exit.
- If on above or below ground floor - Predetermine the safest plan of action considering your physical circumstances and the areas you will be in, with advice from your physician.
- Follow the process above in predetermining emergency evacuation routes and assuring a volunteer (which could be a faculty or staff member) is assigned to inform you of the danger and assist you, if needed, out the safest evacuation route. It may be advisable to wait until the traffic has thinned.
- ALL Building Managers are responsible for securing the following Persons Requesting Additional Assistance form from all persons with disabilities in their assigned building. ALL persons with disabilities may contact University College at 662.254.3005 for additional assistance.

The following general procedures are suggested by fire department and emergency personnel:

- In all areas you frequent, become familiar with location of at least two exits, alarm provisions, safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, storm shelter areas, and evacuation staging areas.
- Before an emergency, choose at least two peers or fellow employees who are willing and able to assist you, if assistance may be needed in carrying you with or without the wheelchair to safety.
- Discuss with assistants and practice, if possible, the safest method for moving you up or down a stairway. If you have difficulty being understood, develop a card containing all appropriate instructions and carry it with you. **Carry a loud whistle for use in the event you become trapped during an emergency, and dial 662-254-3478/3479.**

Fire safety statistics are cited by residential location on campus. Listed below are MVSU’s fire safety statistics for the most recent 3-year period: 2015, 2016, and 2017.

		2017			2018			2019		
Residence Hall	Fires	Injuries	Deaths	Fires	Injuries	Deaths	Fires	Injuries	Deaths	
Delta Sands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
James Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Magnolia Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
New Men	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

New Women	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stewart Hall	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ratcliff Hall	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Valley Annex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0

PARKING PERMITS AND DECALS

Vehicles operated on the campus of MVSU must display the appropriate university decal or permit. All employees and enrolled students, full-time or part-time, must register vehicles to receive a decal.

All visitors arriving on campus should obtain parking information and register for a visitor’s permit. Visitor parking is permitted in General Parking areas.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

The following items are needed for Vehicle Registration

- Valid driver’s license
- MVSU I.D. Card
- Proof of insurance

PARKING DECALS & PARKING LOTS SIGNAGE

Parking lot designation signage is color-coded and numbered to match specific decal assignments.

- Gold – Faculty and Staff;
- Blue – Residential Halls/Males;
- Red – Residential Halls/Females;
- Green – Visitors

WHERE TO PARK

A regular employee or student decal does not guarantee available parking space contiguous to an employee’s work site or to a student’s classroom. Overflow parking is available at various lots throughout campus. Student residents must leave their vehicle parked at their dorm during the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

HANDICAPPED SPACES

Employees, students or visitors needing handicap accommodations are encouraged to contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at 662-254-3443.

PARKING CITATION FINES

Citations may be paid by cash, check, money order, or credit card at the Cashier's window between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

TOWING AND IMMOBILIZATION OPERATION

The MVSU Police Department is authorized to enforce parking and traffic regulation directly and immediately on campus via citation issuance and /or towing/immobilization. Vehicle towing and immobilization are utilized as enforcement tools to control traffic, address frequent violators, aid in collections efforts, and provide a greater degree of accessible parking in the campus parking lots. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to obey parking rules and regulations. Violations could result in having your vehicle immobilized or towed if necessary.

Violation	Fine
Reserved for Handicapped	\$75.00
Blocking Handicap Ramps	\$30.00
No Campus Decal (Permit)	\$25.00
Failure to Stop/ Yield for Blue Lights	\$25.00
Running Stop Signs	\$20.00
Improper Parking	\$50.00
Parking in Fire Lanes	\$20.00
Meter Violation	\$20.00
Zone Violation	\$25.00
Wheel Lock	\$50.00
Reserve Parking Violation	\$75.00
Restricted Parking	\$50.00
Careless Driving	\$75.00
One – Way Violation	\$20.00
Parking on Grass	\$50.00
All other Violations	\$20.00
Appeal Traffic Citation	\$25.00

CITATION APPEALS

Citation must be paid or appealed within five (5) working days from the issue date. After five (5) working days from the issue date of the citation, the right to appeal is forfeited. The Appeal Process is afforded to persons wishing to contest the citation and begins with the completion and submission of an appeals form available at MVSU Police Department.

HATE CRIMES

It is the policy of Mississippi Valley State University Police Department to safeguard the state and federal rights of all individuals irrespective to their race, religion, ethnic background, disability or sexual orientation. Any acts of threats of violence, property damage, harassment, intimidation or other crimes designed to infringe upon these rights are viewed very seriously by the university.

A hate crime is a criminal offense or attempted criminal act against an individual or group because of their actual or perceived race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender or disability.

Pursuant to the Campus Security Act (20USC § 1092), state and local hate crimes legislation list specific crimes which are identifiable as a hate crime, including murder, manslaughter, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

REPORTING A HATE CRIME

If you witness a hate crime or you are the victim of a hate crime, contact the MVSU Police Department at 254-2700 immediately.

HOW TO RECORD THE DETAILS:

- Write down exactly what happened. Be as specific as possible
- Record exactly where and when the incident occurred.
- If anyone was with you or saw what happened, record their names and telephone numbers. Ask them to write an account of what they witnessed, and sign and date the document.
- Record the names or detailed descriptions of the perpetrators.
- Make photocopies of hate mail or other documents
- Keep a careful log of hate calls, and make a tape recording of hate calls on your answering machine.
- Photograph physical injuries, offensive graffiti, and evidence of vandalism.

EXAMPLES OF A HATE CRIME

- Graffiti
- Verbal intimidation or threats
- Hate mail (including electronic mail)
- Property damage
- Trespassing and stalking
- Physical assaults and threats
- Arson
- Attacks with weapons
- Murder

Online Reports

Current Cleary Act Data can be found Online at:

<https://www.mvsu.edu/upd/clery-act>

This 2018 Annual Security and Fire Report can be found Online at

<https://www.mvsu.edu/Student-Affairs-Homepage>