

CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT POLICIES

Required by Higher Education Opportunity Act

Overview

A safe and secure environment on the Muskingum University campus is important to parents, students, and university employees. Education, the business of Muskingum University, can take place only in an environment in which each student and employee feels safe and secure. Muskingum University recognizes this and employs a number of security measures to protect the members of its community.

The Village of New Concord, with its population of 2,300 is home to Muskingum University's 1,600 students along with a graduate student population of more than 1,300. Although the area, with its small-town feel and neighborly attitude, has a relatively low crime rate, crime prevention remains a high priority. Muskingum University does its part to ensure the safety of its students and employees. A professionally trained and supervised police force, a closely screened and well-trained residence live-in staff, and the students and employees themselves, equally share in the responsibility of making the Muskingum University campus a safe place to study, work, and live.

Muskingum University Police Department

In May 2010, under the authority of the State of Ohio of the Ohio Revised Code 1713.50, the Muskingum University Police Department was established as its own police agency with primary jurisdiction within the university campus. Furthermore, the university entered into a mutual aid agreement with the Village of New Concord. Under the mutual aid agreement, the Muskingum University Police Department will take the lead on any reports of violations of law on campus and assist the New Concord Police Department off campus when requested. The Muskingum University Police Department is expected to respond as a mutual aid department in the event of an emergency or at the discretion of the supervisor in charge within the village. The Muskingum University Police Department's normal responsibilities are only on campus. The Village of New Concord agrees to extend the Muskingum University Police Department jurisdiction to include the streets passing through the campus, the adjacent streets, and Muskingum owned property, referred to in the NCMAA as the "Primary Area of Jurisdiction".

The five police officers of Muskingum University are the law enforcement officers for the university. They are empowered to use investigative authority on reasonable suspicion of crime, to search and arrest as authorized by law, and to use reasonable and necessary force to enforce law and protect property on all university lands. Their oath of office is a personal commitment to the rule of law and constitutional limitations of police authority. The Muskingum University Police Department performs the same duties and has the same authority as police departments in the cities in Ohio. They evaluate all reported crimes and conduct investigations to determine the responsible party. University Police enforce laws, regulating underage drinking, use of controlled substances, weapons, and all other incidents requiring police assistance. They are responsible for all police services on university owned property and work cooperatively with the New Concord Police Department, Muskingum County Sheriff's Office, and the local contingent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol in an effort to provide a safe and secure university community.

Officers are regularly scheduled for and attend up-dated training sessions in Muskingum County, Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy in London, and sessions conducted by the FBI and State Highway Patrol. Each officer is qualified in CPR as the university's first responders.

Emergency Numbers

Muskingum University Police Department	740-826-8155
Fire Department or Medical Emergency.....	911
New Concord Police Department.....	740-826-7616
Muskingum County Sheriff's Office.....	740-452-3637
Ohio State Highway Patrol.....	740-453-0541

Reporting Procedures

Students and university employees are strongly encouraged to report crime to the police. Crimes occurring on campus should be reported to the Muskingum University Police Department by calling 826-8155 (non-emergency) or 9-1-1 (emergency) and crimes occurring off campus in New Concord should be reported to the New Concord Police Department by calling 826-7616 (non-emergency) or 9-1-1 (emergency).

Under Ohio law, persons who have knowledge of a felony (a victim of or witness to the crime) are required to report the crime to the police (Ohio Revised Code § 2921.22). Failure to report a crime may itself be a crime.

Information on criminal behavior may be reported to the Student Life Office, advisors to student organizations, Department of Athletics, and the university administration. The university strongly encourages crime victims to report all criminal activity to police.

In responding to calls, the department's officers investigate, make arrests when necessary, prepare incident reports and submit copies to the Student Life Office, as well as to other campus departments that may be affected. Reports are forwarded to law enforcement agencies off campus on an as needed basis. The university makes every effort to provide confidentiality to those who report crimes. However, the Muskingum University Police Department may not be able to hold all reports of crime confidential. Police reports become public records under state law when they are forwarded to outside police departments or courts for prosecution purposes.

The Muskingum University Police Department has a much better chance of solving crimes when crimes are reported promptly and accurately.

If you have suggestions about how we might work together for a safer living and learning environment, please share your ideas with a university police representative at 740-826-8155 or email the Director at safety@muskingum.edu or rexn@muskingum.edu.