

DALTON STATE COLLEGE

ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY AND SECURITY REPORT

October 2026

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Reporting Crimes and Other Emergencies

Dalton State has a number of ways for campus community members and visitors to report crimes, serious incidents, and other emergencies to appropriate College officials. Regardless of how and where you decide to report these incidents, it is critical for the safety of the entire College community that you immediately report all incidents to the Department of Public Safety at (706-272-4461) to ensure an effective investigation and appropriate follow-up actions, including issuing a crime alert or emergency notification.

Voluntary, Confidential Reporting

Dalton State does not currently have a policy regarding voluntary, confidential reporting of crimes by complainants or witnesses for inclusion in crime statistics. Anyone may report crimes to the Department of Public Safety at 706-272-4461. Callers may remain anonymous.

Reporting to the Department of Public Safety

We encourage all members of the College community to report all crimes and other emergencies to the Department of Public Safety or other appropriate law enforcement agency (report to the agency with primary jurisdiction) when the victim of a crime elects to, or is unable to, make such a report. The Department of Public Safety has a dispatch center that is available by phone at 706-272-4461, and reports will be taken 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Though there are many resources available, the Department of Public Safety should be notified of any crime, whether or not a criminal investigation continues, to ensure the College can assess any and all security concerns and inform the community if there is a significant threat to them. Officers and other employees can assist in making reports when the victim is unable to do so.

Emergency Phones

Dalton State has installed emergency phones throughout the campus. Phones are located in public areas of buildings, including parking garages, elevators, residence hall buildings, administration buildings, and numerous outdoor locations. Emergency phones provide direct voice communications to the Department of Public Safety Dispatch Center.

Anonymous Reporting

If you are interested in reporting a crime anonymously (sexual assault, stalking, disorderly conduct, etc.), you can utilize the Department of Public Safety Silent Witness program, which can be accessed through the [Department's website](#) or by calling the Department of Public Safety at 706-272-4461. By policy, we do not attempt to trace the origin of the person who submits this form unless such is deemed necessary by the Department of Public Safety.

Reporting to Campus Security Authorities

While Dalton State prefers that community members promptly report all crimes and other emergencies directly to the Department of Public Safety at 706-272-4461 or 911, we also recognize that some may prefer to report to other individuals or college offices. The Clery Act recognizes certain college officials and offices as "Campus Security Authorities (CSA)." The Act defines these individuals as "an official of an institution who has significant responsibility for student and campus

activities, including, but not limited to, student housing, student discipline, and campus judicial proceedings. An official is defined as any person who has the authority and the duty to take action or respond to particular issues on behalf of the institution."

While Dalton State has identified several CSAs, we officially designate the following offices as places where campus community members should report crimes:

Official	Campus Address	Phone Number
Department of Public Safety	Health Professions Building Suite 300	706-272-4461, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs	Westcott Building, Office 166	706-272-4516
Assistant Vice President of Human Resources	Brown Hall, Office 315	706-272-2034
Associate Director for Community Standards and Student Outreach	Student Center, Office 225	706-272-2999
Dean of Students	Student Center, Office 220	706-272-4428
The Office of Residence Life	Mashburn Hall Office D213	706-712-8233
VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management	Westcott, Office 109	706-272-2505

Pastoral and Professional Counselors

According to the Clery Act, pastoral and professional counselors who are appropriately credentialed and hired by Dalton State to serve in a counseling role are not considered Campus Security Authorities when they are acting in the counseling role. Dalton State does not currently have a policy or procedure that encourages pastoral and professional counselors, at their professional discretion, to inform the persons they are counseling of any such procedures to report crimes on a voluntary, confidential basis for inclusion in crime statistics.

Preparation of the Annual Report and Disclosure of Crime Statistics

The Director of the Department of Public Safety prepares this report (to include collecting crime statistics) to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act by reviewing reports from several sources:

- Local Law Enforcement Agencies (both campuses)
- Student Conduct
- Campus Security Authorities are members of the campus community such as police officers, security officers; individuals responsible for the security of the campus outside the police or security department; individuals whom students are directed to report crimes, and others with significant responsibilities outside the classroom, such as athletic coaches, student housing, student discipline, etc.

The individual reports are reviewed to determine if they meet Clery reporting requirements, such as if the incident is within the Clery geographical reporting area and if the incident falls within one of the four Clery crime categories. Guidance from the Department of Education is sought for clarification on reporting individual incidents as required. This report provides statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on our campuses, in certain off-campus buildings, or on property owned, leased, or controlled by Dalton State. This report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as policies regarding sexual assault, alcohol, and other drugs. There are limited circumstances in which reported crimes may be unfounded by a sworn law enforcement officer as false or baseless. The number of unfounded crimes will be reported in the Annual Security Report and reported to the DOE. The College distributes a notice of the availability of this Annual Security and Fire Safety Report by October 1 of each year to every member of the college community. Anyone, including prospective students and employees, may obtain a paper copy of this report by contacting the Department of Public Safety at 706-272-4461 or by visiting:

https://www.daltonstate.edu/campus_life/public-safety/clery-act/

Security and Access to College Facilities

On the Dalton State campus, the administrative building is generally open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Academic buildings generally are open from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. During the weekday and are scheduled to be open on weekends only as needed. Access to individual classrooms and laboratories is limited to those enrolled in the courses meeting there. Likewise, access to most programs is limited to those enrolled in the program or otherwise having authorized access. Many cultural and athletic events held in the college facilities are open to the public. Other facilities, such as the library, are likewise open to the public. Only those who have demonstrated a need are issued access to a building. Security cameras cover the interior and exterior of buildings and parking areas. Areas of special concern have entry alarms which report to the Department of Public Safety on campus.

Special Considerations for Residence Hall Access (Mashburn Hall)

A Persona-branded electric lock system and Medco core lock system are used throughout the residence hall at Dalton State College. Students are provided an individual electronic access card that is used to gain entry to the building, the hallways, and their assigned suite. A key is issued, which only works on the door lock going into their assigned bedroom. Only residents and their escorted guests are permitted in the living areas of the residence hall. It is the resident's responsibility to ensure that their guest is aware of the college and residence hall policies that are provided to them before they arrive. These policies can also be found on the Dalton State College Residential Life's website. Guests are not provided with building or room access. It is the responsibility of residents and staff members to report individuals who cannot be identified as residents or the guests of residents. When the Department of Public Safety receives a report of a suspicious person in the residence hall, a police officer is dispatched to identify the person. The Department of Public Safety staffs each shift with an adequate number of officers to patrol and handle calls for service. Public Safety officers spend much of their time patrolling in and around the residence hall building, especially when the College is closed. Resident Assistants are assigned to specific residence halls in which they help manage. During low-occupancy periods such as holidays and scheduled breaks, students are consolidated into designated rooms. When groups not regularly associated with Dalton State use the residence hall, officers conduct additional routine patrols. The interior and exterior of the residential building are covered with security cameras.

Security Considerations for the Maintenance of Campus Facilities

Dalton State is committed to campus safety and security. On-campus locks, landscaping, and outdoor lighting are designed for safety and security. Sidewalks are designed to provide well-traveled, lighted routes from parking areas to buildings and from building to building. Sidewalks and building entrances are illuminated to provide well-traveled, lighted routes from parking areas to buildings and from building to building.

Plant Operations and the Department of Public Safety conduct surveys of college property and buildings to evaluate campus safety concerns. Public Safety patrols the campus and identifies safety and security concerns in buildings to include pathways such as hallways and stairwells. We encourage community members to promptly report any security concern, including concerns about a locking mechanism, lighting, or landscaping, to the Plant Operations Department at 706-272-4446 or the Department of Public Safety at 706-272-4461.

About the Department of Public Safety

The Dalton State College Department of Public Safety protects and serves the college community 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Department is made up of sworn law enforcement officers, security officers, and certified dispatchers. The Department is responsible for a number of campus safety and security programs and participates in others, including emergency management, community safety and security education, and physical security assessments. The Public Safety department responds to all emergencies on the main campus (medical, fires, active threats, hazardous incidents, crimes, etc.) and can be reached 24/7 at 706-272-4461. Public Safety is also involved in security technology, behavioral threat assessment, and special event management.

The Department is composed of:

- 11 Full-Time Police Officers
- Part-Time Police Officers
- 3 Dispatchers

The police officers at Dalton State:

- Have many years of experience and training;
- Complete a peace officer training course required of all police officers in Georgia;
- Receive many hours per year of in-service training specializing in crime prevention, evidence management, response to emergency situations, first aid, CPR/AED, weapons and tactics, de-escalation, community policing, and other specialized topics;
- Department of Public Safety Officers are authorized under OCGA 20-3-72 to make arrests on and within 500 yards of any property owned or controlled by the Board of Regents within the State of Georgia. All crimes that occur on campus or College property shall be reported to the Department of Public Safety.

The Department of Public Safety works to protect our community through professional service, education, diversity, and ethical accountability by promoting safety and security.

Working Relationships with Other Law Enforcement Agencies

The Department of Public Safety maintains a cooperative relationship with the Dalton Police Department and other surrounding first responders. This includes interoperable radio capability, training, special events coordination, and investigations. Incidents beyond the capabilities of the Public Safety Department are investigated by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the state investigative body.

The Department of Public Safety participates in an Intermunicipal Mutual Aid Agreement that authorizes police officers and supervisors of the participating agencies to request mutual aid for incidents based upon a reasonable belief that such aid will enhance the public and officers' safety. The agencies participating in the agreement with the College include the Dalton Police Department and the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office. The agreement also allows for joint training and cooperation on other matters, such as pre-planned large-scale special events and emergencies amongst the participating agencies.

Crimes at Off-Campus Locations

Dalton State relies on its close working relationships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to receive information about incidents involving students and recognized student organizations off-campus. In coordination with local law enforcement agencies, the Department of Public Safety will actively investigate certain crimes occurring on or near campus. If the Department of Public Safety learns of serious criminal activity involving students or student organizations, it will coordinate with the appropriate external law enforcement agency to forward information about the situation to the Office of Student Conduct, as appropriate.

Dalton State requires all recognized student organizations to abide by federal, state, and local laws, as well as college regulations. Dalton State may become involved in the off-campus conduct of recognized student organizations when such conduct is determined to violate laws or college regulations. The Department of Public Safety has a working relationship with state and local law enforcement concerning the investigation of crimes.

Crime Prevention and Safety Awareness Programs

There are a variety of safety and crime prevention programs offered.

- **Active Threat-** This program discusses active threats and the definition of an active shooter(s). It also discusses measures that can be employed to reduce the risk an active shooter presents, as well as reviews what actions you can expect from responding law enforcement. This program is offered each semester to the campus community by the Department of Public Safety.
- **Sexual Assault-** This program defines sexual assault, rape, and consent. During this program, we discuss how sexual assault and rape are similar and different, how to prevent sexual assault/rape, what to do if it happens to you, and what you can do to help others. This program is offered each semester to the campus community by the Department of Public Safety.
- **Identity Theft-** In this presentation, we discuss what identity theft is, how identity theft can happen, what you can do to deter, detect, and defend against identity theft, and where you can learn more about identity theft. This program is offered each semester to the campus community by the Department of Public Safety.
- **Emergency Preparedness-** In this presentation, we discuss emergency notifications; how to assist evacuating people with disabilities; what to do in case of a fire and medical emergency; when to shelter in place; what to do in case of a tornado and/or severe weather; what to do in case of a student/staff crisis; how to handle suspicious packages; and what to do in case of a suspicious person or suspicious activity on campus. In this presentation, we also touch on what to do in case of an active threat. This program is offered each semester to the campus community by the Department of Public Safety.
- **Safety and Security Guidance-** The Department of Public Safety sends routine emails each semester to campus and meets with specific departments concerning matters of safety and security, such as first aid kit locations and procedures, procedures for evacuations, procedures in the event of a fire or gas leak, and others.
- Dalton State College continued to assign the **RespectEDU course** to new and transfer students. The Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates course is an online interactive course designed to educate students on recognizing and preventing sexual assault. It emphasizes consent, bystander intervention, and understanding personal boundaries. The course uses real-world scenarios and evidence-based research to engage participants and improve their awareness of sexual assault. Additionally, it addresses the effects of alcohol and drugs in relation to sexual assault.
- **Hazing prevention and Awareness-** This course gives students a better understanding of hazing, allowing them to identify hazing on college campuses and when it's happening and

possibly prevent incidents in the future. This course supports institutions in compliance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act and is assigned to new and transfer students.

- Employees participate in mandatory training, which includes ***Title IX for Higher Education***.

It's Up to Each of Us

Dalton State takes great pride in the community and offers students, faculty, and staff many advantages. This community is a great place to live, learn, work, and study; however, this does not mean that the campus community is immune from all of the other unfortunate circumstances that arise in other communities. With that in mind, Dalton State has taken progressive measures to create and maintain a reasonably safe environment on campus.

Though the College is progressive with its policies, programs, and education, it is up to each one of us to live with a sense of awareness and use reasonable judgment when living, working, or visiting on campus.

Hazing

Dalton State College prohibits hazing. This prohibition applies to students and student organizations (including school organizations) and extends to conduct occurring both on campus and at College-sponsored or College-affiliated activities, as well as other off campus conduct that violates the Student Code of Conduct.

Hazing is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act against another person, regardless of whether that person agrees to participate, that is connected to joining, belonging to, or staying in a student or school organization. The act must cause or create a risk of physical or psychological harm that goes beyond the normal risks of the organization's activities. Please see (policy names) for full details.

Hazing may constitute both a violation of university policy and a criminal offense under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-61), which may result in criminal penalties, including fines and imprisonment.

Reports of hazing may be submitted through the College's [Online Referral](#) form, by contacting the Department of Public Safety or local law enforcement, or by reporting to the Dean of Students, Provost, or Human Resources, depending on the individuals involved.

Retaliation against individuals who report hazing or participate in an investigation is strictly prohibited. Knowingly filing a false report also constitutes a violation of college policy.

Allegations of hazing involving students or student organizations are investigated by the Community Standards & Student Outreach office under the College's Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures for behavioral misconduct. The Student Conduct Administrator conducts an initial review and may impose temporary protective measures. The respondent (student or student organization) receives written notice of the allegations and an opportunity for a preliminary disciplinary meeting. A prompt, impartial investigation follows, including interviews and evidence review. The case may resolve informally if responsibility is accepted, or it proceeds to a formal hearing before a Single Hearing Officer or a Student Conduct Board using the preponderance-of-the-evidence standard. A written decision outlines the outcome and sanctions; respondents have

appeal rights for suspension or expulsion. Organizational findings are published in Dalton State's public Campus Hazing Transparency Report. For full details see: [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Allegations of hazing involving faculty are referred to the Provost (or designee), while allegations involving staff are referred to the Assistant Vice President for Human Resources (or designee). These cases are investigated under the College's standard employee misconduct procedures (Human Resources Policies for staff and Faculty Handbook/USG Board of Regents policies for faculty). The process includes an initial review of the report, a fact-finding investigation with interviews and evidence collection, an opportunity for the employee to respond, a determination of whether a violation occurred, and appropriate disciplinary action if substantiated (ranging from a written warning to termination of employment). All employees must cooperate fully with any investigation, and retaliation against reporters or participants is strictly prohibited. Faculty and staff cases are handled separately from the student conduct process through the Community Standards & Student Outreach office.

Hazing education and awareness programming is detailed under the Crime Prevention and Safety Awareness Programs section.

Policies Governing Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

It is the policy of Dalton State that illicit drug use, including their manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use is prohibited in the workplace, on the campus, or as part of any college activities. Sanctions imposed for violation of this policy are indicated below. It is the policy of the College that illegal alcohol use, manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, or possession is prohibited in the workplace, on the campus, or as part of any College activities. Sanctions imposed for violation of this policy are indicated below. It is the policy of Dalton State College and the Dalton State Department of Public Safety to enforce all local, state, and federal drug or alcohol laws (including underage drinking laws) through issuing warnings, citations, arrests, or referrals to the disciplinary process. Dalton State policies on the use of alcohol and drugs may also be found in the Student Code of Conduct, the Employee Handbook, and the USG Board of Regents Policy Manual.

Upon approval of the President, Dalton State College permits the service or consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus subject to specific guidelines as detailed in policy.

Alcohol and Illegal Drugs Programs

Alcohol and other drug programs and services are made available to students, faculty, and staff annually. Programs and services are typically provided through Athletics, The Ken White Student Health Center, The Counseling Center, Human Resources, Department of Public Safety, Residential Life, Student Conduct, and Student Life (including Greek Life). Types of programs and services vary from year to year. This information is also contained in the Biennial Review of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, which was produced by the Dean of Students Office.

Dalton State College requires all new and transfer students to complete AlcoholEdu for College, an interactive online module grounded in evidence-based prevention strategies. The program engages

students through dynamic content designed to inform and influence responsible decision-making related to alcohol and other drugs.

The Athletics Department at Dalton State College maintains a proactive approach to Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) education and policy enforcement, in alignment with institutional, legal, and NAIA expectations. A mandatory annual department-wide orientation is held at the beginning of the fall semester for all student-athletes, coaches, and athletics staff. The orientation includes targeted education on AOD related issues, with specific emphasis on institutional policies, state and federal laws, athletic department standards, and NAIA regulations. The NAIA Banned Substances List is shared and reviewed with all participants with particular attention given to the misuse or sharing of prescription medications, a concern frequently observed across collegiate athletics with potentially serious legal and health consequences. Nutritional supplements are also a point of emphasis during AOD programming. Students are informed of the risks associated with supplement use, especially as it relates to substances prohibited under NAIA guidelines. Alcohol use is addressed with a focus on the relationship between age, legality, privilege, and responsibility. Conversations underscore the legal implications of underage drinking and providing alcohol to minors, as well as the broader societal expectations tied to responsible behavior. As part of NAIA compliance, all student-athletes are required to sign a consent form allowing for drug testing in the event they are selected during participation at a NAIA event.

The Ken White Student Health Center plays an integral role in supporting student wellness and contributing to Dalton State College's comprehensive Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) prevention efforts. Health center staff completed advanced continuing education on the administration of naloxone (Narcan), focusing on best practices for recognizing and responding to opioid overdose situations. Although the health center does not prescribe controlled substances, staff are well-trained to assess substance-related risks and respond to related health concerns, including the relationship between substance use and sexual assault. The health center offers monthly testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), which includes educational components on the effects of alcohol and drug use on sexual health, decision-making, and STI transmission. Alcohol and drug use screening questions are included in the patient medical history form, which is completed and reviewed at each clinic visit. This process facilitates early identification of substance-related concerns and supports appropriate education and referrals. In partnership with the Office of Residential Life, the health center supported and delivered AOD programming directly to on-campus residents several times throughout the academic year, helping increase access to prevention efforts among residential students.

The Dalton State Counseling Center hosts a Fresh Check Day program at which information and resources were available for students regarding substance abuse red flags and resources. They also offer QPR programming which discusses the link between substance abuse and suicidal behaviors. The Counseling Center provides weekly summer programming (3 distinct programs) for the entire campus community (including faculty and staff) while offering a variety of therapy types to students. The Center also provides referral services to UWill psychiatrist services for medication options and therapists are involved in the planning committee and implementation of the inaugural Dalton State Mental Health Summit.

Human Resources provides the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which provides confidential counseling, educational resources, and training on a variety of topics, including substance use and mental health. Dalton State actively participates in the University System of Georgia's comprehensive Well-being Program, which focuses on empowering employees to take charge of their physical, emotional, and financial well-being. New hire orientation at Dalton State College includes foundational education on institutional expectations and available employee support resources.

Dalton State College's Public Safety Department offers an educational Drug Awareness and an Alcohol Awareness course aimed at increasing awareness of common illicit substances and alcohol and their physiological impact.

Residence Life staff at Dalton State College complete a holistic training program that is divided into three intensive weeks with training from Student Conduct, Counseling, and Public Safety on how to assist and refer students in need, including all forms of substance abuse that may occur within the residence hall. Residential Life incorporates both active and passive educational strategies to promote substance awareness within the residence halls, including specific alcohol and drug abuse education for the residents.

Student Life provides annual training relating to alcohol and drug abuse to all RSOs and all fraternities and sororities.

Dalton State's Response to Sexual and Gender Violence

Dalton State College is committed to providing a safe learning and working environment and prohibits incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In compliance with federal laws, policies, and procedures have been adopted to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking involving members of our campus community. These guidelines apply to all students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors. Victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking have specific rights, options, and resources guaranteed to them by the Clery Act. These services are made available to the complainant and respondent before or after filing a complaint or where no complaint has been filed.

Student and Employee Rights

Institutions must provide victims of the crimes covered above with a written explanation of their rights. These rights include the option for a relocation/change of housing, transportation, or academic course assignment. They also include access to counseling services, legal services, and law enforcement notification. These rights are described in greater detail on the following pages.

Disciplinary Proceedings

All disciplinary proceedings must be conducted by trained parties at the institution — either individuals or panels of trained persons. Proceedings are required to be prompt, fair, and impartial and must confer certain procedural rights to both the accuser and the accused.

Reporting an Incident

If a student, employee, or visitor has been the victim of an incident of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, they should immediately report it to the Department of Public Safety at 706-272-4461. Students may also report to the Associate Director for Community Standards and Student Outreach in Pope 225 or by phone at 706-272-2999. Employees may report to the Assistant Vice President of Human Resources in Brown Hall, Office 315, or by calling 706-272-2034. The Dean of Students Office, Residence Life, and other offices will assist any victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in notifying law enforcement if they elect to do so. Victims are not required to report to law enforcement in order to receive assistance from or pursue any options with Dalton State. The Department of Public Safety can assist a victim in obtaining a restraining order or medical assistance after being involved in an incident. Our Title IX Coordinator can provide the victim with a copy of their rights and options regardless of whether the incident occurred on campus. Also, the victim can get information on counseling, mental health services, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other services available to victims. Also, changes to academic, living, transportation, and working situations, or protective measures, regardless of whether the victim reports the incident to law enforcement. Immigration and Visa assistance and other services can be obtained by contacting Dalton State College's Title IX Coordinator: Associate Director for Community Standards and Student Outreach in Pope 225 or by phone at 706-272-2999.

Risk Reduction

Risk Reduction for Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Violence-

- Make your limits/boundaries known as early as possible.
- Clearly and firmly articulate consent or lack of consent.
- Remove yourself, if possible, from an aggressor's physical presence.
- Reach out for help, either from someone who is physically nearby or by calling someone. People around you may be waiting for a signal that you need help.
- Take affirmative responsibility for your alcohol and/or drug consumption. Alcohol and drugs can increase your vulnerability to sexual victimization.
- Look out for your friends, and ask them to look out for you. Respect them, and ask them to respect you, but be willing to challenge each other about high-risk choices.

Reducing the Risk of Being Accused of Sexual Misconduct

- Show your potential partner respect if you are in a position to initiate sexual behavior.
- If a potential partner says "no," accept it and don't push. If you want a "yes," ask for it, and don't proceed without clear permission.
- Clearly communicate your intentions to your potential sexual partners, and give them a chance to share their intentions and/or boundaries with you.

- Respect personal boundaries. If you are unsure what's OK in any interaction, ask.
- Avoid ambiguity. Don't make assumptions about consent, about whether someone is attracted to you, how far you can go with that person, or if the individual is physically and mentally able to consent. If you have questions or are unclear, you don't have consent.
- Don't take advantage of the fact that someone may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, even if that person chose to become that way. Others' loss of control does not put you in control.
- Be on the lookout for mixed messages. That should be a clear indication to stop and talk about what your potential partner wants or doesn't want to happen. That person may be undecided about how far to go with you, or you may have misread a previous signal.
- Respect the timeline for sexual behaviors with which others are comfortable and understand that they are entitled to change their minds.
- Recognize that even if you don't think you are intimidating in any way, your potential partner may be intimidated by or fearful of you, perhaps because of your sex, physical size, or a position of power or authority you may hold.
- Do not assume that someone's silence or passivity is an indication of consent. Pay attention to verbal and non-verbal signals to avoid misreading intentions.
- Understand that consent to one type of sexual behavior does not automatically grant consent to other types of sexual behaviors. If you are unsure, stop and ask. Understand that exerting power and control over another through sex is unacceptable conduct.

Education Programs and Prevention

Institutions are required to provide students and employees, on an introductory and ongoing basis, prevention and awareness programs for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These programs must include material on bystander intervention and risk reduction aimed at recognizing the warning signs of these crimes. Dalton State College is committed to increasing awareness of and preventing violence. All incoming students and new employees are provided with programming and strategies intended to prevent rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking before it occurs through the changing of social norms and other approaches; that include a clear statement that Dalton State prohibits such acts, their definitions, the definition of consent, options for bystander intervention, information about risk reduction, and our policies and procedures for responding to these incidents. Ongoing prevention and awareness campaigns are also offered throughout the year.

These programs include:

- **What to Know- Sexual Assault** - This program defines sexual assault, rape, and consent. During this program, we discuss how sexual assault and rape are similar and different, how to prevent sexual assault/rape, what to do if it happens to you, and what you can do to help others. This program is offered each semester to the campus community by the Department of Public Safety.

- Dalton State College continued to assign the Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates course to new and transfer students. The Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates course is an online interactive course designed to educate students on recognizing and preventing sexual assault. It emphasizes consent, bystander intervention, and understanding personal boundaries. The course uses real-world scenarios and evidence-based research to engage participants and improve their awareness of sexual assault. Additionally, it addresses the effects of alcohol and drugs in relation to sexual assault.
- The Dean of Students Office continues to collaborate with fraternities and sororities to offer various programming such as "These Hands Don't Hurt". This program is hosted once a semester and engages and educates students on recognizing and addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual harassment at Dalton State. Students are educated to identify, report, and refer students for support and resources.
- Employees complete an online program called *Title IX for Higher Education*.

Crime Definitions:

I. Sexual Assault

Rape—The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

Fondling—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

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.

II. Dating violence

Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim.

A. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

B. For the purposes of this definition—

- 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.

C. For the purposes of complying with the requirements of this section and § 668.41, any incident meeting this definition is considered a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting.

III. **Domestic violence**

- A. A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed—
 - i. By a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim;
 - ii. By a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;
 - iii. By a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
 - iv. By a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred, or
 - v. By any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.
- B. For the purposes of complying with the requirements of this section and § 668.41, any incident meeting this definition is considered a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting.

IV. **Stalking**

- A. Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to—
 - i. Fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or
 - ii. Suffer substantial emotional distress.
- B. For the purposes of this definition—
 - i. Course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property.
 - ii. Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.
 - iii. Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.
- C. For the purposes of complying with the requirements of this section and section 668.41, any incident meeting this definition is considered a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting.

Georgia VAWA Definitions

The Clery Act requires colleges and universities to include the definitions of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking under state law in their Annual Security Reports.

Federal law uses its own definitions for these terms when collecting crime statistics. However, each state defines these offenses differently under its own criminal laws. By providing Georgia's definitions, this section helps students and employees understand what these behaviors actually mean as crimes in this state. This makes it easier to recognize harmful conduct, understand legal rights, and know when to report something that may be a crime.

Sexual Assault

The Clery Act defines “sexual assault” broadly, so it covers several different Georgia criminal laws.

Rape, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-1(a) A person commits the offense of rape when he has carnal knowledge of: (1) A female forcibly and against her will; or (2) A female who is less than ten years of age. Carnal knowledge in rape occurs when there is any penetration of the female sex organ by the male sex organ. The fact that the person allegedly raped is the wife of the defendant shall not be a defense to a charge of rape.

Aggravated Sodomy, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-2(a)(2) (a)(1) A person commits the offense of sodomy when he or she performs or submits to any sexual act involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another. (2) A person commits the offense of aggravated sodomy when he or she commits sodomy with force and against the will of the other person or when he or she commits sodomy with a person who is less than ten years of age. The fact that the person allegedly sodomized is the spouse of a defendant shall not be a defense to a charge of aggravated sodomy.

Note: The Supreme Court of Georgia ruled in 1998 that the state cannot punish private, consensual sex between adults under the sodomy law, but kept the rules against forced acts or those involving anyone under ten years old.

Aggravated Sexual Battery, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22.2(a)-(b) (a) For the purposes of this Code section, the term “foreign object” means any article or instrument other than the sexual organ of a person. (b) A person commits the offense of aggravated sexual battery when he or she intentionally penetrates with a foreign object the sexual organ or anus of another person without the consent of that person.

Sexual Battery, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22.1(a)-(b) (a) For the purposes of this Code section, the term “intimate parts” means the primary genital area, anus, groin, inner thighs, or buttocks of a male or female and the breasts of a female. (b) A person commits the offense of sexual battery when he or she intentionally makes physical contact with the intimate parts of the body of another person without the consent of that person.

Child Molestation; Aggravated Child Molestation, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-4 (a)&(c) (a) A person commits the offense of child molestation when such person: (1) Does an immoral or indecent act to or in the presence of or with any child under the age of 16 years with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of either the child or the person; or (2) By means of an electronic device, transmits images of a person engaging in, inducing, or otherwise participating in an immoral or indecent act to a child under the age of 16 years with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of either the child or the person. (c) A person commits the offense of aggravated child molestation when such person commits an offense of child molestation which act physically injures the child or involves an act of sodomy.

Statutory Rape, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-3(a)-(c) (a) A person commits the offense of statutory rape when he or she engages in sexual intercourse with any person under the age of 16 years and not his or her spouse, provided that no conviction shall be had for this offense on the unsupported testimony of the victim. (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this Code section, a person convicted of the offense of statutory rape shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than 20

years; provided, however, that if the person so convicted is 21 years of age or older, such person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than ten nor more than 20 years. Any person convicted under this subsection of the offense of statutory rape shall, in addition, be subject to the sentencing and punishment provisions of Code Section 17-10-6.2. (c) If the victim is at least 14 but less than 16 years of age and the person convicted of statutory rape is 18 years of age or younger and is no more than four years older than the victim, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Incest, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22(a) (a) A person commits the offense of incest when such person engages in sexual intercourse or sodomy, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-6-2, with a person whom he or she knows he or she is related to by blood, by adoption, or by marriage as follows: (1) Father and child or stepchild; (2) Mother and child or stepchild; (3) Siblings of the whole blood or of the half blood or by virtue of adoption; (4) Grandparent and grandchild of the whole blood or of the half blood or by virtue of adoption; (5) Aunt and niece or nephew of the whole blood or of the half blood or by virtue of adoption; or (6) Uncle and niece or nephew of the whole blood or of the half blood or by virtue of adoption.

Stalking, O.C.G.A. § 16-5-90(a) (a)(1) A person commits the offense of stalking when he or she follows, places under surveillance, or contacts another person at or about a place or places without the consent of the other person for the purpose of harassing and intimidating the other person. For the purpose of this article, the terms “computer” and “computer network” shall have the same meanings as set out in Code Section 16-9-92; the term “contact” shall mean any communication including without being limited to communication in person, by telephone, by mail, by broadcast, by computer, by computer network, or by any other electronic device; and the place or places that contact by telephone, mail, broadcast, computer, computer network, or any other electronic device is deemed to occur shall be the place or places where such communication is received. For the purpose of this article, the term “place or places” shall include any public or private property occupied by the victim other than the residence of the defendant. For the purposes of this article, the term “harassing and intimidating” means a knowing and willful course of conduct directed at a specific person which causes emotional distress by placing such person in reasonable fear for such person’s safety or the safety of a member of his or her immediate family, by establishing a pattern of harassing and intimidating behavior, and which serves no legitimate purpose. This Code section shall not be construed to require that an overt threat of death or bodily injury has been made.

(2) A person commits the offense of stalking when such person, in violation of a bond to keep the peace posted pursuant to Code Section 17-6-110, standing order issued under Code Section 19-1-1, temporary restraining order, temporary protective order, permanent restraining order, permanent protective order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction or condition of pretrial release, condition of probation, or condition of parole in effect prohibiting the harassment or intimidation of another person, broadcasts or publishes, including electronic publication, the picture, name, address, or phone number of a person for whose benefit the bond, order, or condition was made and without such person’s consent in such a manner that causes other persons to harass or intimidate such person and the person making the broadcast or publication knew or had reason to believe that such broadcast or publication would cause such person to be harassed or intimidated by others.

Aggravated stalking, O.C.G.A. § 16-5-91(a) (a) A person commits the offense of aggravated stalking when such person, in violation of a bond to keep the peace posted pursuant to Code Section 17-6-110, temporary restraining order, temporary protective order, permanent restraining order, permanent protective order, preliminary injunction, good behavior bond, or permanent injunction or condition of pretrial release, condition of probation, or condition of parole in effect prohibiting the behavior described in this subsection, follows, places under surveillance, or contacts another person at or about a place or places without the consent of the other person for the purpose of harassing and intimidating the other person.

Dating violence, O.C.G.A. § 19-13A-1. (1) “Dating relationship” means a committed romantic relationship characterized by a level of intimacy that is not associated with mere friendship or between persons in an ordinary business, social, or educational context; provided, however, that such term shall not require sexual involvement. (2) “Dating violence” means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between persons through whom a current pregnancy has developed or who are currently, or within the last 12 months were, in a dating relationship: (A) Any felony; or (B) Commission of the offenses of simple battery, battery, simple assault, or stalking.

Domestic Violence/Family violence, O.C.G.A. § 19-13-1. As used in this article, the term “family violence” means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between past or present spouses, persons who are parents of the same child, parents and children, stepparents and stepchildren, foster parents and foster children, or other persons living or formerly living in the same household: (1) Any felony; or (2) Commission of offenses of battery, simple battery, simple assault, assault, stalking, criminal damage to property, unlawful restraint, or criminal trespass. The term “family violence” shall not be deemed to include reasonable discipline administered by a parent to a child in the form of corporal punishment, restraint, or detention.

Consent

Georgia law does not provide a general statutory definition of “consent” in reference to sexual activity. Instead, consent is addressed through the specific elements of sexual offense statutes, such as “forcibly and against her will” or “without the consent of that person,” along with relevant court decisions. Certain individuals cannot legally consent to sexual activity, including anyone under the age of consent and persons who are physically or mentally incapacitated.

Hazing

Defined as: “any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that— (I) is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in a student organization; and (II) causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including— (aa) whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone’s body, or similar activity; (bb) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity; (cc) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances; (dd) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts; (ee) any

activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct; (ff) any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and (gg) any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.

The new law defines student organization as: “an organization at an institution of higher education (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) of which two or more the members are students enrolled at the institution of higher education, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the institution.” (Note: If the same person or persons commit more than one hazing act close together in time and place, the incident should be reported as one incident.

Bystanders

Bystanders play a critical role in the prevention of sexual and relationship violence. They 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." We want to promote a culture of community accountability where bystanders are actively engaged in the prevention of violence without causing further harm. We may not always know what to do, even if we want to help. Below is a list of some ways to be an active bystander. If you or someone else is in immediate danger, dial 911. This could be when a person is yelling at or being physically abusive towards another, and it is not safe for you to interrupt.

1. Watch out for your friends and fellow students/employees. If you see someone who looks like they could be in trouble or need help, ask if they are OK.
2. Confront people who seclude, hit on, try to make out with, or have sex with people who are incapacitated.
3. Speak up when someone discusses plans to take sexual advantage of another person.
4. Believe someone who discloses sexual assault, abusive behavior, or experience with stalking.
5. Refer people to on- or off-campus resources for support in health, counseling, or legal assistance.

Procedures Victims Should Follow

If an incident of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking occurs, it is important to preserve evidence so that a successful criminal prosecution or obtaining a protective order remains an option. The victim of a sexual assault should not wash, douche, use the toilet, or change clothing prior to a medical exam – which is important both to address any health issues that may arise and evidence collection. Any clothing removed should be placed in a paper, not plastic, bag. Evidence of violence, such as bruising or other visible injuries, following an incident of domestic or dating violence, should be documented by taking a photograph. Evidence of stalking, including any communication, such as written notes, voice mail, or other electronic communications, should be saved and not altered. These offenses should be reported immediately

to a Campus Security Authority (CSA) listed above. These Campus Authorities can assist the victim with reporting the incident to the Department of Public Safety if the victim wishes to pursue criminal action. The Campus Authority can also report the required information to the Department of Public Safety if the victim does not wish to pursue criminal action. The CSAs can also provide direction in obtaining a protective order.

Steps to Follow Should a Sexual Assault Occur:

- Get to a safe place as soon as possible!
- Try to preserve all physical evidence – The victim should not bathe, shower, brush teeth, douche, use the toilet, or change clothing until s(he) has a medical exam. Contact a close friend or relative, if available, who can provide support and accompany the victim to the medical exam and/or police department. Advocates from the Whitfield County Victim Assistance can be available to the victim to provide support at 706-876-1322. Preserving evidence will assist in the prosecution of the crime and may help in obtaining a protection order.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible – An exam may reveal the presence of physical injury of which the victim is unaware. Following a sexual assault, antibiotics are typically given at the time of the exam to help prevent the victim from acquiring certain sexually transmitted diseases. Emergency contraceptive pills are offered to all victims at the time of the exam (if the victim presents within 120 hours) to help prevent pregnancy from occurring as a result of the rape. If the victim reports memory loss, loss of consciousness, or other circumstances suspicious of a drug-facilitated assault, a urine test may be made if the victim presents within 96 hours. Some of the commonly used "date rape" drugs, however, are only detectable in the urine for 6-8 hours after ingestion.
- Contact the Department of Public Safety at 706-272-4461 or in Health Professions Suite #300– Sexual assault is a crime; it is vital to report it. It is important to remember that reporting a crime is not the same as prosecuting the crime. The decision to prosecute may be made at another time. The final decision to prosecute is determined by the District Attorney.
- A report may also be made to a Campus Security Authority (CSA) detailed earlier.
- Consider talking to a counselor – Seeing a counselor may be important in helping the victim understand his/her feelings and begin the process of recovery.

Assistance for Victims

Dalton State provides employees and students with information about counseling, general health, mental health, victim advocacy, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other services through many outlets, including new employee orientation, continued employee training, community emails, community events, new student orientation, student programming, and others. Dalton State will provide victims with a written copy of these protective measures and their options.

Victim's Rights and Options

Regardless of whether a victim elects to pursue a criminal complaint or whether the offense is alleged to have occurred on or off campus, Dalton State will assist victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and will provide each victim with a written explanation of their rights and options whether the offense occurred on or off campus. Dalton State will also assist the victim in notifying law enforcement either on campus or the local police, if requested, by providing contact information to the victim or by contacting law enforcement and reporting the incident even if the victim does not wish to report the incident to law enforcement. According to the Georgia Crime Victims' Bill of Rights statute 17-17-1, a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking has the following rights:

1. The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any scheduled court proceedings or any changes to such proceedings;
2. The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of the arrest, release, or escape of the accused;
3. The right not to be excluded from any scheduled court proceedings, except as provided in this chapter or as otherwise required by law;
4. The right to be heard at any scheduled court proceedings involving the release, plea, or sentencing of the accused;
5. The right to file a written objection in any parole proceedings involving the accused;
6. The right to confer with the prosecuting attorney in any criminal prosecution related to the victim;
7. The right to restitution as provided by law;
8. The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay; and
9. The right to be treated fairly and with dignity by all criminal justice agencies involved in the case.

Temporary Protective Orders

A temporary protective order (TPO) in Georgia, commonly known as a restraining order, is a civil court order that provides protection if someone is hurting you, threatens to hurt you, or is stalking you. Protective orders are court orders that prevent individuals from contacting you (both directly or indirectly), from harassing you, from threatening you, etc. Under Georgia law, there are three types of protective orders: family violence protective orders, stalking protective orders, and employer protective orders. If you're a victim or potential victim, you must apply to a judge for a protective order. You must convince the judge that it's necessary to prevent continuing or imminent harm. In a domestic violence situation, however, the judge may issue a temporary order immediately and then later hold a hearing to determine whether to make the restraining order final.

Contact the Whitfield County Magistrate Court for more information on Protective Orders:

*205 N Selvidge Street
Dalton GA 30720
(706) 278-5052*

Dalton State also has the option to issue a campus no-contact order through the Title IX Coordinator. Dalton State enforces all issued protective orders and will assist victims in applying for one. Forward a copy of any Protective Orders to the Department of Public Safety at publicsafety@daltonstate.edu or by dropping off a copy at the Health Professions Building Suite #300. Dalton State will provide victims with written notification concerning obtaining a Protective Order.

Accommodations/Interim Measures

Interim measures may be implemented at any point after the institution becomes aware of an allegation of sexual misconduct and should be designed to protect any student or other individual in the Dalton State College community. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the campus community or deter sexual misconduct and retaliation. Whether or not a student or employee reports to law enforcement and or pursues any formal action if they report an incident of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, Dalton State is committed to providing them with a safe learning or working environment as much as possible. Upon request, Dalton State will make any reasonably available changes to a person's academic, living, transportation, protective measures, and or working situation, regardless of whether the person chooses to report the crime to the Department of Public Safety. Students and employees may contact the Title IX Coordinator at 706-272-2999 for assistance. If a person reports to law enforcement, they may more easily assist them in obtaining a no-contact/restraining order from a criminal court. Written notice will be provided to all victims of their rights and options. Dalton State is committed to ensuring that any such order is fully upheld on all institutionally owned and controlled property and is also committed to protecting individuals from any further harm. The College may issue an institutional no-contact directive. Dalton State will provide written notification of possible accommodations/interim measures.

Victim Confidentiality

Dalton State recognizes the often sensitive nature of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking incidents. We are committed to protecting the privacy of any individual who makes a report. Different officials and personnel are, however, able to offer varying levels of privacy protection to victims. Reports made to law enforcement, including if criminal prosecution is pursued, may be made public and shared with the accused. Reports made to Campus Security Authorities (college officials, deans, directors, coaches, etc.) may be kept confidential, and identifying information about the victim may not be made public. Information about reports will only be shared with institutional personnel as needed to investigate and effectively respond to the report. Every effort will be made to limit the scope of information shared to keep it to a minimum of detail, and only when necessary. Reports made to medical professionals and licensed mental health counselors will not be shared with any third parties except in cases of imminent danger to the victim or a third party. Dalton State completes appropriate recordkeeping, including Clery Act reporting, without the inclusion of personally identifiable information as detailed in 42 USC 13925(a) (18)/ (20). Any accommodations or protective measures provided to the victim will remain confidential to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the institution to provide the accommodations or protective measures.

On- and Off-Campus Resources

Both Dalton State and our local community offer other important resources to the victims of sexual violence, including medical treatment, counseling, and advocacy they may wish to utilize. Whitfield County Victim/Witness Assistance Office is available to assist any student or employee free of charge and will help them consider their options and navigate through any resources or recourse they elect to pursue. A victim does not need to make a formal report to law enforcement or Dalton State to access these resources. Dalton State will provide written notification of these resources to victims.

Resources:

Whitfield County Victim Services	706-876-1322
DSC Counseling Services	706-272-4430
Hamilton Medical Center	706-272-6000
Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center	706-278-6595

Disciplinary Proceedings in Sexual Misconduct Incidents

Dalton State College prohibits the crimes of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking (collectively known as the Violence Against Women Act or VAWA Offenses). Complaints are processed consistent with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act), the University System of Georgia (USG) Sexual Misconduct Policy, and institutional policy. Disciplinary complaints may be made by any campus community member and should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator located in the Dean of Students Office #225 or by email [at wmast@daltonstate.edu](mailto:wmast@daltonstate.edu). Complaints made to the Title IX Coordinator will not initiate a law enforcement investigation. In our proceedings, any individual who is alleged to have experienced conduct that violates this policy is considered a Complainant, and any individual who is alleged to have engaged in conduct that violates this policy is considered a Respondent. A third-party individual who reports an allegation of conduct that may violate this policy but who is not a party to the complaint is considered a Reporter.

What to Expect

Upon notice of the alleged misconduct, the institution will assess whether a formal investigation, informal resolution, or dismissal would be appropriate. In making this determination, the institution will assess whether the allegation(s), if true, would rise to the level of prohibited conduct, whether an investigation is appropriate in light of the circumstances, whether the parties prefer an informal resolution, and whether any safety concerns exist for the campus community. The need to issue a broader warning to the community in compliance with the Clery Act shall be assessed in compliance with federal law.

The USG uses different types of proceedings when a student is accused and when an employee is accused. Additionally, federal regulations implementing Title IX require us to use certain procedures in "Title IX Sexual Misconduct" cases that aren't required in "Non-Title IX Sexual

Misconduct" cases. Both types of sexual misconduct include the VAWA Offenses as well as other forms of sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

"Title IX Sexual Misconduct" matters are when the alleged misconduct occurs against a person in the United States on institution property, or at institution-sponsored or affiliated events where the institution exercises substantial control over both the Respondent and the context, or in buildings owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the institution.

"Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct" matters are when the alleged misconduct occurs off-campus and or when the complainant is not participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of the institution occurring within the United States at the time of the filing and when prohibited by other Board or institution conduct policies. In Title IX, Sexual Misconduct matters, a Formal Complaint is required. A Formal Complaint is a written document filed by the complainant or signed by the coordinator alleging sexual harassment, as defined by Title IX and its implementing regulations, against a Respondent and requesting that the institution open an investigation. In order to file a Formal Complaint, the complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of the institution occurring within the United States at the time of the filing.

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for determining which type of proceeding will be used or if a complaint is to be dismissed and will provide simultaneous written notice of their determination to the parties in their institutional emails. If the Title IX Coordinator dismisses a complaint, the notice provided to the parties will include the reason and a right to appeal. If a complaint moves forward, an investigator will be assigned, and the notice will include their identity.

Prompt, Fair, and Impartial Proceedings

In all cases, proceedings will afford a prompt, fair, and impartial process from the initial investigation to the final result for all parties. Proceedings will be conducted in a manner consistent with the institution's policies and be transparent to the Complainant and Respondent. The institution is responsible for proving cases by the preponderance of the evidence standard in both student and employee cases. This means that it is more likely than not that the accused committed a violation of policy. Officials responsible for the resolution process receive annual training on issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, how to conduct an investigation, and how to conduct a hearing that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability.

Timeframes and Notice

Efforts will be made to complete the investigation and resolution within 120 business days. Temporary delays and limited extensions may be granted for good cause throughout the investigation and resolution process. The parties will be simultaneously informed in writing of any extension or delay and the applicable reason. The institution shall keep the parties informed of the status of the investigation. The Title IX Coordinator will provide parties with timely notice of meetings at which the complainant, Respondent, or both may be present. The institution provides simultaneous notification, in writing, to both the Complainant and Respondent of The result of any institutional disciplinary proceeding that arises from an allegation of dating violence, domestic

violence, sexual assault, or stalking; The institution's procedures for the Complainant and Respondent to appeal the result of the institutional disciplinary proceeding; Any change to the result; and When such results become final. Notice should be provided via institution email to the party's institution email.

Amnesty

Information reported by a student during the Sexual Misconduct process concerning the consumption of drugs or alcohol will not be used against the particular student in a disciplinary proceeding or voluntarily reported to law enforcement; however, students may be provided with resources on drug and alcohol counseling and/or education, as appropriate.

Advisor of Choice

Both the Complainant and the Respondent, as parties to the matter, shall have the opportunity to use an advisor (who may or may not be an attorney) of the party's choosing at the party's own expense.

In Title IX Sexual Misconduct cases, the advisor may accompany the party to all meetings and may provide advice and counsel to their respective party throughout the Sexual Misconduct process, including providing questions, suggestions, and guidance to the party, but may not actively participate in the process except to conduct cross-examination at the hearing. If a party chooses not to use an advisor during the investigation, the institution will provide an advisor for the purpose of conducting cross-examination on behalf of the relevant party.

In Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct cases, the advisor may accompany the party to all meetings and may provide advice and counsel to their respective party throughout the Sexual Misconduct process but may not actively participate in the process.

All communication during the Sexual Misconduct process will be between the institution and the party and not the advisor. The institution will copy the party's advisor prior to the finalization of the investigation report when the institution provides the parties the right to inspect and review directly related information gathered during the investigation. With the party's permission, the advisor may be copied on all communications.

Interim Measures

Interim measures may be implemented at any point after the institution becomes aware of an allegation of Sexual Misconduct and should be designed to protect any student or other individual in the USG community.

Interim measures may include but are not limited to, change of housing assignment; Issuance of a "no contact" directive; Restrictions or bars to entering certain institution property; Changes to academic or employment arrangements, schedules, or supervision; Interim suspension; and Other measures designed to promote the safety and well-being of the parties and the institution's community.

Informal Resolution

Once an investigation has begun, if the Respondent admits responsibility, the process may proceed to the sanctioning phase or may be informally resolved, if appropriate. Student allegations of Title IX Sexual Misconduct against an employee may not be resolved informally.

The Complainant, the Respondent, and the institution must agree to engage in the informal resolution process and to the terms of the informal resolution. The Complainant(s) and the Respondent(s) have the option to end informal resolution discussions and request a formal process at any time before the terms of an informal resolution are reached. However, matters resolved informally shall not be appealable.

Student allegations of Title IX Sexual Misconduct against an employee may not be resolved informally.

Unbiased Proceedings

In all proceedings, a conflict of interest or bias by the Title IX Coordinator, Conduct Officer, investigator(s), and or decision makers(s) is grounds for an appeal. In proceedings involving a student Respondent, any party may challenge the participation of any institution official or panel member in the process on the grounds of personal bias by submitting a written statement to the institution's designee setting forth the basis for the challenge.

Investigation

The parties shall be provided with a written notice containing the allegations, possible charges, and sanctions, as well as available support and interim measures. Upon receipt of the notice, parties have at least three business days to respond in writing. The Respondent may admit or deny allegations and set forth a defense. The complainant may respond and supplement their written notice. Both parties may present witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence throughout.

An investigator shall conduct a thorough investigation and should retain written notes and/or obtain written or recorded statements from each interview.

The initial investigation report shall be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent, and a party's advisor (if applicable). This report should fairly summarize the relevant evidence gathered during the investigation and clearly indicate any resulting charges or, alternatively, a determination of no charges. For purposes of this policy, a charge is not a finding of responsibility.

The Complainant and the Respondent shall have at least ten calendar days to review and respond in writing to the initial investigation report and directly related information gathered during the investigation. The investigator will review the Complainant's and the Respondent's written responses, if any, to determine whether further investigation or changes to the investigation report are necessary.

The final investigation report should be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent, and a party's advisor, if applicable, at least ten calendar days prior to the hearing. The final investigation report

should also be provided to all Hearing Panel members for consideration during the adjudication process.

Hearing – Student Respondent

Where a matter is not resolved through informal resolution, a hearing shall be held. All Sexual Misconduct cases shall be heard by a panel of faculty and/or staff. In no case shall a hearing to resolve a Sexual Misconduct allegation take place before the investigation report has been finalized. All directly related evidence shall be available at the hearing for the parties and their advisors to reference during the hearing. The institution will determine how the facts or evidence will be introduced.

Notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing, as well as the selected hearing panel members, shall be provided to the Complainant and the Respondent at least ten calendar days prior to the hearing. Hearings shall be conducted in person or via video conferencing technology. Formal judicial rules of evidence do not apply to the resolution process, and the standard of evidence shall be a preponderance of the evidence.

Each institution shall maintain documentation of the investigation and resolution process, which may include written findings of fact, transcripts, audio recordings, and/or video recordings. Any documentation shall be maintained for seven years.

In Title IX Hearings, the parties shall have the right to confront any witness, including the other party, by having their advisor ask relevant questions directly to the witness. The Hearing Officer shall limit questions raised by the advisor when they are irrelevant to determining the veracity of the allegations against the Respondent (s). In any such event, the Hearing Officer shall err on the side of permitting all the raised questions and must document the reason for not permitting any particular questions to be raised.

In Non-Title IX Hearings, the parties shall have the right to confront any witnesses, including the other party, by submitting written questions to the Hearing Officer for consideration. Advisors may actively assist in drafting questions. The Hearing Officer shall ask the questions as written and will limit questions only if they are irrelevant to determining the veracity of the allegations against the Respondent (s). In any such event, the Hearing Officer shall err on the side of asking all submitted questions and must document the reason for not asking any particular questions. Following a hearing, the parties shall be simultaneously provided a written decision via institution email of the hearing outcome and any resulting sanctions or administrative actions. The decision must include the allegations, procedural steps taken through the investigation and resolution process, findings of facts supporting the determination(s), determination(s) regarding responsibility, and the evidence relied upon and rationale for any sanction or other administrative action. The institution shall also notify the parties of their right to appeal, as outlined below.

Hearing – Employee Respondent

Matters involving alleged Title IX Sexual Misconduct must be heard at a live hearing. Institutions may determine whether the live hearing is conducted by a single administrative decision maker (such as the Chief Human Resources Officer, the Chief Academic Officer, or their designee) or by a panel. Formal civil rules of evidence do not apply to the resolution process, and the standard of evidence shall be a preponderance of the evidence. The institution will determine how the facts or evidence will be introduced.

Notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing, as well as the designated Hearing Officer, shall be provided via email at least ten calendar days prior to the hearing. Hearings shall be conducted in person or via video conferencing technology. Each institution shall maintain documentation of the investigation and resolution process, which may include written findings of fact, transcripts, audio recordings, and/or video recordings. Any documentation shall be maintained for seven years.

The parties shall have the right to confront any witness, including the other party, by having their advisor ask relevant questions directly to the witness. The Hearing Officer shall limit questions raised by the advisor when they are irrelevant to determining the veracity of the allegations against the Respondent (s). In any such event, the Hearing Officer shall err on the side of permitting all the raised questions and must document the reason for not permitting any particular questions to be raised. Following a hearing, the parties shall be simultaneously provided a written decision via email of the hearing outcome and any resulting disciplinary or administrative actions. The decision must include the allegations, procedural steps taken through the investigation and resolution process, findings of facts supporting the determination(s), determination(s) regarding responsibility, and the rationale for any disciplinary or other administrative action.

Hearing – Faculty Respondent

All Sexual Misconduct involving faculty Respondents where dismissal is a possible sanction shall, consistent with Board of Regents policy, be heard by a live-hearing panel of three to five faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate. Notice of the panel members shall be provided to parties in writing at least 20 days prior to the hearing, and parties have at least two challenges for bias, which must be made in writing at least five days in advance of the hearing. A faculty member may also waive a hearing, in which case the panel shall evaluate the record.

Additional procedures for faculty Respondent matters:

An oath or affirmation shall be administered to all witnesses. The parties shall have the right to confront any witness, including the other party, by having their advisor ask relevant questions directly to the witness.

The Title IX Coordinator shall notify the President and parties simultaneously in writing of the decision and recommendation, if any, of the panel. If dismissal is recommended, the President shall either approve the recommendation or, if not, shall advise the panel in writing of the basis prior to rendering their final decision. The panel may also recommend a lesser sanction. The President may or may not follow the recommendations of the panel.

The President shall notify the parties simultaneously in writing of their decision. Such notice shall include information about applying to the Board of Regents for discretionary review. Upon

dismissal, pending possible discretionary review, the faculty member shall be suspended without pay. The Board may reinstate the faculty member with compensation from the date of suspension.

Possible Sanctions – Student Respondent

The broad range of sanctions include expulsion; suspension for an identified time frame or until the satisfaction of certain conditions or both; temporary or permanent separation of the parties (e.g., change in classes, reassignment of residence, no contact orders, limiting geography of where parties can go on campus) with additional sanctions for violating no-contact orders; required participation in sensitivity training/awareness education programs; required participation in alcohol and other drug awareness and abuse prevention programs; counseling or mentoring; volunteering/community service; loss of institutional privileges; delays in obtaining administrative services and benefits from the institution (e.g., holding transcripts, delaying registration, graduation, diplomas); additional academic requirements relating to scholarly work or research; financial restitution; or any other discretionary sanctions directly related to the violation or conduct.

Possible Sanctions – Employee Respondent

When an employee is found responsible by our proceedings, they may face verbal warning, coaching, documentation of warning, unpaid suspension, demotion, and/or termination.

Appeals

An appeal must be submitted in writing and within five (5) business days of the date of notification of the findings of the Hearing Panel. If an appeal is submitted, the other party shall receive notice of the appeal, including a copy of the submission. That party may submit, in writing and within five (5) business days from the date of notification, a response to the appeal submission. A decision on an appeal may only be rendered once the filing deadline has passed, including the deadline for the other party to respond to the appeal submission. If an appeal is submitted, the other party shall receive notice of the appeal, including a copy of the submission. That party may submit, in writing and within five business days from the date of notification, a response to the appeal submission.

The Respondent and the Complainant shall have the right to appeal the outcome on any of the following grounds: (1) to consider new information sufficient to alter the decision or other relevant facts not brought out in the original hearing (or appeal) because such information was not known or knowable to the person appealing during the time of the hearing (or appeal); (2) to allege a procedural error within the hearing process that may have substantially impacted the fairness of the hearing (or appeal), including but not limited to whether any hearing questions were improperly excluded or whether the decision was tainted by a conflict of interest or bias by the Title IX Coordinator, Conduct Officer, the investigator(s), decision-makers (s); or (3) to allege that the finding was inconsistent with the weight of the information. The appeal must be made in writing, must set forth one or more of the bases outlined above, and must be submitted within five business days of the date of the final written decision. The appeal should be made to the institution's President or their designee (Appellate Officer).

The appeal shall be a review of the record only, and no new meeting with the Respondent or any Complainant is required. The Appellate Officer might affirm the original finding and sanction, affirm

the original finding but issue a new sanction of greater or lesser severity, remand the case back to any lower decision maker to correct a procedural or factual defect or reverse or dismiss the case if there was a procedural or factual defect that cannot be remedied by remand.

The Appellate Officer will render a decision no later than seven (7) business days after receiving all materials, barring exigent circumstances. The Appellate Officer's decision will be in writing and include a rationale. The institution will inform the Parties simultaneously and in writing of the outcome of the appeal. This shall be the institution's final decision.

Further review, such as a Discretionary Review, if available, is governed under the policies and procedures of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Appeals received after the designated deadlines above will not be considered unless the institution or Board of Regents has granted an extension prior to the deadline. If an appeal is not received by the deadline, the last decision on the matter will become final, and notice shall be provided simultaneously and in writing to both the Complainant and Respondent.

Retaliation

Anyone who has made a report or complaint, provided information, assisted, participated, or refused to participate in any manner in the Sexual Misconduct process shall not be subjected to retaliation. Anyone who believes that they have been subjected to retaliation should immediately contact the Coordinator or their designee. Any person found to have engaged in retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Additional Information

For additional information about disciplinary proceedings, please contact the Title IX Coordinator.

Any party to a sexual misconduct proceeding and their Advisor of Choice should review all applicable USG and institutional policies.

USG policies are available at these links:

- 6.7 Sexual Misconduct Policy: <https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section6/C2655>
- 4.6.5 Standards for Institutional Student Conduct Investigation and Disciplinary Proceedings: [Board of Regents Policy Manual | 4.6 Discipline of Students | University System of Georgia](#)
- Human Resources Administrative Practice Manual, Prohibit Discrimination & Harassment: <https://www.usg.edu/hr/manual>

DSC Procedures for Responding to Sexual Assaults, Stalking, Dating Violence and Domestic Violence:

Procedure Institution Will Follow for Reports of Sexual Assault:

1. Depending on when reported (immediate vs. delayed report), the institution will provide the complainant with access to medical care.

2. The institution will assess the immediate safety needs of the complainant.
3. The institution will assist the complainant with contacting local police if the complainant requests, and the complainant will be provided with contact information for the local police department.
4. The institution will provide the complainant with referrals to on and off-campus mental health providers.
5. The institution will assess the need to implement interim or long-term protective measures, such as housing changes, changes in class schedule, and a "No Contact" directive between both parties.
6. The institution will provide a Criminal Trespass Warning to the accused party if deemed appropriate.
7. The institution will provide written instructions on how to apply for a Protective Order.
8. The institution will inform the complainant of the outcome of the investigation, whether or not the accused will be administratively charged, and what the outcome of the hearing is.
9. The institution will enforce the anti-retaliation policy and take immediate and separate action against parties that retaliate against a person for complaining of sex-based discrimination or for assisting in the investigation.

Procedure Institution Will Follow for Reports of Stalking:

1. The institution will assess the immediate safety needs of the complainant.
2. The institution will assist the complainant with contacting local police if the complainant requests it, and the complainant will be provided with contact information for the local police department.
3. The institution will provide written instructions on how to apply for a Protective Order.
4. The institution will provide written information to the complainant on how to preserve evidence.
5. The institution will assess the need to implement interim or long-term protective measures to protect the complainant, if appropriate.
6. The institution will provide a Criminal Trespass Warning to the accused party if deemed appropriate.

Procedure Institution Will Follow for Reports of Dating Violence:

1. The institution will assess the immediate safety needs of the complainant.
2. The institution will assist the complainant with contacting local police if the complainant requests it, and the complainant will be provided with contact information for the local police department.
3. The institution will provide written instructions on how to apply for a Protective Order.
4. The institution will provide written information to the complainant on how to preserve evidence.
5. The institution will assess the need to implement interim or long-term protective measures to protect the complainant, if appropriate.
6. The institution will provide a Criminal Trespass Warning to the accused party if deemed appropriate.

Procedure Institution Will Follow for Reports of Domestic Violence:

1. The institution will assess the immediate safety needs of the complainant.
2. The institution will assist the complainant with contacting local police if the complainant requests it, and the complainant will be provided with contact information for the local police department.
3. The institution will provide written instructions on how to apply for a Protective Order.
4. The institution will provide written information to the complainant on how to preserve evidence.
5. The institution will assess the need to implement interim or long-term protective measures to protect the complainant, if appropriate.
6. The institution will provide a Criminal Trespass Warning to the accused party if deemed appropriate.

Sex Offender Registration

The federal Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act, enacted on October 28, 2000, and also referred to as Megan's 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, as required under state law, of each institution of higher education in that state at which the person is employed, carries on a vocation, volunteers services, or is a student. In Georgia, convicted sex offenders must register with the Georgia Department of Corrections. You may obtain state information on individuals registered as sex offenders by visiting the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Sex Offender Registry website at <https://gbi.georgia.gov/services/georgia-sex-offender-registry>

Emergency Notifications

Dalton State is committed to ensuring the campus community receives timely, accurate, and useful information in the event of a significant emergency or dangerous situation on campus or in the local area that poses an immediate threat to the health and safety of campus community members. Examples of emergencies that may warrant such notification include but are not limited to an active shooter on campus, a hostage/barricade situation, a riot, a credible bomb threat, a tornado, a fire/explosion, suspicious death, structural damage to a university-owned or controlled facility, significant flooding, a large gas leak, or a significant hazardous material release. Dalton State will, without delay, and taking into account the safety of the community, determine the content of the notification and initiate the notification system, unless issuing a notification will, in the professional judgment of responsible authorities, compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency. Dalton State's mass communication system is the [Roadrunner Alert](#). It is an emergency notification service available to students, staff, and anyone in the college community who wants to subscribe. The Roadrunner Alert can be used to send emergency messages quickly after the occurrence of an incident. Alerts sent by Roadrunner Alert are also relayed to the College and greater community via our website home page and Dalton State's social media outlets.

The Department of Public Safety is responsible for sending Roadrunner Alert emergency notifications. The department's command staff and dispatchers have access to the system and the training and authority to issue notifications. Prewritten messages have been drafted, and others can be edited to tailor the message to any emergency. Marketing and Communications relay the emergency notifications to the greater community with social media and contact with local news outlets as needed.

A College-wide test of the Roadrunner Alert system is performed each semester. The following procedures outline the process the College uses when issuing emergency notifications.

Procedures Used to Notify the Campus Community-

In the event of a situation that poses an immediate threat to members of the campus community, Dalton State has various systems in place for communicating information quickly. Some or all of these methods of communication may be activated in the event of emergency notification to all or a segment of the campus community. These methods of communication include the mass notification system – Roadrunner Alert, the public address system within each building, and the public address system in police vehicles. The College will post updates during a critical incident on the Dalton State homepage and utilize social media. If the situation warrants, the College may establish a telephone call-in center to communicate with the Dalton State community during an emergency.

Confirming the Existence of a Significant Emergency or Dangerous Situation and Initiating the Emergency Notification System-

The Department of Public Safety may become aware of a critical incident or other emergency situation that potentially affects the health and/or safety of the campus community. Generally, campus first responders become aware of these situations when they are reported to the Police Dispatcher or upon discovery during patrol or other assignments.

Once first responders confirm that there is, in fact, an emergency or dangerous situation that poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of some or all members of the campus community, a Department of Public Safety Supervisor will notify Dispatchers in the Department of Public Safety to issue an emergency notification. Dalton State will immediately initiate all or some portions of its emergency notification system. If, in the professional judgment of first responders, issuing a notification potentially compromises efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency, the College may elect to delay issuing an emergency notification. Occasionally, it might be several minutes before a notification is sent; during this time, officials are quickly investigating what occurred and determining the threat, if any, to the campus community. As soon as the conditions that may compromise efforts are no longer met, the College will issue an emergency notification to the campus community.

Determining the Appropriate Segment or Segments of the Campus Community to Receive an Emergency Notification-

The Department of Public Safety will issue an emergency notification after determining which segment or segments of the Dalton State community should receive the notification. Generally, campus community members in the immediate area of the dangerous situation (i.e., the building,

adjacent buildings, or surrounding area) will receive the emergency notification first. Dalton State may issue subsequent notifications to a wider group of community members. In addition to the emergency notification that may be issued via the Roadrunner Alert mass notification system, the College will also post applicable messages about the dangerous condition on the Dalton State homepage to ensure the rest of the campus and the greater community is aware of the situation and the steps they should take to maintain personal and campus safety. If the emergency affects a significant portion of the entire campus, college officials will distribute the notification to the entire campus community.

Determining the Contents of the Emergency Notification-

The Department of Public Safety Office is responsible for issuing emergency notifications (usually the Police Dispatchers) and will use prewritten messages to send to the community in almost all situations. The College has developed a wide range of template messages addressing several different emergency situations. The individual authorizing the alert will select the template message most appropriate to the ongoing situation and modify it to address the specifics of the present incident. In those cases where there are no pre-determined template messages in the system, the individual authorizing the alert will develop the most appropriate message to convey the information to the community. The goal is to ensure individuals are aware of the situation and that they know the steps to take to safeguard their personal and community safety.

Enrolling in the Emergency Notification System

We encourage members of the campus community to enroll in the Roadrunner Alert mass notification system by visiting:

https://www.daltonstate.edu/campus_life/public-safety/emergency-information/roadrunner-alert/

We also encourage the College community members to regularly update their personal information in Banner.

Timely Warnings

The Department of Public Safety is primarily responsible for determining the content and distribution of a timely warning notice to the community. Such notifications are distributed via Dalton State's Roadrunner Alert mass communication system (phone, text, email) and are issued without delay as soon as the pertinent information is available. A timely warning notice is considered for distribution to the Dalton State community for all Clery Act crimes that are (1) reported to campus security authorities or local police and (2) determined by the institution to represent a serious or continuing threat to students and employees. Such reports shall be provided to students and employees in a timely manner that withholds the names and other identifying information of victims confidentially and provides protective advice that will aid in the prevention of similar occurrences. The decision to issue a timely warning shall be decided on a case-by-case basis. The decision is made by the Chief of Police or their designee, considering all available facts, including whether the crime is considered to be a serious or continuing threat to students or employees. Certain specific information may be withheld from a warning if there is a possible risk of compromising law enforcement efforts. If a crime occurs that would pose a serious or continuing threat to the Dalton State community, a timely warning notice would be distributed to the campus

community. Timely warning notices are typically distributed to the Dalton State community via Roadrunner Alert Dalton State's mass communication system. The Dalton State's Police Chief or designee reviews all College Police reports to determine if there is an ongoing threat to the community and if the distribution of a timely warning notice is warranted. Timely warning notices may also be posted for other crime classifications, as deemed necessary.

Emergency Management

The Department of Public Safety is responsible for the campus Emergency Management Plan. This plan is designed to be an all-hazards disaster response and emergency management plan that complies with FEMA guidelines for higher education and includes planning, mitigation, response, and recovery actions.

Our priorities are:

- Life safety, infrastructure integrity, and environmental protection during an emergency
- Coordination with College departments to write, maintain, test, and exercise plans
- Cooperation, integration, and mutual aid with local, state, and federal planning, response, and Department of Public Safety agencies.

Dalton State advises the community of the Emergency Management Plan yearly. A copy of Dalton State's Emergency Response Procedures is available on the Department of Public Safety Website:

<https://www.daltonstate.edu/about/safety-overview.cms>

The Roadrunner Alert is Dalton State's mass communication system. It allows the College to send text messages, emails, and voice messages to the community. It is important for everyone to make sure their information is updated each semester and sign up to receive alerts. More information is available online at:

https://www.daltonstate.edu/campus_life/public-safety/emergency-information/roadrunner-alert/

Emergencies

Dalton State Public Safety is the first responding agency for emergencies on campus. They will determine what assistance (police, fire, emergency medical) is required. When a medical emergency occurs, call Public Safety at 706-272-4461 or dial 911. A Public Safety Officer will respond and care for the individual or summon emergency medical personnel. For active threat incidents: 1) Flee the area if it is safe to do so 2) If flight is not possible, secure yourself in a room or otherwise hide, silencing your cell phone 3) As a last resort, attempt to incapacitate the intruder.

Evacuations

Buildings have evacuation maps posted at the entrances which guide occupants the best route of egress in an emergency. When an emergency occurs such as a fire alarm, safely exit the building at the nearest exit and move away from the building staying clear of vehicle and pedestrian paths. First responders will provide guidance on assembly locations. Assist individuals who may need help in

evacuating or moving to a safe area if it does not compromise your safety. Do not re-enter the building until directed to do so by emergency personnel.

Drills, Exercises, and Training

Periodically, Dalton State conducts emergency exercises to test emergency procedures. The scenarios for these exercises change from year to year and may include several departments from across the campus.

To ensure the College's emergency management plans remain current and actionable, the College will conduct an emergency management exercise, at a minimum, once yearly. These exercises may include tabletop drills, emergency operations center exercises, or full-scale emergency response exercises. The following are documented for each test: a description of the exercise, the date and time of the exercise, and whether it is announced or unannounced for evacuations.

In conjunction with at least one emergency management exercise each year, the College will remind the community of the information included in the College's publicly available information regarding emergency response procedures. Building evacuation drills are scheduled each semester for the Residence Life Building. These building evacuations can be both announced and unannounced and are documented in the Department of Public Safety Computer-Aided Dispatch System.

Missing Student Notification Policy

When a student who resides in on-campus student housing has been missing for 24 hours, students, employees, and others should submit a report to the Dalton State Public Safety Department at 706-272-4461. (Reports may also be made to Residence Life at 706-508-3937 or the Dean of Students at 706-272-4428.) Any report of a missing student not made to the Dalton State Public Safety Department must be referred to them immediately for the purposes of conducting an investigation.

All students who reside in on-campus student housing can identify a “confidential missing persons contact” (“confidential contact”) to be notified by the Dalton State Public Safety Department within 24 hours in the event they are determined by a law enforcement investigation to be missing and have not returned to the campus. This person may or may not be the same as their emergency contact.

Residential students may register their confidential contact when they complete their housing paperwork. This contact information will be registered confidentially and will only be accessible to authorized campus officials and may not be disclosed except to law enforcement for the purpose of a missing person investigation.

In addition to the confidential contact, if a student is under 18 years of age and not emancipated, the Dalton State Public Safety Department will notify their custodial parent or guardian within 24 hours of the determination that they are missing. Institutional officials including the President and Vice Presidents will also be notified.

The Dalton State College Public Safety Department will notify the local law enforcement agency with primary jurisdiction for the surrounding community within 24 hours of when a residential student is determined to be missing unless that agency made the determination.

Daily Crime and Fire Log

Consistent with the Clery Act requirements, the Department of Public Safety maintains a Daily Crime Log. This log records all crimes and serious incidents by the date and time of occurrence and when reported to the department. Incidents included are those that occur on campus (reasonably contiguous geographical area); non-campus building or property owned/operated by the College or students; public property within, adjacent, or immediately accessible from campus; or within the department's patrol jurisdiction. The Daily Crime Log is available for public inspection during business hours at the Department of Public Safety; no request is required for the past 60 days of entries; requests for archives within seven years will be available within two business days.

The Daily Crime Log includes the offense, date and time the incident occurred and was reported, and the general location of each crime to the department, as well as its disposition. The department posts incidents in the Daily Crime Log within two business days of receiving a report of an incident and, in accordance with the Clery Act requirements, may exclude incidents from the log in certain circumstances, particularly those in which inclusion is prohibited by law. Limited information may be temporarily withheld if it could jeopardize an ongoing investigation or the safety (confidentiality) of an individual, cause a suspect to flee or evade detection, result in the destruction of evidence; if the disclosure is prohibited by law, or if the disclosure would compromise the confidentiality of the victim.

Crime Statistics

The Dalton State College Department of Public Safety maintains a close relationship with local law enforcement agencies to ensure that we are notified of any crime report that is made directly to them. The Department of Public Safety will disclose any crime report made directly to any local law enforcement agency by a member of the campus community, and any such reports are included in our statistics. Our statistics are included on the following pages and include both of our campuses and non-campus locations;

On Campus:

- Dalton State College - Main campus located at 650 College Drive in Dalton, Georgia 30721
- Dalton State College - Mountain Campus located at 103 Dalton Street in Ellijay, Georgia 30540

Non-Campus:

- Northwest Georgia Trade Center - 2211 Dug Gap Battle Road in Dalton, Georgia 30720
- DSC Lakeshore Park Soccer Field and Clubhouse 1335 Crescent Street in Dalton, Georgia 30720
- Dalton Golf and Country Club - 333 Country Way in Dalton, Georgia 30721
- Farm Golf Club - 187 S. Goose Hill Road in Rocky Face, Georgia 30740
- Culprit Athletics - #8 2518 Cleveland Hwy in Dalton, Georgia 30720
- Bradley Wellness Center - 1225 Broadrick Dr in Dalton, Georgia 30720
- Dalton State Observatory - 9196 GA Hwy 2 in Dalton, Georgia 30721

- NOB North Golf Course - 298 Nob N Dr in Varnell, Georgia 30756
- Dalton Academy -1275 Cross Plains Blvd in Dalton, Georgia 30720
- Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy - 2300 Maddox Chapel Rd in NE Dalton, Georgia 30721
- Catoosa County College and Career Academy - 190 Catoosa Circle in Ringgold, Georgia 30736
- Gordon County College and Career Academy - 398 Beamer Rd in Calhoun, Georgia 30701

Student Housing:

- Mashburn Hall - 623 Campus Place – Dalton, Georgia 30721 (located on the Dalton Campus)

Dalton State College Main Campus

Criminal Offenses	Year	Dalton Campus - Clery Geography				
		On Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On Campus Total		
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2025	0	1	1	0	0
	2024	1	1	2	0	0
	2023	3	0	3	0	0
Fondling	2025	3	0	3	0	0
	2024	2	0	2	0	0
	2023	1	0	1	0	0
Incest	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	1	0	1	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	2025	1	0	1	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	1	0	1	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	1	1	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0

VAWA Offenses	Year	Dalton Campus - Clery Geography				
		On Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On Campus Total		
Dating Violence	2025	2	0	2	0	0
	2024	1	0	1	0	0
	2023	2	0	2	0	0
Domestic Violence	2025	3	0	3	0	0
	2024	1	0	1	0	0
	2023	1	0	1	0	0
Stalking	2025	1	1	2	0	0
	2024	0	1	1	0	0
	2023	4	1	5	0	0

Hazing	Year	Dalton Campus - Clery Geography				
		On Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On Campus Total		
	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2023	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Arrests	Year	Dalton Campus - Clery Geography				
		On Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On Campus Total		
Liquor Law Violations	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Violations	2025	0	1	1	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0

Disciplinary Referrals	Year	Dalton Campus - Clery Geography				
		On Campus			Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
		Student Housing Facilities	Other	On Campus Total		
Liquor Law Violations	2025	3	0	3	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	1	0	1	0	0
Drug Law Violations	2025	3	1	4	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	1	0	1	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession	2025	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0

	2025	2024	2023
Total Unfounded Crimes	0	0	1

Hate Crimes

2023- No Hate Crimes

2024- One incident of destruction/damage/vandalism of property that occurred on campus motivated by hate on the basis of sexual orientation was reported.

2025- One incident of intimidation that occurred on campus motivated by race.

Narrative.

For the 2023 reporting year - three rapes, one domestic violence incident, and one stalking incident were reported by the same victim.

**Mountain Campus
(No On-Campus Student Housing)**

Criminal Offenses	Year	Mountain Campus - Clery Geography		
		On Campus	Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Rape	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Fondling	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Incest	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Robbery	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Burglary	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Arson	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0

VAWA Offenses	Year	Mountain Campus - Clery Geography		
		On Campus	Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
Dating Violence	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Stalking	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0

Hazing	Year	Mountain Campus - Clery Geography		
		On Campus	Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
	2025	0	0	0
	2024	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2023	N/A	N/A	N/A

Disciplinary Referrals	Year	Mountain Campus - Clery Geography		
		On Campus	Non-campus Building or Property	Public Property
Liquor Law Violations	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Drug Law Violations	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession	2025	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0

	2025	2024	2023
Total Unfounded Crimes	0	0	0

Hate Crimes- No hate crimes reported.

Recordkeeping

The institution retains all Clery-related records for at least 7 years to include: police/security reports, Campus Security Authority reports, programming offered, crime/fire log, timely warning decision documentation, emergency notification decision documentation, and VAWA case files.

Fire Safety Report

The Higher Education Opportunity Act, enacted on August 14, 2008, requires institutions that maintain on-campus student housing facilities to publish an annual fire safety report that contains information about campus fire safety practices and standards of the institution. The chart and information on the following pages detail all information required by this act for Dalton State College for on-campus housing. Dalton State only maintains housing at the main campus location at 650 College Drive, Dalton, Georgia, 30721.

Definitions

The following terms are used within this report. Definitions have been obtained from regulations 34 CFR 668.41(a) and 34 CFR 668.49(a).

On-Campus Student Housing – A dormitory or other residential facility for students that is located on an institution's campus.

Fire– Any instance of open flame or other burning in a place not intended to contain the burning or in an uncontrolled manner.

Residence Hall Fire Drills

Fire drills are conducted in Mashburn Hall (Residence Life) during the school year to allow occupants to become familiar with and practice their evacuation skills. The drills are conducted by the Residence Assistants, Housing Management, and College Police.

Residential Facility	Year	Total Fires	Cause of Fire	Number Injured Requiring Treatment	Number of Deaths	Value of Property Damage
Mashburn Hall	2023	0	NA	0	0	\$0
	2024	0	NA	0	0	\$0
	2025	0	NA	0	0	\$0

Fire Safety

Dalton State takes Fire Safety very seriously and continues to enhance its programs for the community through education, engineering, and enforcement. Educational programs are available throughout the year to residents so they are aware of the rules and safe practices. These programs, which are available, include identification and prevention of fire hazards, actual building evacuation procedures and drills, specific occupant response to fire emergencies, and hands-on use of fire extinguishers.

Campus Housing

According to current Department of Education Guidelines for fire safety, Dalton State has compiled the following information and statistics relevant to fire safety at DSC.

Description of the Fire Protection Equipment in Mashburn Hall (residential housing)

- One building houses up to 360 residents on four floors.
- Multiple fire extinguishers are located on each floor for easy access. In addition, the building is equipped with a sprinkler system. Fire extinguishers and suppression equipment are checked routinely.

Number of Regular Mandatory Supervised Fire Drills and Training

Fire Drills:

Fire drills: 1/17/2024, 8/14/2024; 1/27/25, 8/12/2025, 1/15/2025, 8/12/2025

Training:

Residence Life provides residents with a policy manual containing evacuation and rules. Resident Assistants are provided training for responding to fire alarms.

Rules:

- **Open flames:** candles or other open flames are not permitted.
- Incense and candle/wax warmers are not permitted in Mashburn Hall.
- Potpourri, oil-scented reed diffusers, room sprays, and scented electrical plug-ins are permitted on campus.
- Microwaves under 1100 watts and mini-fridges under 3.5 cu ft are permitted in Mashburn Hall.
- **Smoking** is not permitted on campus.
- **Portable electric appliances: do not overload electrical outlets; instead, use power strips with surge protection. Unplug items that you use periodically (i.e. phone chargers and hair dryers). The use of extension cords is not permitted.**
- **Residence Life Guide:**
<https://www.daltonstate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/RLLivingGuidFY26.pdf>

Evacuation Procedures

All occupants of Mashburn Hall must leave the building whenever a fire alarm sounds. Rooms may be checked during fire drills to ensure compliance. Failure to evacuate during a fire drill will result in disciplinary action.

Fire Safety Education

Fire training is provided to residents, and fire safety pamphlets are handed out. In addition, students, faculty, and staff may request additional training. Although the potential for fire always exists, routine inspections, maintenance, and training are effective elements in reducing bodily injury, loss of life, and damage to property. Faculty, staff, and students should all be knowledgeable of those elements that cause fires and how to eliminate them. All persons should be aware of the fire safety regulations and conditions that have the potential to start a fire, such as the use of extension cords or the improper storage of chemicals, paint, cleaning supplies, rags, papers, etc.

Reporting Fires

Any person seeing or suspecting a fire should call (706) 272-4461 or 911. If the fire is small, such as a wastebasket fire, a reasonable attempt should be made to extinguish the flames. Even though the fire may be completely extinguished, the incident must be reported to the Dalton State Department of Public Safety, as the underlying cause for the fire may remain and for the purposes of including a fire in the statistics as required. Reports of extinguished fires may be made to the Residential Life Director or Assistant Director if there is not a health or safety concern.

Residence Life (Mashburn Hall) 1-706-712-8228

Dalton State College Department of Public Safety (24/7) 706-272-4461

Dalton Fire Department (Emergency) 911

Future Improvements

We continue to monitor trends related to residence hall fire incidents and alarms to provide a fire-safe living environment for all students. New programs and policies are developed as needed to help ensure the safety of all students, faculty, and staff. The fire alarm system is monitored by the Department of Public Safety, and any trouble or maintenance issues are corrected by Residence Life staff. The system is tested several times per year through managed evacuations and professional testing.