




# CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

What Everyone on Campus Needs to Know

A tall, white, rectangular emergency call station stands on a yellow background. The station has a silver top section with a speaker and a microphone. The words "EMERGENCY" and "CALL" are printed vertically in red on the front of the station. The background is split into a dark green upper half and a yellow lower half, separated by a white dashed line.

Valencia Community College works hard to keep its campuses safe. But as a member of the campus community, you have a role in campus safety as well. The information provided here will help you make the right decisions concerning your own safety and security. With your help we can provide a safer campus environment.

VALENCIA

## **STAYING SAFE ON CAMPUS**

Both students and the general public are welcome at any of Valencia's campuses during normal hours of operation: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (hours may vary slightly during the weekends, holidays and summertime.) Although college campuses are among the safest places in our society, like any other public place, there is a need to remain aware and alert. Suggestions for staying safe while on campus include the following:

- Walk in groups
- Call security for an escort if you feel uncomfortable walking alone at night on campus
- Stay in areas that are well lit
- Remain alert and report suspicious activity to a campus security officer
- If you suspect an imminent threat from someone you see on campus, notify security immediately and do not approach the person who concerns you

## **REPORTING EMERGENCIES AND CRIME ON CAMPUS**

All emergency situations involving a crime in progress, a medical emergency or a fire should be immediately reported to security or to appropriate emergency agencies (dial 9-1-1 for the latter). Take note of the yellow or white boxes located at strategic points on campus—they contain emergency call buttons for campus security officers. When the box is opened the caller is in immediate contact with the campus Security Department. In addition to providing voice contact with security, the dispatcher is also able to pinpoint the caller's location. These phones are for emergency use only.

## **LIGHTING, LOCKS, PATROLS AND OTHER SAFETY MEASURES**

Valencia continually looks at ways to improve safety. We have allocated substantial resources to improve lighting, alarms, communications, staffing and other important safety measures. When warranted, we have the capacity to remotely lock down the exterior doors to every building on every campus within moments of notification of an event, reducing the possibility of a "moving threat." To meet safety and security regulations, the college also performs the following:

- Campus maintenance teams regularly inspect the campuses and facilities for safety and security issues.
- All reported safety and security related issues are dealt with in a timely fashion.
- Campus maintenance and security work closely together to ensure a safe and secure campus environment.

Valencia's Security Department employs 71 officers under the auspices of the office of the Assistant Vice President for Safety and Security and Risk Management. All officers are trained and licensed under the State of Florida Statutes Chapter 493. Officers also receive training in the following areas:

- CPR – all full time career service are certified.
- First aid – all full time career service are certified.
- Emergency evacuations procedures

Security operations are supplemented with local law enforcement officers who are contracted for specific hours and locations.

## **OBTAINING INFORMATION REGARDING SECURITY PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES**

Valencia Community College offers information regarding security practices and procedures through the following avenues:

- New employee and student orientation program.
- The Valencia Community College Web site ([www.valenciacc.edu/security](http://www.valenciacc.edu/security))
- Multiple Valencia publications.
- Campus Safety Week

Any changes to security procedures are distributed through our publications and the Web site.

## **POLICIES ON ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUG USE ON CAMPUS**

Students are prohibited from the possession, sale, or consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus. The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages at off-campus college functions shall be governed by the laws of the community. The college also prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs by students and employees on college property or as part of any college activities. Educational information on alcohol and other drugs is available to students through the Peer Educators and Student Development. Annually sponsored alcohol and drug abuse awareness theme weeks provide additional information to students. Anyone in need of treatment for alcohol and other drug problems will be assisted with referrals through Student Services to local support groups, community agencies and private providers.

## **POLICY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT**

Valencia Community College values the health and safety of every individual on campus and expects its students and employees to treat other persons with respect and dignity. Any behavior which causes the sexual assault or abuse of another person will not be tolerated, is a violation of the college's policy, and may result in sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion or dismissal. Disciplinary action on the part of the college does not preclude the possibility of criminal charges against the individual(s).

Sexual assault may take many forms including gang rape, acquaintance rape, date rape and stranger rape, and occurs both on and off college campuses. Sexual assault can occur at any time of the day or night, at home, in the workplace, in social settings and in public places. Both men and women have been assaulted by strangers, people whom they have known and trusted, and people whom they have dated.

In order for the college to deal more effectively with sexual assaults, it is essential that these incidents be reported. All students and others are encouraged to report incidents of sexual assault to an adult they trust, such as parents, the police, the family doctor, a school official or campus security personnel.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

- Get to a location where you will be safe from further attack.
- For your own protection, call the police immediately, especially if the assailant is nearby. The police will help you whether or not you choose to prosecute the assailant. To contact police 24-hours a day, call 9-1-1.
- Call campus security. Our officers have also been trained to assist rape victims and can help with reporting an assault to the proper authorities.
- Get medical attention immediately. The primary purpose of a medical examination following a rape is to check for physical injury, the presence of sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy as a result of the rape. The secondary purpose of a medical examination is to aid the police investigation and legal proceedings.
- Don't bathe or douche. You might be literally washing away valuable evidence. Wait until you have an examination.
- Save your clothing. It is all right to change clothes. But save what you were wearing. Your clothing could be used as evidence for prosecution. Place each item of clothing in a separate paper bag for the police.

## WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

Many sexual assault cases go unreported because the victim fears retaliation or possible humiliation if word gets around that he or she has been the victim of a sex offense. Victims tend to feel guilty, as though they did something to bring it on themselves, and often keep the incident to themselves or share some of the incident with a close friend. While this may be helpful in the immediate sense, we urge you to talk to a knowledgeable counselor about your reactions to being victimized. It is in talking about what happened with a trained professional that victims of assault are oftentimes able to overcome the trauma of the attack and get on with their lives.

## VICTIM ASSISTANCE AGENCIES

If you or someone you know is the victim of a crime or a violation of the student conduct code, it is important that you contact the Valencia Security Department to help you address the matter. Listed below are some additional agencies that may be able to assist you:

Campus Security	Phone Number
West	407-582-1000
East	407-582-2000
Downtown Center	407-582-3000
Osceola	407-582-4000
Winter Park	407-582-6000
Sand Lake Center	407-582-6750

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Orange County Sheriff's Office	407-737-2400 (non-emergency line)
Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis	
Sexual Trauma Recovery Center	407-843-4357
Response Crisis Hotline	407-740-5408
Hotline 24 Hr	407-843-4357
Hotline 24 Hr. Osceola	407-846-7255

## WHAT VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT CAN EXPECT FROM THE CAMPUS SECURITY DEPARTMENT

It is the policy of the campus Security Department to insure that sexual assault victims are afforded sensitivity and maximum humane consideration.

- Officers will treat a victim with courtesy, sensitivity, dignity and understanding.
- Officers will act thoughtfully without prejudging or blaming a victim.
- A victims request to speak to an officer of the same gender will be accommodated.
- Officers will meet privately with a victim in a location of the victim's choice.
- Officers will inform a victim of services and resources available.
- Officers will facilitate contacts with law enforcement officials to initiate an investigation.

## SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION POLICY

In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Act, the college is responsible for advising the campus community where to obtain information on registered sex offenders. Use the following website that is maintained by the state of Florida to access the registry:  
<http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage.do>

## TIMELY WARNING POLICY

In compliance with the Clery Act regarding timely warning of events on and in the immediate vicinity of campuses that may pose a threat to the college community, Valencia has adopted the following alert system. The Security Department will initiate a warning upon the authority of the assistant vice president of Safety & Security to all campuses. The warning will be quickly and securely issued through the college e-mail system to all students, faculty and staff. All warnings will be posted on the Valencia Web site at [valenciacc.edu/security](http://valenciacc.edu/security). These notices may also be included in issues of the employee newsletter, The Bulletin, and the Valencia Voice student newspaper.

