



# **Annual Security Report 2009**

In compliance with Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and  
Campus Crime Statistics Act

Prepared by:  
The Office of Academic Support  
Division of Academic Support  
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To: All SMC Students/Employees

From: Dr. Margaret Hay, Dean of Students and Academic Support

This document represents Southwestern Michigan College's Policies on the illicit use of drugs, the abuse of alcohol on the campus, and the campus policies relative to crime and crime prevention. These were adopted in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226) and the Student Right To Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-542).

It is vital that each of us be aware of criminal activities, practicing those precautions needed to insure that we, ourselves, do not become the victim of a crime. One special area of criminal activity has been singled out by the Federal government and should be noted: the difficulties surrounding drug and alcohol use and abuse which impact millions of Americans each year. This impact can range from mild distraction to major disruption, and may interfere with a person's ability to maintain his/her class or job attendance and performance.

At SMC we are committed to an awareness and prevention of criminal activities of all nature. We provide services to individuals in the prevention, reporting, and follow-up of crimes. Counselors are on staff to provide referrals and limited counseling services to students whose lives are affected by crime, drugs, or alcohol abuse.

Please read these materials and keep them on hand for future reference. If you are in need of further information or would like to get involved in prevention activities on campus this year, please contact the Office of Academic Support.

## **REPORTING CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES**

Southwestern Michigan College maintains a close working relationship with local and state police departments. As a part of this relationship, Cass County Sheriffs are often on both campuses especially during evening hours. All crime victims and/or witnesses are encouraged to report crime immediately to appropriate police agencies. In addition, crimes can also be reported to the following campus authorities:

<i>Dowagiac</i>	
<i>Dean of Students &amp; Academic Support</i>	<i>269-782-1306 College Services Bldg</i>
<i>Executive Vice President &amp; Chief Operating Officer</i>	<i>269-782-1276 College Services Bldg</i>
<i>Director of Buildings and Grounds</i>	<i>269-782-1207 Maintenance Bldg</i>
<i>Niles Area Campus</i>	
<i>Dean of the Niles Area Campus</i>	<i>269-687-4810 Niles Area Campus</i>

These offices will investigate and make referrals to off-campus law enforcement if appropriate; however, witnesses may request to report a crime themselves on a confidential basis.

The Annual Security Report is prepared by the Dean of Students & Academic Support in cooperation with the Office of Institutional Research to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act. Campus crime, arrest and referral statistics include those reported to designated campus officials and local law enforcement agencies. The full text of the report can be requested from the office of the Dean of Students and Academic Support.

In the event that a situation arises on campus that in the judgment of the Dean of Students and Academic Support or other campus official in the dean's absence merits the issuing of a warning to students and staff, the warning will be issued through the college's campus email and announcement system. This announcement system, or electronic bulletin board, is immediately accessible from both on and off campus via computer by all faculty, staff, and students.

## **CAMPUS ACCESS**

Most of the Southwestern Michigan Colleges' instructional buildings are closed from 11:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday and after 5:00 on Fridays. Both campuses are closed weekends except during classes and special events. Buildings are locked and secured when either or both college campuses are officially closed. Hours of operation of the Fred L. Mathews Library, and the Museum vary during the year and are posted. The Student Activities Center is generally open evenings and weekends. Other than posted hours, these buildings are secured only accessible to appropriate and qualified college employees through keyed entrance.

## **CAMPUS SECURITY**

Though Southwestern Michigan College does not employ a campus police force, the Dowagiac and Niles Area Campuses are served by local and state police who are available to assist should the need arise. If such a need arises, all staff members are trained to contact emergency personnel. Additionally, maintenance personnel are on duty with radio and telephone contact should an emergency arise. Security and maintenance staff are also available evenings and weekends to support the residence halls and other buildings that are open to students and the general public. Southwestern Michigan College operates no off campus housing or off-campus student organization facilities and therefore has no security associated with these types of facilities.

## **MAINTAINING CAMPUS FACILITIES**

The maintenance personnel of the college are responsible for regularly reviewing the safety and security of both campuses and promptly address any issues (such as lighting, safe walkways, etc.) that might compromise students, staff, or visitors to the campus.

## **COUNSELING SUPPORT**

The college employs licensed professional counselors who are trained to provide crisis intervention, support, and appropriate referrals to students who need to report a crime in a confidential, safe manner.

## **CRIME AND CRIMINAL AWARENESS**

While Southwestern Michigan College is virtually crime free, it remains in the best interest of all to abide by common sense security precautions. In any community with over 7,000 members, there will be a small percentage of individuals who engage in book or purse theft or the theft of materials left in unsecured vehicles. As in any public place, one should always keep an eye on personal belongings. In that same regard, one should be aware of his or her surroundings and avoid taking unnecessary risks. It is wise to use the same care and caution that one would exercise in any public place when thinking of one's personal safety.

A number of educational and awareness raising materials and events are provided throughout the college year. These typically involve brown bag seminars, community awareness activities, orientation sessions, etc. There is no annual calendar. Please note bulletin boards and the college publications for listings of such events. Because the college is virtually a crime free environment, it is unnecessary to provide extensive programming regarding crime prevention to students and employees, however, should the need arise, communication to the campus wide community can be immediately immobilized.

## **MONITORING OF CRIME**

In cooperation with local and state police agencies, when students are involved in criminal activities both on and off campus, the public nature of such activities is reported to campus authorities. Likewise, when needed, campus authorities report criminal activities to local and state police agencies. Working cooperatively, these procedures assist students and the community as a whole in the resolution and prevention of crime.

## **CAMPUS CRIME STATISTICS**

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
STUDENT RIGHT TO KNOW AND CAMPUS SECURITY ACT  
Statistical Report for Period: 2005-2007

CRIME	TOTALS	TOTALS	TOTALS
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0
Sex Offenses, Forcible	0	0	0
Sex Offenses, Non-Forcible	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Liquor Law Arrests	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	1	0	0
Drug Law Arrests	0	0	0
Drug Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession Arrests	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	0	0	0

## **PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES: ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS**

Southwestern Michigan College and its Board of Trustees certify and pledge to make every effort to provide and maintain a drug free work place and learning

environment for employees and students. This is in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989. (Public Law 101-226)

Southwestern Michigan College recognizes that alcohol and drug misuse or abuse is a chronic progressive disease that can erode the foundation of SMC's goals and objectives. Further, it can diminish or disrupt the attainment of an individual's intellectual, social and emotional growth. Therefore, SMC is committed to providing a safe, healthy and sober environment. To this end, the college will conduct a biennial review of the programs that inform the college community about the risks of alcohol and illegal drugs as well as the sanctions applied to violators of the college's policies related to illegal behavior.

### **Standards of Conduct**

Southwestern Michigan College and its Board of Trustees prohibit the manufacture, distribution, possession, use of sale of any controlled substance and/or alcohol on the SMC campus or while engaged in any college activity.

Violations of this policy by faculty, staff or students could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion.

### **Legal Sanctions**

There are legal sanctions under local, state and federal law, for the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol. A violation under state law may result in a misdemeanor or felony conviction, depending on the nature of the offense, punishable by imprisonment, payment of fines, confiscation of real and personal property, or a combination of the three.

### **Consequences of Youth Substance Abuse**

Young people who persistently abuse substances often experience an array of problems, including academic difficulties, health-related problems (including mental health), poor peer relationships, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Additionally, there are consequences for family members, the community, and the entire society.

### **Academics**

Declining grades, absenteeism from school and other activities, and increased potential for dropping out of school are problems associated with adolescent substance abuse. Hawkins, Catalano, and Miller (1992) cite research indicating that a low level of commitment to education and higher truancy rates appear to be related to substance use among adolescents. Cognitive and behavioral problems experienced by alcohol- and drug-using youth may interfere with their academic performance and also present obstacles to learning for their classmates (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1992).

### **Physical health**

Injuries due to accidents (such as car accidents), physical disabilities and diseases, and the effects of possible overdoses are among the health-related consequences of teenage substance abuse. Disproportionate numbers of youth involved with alcohol and other drugs face an increased risk of death through suicide, homicide, accident, and illness.

The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) study—in a representative sample of hospitals throughout the United States—reports trends in people seeking emergency department treatment related to illegal drug use or non-medical use of legal drugs. Preliminary 1994 estimates indicate drug-related emergency department episodes for youth ages 12 to 17 increased by 17 percent from 1993 to 1994. This increase was greater than for any of the older age groups reported. Significantly, emergency department visits related to marijuana/ hashish for youth ages 12 to 17 increased 50 percent between 1993 and 1994 (McCaig, 1995). Ninety-one youth between the ages of 12 and 17 died of drug abuse in 1993 (Office of Applied Studies, 1994).

Transmission of HIV/AIDS primarily occurs through exposure to body fluids of an infected person during sexual contact or through sharing of un-sterile drug-injection equipment. Another primary means of transmission is from mothers to infants during pregnancy or the birth process. Many substance abusing youth engage in behaviour that places them at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases. This may include the actual use of psychoactive substances (particularly those that are injected) or behaviour resulting from poor judgment and impulse control while experiencing the effects of mood-altering substances. Rates of AIDS diagnoses currently are relatively low among teenagers, compared with most other age groups. However, because the disease has a long latency period before symptoms appear, it is likely that many young adults with AIDS were actually infected with HIV as adolescents. Although alcohol-related traffic fatalities for youth have declined, young people are still overrepresented in this area. In 1995 alone, more than 2,000 youth (ages 15 to 20) were killed in alcohol-related car crashes (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1997).

These limited examples illustrate the catastrophic health-related consequences of substance abuse among adolescents. Besides personal and family distress, additional healthcare costs and loss of future productivity place burdens on the community.

### **Mental health**

Mental health problems such as depression, developmental lags, apathy, withdrawal, and other psychosocial dysfunctions frequently are linked to substance abuse among adolescents.

Substance abusing youth are at higher risk than nonusers for mental health problems, including depression, conduct problems, personality disorders, suicidal thoughts, attempted suicide, and suicide. Marijuana use, which is prevalent among youth, has been shown to interfere with short-term memory, learning, and psychomotor skills. Motivation and psychosexual/emotional development also may be influenced (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1992).

### **Families**

In addition to personal adversities, the abuse of alcohol and other drugs by youth may result in family crises and jeopardize many aspects of family life, sometimes resulting in family dysfunction. Both siblings and parents are profoundly affected by alcohol- and drug-involved youth (Nowinski, 1990). Substance abuse can drain a family's financial and emotional resources (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1992).

### **Social and economic consequences**

The social and economic costs related to youth substance abuse are high. They result from the financial losses and distress suffered by alcohol- and drug-related crime victims, increased burdens for the support of adolescents and young adults who are not able to become self-supporting, and greater demands for medical and other treatment services for these youth (Gropper, 1985).

### **Delinquency**

There is an undeniable link between substance abuse and delinquency. Arrest, adjudication, and intervention by the juvenile justice system are eventual consequences for many youth engaged in alcohol and other drug use. It cannot be claimed that substance abuse causes delinquent behaviour or delinquency causes alcohol and other drug use. However, the two behaviours are strongly correlated and often bring about school and family problems, involvement with negative peer groups, a lack of neighborhood social controls, and physical or sexual abuse (Hawkins et al., 1987; Wilson and Howell, 1993). Possession and use of alcohol and other drugs are illegal for all youth. Beyond that, however, there is strong evidence of an association between alcohol and other drug use and delinquent behaviour of juveniles. Substance abuse is associated with both violent and income-generating crimes by youth. This increases fear among community residents and the demand for juvenile and criminal justice services, thus increasing the burden on these resources. Gangs, drug trafficking, prostitution, and growing numbers of youth homicides are among the social and criminal justice problems often linked to adolescent substance abuse.

The DUF study found the highest association between positive drug tests of male juvenile arrestees and their commission of drug-related crimes (e.g., sales, possession). However, a substantial rate of drug use also was found among youth who committed violent, property, and other crimes (National Institute of Justice, 1996). Other data support the concern for drug-involved youth in the juvenile justice system. The Survey of Youth in Custody, 1987 (Beck, Kline, and

Greenfeld, 1988) found that more than 39 percent of youth under age 18 were under the influence of drugs at the time of their current offense. More than 57 percent reported using a drug in the previous month. In another study of 113 delinquent youth in a State detention facility, 82 percent reported being heavy (daily) users of alcohol and other drugs just prior to admission to the facility, 14 percent were regular users (more than two times weekly), and 4 percent reported occasional use (DeFrancesco, 1996).

The above data appears on the website of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/>

### **Alcohol And Drug Counseling And Rehabilitation**

Faculty, staff and students needing help in dealing with alcohol or drug dependency problems are encouraged to use the services of a licensed counselor in the Academic Support office who will provide information, literature and support services to all requesting assistance.

Efforts to seek such help will not jeopardize any employee's job, or any student's educational standing, and will not be noted in any personnel report or student disciplinary file.

A list of drug and alcohol counseling, treatment and rehabilitation programs in the SMC vicinity may be found in the appendices.

### **College Sanctions**

Southwestern Michigan College will impose sanctions on students and employees (consistent with local, state and federal law, and with applicable collective bargaining agreements) for violations of the Standards of conduct, as expressed in the following Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustee Policy Manual.

In the event a student is found guilty of violation of any of the Rules of Conduct, the following penalties may be imposed: (Under "IV.14.7 Penalties" In the Board of Trustee Policy Manual)

- A. Reprimand: A written reprimand may be placed in the student record.
- B. Probation: A person may be placed on probation for a specified period of time and upon terms, the violation of which, could subject the person to further disciplinary action.
- C. Suspension: Exclusion from classes and other privileges or activities as set forth in the notice for a definite period of time.

- D. Expulsion: Termination of student status and/or the right to use college facilities or receive college services. In the event a student is found guilty of conduct which would constitute a felony under either State or Federal law, the penalty of expulsion must be imposed.
- E. Restitution: Reimbursement for defacement, damage to or misappropriation of property may be required in lieu of or in addition to other penalties.

A member of the faculty may be dismissed when there is evidence that they have been involved in an act which would bring discredit to the college. Use of illegal substances is considered such an act and could be grounds for dismissal. (Under II.6.2, "Dismissal of Faculty", in the Board of Trustee Policy Manual)

In addition to or in lieu of discipline, violators may be required to complete an appropriate rehabilitation program. Violations by faculty, staff, or students may also result in referral for criminal prosecution.

## **SEX OFFENSES**

It is the policy of Southwestern Michigan College to support the principles of federal and state laws upholding the right of the individual to utilize educational facilities services, activities or programs without discrimination because of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex or marital status.

Discrimination because of sex includes sexual harassment which means unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature as defined by statute. Sexual harassment of students or employees will not be tolerated at Southwestern Michigan College.

### **Sexual Harassment And/Or Assault Procedures**

A student who believes that he or she has been the victim of sexual harassment or sexual assault should report the alleged charge immediately in accordance with the procedures outlined below. All information disclosed in such procedures will be held in strictest confidence and will only be disclosed on a need-to-know basis in order to investigate, resolve, and report the matter. If the complaint involves sexual assault, the student should recognize the importance of preserving evidence which may be necessary to the proof of criminal sexual assault.

The student will report the alleged incident to the Senior Vice President for Planning and Advancement. If the accusations are first made or reported to a

person other than the Senior Vice President, that person should immediately direct the student to the Senior Vice President.

The Senior Vice President for Planning and Advancement or their designee will investigate the accusation following established Board Policy. During and after such procedures, it is vital to remember:

- the accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during a campus disciplinary proceeding

- both the accuser and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of any campus disciplinary proceeding brought alleging a sexual assault.

- students always have the option of notifying law enforcement authorities, an option which will be assisted by campus authorities if the student so chooses. Assistance in notifying the appropriate authorities is available in Academic Support.

- students always have the option to request campus assistance with changing academic situations after an alleged sexual assault incident if such changes are reasonably available.

- On- and off-campus counseling, mental health or other student services for victims of sex offenses are provided by the Academic Support staff.

### **Sanctions**

The Board of Trustees of Southwestern Michigan College expects students and employees to comply with all policy including the prohibitions of sexual harassment and assault. Failure to comply can lead to punishment up to and including dismissal or termination of employment.

### **Sex Offender Registry**

Students who are officially registered with the Michigan State Sex Offender Registry are obliged to inform the Dean of Students and Academic Support of this status. This information will be kept confidential though all reasonable means to safeguard students will be made. Other members of the college community wishing to access information on registered sex offenders are recommended to consult the Michigan State Sex Offender Registry [www.mipsor.state.mi.us/](http://www.mipsor.state.mi.us/).

### **Education**

Throughout the college year, Southwestern Michigan College conducts a number of special seminars through its Academic Support Office. Notices of such seminars involving special programs aimed at the prevention of sex offenses, the awareness of rape, acquaintance rape, and other forcible and non-forcible sex offenses shall be posted no later than three days prior to such events.

Educational brochures are also available in the Academic Support Office for those who wish more information on this topic.

## **APPENDIX**

### **PROGRAM REFERRALS**

The Academic Support Office staff is available to assist students in making contact with the agencies below.

#### **Assault Recovery Associates**

303 Ridgeway  
St. Joseph, Mi 49085  
(269) 983-5285

#### **Counseling Center of Niles**

1903 Oak Street  
PO Box 578  
Niles, Mi 49120  
(269) 684-5932

#### **Department of Human Services, Cass County**

325 M-62  
Cassopolis, Mi 49031  
(269) 445-0200

#### **Domestic Assault Center Coalition**

PO Box 402  
Three Rivers, Mi 49093  
(269) 279-5122  
(800) 828-2023

#### **The Family Center, Inc.**

56632 M-51 S  
PO Box 86  
Dowagiac, Mi 49047  
(269) 782-9811

#### **The Link Crises Intervention Center**

2450 M-139, Ste. A  
Benton Harbor, Mi 49022  
(269) 927-1422  
Crisis Hotline: (800) 310-5454

#### **Madison Center and Hospital**

403 East Madison  
PO Box 80  
South Bend, In 46617  
(574) 234-0061  
(877) 234-0061

#### **Michiana Addictions & Prevention Services (MAPS)**

1020 Millard  
Three Rivers, Mi 49093  
(269) 279-5187  
(800) 692-4121

#### **Myrtle Treatment Center, MAPS**

420 West High Street  
Dowagiac, Mi 49047  
(269) 782-7211

#### **The Salvation Army**

202 Center Street  
Dowagiac, Mi 49047  
(269) 782-2631  
424 North Fifteenth Street  
Niles, Mi 49120  
(269) 684-2660

#### **Samaritan Counseling Center of SW Michigan**

1850 Colfax Avenue  
Benton Harbor, Mi 49022  
(269) 926-6199  
Niles Office  
13 S. Fourth Street  
Niles, Mi 49120  
(269) 684-7604

**Woodlands Behavioral Healthcare  
Network**

960 M-60 East

Cassopolis, Mi 49031

(269) 445-2451

(800) 323-0335

**Woodlands Addiction/Treatment  
Center**

17321 M-61 East

Vandalia, Mi 49095

(269) 476-9781