Annual Security Report

The Southeast Arkansas College Safety Department, in compliance with the Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act of 1990, has added this Annual Security Report to its list of printed material distributed to our campus community.

This report provides information about crime on the SEARK campus in the most recent reportable year. In addition, we have included information intended to help all members of the campus community avoid danger and prevent crime.

Campus Security Act

Southeast Arkansas College (SEARK) is a state supported post-secondary institution with an enrollment of approximately 1,200 students and employs 184 full and part-time faculty and staff. SEARK is committed to providing a safe learning and working environment for all of its students, employees, visitors, and guests. In compliance with the Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act of 1990, the following report states the campus security policy, current security programs, and crime statistics. The intent of this report is to increase the reader’s awareness of security issues and to assist in the decision-making process regarding safety. This information is disseminated to all current students and employees. Upon request, the information will be provided to any applicant for enrollment or employment.

Buildings and Grounds

Southeast Arkansas College maintains a strong commitment to the safety of all members of the campus community and campus visitors. Exterior lighting is an important part of this commitment. Motor vehicle parking lots, pedestrian walkways, and building exteriors are well lighted. The Plant Maintenance Supervisor conducts an inspection of exterior lighting on campus periodically to determine the effectiveness of campus lighting. Members of the campus community are encouraged to report any exterior lighting deficiencies to 870-557-4211. Trees and shrubs that may create hazards are trimmed several times a year as required to ensure safe passage. Please call 870-557-4211 to report any concern that interferes with safety on campus grounds. Repairs to campus buildings and grounds involving personal safety or the security of property are given priority over all others. Some campus buildings are open in the evenings for classes including computer labs, offices, and classrooms for study. Students and others are urged to give special attention to safety when using the campus at night. Students should stay in well-lit spaces. Students and staff are encouraged to secure personal property and to lock vehicles, offices, and work areas when unattended. To report a concern of suspicious activity, unlocked areas, or any security problem call 870-557-4211.
Access to Campus Facilities

Most campus buildings and facilities are accessible to members of the campus community, guests, and visitors during normal hours of business, and for special events or occasions. Buildings may close earlier when classes are not in session, during holidays, between semesters, and on weekends.

Student Judicial System

Southeast Arkansas College is committed to maintaining the integrity of the learning process, preserving an environment conducive to learning, and encouraging ethical and responsible behavior among students. SEARK fully supports, both in spirit and practice, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendment Act of 1972, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (section 504) and section 402 of the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, age, marital status, ethnic origin, handicap, and/or disabled veterans of the Vietnam era. Applicable SEARK departments have been designated to coordinate efforts to comply with all laws and regulations applicable to these policies.

The possession, use, or sale of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs is strictly prohibited. Each student must comply with requests of campus officials in the performance of their duties and obey the laws of the state of Arkansas. Refer to the Student Handbook regarding these policies.

Academic, disciplinary, and grievance procedures for students are outlined in the Student Handbook so that students are assured of appropriate due process.

Substance & Drug Abuse Prevention Policy

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989, Public Law 101-226, requires that, as a condition of receiving funds or any other form of financial assistance under federal programs, an institution must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol. Therefore, SEARK has implemented the following substance and drug abuse prevention steps.

1. An information center has been set up in Counseling Services and the Library Resource Center.
2. Counseling Services may be contacted for information, counseling, or referral concerning substance abuse.
3. Instructors will incorporate drug and alcohol prevention materials into their classes when appropriate.
Sexual Assault Policy

Southeast Arkansas College explicitly condemns sexual assault as a violation of an individual’s human rights and dignity. SEARK policy states that members of the college community neither commit nor condone sexual assault in any form. This prohibition applies equally to male and female staff, faculty, and students, to all persons on premises subject to College control, and to those engaged to further the interests of the college. Sexual assault is unlawful and is subject to civil and criminal penalties. Employees and students who engage in sexual assault will also be subject to applicable disciplinary action. Southeast Arkansas College is committed to providing an environment free from sexual assault. Therefore, the college administration strongly encourages all SEARK community members to report incidents of sexual assault. To that end, reporting and investigating procedures are supportive of and sensitive to the victim. At the same time, they adequately safeguard the rights of the alleged offender.

Definition/Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is generally defined as attempted or actual unwanted sexual activity. Sexual assault generally falls into one of two categories: forcible and non-forcible offenses. A forcible sex offense is “…any sexual act directed against another person forcibly and/or against that person’s will, or not forcibly or against a persons will where the victim is incapable of giving consent.” These sex offenses include rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling. Non-forcible sex offenses are acts of “unlawful, non-forcible sexual intercourse,” and include incest and statutory rape. Depending on the circumstances, acquaintance rape could be in either category. As used in this policy, the term “sexual assault” is generally descriptive of conduct specifically prescribed as rape, carnal abuse, sexual misconduct, sexual abuse and sodomy under Arkansas code Annotated 5-14-101 through 123.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Sexual Assault Forcible and Non-Forcible Sex Offenses: The college will not tolerate sexual assault in any form, including rape and acquaintance rape. A student or employee charged with sexual assault can be prosecuted under Arkansas criminal statue and/or disciplined by the College. Even if criminal prosecution is not pursued, the College can pursue disciplinary action. When there is probable cause to believe that the campus regulations prohibiting sexual assault have been violated, the campus will pursue strong disciplinary action through its own internal judicial channels. This discipline includes, but is not limited to, the possibility of termination, expulsion, suspension, disciplinary probation, counseling, mediation, or educational sanctions, or a combination. Any conduct that constitutes a sexual offense under Arkansas law shall also be subject to disciplinary sanctions under this policy.
Sexual Assault Victims Rights

Victims have the right to file criminal charges with local law enforcement authorities and, upon request, are entitled to assistance from the college in notifying the local law enforcement authorities. The Vice President for Student Affairs can explain how to use the College internal complaint process.

Victims have the right to file a complaint with the College and have a sexual assault complaint investigated by the College and the right to participate in any disciplinary proceedings regarding the sexual assault complaint. See the current SEARK Catalog and Student Handbook, PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

Educational & Counseling Support

Because of the traumatic nature of sexual assault, victims are strongly encouraged to seek professional help. On campus, free and confidential counseling services and/or a listing of referrals are available at Counseling Services.

For more information about options for pressing charges, for reporting an incident, for filling internal complaints, or for counseling and educational materials, please contact one of the College offices listed below:

Vice President for Student Affairs
Student Advocate

Appropriate information about this policy will be included in the faculty/staff, student, and Campus Safety and Security handbooks in order to insure full campus awareness of the College’s policies on sexual assault.

Lost or Found Property

1. Lost property should be reported to Buildings and Grounds/Security.
2. Found property should be turned into the Welcome Center.
3. A 24 hour message phone is available to report lost or found property items: 870-543-5900.
Applicable Arkansas Laws

   When a person consumes an alcoholic beverage in any public place, on any
   highway or street, in any vehicle commonly used for transportation of passengers,
   in any depot, waiting room, or other public place other than a business licensed
to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises; when a person
appears in a public place manifestly under the influence of alcohol or a controlled
substance to the degree and under circumstances such that he is likely to endanger
himself or others or property, or that he unreasonably annoys persons in his
vicinity, Class C misdemeanor. Maximum penalty: $100 fine.

2. Chapter 27: 5-27-205 Contributing to the Delinquency to a Minor
   When an adult knowing gives a minor alcohol or drugs. Class A misdemeanor.
   Maximum penalty 1 year in jail or $1,000 or both.

3. Chapter 64: 5-64-401: Controlled Substance
   Makes it illegal for any person to manufacture, distribute, dispense, or use illegal
   drugs. Drug paraphernalia is also illegal. Possible Class Y felony. Maximum
   penalty; $250,000 fine or 40 years to life.

   It is unlawful for any person under the age of 21 years to operate or be in actual
   physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of an alcohol
   beverage or similar intoxicant and/or when blood alcohol is a minimum of 0.02%.
   Penalties for a first conviction are a fine up to $500, loss or suspension of driver’s
   license from 90-120 days, public services work, and enrollment in an educational
   program. Penalties increase with each subsequent conviction.

5. Act 802 of 1995: Code 545-104: administrative revocation of driver’s licenses in
cases of DWI
   Drivers who fail blood alcohol tests-blood alcohol of 0.10% or more-or who
   refuse a sobriety test will have their license seized by the arresting officer and
   may receive a 30 day temporary permit while waiting for a hearing. Penalties
   increase from loss of license for 120 days for the first offense, to four years for
   a fourth DWI.

6. Use of marijuana is a misdemeanor punishable by Arkansas law and possession is
   a felony punishable by four years imprisonment and up to $2,000 in fines.
   Violations may also lead to forfeiture of personal and real property and denial of
   federal benefits, such as grants, contracts, and student loans.
Crime Reporting

On Campus

The SEARK Safety Department, with the assistance of the Pine Bluff Police Department is responsible for law enforcement, security, and emergency response on the SEARK campus. It is extremely important to promptly and accurately report crimes. To report a crime or emergency contact SEARK Plant Maintenance Supervisor/Security at 870-543-5933.

Non Campus

Non-campus services are provided law enforcement, security, and emergency response by the Pine Bluff Police Department. Numbers can be found on page 7 of this publication.

1. Annual Reports: Comprehensive annual reports of crime-related information are complied. These reports assist SEARK in monitoring and upgrading security matters.

2. Special Alerts: If circumstances should warrant, special printed crime alerts will be prepared and distributed throughout the campus.

3. Incident Reporting: Crime related incidents are reported with a view toward immediate corrective action.

Crime Prevention

SEARK’s crime prevention program is based on the dual concepts of eliminating or minimizing criminal opportunities whenever possible, and encouraging students and employees to be responsible for their own security and the security of others. In cooperation with the Office of Counseling Services, rape awareness education literature is made available to members of the campus community.
Emergency Telephone Numbers
&
Safety Resources

SEARK Campus Security..........................870-557-4211
SEARK Main Number..............................870-543-5900
Emergency Services-Fire, Police, Ambulance..........911
Pine Bluff Police Department.........................870-534-1212
Pine Bluff Fire Department..........................870-543-5150
National Institute on Drug Abuse Hotline...1-800-662-4357
Poison -Arkansas Poison Control Center….1-800-376-4766
Rape Crisis...........................................1-800-656-4673
Jefferson Regional Medical Center.............870-541-7100
Ambulance Emergency Service Inc.................870-536-0734
Ambulance Transport Service Inc...............870-247-1804
Emergency Ambulance Service Inc.................870-536-9111
Hope Crisis Pregnancy Center.....................870-535-0811