



Annual Security and Fire Safety Report 2026

January 1-December 31, 2025



Ashland University

Dewight Schar College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Published in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) of 1990, as amended by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2013, this Annual Security and Fire Safety Report includes crime statistics for the previous three calendar years (2023–2025), fire safety statistics for residential facilities, and information about campus safety policies and procedures.

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ASHLAND UNIVERSITY SAFETY STATEMENT

Ashland University is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors can pursue academic and personal goals free from undue concern for their safety. The university recognizes that true safety is a shared responsibility and relies on the active participation of every member of our campus community.

The Department of Safety Services provides professional 24-hour security coverage across campus facilities, including residence halls, academic buildings, and public spaces. Our officers are trained in crime prevention, emergency response, and community support, and work in close partnership with local law enforcement agencies and emergency responders to ensure a coordinated approach to campus safety.

Ashland University promotes awareness, prevention, and preparedness through safety education programs, emergency notification systems, and community engagement initiatives. Students and employees are strongly encouraged to report crimes, suspicious activities, or safety concerns promptly to Safety Services. Reports can be made by phone, in person, or anonymously through the university contracted Campus Shield app.

While Ashland University takes comprehensive measures to foster a safe campus, the cooperation of our community is essential. Together, through shared vigilance, mutual respect, and timely communication, we uphold a campus environment that supports learning, growth, and well-being.

Questions may be directed to:

Ashland University Safety Services

401 College Ave, Ashland, OH 44805

Phone: (419) 207-5555 | Email: security@ashland.edu

Introduction

The information and statistics in this report is compiled and published annually by the Ashland University Safety Services Department in accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act.

Crimes and student conduct referrals reported to the following offices, agencies, and individuals are included:

- Ashland University Safety Services Department
- Mansfield Police Department (for university-owned, non-campus, and public property locations)
- Title IX Coordinator
- Office of Student Conduct
- Office of Residence Life

In addition, other university officials who are designated as Campus Security Authorities (CSAs) are included in the reporting. CSAs are individuals who have significant responsibility for student and campus activities, who have authority and a duty to respond on behalf of the university, and to whom crimes may be reported.

CSAs are required to report covered crimes to the Safety Services Department, even if they also have parallel or alternate reporting obligations under other university policies or procedures.

In addition to the offices listed above, the following individuals may also be considered CSAs with the obligation of letting the Safety Services Department know of the report:

- Athletic Coaches and Assistant Coaches
- Student Organization Advisors
- Student Affairs and Student Activities Staff

All offices and individuals play an important role in ensuring that the university complies with federal reporting obligations, and in supporting the safety and security of the Ashland University community.

Safety Training

To enhance campus security, Safety Services provided 22 presentations in 2025 on a variety of topics including personal safety, property safety, Stop the Bleed, Crisis Intervention, Critical Incident Response and De-escalation.

Reporting Crimes and Emergencies

The Ashland University Safety Services Department operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to respond to crime reports, emergency calls, and non-emergency service requests. The department may be contacted directly at (419) 207-5555 for both emergency and non-emergency situations.

In cases of medical, fire, or police emergencies that require immediate response, members of the campus community are strongly encouraged to dial 911 to connect directly with local dispatching services.

By calling (419) 207-5555 instead of 911 directly, the Ashland University Safety Services Department and other campus responders can respond to the emergency, and the dispatcher on duty can contact 911 if necessary. This enables help to be on scene quickly, while campus responders guide local emergency personnel directly to the incident location—avoiding delays in locating the emergency.

If you do call 911, please also call Safety Services at (419) 207-5555, provide the same information, and notify them that you have contacted 911. Reported incidents are investigated by the Safety Services Department in coordination with local law enforcement or other agencies as needed. All criminal matters should be reported to Safety Services, even if the initial report was made to residence life staff or other university personnel.

Immediate Steps if You Are a Victim of a Crime or in Danger

- Get to a safe location immediately
- Call 911 or Ashland University Safety Services at (419) 207-5555
- Provide clear information to the dispatcher and follow their instructions
- Attend to medical needs for yourself or others until help arrives

It is important to preserve any available evidence, which may be necessary for obtaining a protection order or supporting a criminal prosecution. Examples include:

- Text messages, voicemails, emails, or social media posts
- Photos, videos, or screenshots
- Physical evidence (clothing, bedding, or personal items)

Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence, Domestic/Relationship Violence, or Stalking

If you have experienced sexual misconduct, please consider the following immediate steps:

- Go to a safe place
- Call 911, Ashland University Safety Services at (419) 207-5555, the Title IX Coordinator or the Mansfield Police Department at (419) 755-9725
- Preserve evidence: if possible, do not shower, brush teeth, eat, drink, smoke, change clothes, or clean the area where the incident occurred. Place clothing or items in a paper or cloth bag (not plastic)
- Seek medical attention at the following location, which provides access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs):
 - OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital (419) 526-8000 – Mansfield, OH

Medical facilities can treat injuries, provide preventative treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and conduct a no-cost forensic sexual assault examination.

Important: You do not need to make a formal police report or press charges in order to receive medical care or utilize supportive services.

Confidentiality of Victims and Anonymous Reporting

Ashland University is committed to respecting the privacy of victims of crime while also promoting the safety of the campus community. The university encourages accurate and prompt reporting of all crimes, suspicious activity, and safety concerns to the Safety Services Department (419) 207-5555 or to local law enforcement.

Anonymous Reporting

Individuals who prefer not to be identified may make an anonymous report. Anonymous reports allow the university to include the information in its annual crime statistics, assist in identifying patterns or threats, and determine if a Timely Warning or Emergency Notification should be issued. Anonymous reports may be made by:

- Using *Campus Shield*, a free, downloadable mobile application that connects directly to the Safety Services Department;
- Calling Safety Services at (419) 207-5555 and requesting anonymity; or
- Reporting to a coach, advisor, or other university official who can forward the report without including the reporter's identity

While anonymous reports are accepted, it is important to understand that they may limit the university's ability to investigate or respond fully. Whenever possible, individuals are encouraged to provide their name and contact information so that resources, supportive measures, and follow-up can be offered.

Confidentiality of Victims

Personally identifiable information about victims will not be included in publicly available recordkeeping, such as the Daily Crime Log or the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report. When Timely Warnings or Emergency Notifications are issued, the university will withhold any details that could identify a victim.

Victims may request that university officials handle reports confidentially. While the university will make every effort to honor such requests, complete confidentiality cannot always be guaranteed. Information may need to be shared with the Safety Services Department, the Title IX Coordinator, or external law enforcement when necessary to comply with federal or state law, provide protective measures, or ensure community safety.

Mandatory Reporting Requirements

Under Ohio law and federal regulations, most faculty and staff members are designated as mandatory reporters. They are required to report:

- Crimes covered by the Clery Act to the Safety Services Department;
- Any known or suspected felony crimes; and
- Any incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking to the Title IX Coordinator.

Confidential Resources

Professional counselors, pastoral counselors, and medical staff acting in their professional capacity are not required to report crimes for Clery Act purposes. These individuals can provide confidential support and, with the victim's permission, may share non-identifiable information for statistical purposes. Victims may also seek confidential assistance from community advocacy organizations.

Supportive Measures

Victims may request accommodations such as changes to housing, academic, transportation, or employment arrangements, even without filing a formal complaint or police report. The university will maintain confidentiality regarding such measures to the extent possible while ensuring their effectiveness.

Balancing Confidentiality and Safety

Ashland University strives to balance victim confidentiality with its obligation to provide a safe and non-discriminatory environment. Statistical information for Clery Act compliance will be reported only in aggregate and without personal identifiers. Victims will be notified in writing of their rights, options, and available resources, including how confidentiality will be maintained.

Timely Warnings and Emergency Notifications

Ashland University is committed to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment. In compliance with the Clery Act, the university will issue Timely Warnings and Emergency Notifications to alert the campus community of certain crimes or significant emergencies that may pose a serious or continuing threat to students, faculty, staff, or visitors.

Timely Warnings

A Timely Warning will be issued when a Clery Act crime is reported within the university's Clery geography (on campus, on public property adjacent to campus, or on non-campus property controlled by the university) and is determined by the Director of Safety Services or designee to represent a serious or continuing threat.

Timely Warnings will be distributed through one or more of the following methods:

- AU Alerts through Campus Shield app
- Campus-wide email
- University website postings
- Residence Life staff notifications
- Physical postings in high-traffic areas

The goal of a Timely Warning is to enable community members to take steps to protect themselves and prevent similar crimes. Timely Warnings will not include personally identifying information about victims.

Emergency Notifications

An Emergency Notification will be issued without delay when a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of the campus community occurs on campus. Examples include:

- Severe weather
- Fire or hazardous material incident
- Active threat or violent incident
- Public health emergencies

Emergency Notifications may be distributed through:

- AU Alerts through Campus Shield app
- University website postings
- Campus-wide email
- University website and social media
- Physical postings in high-traffic areas

The content of the notification will be determined by the Safety Services Department in consultation with university leadership and Marketing Department and, when appropriate, local emergency response agencies.

As appropriate, Ashland University will provide follow-up information and updates until the emergency is resolved, or the threat no longer exists.

Law Enforcement Authority and Relationship with Local Agencies

The Ashland University Department of Safety Services officers are non-sworn personnel who do not possess arrest authority. Officers have the authority to request identification, investigate incidents, and issue university disciplinary referrals. They work closely with the Mansfield City Police Department and the Richland County Sheriff's Office to ensure a coordinated response to criminal matters. Safety Services maintains a professional relationship with external emergency responders, including fire and EMS, for rapid incident response.

Emergency Response and Evacuation

Ashland University is committed to ensuring the safety and security of students, faculty, staff, and visitors. In compliance with the Clery Act, the university maintains procedures for emergency response, notification, and evacuation in the event of fires, severe weather, hazardous materials incidents, active threats, or other emergencies that may pose a threat to the campus community.

Preparedness

The Ashland University Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) was established to facilitate an effective response to emergencies or events impacting the campus community. The EOP addresses preparedness, response, and recovery and is formally reviewed each year. Reviews may include internal evaluations, tabletop exercises, functional exercises, or full-scale drills. Some exercises may be coordinated with Richland County emergency response agencies, which assume command during a regional emergency.

Unless notification would compromise efforts to contain an emergency or local law enforcement directs otherwise, Ashland University will use available resources to notify the campus community of an immediate threat or dangerous situation, including:

- AU Alerts through Campus Shield app
- Public address announcements
- Website and social media notifications

Emergency Response

All emergencies on campus should be reported immediately to Ashland University Safety Services at (419) 207-5555. In life-threatening situations, individuals should also call 911. Safety Services coordinates with local emergency responders and university leadership to ensure a rapid and organized response.

Evaluations of reported emergencies or dangerous situations are made to determine whether a campus-wide emergency notification or targeted response is required. Safety Services may initiate lockdowns, shelter-in-place orders, or evacuations as appropriate.

Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place

After evaluating the threat, there may be an issued evacuation order for a building, area, or the entire campus.

Evacuation procedures vary depending on the scope of the emergency:

- **Partial Evacuation:** Only affected buildings or areas are evacuated
- **Full Evacuation:** The entire campus is evacuated. Members of the campus community with access to vehicles are encouraged to assist others without transportation. Those without vehicles will be directed to assembly points to await further instructions

During a building evacuation, instructions regarding assembly areas will be provided. If time allows, individuals should secure critical data, lock doors behind them, and exit safely.

In some situations, shelter-in-place may be the most appropriate response, such as during hazardous materials incidents, severe weather, or active threats. Instructions will be communicated through Campus Shield and other methods outlined above.

Evacuation and shelter procedures are designed to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Students, employees, or visitors requiring assistance during an emergency should contact Safety Services in advance to coordinate support.

Ashland University Safety Services works in partnership with local law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical services, and public safety agencies to ensure coordinated responses to emergencies.

Testing and Drills

Ashland University conducts regular tests and exercises of its emergency response and evacuation procedures to ensure the campus community is prepared to respond to potential emergencies. These activities are designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the university's Emergency Operations Plan and emergency notification systems.

Daily Crime Log Policy

In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act), Ashland University maintains a Daily Crime Log that records all crimes reported to the Ashland University Department of Safety Services.

Availability and Access

- The Daily Crime Log is available for public inspection at the Safety Services office, located at 401 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805.
- The log is available during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding university holidays.

Contents of the Log

The Daily Crime Log includes the following information for each reported incident:

- Date and time the crime was reported
- Date and time the crime occurred
- Nature/type of the crime
- General location of the crime
- Disposition of the complaint, if known

Personal identifiable information about victims is not included in the Daily Crime Log.

Timeframe for Entries

- Entries are made within two business days of receiving a report of a crime, unless doing so would jeopardize an ongoing investigation. The safety of an individual causes a suspect to flee or evade detection, or result in the destruction of evidence.
- In such cases, the entry may be delayed until the adverse effect is no longer likely to occur.

Retention

- The Daily Crime Log includes information for the most recent 60-day period and is open for public inspection
- Requests for portions of the log older than 60 days will be provided within two business days of the request

Campus Crime Statistics

Reporting Years: 2023, 2024, 2025

(Statistics reflect reports received by the Ashland University Safety Services Department, local law enforcement, and designated Campus Security Authorities in accordance with the Clery Act.)

Criminal Offenses

Offense	Year	On-Campus	On-Campus Student Housing Facilities	Non-Campus	Public Property
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault – Rape	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault – Fondling	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Incest	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0

	2023	0	0	0	0
Burglary	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2025	1	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Arson	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Unfounded Crime	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Offenses

Offense	Year	On-Campus	On-Campus Student Housing Facilities	Non-Campus	Public Property
Domestic Violence	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Stalking	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0

Arrests and Referrals for Disciplinary Action

Offense	Year	On-Campus	On-Campus Student Housing Facilities	Non-Campus	Public Property
Arrests – Weapons Violations	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Arrests – Drug Abuse Violations	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Arrests – Liquor Law Violations	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Referrals – Weapons Violations	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Referrals – Drug Abuse Violations	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Referrals – Liquor Law Violations	2025	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0

Hate Crimes

	2023	2024	2025
Reported Offenses	0	0	0
Reported Offenses	0	0	0
Reported Offenses	0	0	0

Crime Definitions

The following definitions are provided to describe the types of crimes reported in this Annual Security Report, in accordance with the Clery Act and the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

Criminal Offenses

Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter – The willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

Manslaughter by Negligence – The killing of another person through gross negligence.

Sexual Assault – Any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly or against that person's will, or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent. Includes:

- **Rape** – Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with anybody part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without consent
- **Fondling** – Touching of the private body parts of another person for sexual gratification without consent or where the victim is incapable of giving consent
- **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

Robbery – The taking or attempting to take anything of value from another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Aggravated Assault – An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury, usually involving a weapon or other means likely to produce death or serious harm.

Burglary – The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

Motor Vehicle Theft – The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

Arson – Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn a building, motor vehicle, or personal property.

VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) Offenses

Domestic Violence – Felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner, a person with whom the victim shares a child, or a person cohabiting or who has cohabited with the victim.

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, where the existence of such a relationship is determined based on its length, type, and frequency of interaction.

Stalking – Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or suffer substantial emotional distress.

- **“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
- **“Substantial emotional distress”** means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling

Hate Crimes

Hate Crimes – Any of the above offenses, plus larceny-theft, simple assault, intimidation, or destruction/damage/vandalism of property, committed against a person or property that is motivated by bias based on:

- Race
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Gender
- Gender identity
- Ethnicity
- National origin
- Disability

Hazing – Ohio Revised Code 2903.31 defines “hazing” as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization or any act to continue or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse, as defined in section 3719.011 of the Ohio Revised Code. In alignment with Ohio Revised Code 2903.31, Ashland University defines “hazing” as doing, requiring, encouraging, or coercing any act or behavior regardless of the participant’s willingness or reluctance that is associated with initiation into or continued affiliation with any organization recognized by, or operating under the sanction of Ashland University, that causes or creates a substantial risk of physical or mental harm or humiliation to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse. Hazing is strictly prohibited on the campus of Ashland University and off campus when involving two or more individuals affiliated with Ashland University. Students are not permitted to participate in any activity (including athletic teams, student organizations, sport clubs, etc.) sanctioned by Ashland University until a required anti-hazing training is completed and recorded as completed.

Hazing - Required Training, Education, and Enforcement

Hazing - Implement hazing prevention education and awareness strategies

1. Required for students, employees, and volunteers in direct contact with students
2. Training provided by Orientation, Student Life, Fraternity & Sorority Life, and Athletics will adjust content for their specific audience
3. Students are not permitted to participate in any Ashland University sanctioned activity (including athletic teams, student organizations, sport clubs, etc.) until a required anti hazing training is completed and recorded as completed
4. Attendance will be tracked by the office or department hosting the training. Hazing - Educate community members on intervention strategies
5. Required bystander training for students

6. Required Training provided by Orientation, Student Life, Fraternity & Sorority Life, and Athletics will adjust content for their specific audience
7. Attendance will be tracked by the office or department hosting the training. Hazing - Hold community members accountable for violations of institutional policy and law
8. Required distribution of anti-hazing policy to students, student organizations, and employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students. o Distributed biannually in August and January via email
9. Required posting of Anti-Hazing policy on institution's publicly accessible website. Hazing - Report violations of institutional policy and/or law on the institution's publicly accessible website
10. Ashland University Safety Services will maintain a report that captures all violations of this policy that are reported incidents to the university at least five years prior to October 6, 2021 (effective date of "Collin's Law") and provide updates to this report bi-annually in August and January.

Hazing - Sanctions Hazing is a violation of Ohio Law and a Level I Violation of Ashland University Policy. Having knowledge of and failing to report hazing is a violation of Ohio Law and a Level I Violation of Ashland University Policy. Ashland University has no tolerance for hazing. Organizations operating under the umbrella of Ashland University and found responsible for hazing may be suspended and/or disbanded and permanently restricted from any affiliation with the university. Organizations under investigation for hazing may be suspended for an interim period of time until a conduct outcome is reached. Hazing - Enforcement The Ashland University Student Conduct System is initiated by the filing of an Incident Report by any member of the University community.

- An Incident Report is documented for the alleged violation
- The Director of Student Conduct or designee investigates the incident to determine reasonable cause
- If reasonable cause is found, the Director of Student Conduct or designee will determine how a conduct case is processed (either administrative hearing or conduct board)
- If the case proceeds to administrative hearing or conduct board, the process outlined in the Student Handbook will be followed. Students are not permitted to participate in any Ashland University sanctioned activity (including athletic teams, student organizations, sport clubs, etc.) until a required anti-hazing training is completed and recorded as completed

Hazing - Required Reporting It is the responsibility of the entire university community to report suspected acts of hazing immediately to Safety Services at security@ashland.edu, (419) 207-5555, or 1st Floor Student Center. All alleged hazing incidents will be investigated through the Ashland University student conduct system as well as reported to local law enforcement. The University reserves the right to process incidents that occur outside of university property and when classes are not in session. It is a violation of Ohio Law and university policy (Level I) to have knowledge of a hazing incident and fail to report it. Ashland University Safety Services will maintain a report that captures all violations of this policy that are reported incidents to the university at least five years prior to October 6, 2021 (effective date of "Collin's Law") and provide updates to this report bi-annually in August and January.

Arrests and Referrals for Disciplinary Action

Weapons Law Violations – The violation of laws or ordinances dealing with weapon possession, carrying, using, or selling.

Drug Abuse Violations – Violations of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, or use of controlled substances.

Liquor Law Violations – Violations of laws or ordinances prohibiting the sale, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages, excluding driving under the influence and drunkenness.

Reporting of Unfounded Crimes

In accordance with the Clery Act, Ashland University may withhold or remove a reported crime from its annual statistics if the crime has been determined to be “unfounded.” A crime is considered unfounded only if a sworn or commissioned law enforcement officer has fully investigated the incident and made a formal determination that the report is false or baseless. The number of unfounded crimes is disclosed in the annual crime statistics. Safety Services ensures that only cases meeting this federal definition are classified as unfounded.

Missing Student Notification Policy

In compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) and the Clery Act, Ashland University has established the following policy and procedures for reporting and responding to missing students who reside in on-campus housing.

Reporting a Missing Student

Any individual who believes an Ashland University student has been missing should immediately contact Ashland University Safety Services at (419) 207-5555. Reports may be made by parents, guardians, family members, friends, roommates, faculty, staff, or any other concerned person.

All Ashland University employees who receive information regarding a potentially missing student are required to immediately notify Safety Services.

A report of a missing student does not require that the student be missing for 24 hours before acting. Reports will be acted upon immediately.

Initial Investigation and Notifications

Upon receiving a missing student report, Ashland University Safety Services will:

- Refer to the Missing Persons procedures in the university's Emergency Operations Plan
- Immediately notify the Vice President for Student Life and Success
- Initiate an investigation using available university resources, including but not limited to: Residence Life staff, academic advisors, AU Counseling Services, classmates, known associates, and employers
- Attempt to verify the student's location and welfare

If it is determined that the student is missing, the following notifications will occur:

- Safety Services or the Vice President for Student Life and Success will notify the student's confidential contact (if one has been provided) no later than 24 hours after the student is determined to be missing
- If the student is under the age of 18 and not emancipated, Ashland University is required to notify the student's custodial parent or guardian no later than 24 hours after the student is determined to be missing
- Ashland University Safety Services will notify the Mansfield City Police Division no later than 24 hours after confirming that the student is missing

Confidential Contact Information

Resident students are encouraged to register a confidential emergency contact through the Office of Residence Life. This contact person will be used only for missing student notification purposes. Confidential contact information is accessible only to authorized university officials and law enforcement officers in the course of a missing person's investigation.

Policies on Alcohol, Drugs, and Weapons

In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA), the Clery Act, and other applicable federal and state laws, Ashland University maintains strict policies regarding alcohol, drugs, and weapons. These policies are designed to support a safe, healthy, and educationally focused campus environment.

Alcohol Policy

- **General Prohibition:** Students, faculty, staff, and guests are prohibited from possessing, consuming, or distributing alcoholic beverages on university property, except as outlined below
- **Permitted Locations:** Residents of designated university-owned apartments or residential units, and their guests over the age of 21, may consume alcohol within the confines of their assigned apartment/room. Alcohol is not permitted in common areas or public spaces
- **Accountability:** Students found in violation of the alcohol policy will be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Handbook. Sanctions may include educational programming, fines, parental notification, probation, suspension, or referral to counseling
- **Law Enforcement Involvement:** In cases of disruptive, dangerous, or repeated violations, Ashland University Safety Services may request assistance from the Mansfield City Police

Drug Policy

- **Prohibition:** The possession, use, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs or controlled substances (including prescription drugs without a valid prescription) is strictly prohibited for all students, employees, and guests
- **Enforcement:** Ashland University Safety Services will summon the Mansfield City Police to respond to incidents involving illegal drugs
- **Sanctions:** Violations of drug policies are subject to disciplinary measures, up to and including dismissal from the university, as well as criminal prosecution under local, state, or federal law
- **Education and Prevention:** Ashland University provides peer education programs, counseling services, and wellness initiatives focused on drug abuse prevention through the Student Health Center and Counseling Services

Weapons Policy

- **Prohibition:** Firearms, ammunition, explosives, fireworks, knives (other than standard kitchen/utility knives), dangerous chemicals, or any object intended to cause harm are prohibited on all university-owned or controlled property
- **Exceptions:** Only law enforcement officers acting within the scope of their official duties are permitted to carry weapons on campus
- **Enforcement:** Possession of a prohibited weapon will result in immediate referral to Ashland University Safety Services and may result in criminal charges, university disciplinary action, or both

Resources for Assistance

Ashland University encourages students and employees struggling with alcohol or drug-related issues to seek help. Confidential support, assessments, and referrals are available through:

- Ashland University Student Health Center
- Ashland University Counseling Services
- Local community health providers and treatment programs (referrals available upon request)

Students may be referred to these services as a condition of disciplinary sanctions. These resources may provide confidential assistance and are not necessarily required to report identifying information to Safety Services for Clery for statistical purposes.

Compliance and Education

- University complies with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) by annually distributing information on standards of conduct, legal sanctions, health risks, Ashland University sanctions, and available resources
- Educational programs, peer-led initiatives, and awareness campaigns are offered throughout the academic year to encourage safe and responsible decision-making

Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking

Ashland University strictly prohibits domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in any form. These behaviors violate federal law, Ohio state law, and university policy, and are considered Level I policy violations under the Ashland University Student Handbook.

Policy Statement

- Domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence (including physical, sexual, emotional, or psychological abuse) are prohibited and will result in immediate university response.
- Depending on the circumstances, reported suspects may be charged with multiple Level I violations.
- A detailed description of prohibited conduct and corresponding sanctions is contained in the Ashland University Student Handbook.

Reporting Incidents

Victims, witnesses, and bystanders are strongly encouraged to immediately report any incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking to one or more of the following resources:

- **Ashland University Safety Services** (available 24/7): (419) 207-5555
- **Ashland University Counseling Services**: (419) 289-5200
- **Ashland University Health Center**: (419) 289-5200
- **Ashland University Residence Life Staff**: (419) 289-5226
- **Ashland University Human Resources**: (419) 289-5033
- **Local Law Enforcement**: Mansfield City Police Department, (419) 755-9725

Safety Services can assist victims with contacting law enforcement if they choose to pursue criminal charges. Reports may also be made to the Title IX Coordinator, who oversees university in response to reports of sexual and gender-based misconduct, including domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

Bystander Reporting

Members of the Ashland University community who have knowledge of or witness domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking are encouraged to report incidents to Safety Services or any university official listed above. Bystanders play a vital role in preventing violence and ensuring early intervention.

Victim Rights and Institutional Response

Victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking have the same rights, options, and protections as victims of sexual assault, including:

- The right to a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation and resolution conducted by trained officials.
- The right to request supportive measures, such as changes to housing, academic, transportation, or employment arrangements.
- The right to be informed in writing of available counseling, health, legal, and advocacy services.
- The right to choose whether or not to report to law enforcement.
- The right to have an advisor of choice present during university disciplinary proceedings.
- The right to receive written notification of the outcome of university disciplinary proceedings, as well as the right to appeal.

Disciplinary Procedures

Judicial proceedings for domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are conducted in the same manner as those for sexual assault cases. Specifically:

- Both the complainant (victim) and the respondent (accused) are entitled to equal rights in the process
- Proceedings are prompt, fair, and impartial, and are conducted by officials who receive annual training on issues related to sexual and gender-based violence
- Both parties are entitled to simultaneous written notification of:
 - The result of disciplinary proceedings,
 - The university's appeal procedures,
 - Any change to the result before it becomes final, and
 - When the result becomes final
- Sanctions for Level I violations may include suspension, expulsion, termination of employment, removal from campus housing, or other sanctions as outlined in the Student Handbook

Ongoing Prevention and Awareness Programs

Ashland University provides a comprehensive set of ongoing prevention and awareness programs for students and employees. These programs align with the requirements of the Clery Act and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) by addressing primary prevention, bystander intervention, risk reduction, and ongoing awareness efforts.

New Student & Employee Training

- All incoming students and employees receive mandatory Title IX and sexual misconduct education during orientation or onboarding
- Training covers definitions of prohibited conduct (consent, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking), reporting options, available resources, and university disciplinary processes
- This training is offered annually or upon hire

Responsible Employee & Campus Security Authority (CSA) Training

- Employees designated as responsible employees or CSAs receive annual training on their reporting responsibilities
- Training covers how to respond to disclosures, obligations to report to Safety Services and Title IX, and how to provide resources and referrals
- Training materials for coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and informal resolution facilitators are publicly available on the university's Title IX webpage

Resident Advisor (RA) Training

- Resident Advisors receive specialized annual training on Title IX and sexual misconduct response to support students in residence halls
- This includes procedures for responding to incidents, connecting students to resources, and fulfilling mandatory reporting obligations

Bystander Intervention and Awareness Campaigns

- Ashland University promotes safe bystander behavior through workshops, peer education, awareness events, and campaigns throughout the academic year
- Initiatives focus on recognizing warning signs, understanding consent, and strategies for safe intervention
- The university partners with Safe Haven Rape Crisis & Domestic Violence Center to expand outreach and provide advocacy services

Risk Reduction Education

- Programs and materials are provided to educate community members about strategies to reduce risk of perpetration and victimization
- Topics include situational awareness, consent communication, and safety planning
- Resources are offered in collaboration with local advocacy partners

Ongoing Public Awareness Efforts

- The university observes national awareness campaigns such as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Ongoing outreach includes posters, electronic messages, email reminders, and educational events emphasizing reporting options, survivor support, and bystander intervention

Annual Review and Program Effectiveness

- The Title IX office conducts annual reviews of complaint and incident data to identify trends and assess prevention program effectiveness
- Programs are updated regularly to address identified gaps and improve outreach to high-risk populations

Collaboration with External Partners

- Ashland University partners with Safe Haven and other community organizations to provide confidential advocacy, crisis response, guest speakers, and supplemental prevention programs
- These partnerships strengthen available services and reinforce prevention messages

Ashland University maintains robust prevention and awareness programs addressing sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. All students and employees receive initial training, and responsible employees; CSAs, and RAs receive annual specialized training. Prevention initiatives include bystander intervention programs, awareness campaigns, ongoing risk reduction education, and collaborations with external advocacy organizations. The university's Title IX office reviews incident data annually to evaluate and improve prevention programming. Training materials are publicly accessible through the university's Title IX webpage.

Fire Safety

Ashland University is committed to maintaining a safe living and learning environment. In compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) and the Clery Act, the university provides information on fire prevention, fire safety policies, and fire statistics for all on-campus student housing facilities.

Fire Safety Systems

- All Dwight Schar College of Nursing and Health Sciences residence halls are equipped with fire detection and suppression systems, including smoke detectors, fire alarms, and sprinkler systems (where applicable).
- The Life & Safety Coordinator within Facilities Management oversees installation, inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire systems in residence halls and other university-owned buildings.
- Two scheduled fire system safety inspections are conducted annually for each residence facility.
- The Mansfield City Fire Department serves as the responding fire department for Ashland University.

Fire Safety Education and Training

- Fire safety training is incorporated into Residence Life staff training at the beginning of each academic year. Training includes building evacuation procedures, use of fire extinguishers, and assisting students with special needs during evacuations
- Each semester (fall and spring), while classes are in session, one scheduled fire drill is conducted in each residence hall. Participation is mandatory. Students who fail to evacuate during a fire drill or alarm are in violation of university safety policy
- Emergency evacuation information, including evacuation routes, is posted on placards in conspicuous locations and on the back of each resident's room door. Replacement placards can be requested through Safety Services

Fire Safety Policies

- **Open Flames and Smoking:** Open flames (including candles, incense, and live holiday decorations) are prohibited in all residence halls. Smoking is prohibited in all university buildings
- **Electrical Appliances:** Only Underwriters Laboratory (UL)–approved electrical appliances in good working condition are permitted. Prohibited items include hot plates, electric blankets, space heaters, halogen lamps, live Christmas trees, and similar items
- **Reporting Fires:** All fires, regardless of size or cause, must be reported immediately to **Ashland University Safety Services** at (419) 207-5555 or call 911 depending on the severity of the situation. Fire statistics are maintained by the Director of Safety Services
- **Tampering with Fire Equipment:** Tampering with or disabling fire alarms, sprinklers, or suppression systems is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action
- **Evacuation Requirements:** All students must evacuate promptly during fire alarms. Elevators may not be used during evacuations. Students who fail to evacuate may be subject to judicial referral

Special Considerations for Students with Disabilities

Students with mobility or health-related concerns that may affect emergency evacuation must notify Safety Services prior to moving into residence halls. Safety Services works with the Assistant Director of Resident Life to maintain updated lists of students requiring assistance and shares this information with the Mansfield City Fire Department during emergencies.

Fire Safety Resources

- Ashland University Safety Services – **(419) 207-5555**
- AU Facilities Management & Planning – **(419) 289-5490**
- AU Residence Life – **(419) 289-5303**
- Mansfield Fire Department – **(419) 755-9814 or 911**

Annual Fire Statistics

Ashland University maintains a record of all reported fires in on-campus student housing facilities. Statistics include the number of fires, causes, injuries, deaths, and property damage.

Summary of Fires – On-Campus Student Housing

Residence Facility	Year	Number of Fires	Cause of Fire	Number of Injuries	Number of Deaths	Value of Property Damage
1071 Hall	2023	0	N/A	0	0	\$0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	\$0
	2025	0	N/A	0	0	\$0
1081 Hall	2023	0	N/A	0	0	\$0
	2024	0	N/A	0	0	\$0
	2025	0	N/A	0	0	\$0

Distribution of the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report

In compliance with federal law, Ashland University distributes the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (ASR) to all current students and employees each year by October 1. Notification of the report’s availability is sent via email to all students and employees, with a direct link to the electronic copy of the ASR. A printed copy of the ASR is available upon request from the Department of Safety Services at 401 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805.

Prospective students and employees are informed of the availability of the ASR through the Admissions Office and Human Resources, respectively. The ASR is accessible on the university’s website at any time.

Closing Statement

Ashland University is committed to fostering a safe and supportive learning environment. We encourage all members of our campus community to remain informed; report concerns promptly and take an active role in promoting the safety and well-being of others. Working together, we can ensure that Ashland University remains a secure place to live, learn, and work.