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Department of Campus Security
Heritage Christian University
Annual Safety and Security Report

The Annual Safety and Security Report is prepared in accordance with the 1998 Jeanne Clery Disclosure Act. This report informs the Heritage Christian University community about procedures, policies, and campus crime rates. An announcement will be emailed annually to faculty, staff, and students notifying them that the report can be obtained via a link provided. Hard copies of the report can also be acquired from the Department of Student Affairs.

Security Personnel

Travis Harmon, Director of Campus Security 256-766-6610 x 316

Nondiscrimination

Heritage Christian University does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, religion, disability, race, color, national or ethnic origin, except we're allowed by law for religious beliefs, in administration of its education policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.

Reporting Crimes and Requesting Assistance

Reporting crimes is important in achieving the goal of maintaining a safe working and learning environment for faculty, staff, and students. Any person who is a victim or a witness of a crime should immediately report the occurrence to the Director of Campus Security or the Dean of Students so the local authorities may be notified. Reporting of crimes by victims and/or witnesses may be done voluntarily and on a confidential basis. Privileges of confidentiality in criminal offenses that are handed over for prosecution in a court of law may be subject to exposure. The Director of Campus Security and the Dean of Students will work closely with the local authorities to ensure the safety of the victim or witness is maintained. Always call 911 first if your life or the life of another person is in danger.

Timely Warnings

Timely warnings will be issued to the Heritage Christian University community for any event that arises, either on or off campus, which poses an ongoing threat to HCU faculty, staff, and students. Events that constitute a timely warning will be in the judgment of the Director of Campus Security. Timely warnings must be related to a crime that is reportable under the Clery Act or that represents a threat to the Heritage Christian University community, i.e. murder, manslaughter, rape, kidnapping, arson, and robbery. Any person with information that they feel merits a timely warning should report it to the Director of Campus Security or the Dean of Students.

HCU Text Alert Emergency Notification

The HCU text alert system using Populi can be used to warn faculty, staff, and students to take protective action (e.g. evacuate, lockdown) and to provide them with information. In addition, all staff and faculty are trained to Dial 111 to reach the public address system.

Building Security Policy

Heritage Christian University provides door access codes and keys for use by authorized faculty, staff, and students. This is a university service provided to maintain building and office security and allow access by personnel authorized to be on campus. The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe and secure working and learning environment and to prevent thefts from buildings. Access to Heritage Christian University's facilities is limited during the evening and weekends to only authorized individuals. Normal operating hours are between 8:00am and 4:30pm Monday–Friday. After hours and weekend use is granted through keyed entry, as well as a keyless door access system.

Alcohol Use Policy

All HCU faculty, staff, and students are expected to comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws regarding the possession, use, or sale of alcohol, whether on or off-campus, and are expected to comply with all University regulations regarding alcohol possession or use. No HCU student is permitted to attempt to purchase, purchase, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages. Students in violation of the alcohol policy will be subject to suspension for one week for the first violation, one semester for the second violation, and expulsion for the third violation.

Alcohol Counseling Services and Community Support

Full and part-time HCU students may use the services of Dr. Bill Bagents or Dr. Jeffery Brothers. Individual counseling, assessment, and referral are available on a strictly confidential basis. To make an appointment, call 256-766-6610 or email bbagents@hcu.edu, or jbrothers@hcu.edu

In addition to campus resources, the community also offers support for HCU students. Please review the resources below to make sure you are knowledgeable about resources available in the Shoals to help you or a friend who might need assistance.

Bradford Health Services
https://bradfordhealth.com

Mission of Mercy Shoals
http://www.moms-inc.org

New Day Recovery Services
http://www.crosspointcoc.org/get-involved

Riverbend Center for Mental Health
http://www.rcmh.org

Legal Consequences – State of Alabama

Alcohol-related violations can be costly, both financially and educationally. Following are some of the consequences related to alcohol and other drug violations:

1. DUI. The cost of a single DUI offense, just if you get pulled over, can run between $600 and $2,100. If there is an accident, it can be much worse. DUI facts you should know:

- You don't have to be driving to be convicted of DUI – being in physical control of the vehicle (sitting in the driver's seat with the keys in the ignition) is enough.
- Even on a first DUI offense, jail time may be given, especially when there's an accident or a high blood-alcohol level.

2. PUBLIC INTOXICATION. Arrest is automatic for this offense, which covers any behavior in a public place that indicates intoxication, either alcohol or drug induced. The cost of a public intoxication arrest is $336. Offenders must also attend a drug or alcohol-abuse program and pay the program cost.

3. OPEN BEVERAGE CONTAINERS. It is illegal in Florence to carry an open alcoholic beverage in public, or to drive a car in which there is an open alcoholic beverage. This ordinance includes cups, bottles, and cans, and applies equally to partygoers and patrons of bars. A violation could cost $236.

4. IMPROPER IDENTIFICATION BY A MINOR (Fake IDs). Improperly identifying yourself can cost you $336 and possible suspension of your license for 90 days.

5. MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL. If you're under 21 and you are in possession of alcohol,

it could cost you at least $336. If you're over 21, read items 6 and 7 below.

6. SALE OF ALCOHOL TO MINORS. A first offense can cost $686; a second offense could include jail time plus a fine.

7. ADULT ALLOWING MINORS TO CONSUME OR POSSESS ALCOHOL AT AN OPEN HOUSE PARTY. If cited for this offense, you must appear in court and can be fined up to $661.

8. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE III. Including members of the same household or a dating relationship, this offense typically results in the arrest of one or both of the parties involved and requires a mandatory court appearance.

Drug Use Policy

All HCU faculty, staff, and students are expected to comply with applicable local, state and federal laws regarding the possession, use or sale of drugs, whether on or off-campus, and are expected to comply with all University regulations regarding drug possession or use. No HCU student is permitted to purchase, possess, or use illegal narcotics, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, solvents or drug paraphernalia. Prescription drugs are for the exclusive use of the person for whom the physician prescribed the medication. Penalties for drug violations are suspension for one semester for the first violation, and expulsion for the second violation.

Parental Notification

A Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) amendment adopted in the fall of 1998 permits colleges and universities to inform the family of a student under age 21 when their student has been found in violation of university alcohol and drug policies and/or in the case of a health or safety emergency. Heritage Christian University's Student Conduct procedures include parental notification once a student under the age of 21 has been found in violation of an alcohol or illegal drug policy.

Weapons Policy

In order to protect lives and property from accidental or deliberate harm, the use or possession of firearms (including BB guns, pellet guns, and/or other projectile devices), weapons, ammunition, and explosives on campus is prohibited.

Sexual Assault

Sexual violence includes sexual assault, sexual battery and sexual coercion. All such acts are forms of sexual harassment and covered under Title IX. Members of the Heritage Christian University community have the right to work and learn in an environment that is free from

verbal or physical sexual conduct that might create a climate that is hostile, intimidating, or offensive. Sexual harassment in all forms, whether verbal, visual, or physical, is in violation of the professional ethics expected of HCU employees (see *Administrative/Staff Handbook* p. 10–11) and the Student Code of Conduct (see p. 7 of the *Student Handbook*). Questions regarding HCU's policy regarding sexual discrimination and/or harassment and how to file a grievance should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, Mechelle Thompson, who will provide information immediately upon request.

What to Do if You Have Been Sexually Assaulted

1. Get to a safe place away from your attacker. Contact someone you trust – a friend, relative, or police officer to meet you.
2. Seek medical attention at the closest medical facility or E.R.
3. Preserve the evidence. If you have already changed clothes, place your clothing and other items (sheets, blankets) in a paper (not plastic) bag. Avoid drinking, bathing, showering, brushing your teeth, etc. before evidence is collected. Write down or have a friend write down everything you can remember about the incident. You don't have to decide if you want to prosecute right away, but preserving the evidence helps if you decide to prosecute at a later date.
4. Report the incident by calling law enforcement.
    a. Emergency Assistance 911
    b. Florence Police Department 256-760-6500
5. Talk about the incident. Remember that being a victim of sexual assault is not your fault. You are not responsible for the actions of others, and you did not cause someone to decide to hurt you. Talking with supportive people may help you regain a feeling of control and help you feel less alone.

Resources for Support

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-SAFE

National Sexual Violence Resource Center http://www.nsvrc.org

Shoals Crisis Center (Rape Response) http://www.shoalscrisiscenter.org/ser

Personal, confidential counseling is provided on campus by Dr. Bill Bagents, or Dr Jeffrey Brothers. Phone 256-766-6610 to set up an appointment.

Campus Security Crime Prevention and Safety Programs

Security Camera Surveillance

Surveillance cameras are installed across campus to provide additional security coverage in parking lots, facilities, and traffic areas. Security cameras are monitored by several individuals across campus to include, but not limited to, the President, a Vice President, the Director of Campus Security, and the Dean of Students.

Directed Patrols

Special patrols by the Florence Police Department are directed on campus as necessary.

Security Escort Service

Campus security will escort individuals to their destination on campus. If this service is needed, please call the Director of Campus Security or the Dean of Students well enough in advance to ensure a security someone is available at that time. Call or Text 256-710-7825

Sex Offender Search

The Director of Campus Security can search the name of any individual you suspect of being a sex offender. If you wish, you may search the Alabama Sex Offender Registry yourself at:

http://dps.alabama.gov/Home/wfContent.aspx?ID=20&PLH1=plhAlerts-SexOffenders

Missing Student Notification

Each student living on campus, age 18 and over, has the option to identify contact person(s) to be notified if the student is determined missing (within 24 hours of officially missing). However, if a student has registered confidentially, choosing not to disclose any personal information to anyone, this notification option is not available.

Parents or guardians of any student living on campus, under age 18 and not emancipated, must be notified if the student is determined missing (within 24 hours of officially missing).

Local police will be notified if any student living on campus is determined missing (within 24 hours of officially missing).

University personnel, including Director of Campus Security, the Dean of Students, Campus Life Assistants, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Vice President of Operations, will be notified if any student living on campus is determined missing (within 24 hours of officially missing).

Crime Statistics

criminal offenses, number reported to have occurred

	University Property On Campus			Student Housing			Public Property Bordering Campus		
Crime	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offences - Forcible	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offences – Non-Forcible	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unfounded									
Crime reports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrests									
Weapons: Carrying, Possessing, etc.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Abuse Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Disciplinary Actions									
Weapons: Carrying, Possessing, etc.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Abuse Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Violence Agins Women Act

Offense / location	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Domestic violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
Dating violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Location	**On campus**	**On campus**	**On campus**	Student housing	Student housing	Student housing	**Public property**	**Public property**	**Public property**

Hate Crimes

There were zero hate crimes reported in 2023–2025.

Fire Safety Policies in On-Campus Student Housing

The Department of Student Affairs has fire safety policies in place that give clear directions to students living in on-campus housing. These policies include the prohibition of the following in on-campus housing:

- Open fires (including candles and incense)
- Interfering with any wiring or electrical equipment
- Explosives and fireworks

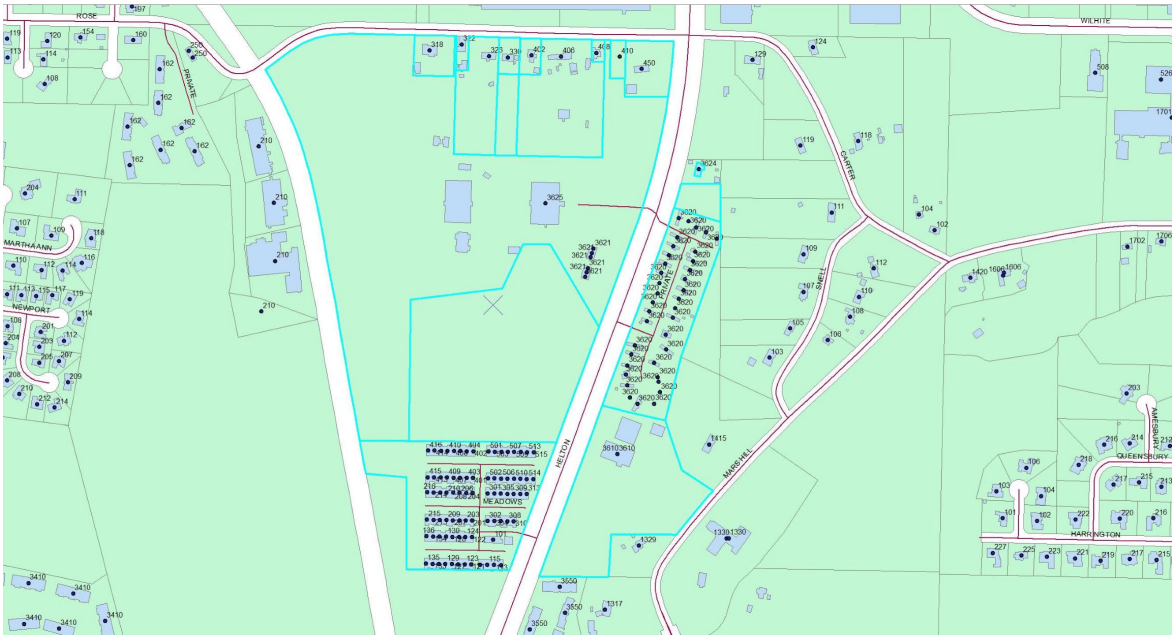
There were zero fires reported in on-campus, active, student housing facilities in 2023–2025.

Florence Police Department

2022 HCU Clery Data of adjacent properties

702 S. Seminary St.
Florence, AL 35630
(256)760-6500

MAP



TOTAL OFFENSE COUNTS (WITHOUT REGARD TO SPECIFIC INCIDENT ASSOCIATION)

	Total	3A
Total	16	16
ASSAULT	3	3
LARCENY/THEFT	2	2
NO CATEGORY	9	9
PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES	1	1
STOLEN PROPERTY	1	1