



## Campus Police & Security: Safety is VCU's top priority

*"Student safety and wellbeing is a top priority of the faculty, staff and administration at VCU. Safety is everyone's responsibility and only with the involvement and commitment of every member of our community will we achieve the goal to make VCU the safest college campus in the country."*

**-Dr. Michael Rao, President, Virginia Commonwealth University & VCU Health System**

### ❖ Emergency Preparedness Planning

VCU has a well-developed Crisis and Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and an experienced Incident Coordination Team (ICT), which includes administrators from various operating disciplines across the university.

- The CEMP includes a basic plan, which describes overarching response protocols, and several hazard specific annexes, which provide detailed protocols on the response to specific incidents. Every major unit across VCU is required to prepare and submit a business continuity plan.
- Emergency operations are organized around a single Incident Commander.
- VCU has a full-time Emergency Preparedness Director on staff.

Consistent with Code of Virginia §23.1-804 D, the VCU Division of Emergency Management conducts exercises of the CEMP and ICT annually, using real-world situations. Representatives from city, state, and federal agencies are included in the exercises.

### ❖ Police and Security

As of 2019, VCU's police department (VCUPD) includes 99 sworn officers, the largest campus police force in the Commonwealth. Officers have full arrest powers.

	# of Sworn Officers	# of Students	# of Officers per 1000 Students
VCU	99	32,000	3.1
UVA	67	22,000	3.0
GMU	57	36,000	1.6
VATech	53	30,500	1.7
JMU	35	21,000	1.7
W & M	25	8,600	2.9

VCUPD officers are sworn law enforcement officers, trained and certified in accordance with the standards set forth by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). VCUPD is accredited by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA).

VCU was the first campus in Virginia to be recognized as a Certified Crime Prevention Campus by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

Additional posts and special event security coverage are provided by an outside contracted security company, RMC Events. RMC employs more than 100 uniformed security staff for VCU who provide 24/7, 365 on-site security inside university buildings and throughout the Monroe and MCV campus.

All RMC uniformed security officers are trained in accordance with existing DCJS standards for Campus Security Officers (CSO) and are required to observe and report any situation to VCU Police through direct radio contact, by phone at their security posts or by use of a "trouble alarm" button.

RMC provides security for all university residential housing buildings, overnight between midnight and 8 a.m. Residence hall specific ID cards, with student pictures, are required for entry. All guests must sign in and be accompanied by a resident.

Other Academic buildings and areas include:

- Sanger Hall
- Snead Hall
- Fine Arts
- Lyons Building
- Kontos Medical Sciences Building
- McGlothlin Medical Education
- School of Engineering West
- School of Engineering East
- Trani Life Sciences
- Depot Center
- Depot Annex
- Center for Psychological Services & Development
- VMI Building
- Dance Center
- College of Health Professions
- Student Commons
- VCU Health Hub
- Cabell Library
- Thompkins-McCaw Library
- ICA
- University Parking Lots (A, R and M Lots)
- Cherry & Floyd Avenue crosswalk

Staffing at these locations is dependent on building/area operating schedules.

RMC security also provides mobile, vehicular patrols of the core campus geography on both campuses each night between the hours of 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.

## ❖ VCU Health System Security Department

The VCU Health System Security Department is overseen by a VCUPD lieutenant and is comprised of 90 uniformed employees. All uniformed security personnel are trained within DCJS guidelines of and standards of The Joint Commission, the accrediting agency for most U.S. healthcare organizations.

The Security Department controls access to all of the Health System buildings by both electronic access control and security. Security officers patrol 4.1 million square feet of buildings. Staff is augmented with 332 CCTV cameras, 1,146 card-readers, and 480 “trouble alarm” buttons in and around 14 different VCUHS buildings.

Health System Security Officers are assigned to a variety of assignments. These assignments include transportation, fixed security posts, signing visitors in and out of Main-7 (Pediatric Treatment Area), controlling ingress into the Emergency Department, and maintaining a 24-hour watch in the Gateway Building.

Health System Security maintains and monitors a sophisticated “Hugs Infant Abduction” system on the sixth, seventh and eighth floors of Main Hospital. This system’s sole purpose is to prevent an infant abduction from occurring.

The Security Department also provides behavioral support specialist staff to North Hospital 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Crisis Stabilization Unit, Jackson Center, Emergency Department and Virginia Treatment Center for Children (VTCC). These behavioral specialists are trained in working with patients who are undergoing evaluation for a variety of psychiatric issues. Behavioral specialists receive specific training regarding de-escalation techniques for persons in crisis.

## ❖ Campus Environment and Security Infrastructure

On its two campuses, VCU maintains **363** Emergency Response Telephones (ERTS) that are strategically placed in and around VCU buildings, residence halls and parking decks and garages.

In 2019, VCU upgraded its video surveillance system on both campuses. The network is comprised of over a thousand cameras in and around VCU buildings and in parking decks and garages.

VCU provides a mobile safety application, LiveSafe, free of charge for students, faculty and staff. This application allows the community to communicate directly with the police department.

More than **375** “trouble alarm” panic buttons are installed across the two campuses in selected offices and academic buildings, as well as in all residence halls.

Each classroom capable of seating more than 20 students is equipped with an Alertus device. These devices provide an audible alarm when activated and display relevant information regarding the ongoing emergency. There are over **510** of these devices installed in VCU classrooms.

Main buildings on both VCU campuses are secured with integrated access controls, including all residence halls. Access control is maintained by the VCUPD and the VCUHS. Additional buildings are upgraded with this technology each year.

VCU Parking and Transportation provides RamSafe, a secure transportation service. Point-to-point transportation is offered from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. within VCUPD's established jurisdiction. Drivers are uniformed employees of Groome Transportation. Call 828-SAFE (7233) for RamSafe service.

### ❖ **Emergency Communications**

VCU has implemented a rapid, multi-level system for communicating emergency information to students, faculty and staff.

- **6 Sirens:** on VCU Police headquarters and on the Monroe Park and MCV Campuses
- **Text Messaging:** text messages to cell phones [www.vcu.edu/alert/notify](http://www.vcu.edu/alert/notify)
- **VCU Alert Web Site:** updates and emergency information posted on [www.vcu.edu/alert](http://www.vcu.edu/alert)
- **Alertus Devices:** audio and visual Alert devices in each classroom capable of seating 20 or more students.
- **Digital Screens:** LCD screens are installed in major academic buildings and all residence halls across the university.
- **Desktop Alerts:** messages that display on VCU-supported desktop computers (to-date: 9,744 desktops)
- **Mass E-mail:** messages to VCU's 52,000 email accounts
- **Stationary Signage:** signs in each classroom inform occupants of what to do in the event of an emergency.