



**Ave Maria University Combined 2026 Annual
Security and Fire Safety Report**

Published 1 October 2026

Introduction

This report is provided in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, as amended. It provides students and employees of Ave Maria University (“AMU” or “University”) with information on: the University’s security arrangements, policies and procedures; programs that provide education on such things as drug and alcohol abuse, awareness of various kinds of sex offenses, and the prevention of crime generally; and procedures the University will take to notify the campus community in the event of an emergency. Its purpose is to provide students and employees with information that will help them make informed decisions relating to their own safety and the safety of others.

Policy for Preparing the Annual Report

The Department of Campus Safety and Security gathers and compiles Ave Maria University’s crime statistics and prepares the annual security report. In addition to the crimes reported to Campus Safety, the director also solicits information from the Office of Residence Life. Crime statistics in this report from off-campus venues and adjacent streets were compiled in collaboration with the Department of Campus Safety and Security, Ave Maria Student Affairs, and the Collier County Sheriff’s Office. These crime statistics are substantiated by Campus Safety and Security in collaboration with the Vice President of Student Affairs, and the Collier County Sheriff’s Office.

Hard copies of the annual security reports are available at any time in the Office of the University Security in the Bob Thomas Student Union.

AMU students, faculty, and staff are notified by email on or before October 1 of each year of the availability of the report and provided the website link to access the report. Prospective students and employees are also notified of the report’s availability. Hard copies of the report may also be obtained at no cost by contacting the campus security office, Bob Thomas Student Union building at 5236 Clancy Street (Monday – Friday). security@avemaria.edu.

The University is committed to taking the actions necessary to provide a safe and secure working/learning environment for all students and staff. As a member of the campus community, you can feel safe and comfortable knowing that security procedures are in place that represent best practices in the field and are constantly tested and re-evaluated for their effectiveness.

General Safety and Security Policies

Ave Maria University’s campus is defined by the property at 5050 Ave Maria Blvd, and all property west of Ave Maria Boulevard from Dolan Street to Keller Street. Ave Maria University also operates a study-abroad instructional site, operating under the University’s SACSCOC academic accreditation, in Ireland at Mount Melleray Abbey, Mount Melleray Abbey, Cappoquin, Co Waterford, P51 R8XW. All Safety and Security Policies are the same for both sites except where otherwise noted.

Campus Security Personnel & Relationship with Local Law Enforcement

Ave Maria University's Department of Campus Safety and Security provides a full range of services to the university community 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Campus Safety and Security also maintains a service window Monday through Friday in the Bob Thomas Student Union building at 5236 Clancy Street. All University patrol officers are trained to provide immediate response to various scenarios.

Campus Safety and Security is the enforcement authority on campus and provides vehicle and foot patrols along with on-campus traffic enforcement. On campus is defined by the property at 5050 Ave Maria Blvd, and all property west of Ave Maria Boulevard from Dolan Street to Keller Street. Campus Safety and Security has enforcement authority for all University properties, although the Department does not have arrest authority. The Department also investigates violations of the Code of Student Conduct and works closely with the Collier County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) in their investigation of misdemeanors and felonies on campus. AMU Safety and Security has an excellent working relationship with local law enforcement agencies, which assures the rapid delivery of professional police services. Currently there is no MOU established with law enforcement. AMU Safety and Security publishes a Daily Crime Log that is available by request at the Director's office, located in the Bob Thomas Student Union Building.

AMU Ireland campus also has an excellent working relationship with the National Police of Ireland, the Garda Si'ocha'na. Though no MOU has been established with the Garda, contacts have been made with Dungarvan Station that is responsible for the Mt.Melleray AMU campus.

The Department of Campus Safety and Security encourages all students and members of the faculty and staff to be involved in campus crime prevention and be informed about current health issues affecting the University. Information on health, safety, and security is provided to students, faculty, and staff members regularly through seminars, films, bulletins, crime alerts, posters, emails, mass notification, and other mediums.

Campus Security Authorities

The University has designated certain officials to serve as campus security authorities. Reports of criminal activity can be made to these officials. They in turn will ensure that the crimes are reported for collection as part of the University's annual report of crime statistics. The campus security authorities to whom the University would prefer crimes to be reported are listed below.

- Senior Director of Safety and Security Rick Huntzinger – 239-304-7179
- Security Operations Manager Jendry Escandon – jendry.escandon@avemaria.edu
- Security Specialist Joseph Perona - joseph.perona@avemaria.edu
- Mount Melleray Study Abroad Site
 - Head of Operations Brady Fehringer – Brady.fehringer@avemarua.edu
 - Director Sam Shephard - Samuel.Shephard@avemaria.edu

Reporting Criminal Incidents and Other Emergencies

All students, employees, and visitors are encouraged to promptly report crimes in progress, accidents, and other emergencies to 911 in matters of life safety, or AMU Safety and Security by calling 239-280-6289. Individuals may also report incidents that are no longer in progress in person at the department's office at the Student Union building at 5236 Clancy Street.

The University has installed emergency two-way call boxes (Blue Light Phones) throughout campus for use during emergencies. Pressing the red button on the stations a 911 call is placed to the Collier County Emergency Dispatch office. From this point, a Collier County Sheriff's Deputy will assess the situation and determine what kind of aid should be sent to the area. Although these lights are placed around for the convenience of the students and faculty, they are not to be tampered with and should be used only in only emergency situations.

Students, staff, and visitors should also report situations to one of the campus security authorities identified above. Once reported, the individual may also be encouraged to report the situation to the appropriate police agency. If requested, a University staff member will assist in making the report to police.

Anonymous incident reports can also be made by calling the Security 24/7 365 at 239-280-6289, or online at https://www.avemaria.edu/resources/make-an-anonymous-report__.

For AMU Ireland, all students, employees, and visitors are encouraged to promptly report crimes in progress, accidents, and other emergencies to 112 in matters of life safety.

Confidential Reporting

The University will protect the confidentiality of victims. Only those with a need to know the identity for purposes of investigating the crime, assisting the victim or disciplining the perpetrator will know the victim's identity.

The University acknowledges that sexual violence cases require extreme sensitivity and the exercise of discretion and will make reasonable efforts to preserve an individual's privacy and protect the confidentiality of information. All Ave Maria University students and employees are strongly encouraged to report information about an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence to the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Under Federal law, certain University employees are deemed to be "responsible employees." These employees are required by law to report information (including personal details) to the Title IX Coordinator and other University authorities for investigation and follow-up. The following employees are deemed to be "responsible employees":

- President's Office Staff
- Vice Presidents

- Department Directors 5
- Athletic Department Staff, including all coaches.
- Student Affairs Staff, including RDs and RAs
- Campus Security Staff
- Admissions Staff
- Financial Aid, Registrar, and Student Support Services Staff
- Human Resources Staff

These University employees are directed to make every effort – before a student reveals information that he or she may wish to keep confidential – to ensure that the student understands that the employee has certain reporting obligations (i.e., to report the names of the alleged perpetrator and the student involved in the alleged violence, as well as relevant facts regarding the alleged incident including the date, time and location, to the Title IX coordinator or other appropriate University officials). These University employees are also directed to refer students to counselors, health care providers, clergy, and others who can maintain confidentiality.

If student wants to tell a University employee what happened but also wants to maintain confidentiality over the details of the incident, the employee should tell the student that the University will consider the request, but because of its obligation to protect the campus community by trying to end the sexual violence and prevent its recurrence, cannot guarantee that the University will be able to honor the request. The University's Title IX Coordinator is responsible for evaluating these requests for confidentiality. Further, the student should be aware that honoring the request for confidentiality may limit the University's ability to respond fully to the incident.

Students may report an incident of sexual violence to certain professionals who may maintain confidentiality. Medical care providers, licensed counselors, and pastoral counselors are not required to report any information about an incident of sexual violence to the University without the student's permission. If a student would like the details of an incident to remain confidential, the student should speak with one of the following persons:

- the University Counseling Services
- a health care provider
- a staff member at an off-campus rape crisis center (such as Project HELP: 239-262-7227)
- priests within Campus Ministry (239-280-2518)

At Ave Maria, professional licensed counselors and priests helping members of the University community are not required to report any information about an incident to the University or to the University's Title IX coordinator.

The University does not have a policy encouraging its pastoral and professional counselors to inform the person they are counseling to report crimes on a voluntary, confidential basis for inclusion in the annual report of crime statistics.

A victim of other types of crimes (e.g., aggravated assault, burglary, etc.) who does not want to pursue action within the University disciplinary system or the criminal justice system is nevertheless encouraged to make a confidential report to a campus security authority. Upon the victim's request, a report of the details of the incident can be filed with the University without revealing the victim's identity. Such a confidential report complies with the victim's wishes but still helps the University take appropriate steps to ensure the future safety of the victim and others. With such information, the University can keep an accurate record of the number of incidents involving members of the campus community, determine where a pattern of crime may be developing and alert the community as to any potential danger. These confidential reports are counted and disclosed in the annual statistics for the University.

Security of and Access to Campus Facilities

All academic buildings are secured during the evenings and weekends. Access to buildings is only allowed for faculty/staff members and students who are accompanied by faculty/staff members. The residence halls are locked at midnight each night by Residence Hall staff members. Security officers secure the dorm buildings around midnight as well, performing random "walk-throughs" in residence halls from 11:30 p.m. until 7:30 a.m. each night. The officers also perform vehicle patrols of parking lots and surrounding areas.

For AMU Ireland, the living spaces for students, faculty and staff are restricted by punch code access, 24/7 365. For the dining, and academic spaces signage advising restrictions are in place for visitor awareness.

Students and employees are asked to be alert and not circumvent practices and procedures that are meant to preserve their safety and that of others:

- Do not prop doors open or allow strangers into campus buildings that have been secured
- Do not lend keys or access cards to non-students and do not leave them unattended
- Do not give access codes to anyone who does not belong to the campus community

Keys to the offices, laboratories, and classrooms on campus will be issued to employees only as needed and after receiving the proper authorization. Each department supervisor is responsible for assuring his/her area is secured and locked.

Employee and student identification cards may be used to verify the identity of persons suspected to be in campus facilities without permission.

The Residence staff makes routine checks of floors and buildings. Security concerns are reported to the appropriate people, i.e., Campus Safety and Security, or the Residence Life Staff.

Residents are the most important aspect of the cooperative effort to provide a safe and secure community. Residents are encouraged to be aware, be vigilant, and keep doors always locked. Remember, the safety and security of the housing community is everyone's responsibility.

Security Considerations in the Maintenance of Facilities

Campus Safety and Security works with the Facilities Department to identify maintenance issues on campus that may be safety hazards. Safety checks are completed to identify street or safety lights that are not functioning properly, or to determine if shrubs or other landscaping might need trimming. Maintenance personnel regularly check to ensure there is adequate lighting on pathways and that egress lighting is working in hallways and stairwells.

For AMU Ireland, the campus leadership and staff work with local personnel hired as maintenance workers for the facility to identify maintenance issues on campus that may be safety hazards.

Educational Programs Related to Security Awareness and Prevention of Criminal Activity

The University seeks to enhance the security of its campus and the members of the campus community by periodically presenting educational programs to inform students and employees about campus security procedures and practices, to encourage students and employees to be responsible for their own security and the security of others and to inform them about the prevention of crimes. These programs are discussed below.

The University provides information at the beginning of each academic term for students and employees regarding the University's security procedures and practices. This information is in the form of the student, faculty, or staff handbook, the Daily email bulletin, the monthly messenger, and email blasts. Among other things, it advises students and employees of the importance of reporting criminal activity, to whom crimes should be reported, being responsible for their own safety and the safety of others and practices regarding timely warnings and emergency notifications.

The Residence Life staff and the Department of Campus Safety and Security work in partnership to provide residents with a number of safety measures. These resources include ongoing educational programs, safety-related policies, educational sanctions for violations of policies, and staff assistance in dealing with security problems and emergencies.

Monitoring Off Campus Locations of Recognized Student Organizations

Ave Maria University has no recognized student organizations with off-campus facilities, including off-campus housing facilities, and thus does not monitor or record, through local police agencies, any criminal activity in which students have engaged at such locations.

Disclosure of the Outcome of a Crime of Violence of Non-Forcible Sex Offense

Upon written request, the University will disclose to the alleged victim of a crime of violence (as that term is defined in section 16 of title 18, United States Code), or a non-forcible sex offense, the report on the results of any disciplinary proceeding conducted by the University against a student who is the alleged perpetrator of such crime or offense. If the alleged victim is deceased as a result of such crime or offense, the next of kin of such victim shall be treated as the alleged victim for purposes of the paragraph.

The previous paragraph does not apply to victims of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking because under the Violence Against Women Act both the accused and accuser in these cases are given the results without the need to make a written request.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

AMU prohibits unlawful use, possession, or distribution of alcohol. This includes the possession of containers that previously contained alcoholic beverages by persons less than 21 years of age, and common source containers, whether full or empty of alcohol such as kegs, beer balls or boxed wine. In keeping with State and Federal laws, the consumption or possession of alcohol by persons under 21 years of age is strictly prohibited. University policy prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons 21 years of age or older in any public area on campus, including common spaces within the residence halls, unless approved by the RAs on-call or at an official university-approved event. The University also prohibits intoxication by any person, regardless of age, and prohibits the sale, distribution, provision, or any attempt to sell, distribute, or provide alcoholic beverages to and/or by anyone under 21 years of age. The University enforces the state's underage drinking laws.

The University also enforces federal and state drug laws. AMU prohibits the unlawful possession, use, sale, and distribution of illicit drugs/drug paraphernalia by students on or off-campus, in accordance with Federal and State law. All members of the University community are expected to abide by state and federal laws, conduct themselves in a manner reflecting credit on themselves and the University, and to share responsibility for the functioning of this policy.

Controlled substances broadly include narcotics, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, and performance-enhancing substances deemed illegal to possess without a doctor's prescription by federal or state statutes. In accordance with federal law, the University does not permit the possession, use, or distribution of marijuana. As such, any students in possession of medical marijuana prescriptions are not permitted to use or possess marijuana on university property.

Failure to follow the drug and alcohol policies on or off-campus will result in disciplinary action by Ave Maria University. Violations of this policy are serious in nature and any sanctions given will reflect the severity of the violation. Any attempt, intent, or conspiracy to violate this policy may be considered as a violation and handled by the disciplinary process accordingly.

For the Ireland campus, **students and employees are subject to the laws of Ireland in addition to university policy. The legal minimum age to purchase alcohol in Ireland is 18. Students at the Ireland campus who are 18 or older may consume alcohol lawfully in accordance with Irish law and University policy for that campus. Under Irish law, it is an offense for anyone under 18 to purchase alcohol, to misrepresent their age to obtain alcohol, or to consume alcohol in a public place. It is also an offense to purchase alcohol for, or supply it to, a person under 18. Being intoxicated in a public place is an offense under the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994. The University will cooperate with An Garda Síochána (the Irish police) in enforcing these laws.**

At the Ireland campus, AMU prohibits the unlawful possession, use, sale, and distribution of illicit drugs/drug paraphernalia by students on or off-campus, in accordance with, **Irish law**. All members of the University community are expected to conduct themselves in a manner reflecting credit on themselves and the University, and to share responsibility for the functioning of this policy.**Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program**

In compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA), the University has a drug and alcohol abuse and prevention program, which includes an annual notification to students and employees regarding certain drug/alcohol-related information (such as legal sanctions for violations of applicable laws, health risks, etc.) and a biennial review of this program to evaluate its effectiveness and assess whether sanctions are being consistently enforced. For more information, see below.

- Student alcohol/drug policy: Found in the Student Handbook on page 26-27 (<https://www.avemaria.edu/student-handbook>)
- Employee alcohol/drug policy: Found in Ave Maria University Employee Handbook, 702 Drug and Alcohol Use. To request a copy please contact AMU's Office of Human Resources.

For the AMU Ireland campus, see the following drug and alcohol abuse resource:

- **HSE Drugs and Alcohol Helpline:** Freephone 1800 459 459, Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Email helpline@hse.ie. A free, confidential service for anyone with concerns about drugs or alcohol, run by the HSE (Ireland's public health service). Callers don't have to give their name.
- **drugs.ie** – the HSE's drug information site, which also has a county-by-county directory of drug and alcohol services at www.drugs.ie/services. drugsandalcohol

- **askaboutalcohol.ie** – the HSE's alcohol and health site, with sections for families, parents and teens, signposts to supports, and a drinks calculator.
- **Drinkaware.ie** – an alcohol education charity that also lists support services.

Policies, Procedures, and Programs Related to Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking

Ave Maria University responds promptly and equitably to reports of sex discrimination and Title IX Sexual Harassment. Upon receiving a report, either via email, in-person, or via link (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?AveMariaUniv&layout_id=5), the Title IX Coordinator conducts a preliminary assessment to determine whether the alleged conduct falls within the scope of the University's Title IX Policy and whether supportive measures are appropriate.

The University offers supportive measures to complainants and respondents regardless of whether a formal complaint is filed. Supportive measures may include academic, housing, employment, or other adjustments designed to preserve or restore equal access to the University's educational programs and activities. The University may also implement emergency removal measures when necessary to address an immediate threat to the health or safety of members of the University community.

A complainant may file a formal complaint requesting an investigation. Once a formal complaint is received, the University provides written notice to the parties and assigns a trained, impartial investigator. Both parties are afforded an equal opportunity to present evidence, identify witnesses, review evidence gathered during the investigation, and be accompanied by an advisor of their choice.

When appropriate and voluntarily agreed upon by both parties, the University may offer informal resolution after a formal complaint has been filed. Informal resolution may be used until a determination regarding responsibility is reached and generally will not exceed twenty (20) business days unless extended by agreement of the parties.

During the investigation, the University gathers relevant evidence and interviews parties and witnesses. Prior to completion of the investigative report, both parties are provided access to the evidence directly related to the allegations and are given at least ten (10) calendar days to review and submit a written response. The investigator generally completes the investigative report within ninety (90) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigative report and relevant evidence are then shared with the parties for review.

Following the investigation, a trained and impartial decision-maker reviews the evidence and conducts a live hearing. The parties have at least ten (10) days' notice before the hearing and may be accompanied by an advisor. During the hearing, each party's advisor may ask relevant questions of the other party and witnesses. The University maintains a presumption that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct unless and until a determination of responsibility is made.

Within twenty (20) business days after the hearing concludes, the decision-maker issues a written determination that includes findings of fact, conclusions regarding policy violations, any sanctions imposed, remedies provided to the complainant, and information regarding appeal rights.

Both parties have equal rights to appeal a finding of responsibility, dismissal, or sanction. Appeals must be submitted within seven (7) business days of the written determination and may be based on procedural error, newly discovered evidence, conflict of interest or bias, or a claim that the sanction imposed is substantially disproportionate. The appeal decision is generally issued within thirty (30) business days after receipt of the appeal.

The University prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports alleged misconduct, participates in a Title IX proceeding, or exercises rights under the Title IX process.

For complete information regarding reporting options, supportive measures, investigations, hearings, appeals, and definitions of prohibited conduct, please refer to the University's full Title IX Policy available at: <https://www.avemaria.edu/resources/title-ix>.

If an incident regarding dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking does not fall under 2020 Title IX regulations, the University will then address the conduct under the Ave Maria University disciplinary process. Ave Maria University addresses alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct through a prompt and equitable disciplinary process that will complete within 30-60 days, pending any extraneous circumstances. Any member of the University community may report suspected violations to the Dean of Students or designee, either via email, in-person, or through Maxient link

(https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?AveMariaUniv&layout_id=3). Following a review of the allegation, the respondent is notified of the alleged violation and given an opportunity to meet with the Dean of Students or designee, respond to the allegations, present information and witnesses, and be assisted by an advisor of their choice. Advisors may attend meetings in person or virtually but may not participate directly in the proceedings.

Following review of the available information, the Dean of Students or designee determines whether the respondent is responsible for a violation and, if so, what sanctions are appropriate.

Sanctions may range from educational or disciplinary measures to more significant sanctions, including residence hall eviction, suspension, or expulsion. Repeated or serious violations may result in progressively more severe sanctions.

Cases involving potential eviction from housing, suspension, or expulsion are reviewed by a disciplinary committee consisting of the Dean of Students and one or more designated University officials. The disciplinary committee reviews the matter and makes recommendations regarding responsibility and sanctions, with final decisions made by the Dean of Students.

Students who receive sanctions of eviction, suspension, dismissal, or expulsion may appeal the decision. Appeals must be submitted in writing and must be based on either: (1) insufficient evidence to support the finding of responsibility, or (2) new evidence that was not reasonably available during the original review and could substantially affect the outcome. Appeals are reviewed by the Student Appeals Disciplinary Committee, which may grant or deny the appeal.

After all appeal options have been exhausted, a student may petition the University President for clemency regarding a severe sanction. The President retains sole discretion to grant or deny such requests.

The University also reserves the right to take immediate action when a student's conduct presents a significant threat to the health, safety, or well-being of the student or others, including imposing conditions on continued enrollment, restricting access to University programs or facilities, or requiring a medical assessment. In appropriate circumstances, the University may implement an involuntary medical withdrawal consistent with applicable University policies.

Full disciplinary procedures, appeal rights, and available sanctions are detailed in the Ave Maria University Student Handbook, found at this link: <https://www.avemaria.edu/student-handbook>.

The following sections of this report discuss the University's educational programs to promote the awareness of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; provide information concerning procedures students and employees should follow and the services available in the event they do become a victim of one of these offenses; and advise students and employees of the disciplinary procedures that will be followed after an allegation that one of these offenses has occurred.

Primary Prevention and Awareness Program

The University conducts a Primary Prevention and Awareness Program ("PPAP") for all incoming students and new employees. The PPAP advises campus community members that the University prohibits the offenses of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and

stalking. They are also informed of the topics discussed below, including relevant definitions, risk reduction, and bystander intervention.

Crime Definitions

Sexual Battery/Rape: Per Florida Statute 794.011 (1)(j), “Sexual battery” means oral, anal, or female genital penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another or the anal or female genital penetration of another by any other object; however, sexual battery does not include an act done for a bona fide medical purpose.

Fondling: In Florida, Fondling, if not a Sexual Battery, can be prosecuted under Florida Statute 784.03 as Battery, which includes, when a person (1) Actually and intentionally touches or strikes another person against the will of the other.

Statutory Rape: Per Florida Statute 794.05 (1), A person 24 years of age or older who engages in sexual activity with a person 16 or 17 years of age commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Incest: Per Florida Statute 826.04, Whoever knowingly marries or has sexual intercourse with a person to whom he or she is related by lineal consanguinity, or a brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece, commits incest, which constitutes a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Domestic Violence: Per Florida Statute 741.28 (2), “Domestic violence” means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.

Dating Violence: Per Florida Statute 784.046 (d), Dating violence” means violence between individuals who have or have had a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the consideration of the following factors: 1. A dating relationship must have existed within the past 6 months; 2. The nature of the relationship must have been characterized by the expectation of affection or sexual involvement between the parties; and 3. The frequency and type of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship must have included that the persons have been involved over time and on a continuous basis during the course of the relationship. The term does not include violence in a casual acquaintanceship or violence between individuals who only have engaged in ordinary fraternization in a business or social context.

Stalking: Per Florida Statute 784.048 (2), A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person commits the offense of stalking, a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. “Harass” means to engage

in a course of conduct directed at a specific person which causes substantial emotional distress to that person and serves no legitimate purpose. “Cyberstalk” means: 1. To engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, directly or indirectly, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at or pertaining to a specific person; or 2. To access, or attempt to access, the online accounts or Internet-connected home electronic systems of another person without that person’s permission, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose. “Course of conduct” means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, which evidences a continuity of purpose. The term does not include constitutionally protected activity such as picketing or other organized protests.

Consent: Per Florida Statute 794.011 (1)(a), “Consent” means intelligent, knowing, and voluntary consent and does not include coerced submission. “Consent” shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the alleged victim to offer physical resistance to the offender.

Risk Reduction

If you find yourself in an uncomfortable sexual situation, these suggestions may help you reduce your risk:

- Make your limits known before going too far.
- You can withdraw consent to sexual activity at any time. Do not be afraid to tell a sexual aggressor “NO” clearly and loudly.
- Try to remove yourself from the physical presence of a sexual aggressor. Be direct as possible about wanting to leave the environment.
- Grab someone nearby and ask them for help.
- Be responsible about your alcohol and/or drug use. Alcohol and drugs can lower your sexual inhibitions and may make you vulnerable to someone who views an intoxicated/high person as a sexual opportunity.
- Attend large parties with friends you trust. Watch out for your friends and ask that they watch out for you.
- Be aware of someone trying to slip you an incapacitating “rape drug” like Rohypnol or GHB.

If you find yourself in the position of being the initiator of sexual behavior, these suggestions may help you to reduce your risk of being accused of sexual assault or another sexual crime:

- Remember that you owe sexual respect to the other person.
- Don’t make assumptions about the other person’s consent or about how far they are willing to go.

- Remember that consent to one form of sexual activity does not necessarily imply consent to another form of sexual behavior.
- If your partner expresses a withdrawal of consent, stop immediately.
- ¹⁵ Clearly communicate your sexual intentions so that the other person has a chance to clearly tell you their intentions.
- Consider “mixed messages” a clear sign that the other person is uncomfortable with the situation and may not be ready to progress sexually.
- Don’t take advantage of someone who is really drunk or on drugs, even if they knowingly and intentionally put themselves in that state. Further, don’t be afraid to step in if you see someone else trying to take advantage of a nearly incapacitated person.
- Be aware of the signs of incapacitation, such as slurred speech, bloodshot eyes, vomiting, unusual behavior, passing out, staggering, etc.

It is also important to be aware of the warning signs of an abusive person. Some examples include: past abuse; threats of violence or abuse; breaking objects; using force during an argument; jealousy; controlling behavior; quick involvement; unrealistic expectations; isolation; blames others for problems; hypersensitivity; cruelty to animals or children; “playful” use of force during sex; Jekyll-and-Hyde personality.

Bystander Intervention

In addition to reporting incidents to appropriate authorities, below are some ways in which individuals can take safe and positive steps to prevent harm and intervene when there is a risk of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking against another person.

- Look out for those around you.
- Realize that it is important to intervene to help others.
- Treat everyone respectfully. Do not be hostile or an antagonist.
- Be confident when intervening.
- Recruit help from others if necessary.
- Be honest and direct.
- Keep yourself safe.
- If things get out of hand, don’t hesitate to contact the police.

Other Information Covered by the PPAP

The PPAP also provides information on possible sanctions and protective measures that may be imposed following a determination that an offense of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking has occurred, an explanation of the disciplinary procedures that will be followed when one of these offenses is alleged, the rights of the parties in such a proceeding, available resources, and other pertinent information. Much of this information is set forth in the upcoming sections of this security report.

Ongoing Prevention and Awareness Campaign

The University also conducts an Ongoing Prevention and Awareness Campaign (OPAC) aimed at all students and employees. This campaign covers the same material as provided in the PPAP, but is intended to increase the understanding of students and employees on these topics and to improve their skills for addressing the offenses of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

PPAP and OPAC Programming Methods

The PPAP and OPAC are carried out in a variety of ways and coordinated through the Office of Student Affairs, using a range of strategies, and, as appropriate, targeting specific audiences throughout the University. Through collaborative efforts with other University departments and outside agencies, Student Affairs works to prevent sexual violence through orientation sessions, education, awareness, the promotion of a caring community, and skill building. Programs include annual educational seminars, advocacy and volunteer opportunities, and resource and referral information for both students and employees.

In addition:

- New students receive education on the prevention of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking through a presentation by the Office of Student Services and the Campus Security Department during orientation. All new employees are required to complete an online training module on these topics upon hire and are required to retake the online training each year.
- As part of its ongoing campaign, the University uses a variety of strategies, such as in-person presentations by sexual assault organizations, emails blasts with pertinent information, portal announcements, etc. While programming occurs throughout the year, the University also offers educational sessions and literature in coordination with nationally recognized observances such as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Procedures to Follow if You are a Victim of Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking

Victims of sexual violence have several alternatives open to them for reporting the incident. Each of these resources can assist students in getting the help they need:

- AMU Security Patrol: 239-280-6289 The Department of Campus Safety and Security is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Campus Safety and Security may contact the Collier County Sheriff's Office or other local law enforcement agencies, as appropriate. Campus Safety and Security will also notify the AMU Title IX Coordinator as well as the Office of Student Affairs to ensure that the reporting student is provided appropriate assistance.
- Collier County Sheriff's Office Emergency: 911, 8-911 (from a campus phone), or 239-252-9300 For incidents occurring on campus or in Ave Maria town, a victim of sexual violence may also report the incident directly to the local law enforcement authority, the Collier County Sheriff's Office (CCSO). The Department of Campus Safety and Security can assist students in contacting the CCSO.
- AMU Title IX Coordinator: TitleIXCoordinator@avemaria.edu, 239-280-1531

Reports may also be made to the AMU Title IX Coordinator. The University's Title IX Coordinator is the designated agent of the University with primary responsibility for overseeing Title IX compliance efforts. The Title IX Coordinator serves as a primary point of contact for those seeking information or wanting to report sexual violence.

Victims who report to the University will be notified in writing of the procedures to follow, including:

1. To whom and how the alleged offense should be reported (contact the Title IX Coordinator or refer to the other resources listed in this report).
2. The importance of preserving evidence that may be necessary to prove the offense in a criminal proceeding or disciplinary action or to obtain a protective order.
3. The victim's options regarding notification to law enforcement, which are: (a) the option to notify either on-campus or local police; (b) the option to be assisted by campus security authorities in notifying law enforcement if the victim so chooses (the institution is obligated to comply with such a request if it is made); and (c) the option to decline to notify such authorities.
4. Where applicable, the rights of victims and the institution's responsibilities regarding orders of protection, no-contact orders, restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by a criminal, civil, or tribal court.

For AMU Ireland:

Emergency

- **Law Enforcement: Gardaí- 112**
- IRELAND CAMPUS CONTACTS –
 - Head of Operations Brady Fehringer – Brady.fehringer@avemaria.edu
 - Director Sam Shephard - Samuel.Shephard@avemaria.edu
- AMU Title IX Coordinator: TitleIXCoordinator@avemaria.edu
- *Medical care and evidence collection*
 - **HSE Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs)** provide free, specialist medical and forensic care to people who have recently been raped or sexually assaulted. There is no charge for the examination or follow-up visits. Victims may contact a SATU directly or through the Gardaí. A Garda report is not required to receive care. A person under 18 needs a parent's or guardian's permission for a forensic examination. Locations and contact details are at www2.hse.ie/services/satu. The nearest unit to the campus is University Hospital, Waterford Co. Dunmore Rd., Ballynakill, Waterford, X91 ER8E, Ireland.

Preservation of Evidence & Forensic Examinations

Depending upon the nature of the incident, and for the purposes of preserving evidence in the event criminal prosecution is sought, it may be best for the victim not to shower, eat, change clothes, or brush teeth prior to seeking medical attention. If immediate emergency medical care is warranted, dial 911 to reach Collier County EMS. Rape kits are not available in the emergency departments and they will recommend a victim reach out to ProjectHELP. ProjectHELP is available for walk-ins during the week and is available by appointment on the weekend. ProjectHELP will complete a rape kit with a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and will assist the victim in reporting to the appropriate authorities.

ProjectHELP

3050 Horseshoe Dr. N. Ste. 280, Naples, FL 34104
(239) 649-1404

If medical care is needed, the nearest hospitals to Ave Maria University are:

NCH North Naples Hospital
11190 Health Park Boulevard
Naples, FL 34110
239-624-5000

Physicians Regional – Pine Ridge
6101 Pine Ridge Road
Naples, FL 34119

239-348-4000

NCH Downtown Naples Hospital
350 7th St. N.
Naples, FL 34102
239-436-5000

Physicians Regional - Collier Boulevard
8300 Collier Boulevard
Naples, FL 34114
239-354-6000

The nearest hospital to Ireland Mount Melleray Campus: University Hospital Waterford, Dunmore Road, Waterford, Ireland, serves as the nearest emergency hospital for the Mount Melleray campus. For emergencies, students should contact Irish emergency services by dialing **112 or 999**, and then notify campus personnel as appropriate.

Ave Maria University Campus Security, Residence Area Managers and/or staff from Student Affairs (239-280-2540) can assist students in finding transportation or would like to be accompanied to any of these off-campus medical resources.

Completing a forensic examination does not require you to file a police report, but having a forensic examination will help preserve evidence in case you decide at a later date to file a police report.

Victims are also advised to retain evidence in electronic formats (e.g., text messages, emails, photos, social media posts, screenshots, etc.). Such evidence is valuable in all situations, and it may be the only type of evidence available in instances of stalking.

Information about Legal Protection Orders

In Florida, victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, stalking, repeat violence, and exploitation of vulnerable adults may petition the court for an injunction for protection (commonly referred to as a protective order or restraining order). Information about obtaining a protective injunction is available through the Florida Courts at www.flcourts.gov and through the clerk of court in the county where the victim resides or where the violence occurred. Victims may file for protection regardless of whether criminal charges have been filed.

Victims may contact local domestic violence and sexual assault advocates for assistance in obtaining a protection order. Examples of such resources include: The Shelter for Abused Women & Children (Naples, Florida; 24-Hour Crisis Hotline: (239) 775-1101; Website: www.naplesshelter.org), Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) (24-Hour Sexual

Assault; Helpline: 1-888-956-7273; Website: www.fcasv.org), and National Domestic Violence Hotline (24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233); Website: www.thehotline.org).

When a protection order is granted, it is enforceable statewide. If you have obtained a protection order and need it to be enforced in your area, you should contact the local police department.

The University will also enforce any temporary restraining order or other no contact order against the alleged perpetrator from a criminal, civil, or tribal court. Any student or employee who has a protection order or no contact order should notify the Title IX Coordinator OR CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY and provide a copy of the restraining order so that it may be kept on file with the institution and can be enforced on campus, if necessary. Upon learning of any orders, the University will take all reasonable and legal action to implement the order.

The University does not issue legal orders of protection. However, as a matter of institutional policy, the University may impose a no-contact order between individuals in appropriate circumstances. The University may also issue a “no trespass warning” if information available leads to a reasonable conclusion that an individual is likely to cause harm to any member of the campus community. A person found to be in violation of a No Trespass Warning may be arrested and criminally charged.

For AMU Ireland, **Domestic violence orders**. You apply to the court for these. The long-term orders are safety orders and barring orders, and the short-term ones are protection orders, interim barring orders and emergency barring orders.

- A **safety order** bans violence, threats and contact, but the abuser doesn't have to leave the home. It can last up to five years.
- A **barring order** removes the abuser from the home. It can last up to three years.
- An **emergency barring order** is for immediate risk of significant harm.
- **Stalking**. Stalking is a criminal offence with a maximum sentence of ten years. Since September 2024, anyone being stalked can apply to the District Court for a civil order, even if the stalker was never a partner.

Victims' rights. Under the 2017 Victims of Crime Act, you have the right to updates on the investigation and court case, an assessment of your protection needs, notice of any decision not to prosecute, and a review of that decision if you ask. You can also give a victim impact statement if there's a conviction.

In court. You can bring a support person with you, give evidence by live TV link, and have your anonymity protected.

For support, Women's Aid is on 1800 341 900, Men's Aid on 01 554 3811, and the Rape Crisis Helpline on 1800 77 8888. In an emergency, call 999 or 112.

Available Victim Services

Victims will be provided written notification about existing counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other services available to them, both within the University and in the surrounding area.

Students are encouraged to make use of the following resources.

University Resources

The University Counseling Services: Students needing confidential counseling services should contact the University Counselor, Mary Von Mohr, a trained professional who can provide specialized support and assistance to students who have been subjected to sexual violence. Students and employees may seek counseling at any time, no matter how long ago the incident occurred. Counseling services are also available to friends of a victim who may need support in assisting the student.

Campus Ministry 239-280-2518, chaplain@avemaria.edu

The Campus Ministry staff is trained to provide pastoral counseling and support to students or to friends who wish to support and assist them.

The on-call Resident Assistants and Residence Area Manager (RAM) can also help in obtaining counseling and pastoral guidance and support.

All of the services described above are available to students regardless of whether or not the student chooses to report the incident or participate in any University disciplinary process or criminal process.

The University Counselor, the priests in Campus Ministry staff, and the staff of Project Help are confidential resources; for further information regarding confidentiality, please see the “Confidential Reporting” section above.

Student Financial Aid – Sometimes a victim of a crime may feel the need to take a leave of absence from school. If a student is considering a leave of absence based on the circumstances of a complaint, he/she should understand there may be financial aid implications in taking such leave. This should be discussed with financial aid personnel, and the Title IX Coordinator can assist in facilitating this conversation if desired. The University’s financial aid website can be found at: <https://www.avemaria.edu/admissions/financial-aid>.

State/Local Resources

- Hospitals/Medical Centers:
 - **NCH North Naples Hospital** -11190 Health Park Boulevard, Naples, FL 34110; Phone: (239) 624-5000.
 - **Physicians Regional Medical Center (Collier Boulevard)** - 8300 Collier Boulevard, Naples, FL 34114; Phone: (239) 354-6000
 - **Physicians Regional Medical Center (Pine Ridge)** - 6101 Pine Ridge Road, Naples, FL 34119; Phone: (239) 348-4000
- **Mental Health and Advocacy/Support Organization(s):** Phone: (239) 262-7227. Project HELP (www.projecthelpnaples.org) is not affiliated with the University, but is a local non-profit organization staffed by professional counselors and advocates committed to providing assistance to those affected by sexual violence. Project HELP maintains a 24/7 Crisis and Referral Hotline (239-262-7227) and is the local state certified Rape Crisis Center. Project HELP provides free counseling and advocacy services and staffs a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) which includes a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). SART works with complainants individually or acting as advocates while they work with law enforcement.
- **Legal Assistance Resources:** Florida Legal Services, Inc. provides information, advocacy, and referrals for civil legal matters. Phone: (407) 801-4350; Website: www.floridalegal.org. Individuals may also locate free or low-cost legal assistance through Florida Law Help at www.floridalawhelp.org.

National Resources

- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673
- Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN): <https://www.rainn.org/>
- US Dept. of Justice Office on Violence Against Women: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw>
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: <http://www.ncadv.org/>
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center: <http://www.nsvrc.org/>
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services: <https://www.uscis.gov/>
- Immigration Advocates Network: <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/>

For AMU Ireland, the following resources are available:

Sexual violence support

- **Rape Crisis Help national helpline:** 1800 77 8888, free, 24 hours. www.drcc.ie
- **Local rape crisis centre:** Ireland has 16 rape crisis centres. Centres can be found at drcc.ie/support/find-local-supports.

Domestic and dating violence support

- **Women's Aid:** 1800 341 900, free, 24 hours. www.womensaid.ie

- **Men's Aid:** 01 554 3811. www.mensaid.ie
- **Safe Ireland:** www.safeireland.ie, for finding local domestic abuse services

Victim advocacy and legal help

- **Crime Victims Helpline:** 116 006, or text 085 133 7711. www.crimevictimshelpline.ie
- **Legal Aid Board:** civil legal aid for domestic violence orders. People who qualify on income do not pay a contribution for domestic violence cases. www.legalaidboard.ie

Mental health and crisis support

- **Samaritans:** 116 123, free, 24 hours
- **Pieta:** 1800 247 247
- **Text 50808:** text HELLO to 50808, 24 hours

Accommodations and Protective Measures

Students seeking support following an incident of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking should contact the Office of Student Affairs (239-280-2540), where they will be referred to a professional staff member in the office who will identify, explain, provide in writing, and navigate the available support services. This includes information regarding options for, and available assistance in, changing academic, living, transportation, and working situations or protective measures. If victim request these accommodations or protective measures and they are reasonably available the University is obligated to provide them, regardless of whether the victim chooses to report the crime to campus security or local law enforcement.

When determining the reasonableness of a request for accommodations, the University may consider, among other factors, the following:

- The specific need expressed by the complainant.
- The age of the students involved.
- The severity or pervasiveness of the allegations
- Any continuing effects on the complainant
- Whether the complainant and alleged perpetrator share the same class or job location.
- Whether other judicial measures have been taken to protect the complainant (e.g., civil protection orders).

The University will maintain as confidential any accommodations or protective measures provided a victim to the extent that maintaining confidentiality would not impair the University's ability to provide them. However, there may be times when certain information must be disclosed to a third party in order to implement the accommodation or protective measure. Such decisions will be made by the University in light of the surrounding circumstances, and disclosures of this nature will be limited so that only the information necessary to implement the accommodation or protective measure is provided. In the event it is necessary to disclose information about a victim in order to provide an accommodation or protective order, the

University will inform the victim of that necessity prior to the disclosure, including which information will be shared, with whom it will be shared and why.

Procedures for Disciplinary Action

Reports to the University

A student who reports an incident of sexual violence to the University will be referred to a professional staff member in the Office of Student Affairs who will identify, explain, and navigate the available support services. The University's Student Code of Conduct and disciplinary policies and procedures will be explained to the student. The University's Student Code of Conduct may be found at: <https://www.avemaria.edu/student-handbook-policies/>.

In collaboration with the Title IX Coordinator, the Office of Student Affairs and the Student will review the facts and circumstances of the reported incident. A determination is then made as to whether the Title IX policy or the University's Student Code of Conduct procedures apply.

A student always has the option to pursue a criminal complaint with the appropriate law enforcement agency, the University's disciplinary process, or both processes simultaneously.

The University Disciplinary Process

The Office of Residence Life and Housing is responsible for investigating and adjudicating alleged violations of the University's behavioral expectations, including alleged violations of the sexual violence policy. The University's Code of Student Conduct may be found in the Student Handbook at: <https://www.avemaria.edu/student-handbook-policies/>. The Code of Student Conduct does not allow for the mediation of allegations of violations of the sexual violence policy.

Cases involving allegations of sexual harassment and sexual violence referred to the Office of Residence Life and Housing shall be adjudicated using a "preponderance of the evidence" (i.e., it is more likely than not that the sexual harassment or sexual violence occurred) as the standard for the determination of responsibility under the policy.

In cases of sexual harassment and sexual violence referred to the Office of Residence Life and Housing, both the complainant and the charged student shall be provided notice of the disciplinary setting (i.e., a case referral meeting or an appeal hearing); both parties shall be provided the opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence; both parties will be afforded similar and timely access to any information that will be used in the proceeding; both parties shall have the same opportunities to have an advisor present during a disciplinary proceeding; both parties shall be informed of the final determination of the proceeding in writing, as well as informed of any sanctions imposed against the charged student, and any options to appeal the determination of responsibility. Disciplinary action at the University may proceed while criminal or civil proceedings are pending and will not be subject to challenge on the grounds that criminal charges involving the same incident have been dismissed or reduced, that no criminal charges have been brought, or that any civil action has been dismissed. Sanctions may be administered independent of any pending civil or criminal action or settlement reached. The full range of

disciplinary sanctions, including expulsion from the University, may be considered, depending on the nature and severity of the offense. Both parties have the right to appeal against the decision of the disciplinary conference according to the appeal process described in the Code of Student Conduct (sections 18-23).

Allegations of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking will be processed through the University's Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Policy and Procedures. The procedures are utilized whenever or wherever a complaint is made, regardless of the status of the complainant and the respondent.

The complaint resolution procedures are invoked once a report is made to one of the following individuals:

Title IX Coordinator

Julia Davis

Title IX Coordinator and Care & Conduct Specialist

(239) 304-7163

160 Thomas and Selby Prince Building

Julia.Davis@avemaria.edu

Deputy Title IX Coordinator

Susan Gallagher

Chief Revenue Officer

(234) 304-7918

2052 Student Union Building

Susan.Gallagher@avemaria.edu

An electronic form is available at:

https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?AveMariaUniv&layout_id=5

Once a formal complaint is made, the Title IX Coordinator will provide notice to the parties of the investigation, including a description of the process to be utilized, the identities of the parties, the conduct at issue, and the date and location of the alleged incident.

During the investigation, the complainant and respondent will each have an equal opportunity to describe the situation and present witnesses, including both fact and expert witnesses, and other supporting evidence. The investigator(s) will review the statements and evidence presented and may, depending on the circumstances, interview others with relevant knowledge, review documentary materials, and take any other appropriate action to gather and consider information relevant to the complaint. Prior to the conclusion of the investigation, both parties will be

provided an opportunity to review the evidence gathered during the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the formal complaint.

Upon completion of the investigation, both parties will be given a copy of an investigation report and a live hearing will be conducted to make a determination as to whether any allegations in the complaint were found to be substantiated by a preponderance of the evidence. During the hearing, each party's advisor will be permitted to ask the other party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions including those bearing on credibility. The decision maker(s) will issue a written determination of responsibility, a statement of any disciplinary sanctions and whether any remedies will be provided to the complainant, and a description of the procedures and permissible grounds for appeal. The parties will be notified of this determination in writing within three (3) days of it being made. The institution strives to complete investigations of this nature within ninety (90) calendar days.

Both parties have an equal opportunity to appeal the determination by filing a written appeal with the President within five (5) days of being notified of the outcome of the investigation. The non-appealing party will be notified of the appeal and permitted to submit a written statement in response. The President will resolve the appeal within ten (10) days of receiving it, and may take any and all actions that he/she determines to be in the interest of a fair and just decision.

Rights of the Parties in an Institutional Proceeding

During the course of the process described in the previous section, both the accuser and the individual accused of the offense are entitled to:

1. A prompt, fair and impartial process from the initial investigation to the final result.
 - A prompt, fair and impartial process is one that is:
 - Completed within reasonably prompt timeframes designated by the institution's policy, including a process that allows for the extension of timeframes for good cause, with written notice to the accuser and the accused of the delay and the reason for the delay.
 - Conducted in a manner that:
 - Is consistent with the institution's policies and transparent to the accuser and the accused.
 - Includes timely notice of meetings at which the accuser or accused, or both, may be present; and
 - Provides timely access to the accuser, the accused and appropriate officials to any information that will be used during the informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings.
 - Conducted by officials who do not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against the accuser or the accused.
2. Proceedings conducted by officials who, at a minimum, receive annual training on the issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and on how

to conduct an investigation and hearing process that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability.

- Such training addresses topics such as relevant evidence and how it should be used during a proceeding, proper techniques for questioning witnesses, basic procedural rules for conducting a proceeding, and avoiding actual and perceived conflicts of interest. The Title IX coordinator and investigators have completed NACUA and ATIXA Title IX trainings as well as training developed by Franczek Legal consultants.
3. The same opportunities to have others present during any institutional disciplinary proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice. The institution may not limit the choice of advisor, but may establish limits regarding the extent to which that advisor may participate in the proceeding, as long as those limits apply equally to both parties.
 4. Have the outcome determined using the preponderance of the evidence standard.
 5. Simultaneous, written notification of the results of the proceeding, any procedures for either party to appeal the result, any change to the result, and when the result becomes final. For this purpose, “result” means “any initial, interim and final decision by an official or entity authorized to resolve disciplinary matters” and must include the rationale for reaching the result and any sanctions imposed.

Possible Sanctions or Protective Measures that the University May Impose for Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking Offenses

Following a final determination in the institution’s disciplinary proceeding that dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking has been committed, the institution may impose a sanction depending on the mitigating and aggravating circumstances involved. The possible sanctions include: warning; reprimand; probation; restitution; fine; loss of privileges; housing probation; suspension or expulsion/termination; restriction on eligibility to represent the University at any official function or in any intercollegiate competition. If a suspension is imposed on a student, it may be for part of a semester, a full semester, or an entire academic year. An employee may be suspended for any length of time determined appropriate by the Director of Human Resources. Following a suspension, the individual will be required to meet with the Dean of Students (student) or Director of Human Resources (employee) to discuss reentry and expectations going forward.

In addition, the University can make available to the victim a range of protective measures. They include: forbidding the accused from entering the victim’s residence hall and from communicating with the victim, other institutional no-contact orders, security escorts, modifications to academic requirements or class schedules, changes in working situations, etc.

Publicly Available Recordkeeping

The University will complete any publicly available recordkeeping, including Clery Act reporting and disclosures, without the inclusion of personally identifiable information about victims of

dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking who make reports of such to the University to the extent permitted by law.

Victims to Receive Written Notification of Rights

When a student or employee reports to the University that he or she has been a victim of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whether the offense occurred on or off campus, the University will provide the student or employee a written explanation of his or her rights and options as described in the paragraphs above.

Information Regarding Registered Sexual Offenders

The "Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act" is a federal law enacted on October 28, 2000, that provides for the tracking of convicted, registered sex offenders enrolled as students at institutions of higher education or working or volunteering on campus.

This act amends the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 to clarify that nothing in that Act may be construed to prohibit an educational institution from disclosing information provided to the institution concerning registered sex offenders and requires the Secretary of Education to take appropriate steps to notify educational institutions that disclosure of this information is permitted. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is the official Florida internet source for Sex Offender Registration information. The Sex Offender Registration open record information is extracted from the FDLE Sex Offender Registration Database. The FDLE maintains files based on registration information submitted by criminal justice agencies and represents a statewide source of information on sex offenders required by law to register. The FDLE public web page can be found at: <http://pas.fdle.state.fl.us>.

Additional Resources for gathering sex offender data and sex crime data in the area:

Collier County Sheriff's Office – 239-774-4434 or at:
<http://www.colliersheriff.org/Index.aspx?page=1956>

Missing Residential Student Policy

Ave Maria University takes student safety seriously. The following policy and procedure have been developed to assist locating Ave Maria University student(s) living in university-owned, on-campus residence halls, who have been determined to be missing based upon the facts and circumstances of the university.

Most missing person reports are a result of a student changing his/her routine without informing their roommates and/or friends. Anyone who believes a student to be missing should report their concern to University Officials (either a member of the Residence Life staff or a member of university security). Any University employee receiving a missing student report should immediately notify campus security so that an investigation can be initiated.

At the beginning of the academic year, students residing in on-campus housing have the option to identify, confidentially, an individual to be contacted by the University only in the event the

student is determined to be missing for more than 24 hours. If a student has identified such an individual, the University will notify that individual no later than 24 hours after the student is determined to be missing. The option to identify a contact person in the event the student is determined missing is in addition to identifying a general emergency contact person, but they can be the same individual for both purposes. A student's confidential contact information will be accessible only by authorized campus officials, and it will only be disclosed to law enforcement personnel in furtherance of a missing student investigation.

A student who wishes to designate a confidential contact may do so by contacting the Security number at 239-280-6289.

After investigating a missing person report, if it is determined that the student has been missing for 24 hours, the University will notify local police authorities unless it was local law enforcement that made the determination that the student is missing. If the missing student is under the age of 18 and is not emancipated, the University will also notify that student's custodial parent or legal guardian within 24 hours of the determination that the student is missing, in addition to notifying any additional contact person designated by the student.

Timely Warnings and Emergency Response

Timely Warnings

The Department of Campus Safety and Security on the Ave Maria Campus, in consultation with the Vice President of Student Affairs or his/her designee, is responsible for issuing timely warnings when they determine that criminal activity occurring either on campus or off constitutes a serious or continuing threat to members of the campus community.

Anyone with information warranting a timely warning should report the circumstances to the Department of Campus Safety and Security. The decision to issue a timely warning shall be decided on a case-by-case basis in compliance with the Clery Act and will consider all available facts

Procedure: When a determination has been made that a timely warning should be issued, the Department of Campus Safety and Security will inform the campus community by taking one or more appropriate steps to ensure timely notification:

- Issuing a campus-wide email of the timely notice printing written warnings.
- Distributing warning fliers around the campus.
- Posting the warning on the Safety and Security website.
- Issuing a mass notification through text or SMS notification.

Updates to the warnings will be provided as appropriate.

The University has communicated with local law enforcement asking them to notify the University if it receives reports or information warranting a timely warning.

Emergency Response

The University has an emergency management statistical data each year there is a timely and effective response in the event of a significant emergency or dangerous situation occurring on campus involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of members of the campus community. Such situations include, but are not limited to: tornadoes, bomb threats, chemical spills, disease outbreaks, fires, active assailant, etc. The University has communicated with local police requesting their cooperation in informing the University about situations reported to them that may warrant an emergency response.

Students, staff and visitors are encouraged to notify the Senior Director of Safety and Security or designee at 239-280-6289 of any emergency or potentially dangerous situations.

Senior Director of Safety and Security or designee will access available sources of information from campus administrative staff and local authorities to confirm the existence of the danger and will be responsible for initiating the institution's response and for marshaling the appropriate local emergency response authorities for assistance. Depending on the nature of the emergency, other University departments may be involved in the confirmation process.

Once the emergency is confirmed and based on its nature, the Senior Director of Safety and Security or designee will consult with other appropriate University officials to determine the appropriate segment or segments of the University to be notified.

The Senior Director of Safety and Security or designee in collaboration with other appropriate personnel, will determine who should be notified, and will, without delay, and taking into account the safety of the community, determine the content of the notification and initiate the notification system, unless issuing a notification will, in the professional judgment of responsible authorities, compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to or otherwise mitigate the emergency.

Depending on the segments of the campus the notification will target, the content of the notification may differ. When appropriate, the content of the notification will be determined in consultation with local authorities. Also as appropriate, the notification will give guidance as to whether its recipients should shelter in place or evacuate their location.

The Senior Director of Safety and Security or designee will direct the issuance of emergency notifications, which will be accomplished using one or more of methods discussed later in this section, depending on the nature of the threat and the segment of the campus community being threatened.

If deemed necessary, the University's Senior Director of Safety and Security or designee will notify local law enforcement of the emergency if they are not already aware of it and local media outlets in order that the larger community outside the campus will be aware of the emergency.

Methods for Issuing Timely Warnings and Emergency Notifications

The method(s) listed below may be utilized when the University issues a timely warning or emergency notification to the campus community.

Method	Sign-Up Instructions
Text Messaging System	Students, faculty and staff are automatically signed up by AMU's IT Dept through contact info received through registration or new employee hire information.
University Email Account	All employees and students are given an email account at the time they start
Postings on doors/bulletin boards	N/A

Testing & Documentation

The University tests its emergency response and evacuation procedures at least once a year. The tests may be announced or unannounced. Also, annually the Emergency Management Team will meet to train and test and evaluate the University's emergency response plan.

The Senior Director of Safety and Security maintains a record of these tests and training exercises, including a description of them, the dates and times they were held and an indication of whether they were announced or unannounced. In connection with at least one such test, the University will distribute to its students and employees information to remind them of the University's emergency response and evacuation procedures.

Stop Campus Hazing Policy and Programming

Hazing, which is defined as when a person intentionally or recklessly commits, solicits a person to commit, or is actively involved in the planning of any act of hazing upon another person who is a member or former member of, or an applicant to, any type of student organization and the hazing (1) creates a substantial risk of physical injury or death; or (2) results in permanent injury, serious bodily injury, or death, is prohibited by the University.

If you are a victim of hazing, go to a safe place and call (239) 304-7934. If outside normal business hours, you may also contact the institution's Campus Security Department at (239) 280-6289

or the Residence Life On-Call phones at (239) 695-8902 (Male RA On-Call) and (239) 695-8919 (Female RA On-Call).

Those who witness or hear about an incident of hazing are also encouraged to report in the same manner.

When a report of hazing is received, the Office of Student Affairs will make a determination regarding whether an investigation must occur. If so, an investigator will be assigned to gather information and conduct interviews, as appropriate. The investigator will report any findings and make a recommendation for sanctions as appropriate to the relevant administrator for implementation. The institution strives to complete the investigation within 30 days.

An individual may appeal the decision to Dean of Students within 5 days of being notified of the decision. The appeal officer will render a decision within 14 days of receiving an appeal. The appeal officer's decision is final.

Hazing Prevention and Awareness Program

The institution provides prevention and awareness programming related to hazing (insert frequency and methods of training, such as computer modules, in person, brochures, etc.). The community is reminded that hazing is prohibited and is provided information regarding how to file a report how reports of hazing are investigated and information regarding local, state and tribal laws on hazing.

In addition, the institution provides research-informed programming for students and employees that covers a wide range of information designed to stop hazing before it occurs. It includes information regarding bystander intervention, such as how to take steps to watch out for those around you, as well as information regarding ethical leadership. Community members are also provided information regarding how to strengthen group ties without engaging in hazing behavior.

Hazing State Laws

Florida
<u>Per Florida Statute 1006.63, Hazing is prohibited. The term “hazing” means any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for purposes including, but not limited to: (a) Initiation into any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution; (b) Admission into any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution; (c) Affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution; or d) The perpetuation or furtherance of a tradition or ritual of any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution. The term includes, but is not limited to, pressuring or coercing the student into violating state or federal law; any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student; or any activity that would subject the student to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student. The term does not include customary</u>

Florida
<u>athletic events or other similar contests or competitions or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective.</u>

Conclusion

The Department of Campus Safety and Security is committed to working with the community to resolve all criminal matters in a timely fashion. All members of the Department know that for this to happen they must cooperate and work hand-in-hand with faculty, staff, and students at Ave Maria University. By working together, the Department of Campus Safety and Security and the University community can create a safe and secure environment.

Crime Statistics

The statistical summary of crimes for this University over the past three calendar years follows:

Ave Maria University Clery Act Criminal Statistics for 2023, 2024 and 2025												
CRIME	On Campus			Residential Facilities for Students On Campus			Non-Campus			Public Property		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	4	13	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrest - Liquor Law Violation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrest - Drug Abuse Violation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrest - Weapon Violation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referral - Liquor Law Violation	52	45	40	35	20	38	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referral - Drug Abuse Violation	4	4	6	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referral - Weapon Violation	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

Hate crimes:

2025: No hate crimes reported
2024: No hate crimes reported
2023: No hate crimes reported.

Crimes unfounded by the University:

2025: 0 unfounded crimes.
2024: 0 unfounded crimes.
2023: 0 unfounded crimes.

Statistics for unfounded crimes provided by law enforcement agencies:

2025: 0 unfounded crimes.
2024: 0 unfounded crimes.
2023: 0 unfounded crimes.

Data from law enforcement agencies:

The data above reflects statistics provided from law enforcement agencies related to crimes that occurred on the University's Clery Geography.

The University was provided with some crime data from law enforcement agencies for which it cannot be determined whether any of the statistics apply to or include the University's Clery Geography.

Certain law enforcement agencies did not comply with the University's request for crime statistics.

*note: any incident occurring in 'Residential Facilities for Students on Campus' will also appear as an incident 'On Campus'

Annual Fire Safety Report

Residence Hall Fire Safety Systems

In calendar year 2026, AMU owned and operated five residence hall structures. All five are located on the main campus. All main campus residence halls link to the automated smoke detection and fire alarm system. Upon activation, the automated system communicates to Ave Maria Security through a monitor that indicates the building, specific area in the building, and specific device that has been activated. The automated system monitors the residence halls for fire and smoke 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Each hall is equipped with a full sprinkler system. Each residential room is equipped with a smoke detector on the ceiling. Smoke detectors are electronically operated, with preventative maintenance scheduled annually. Kitchen areas in the residence halls are equipped with heat detectors.

Table 1 presents the fire safety systems for each residence hall.

Building-wide fire alarm systems consist of smoke detectors, pull stations, bells, and strobes. Activation of this building-wide system produces both audible and visual signals to indicate fire alarms. Individual smoke detectors in the residents' rooms produce audible signals localized to the room. Rooms designated for disabled students also connect to the building-wide fire safety system and have individual smoke detectors.

Table 1: Residence Hall Fire Safety Systems

Resident Hall	Building Wide Smoke Detection	Building Wide Fire Alarm Monitoring System	Full Sprinkler System	Resident Room Smoke Detectors	Fire Extinguishers
Goretti Hall	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sebastian Hall	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Xavier Hall	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Joseph Hall	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
UGH-6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Mandatory, Supervised Fire Drills

Supervised fire drills are conducted during the spring and fall semesters for resident halls. The 2025 drill schedule for the residence halls is presented in Table 2. The fire drill tests the fire alarm and safety systems at all levels, including alarm transmission, Security Department response, and residence hall evacuation. Upon activation of the fire alarm, students are expected to evacuate and gather at a predetermined location. Residence Life conducts a review of fire

safety for the student body, while Security and Facilities Management personnel conduct a sweep of the hall.

The Division of Student Affairs conducts the drill making note of the details of each fire drill in a Residence Hall Fire Drill Assessment Report. Assessment reports are archived in the Security Department at 5050 Ave Maria Blvd. Ave Maria, FL 34142.

Table 2: 2025 Residence Hall Fire Drill Schedule

Resident Hall	Spring Semester	Fall Semester
	Month	Month
Goretti Hall	January 2025	October 2025
Sebastian Hall	January 2025	October 2025
Xavier Hall	January 2025	October 2025
Joseph Hall	January 2025	October 2025
UGH-6	January 2025	October 2025

Residence Hall Policies on Fire Prevention

AMU students are expressly prohibited from having the following items in residence hall rooms, on carpeted areas, in hallways, or in other non-designated areas:

- halogen lamps
- appliances (popcorn poppers, toaster ovens, woks, sun lamps, hotplates, or other electric water-heating devices)
- refrigerators drawing greater than a 2.5 amp current
- ny cooking device with an open flame. Any open-flame devices, including candles, incense, and open burners

The combined wattage from all electrical devices in a resident's room must not exceed 850 watts.

Resident Hall Fire Safety Prohibitions

AMU students are further prohibited from:

- Setting any fire within buildings or areas contiguous to the buildings.

- Tampering with fire equipment.
- Activating any fire alarm system under false pretenses or making fraudulent fire or emergency reports. 38
- Disconnecting or tampering with any smoke detection device.
- Running electrical wires beneath any rug or carpet.
- Smoking anywhere other than in smoking permitted areas.

Procedures for Student Housing Evacuation (in Case of Fire Alarm)

All students and employees are required to evacuate all University buildings immediately upon the sounding of a fire alarm. Students and employees are further restricted from entering a building during or following a fire alarm until receiving permission from a housing or public safety staff member.

During fire drills, Residence Halls are swept by AMU Security and/or Residence Life staff to assist disabled students, verify evacuation, and inspect for fire safety violations. In the event of an actual fire, Residence Halls would be swept for complete evacuation and to assist disabled students by the Immokalee Fire Department and/or Collier County Sheriff's Department.

The residence halls are scheduled for semiannual fire evacuation drills in the spring and fall semesters. Evacuation drills are coordinated by the AMU Security Department.

- For AMU **Ireland, Fire detection in bedrooms and kitchens**, not just corridors, with smoke detectors in rooms and heat detectors in kitchens, all linked to a central alarm system **Self-closing fire doors** on bedrooms, flat entrances and kitchens.
- **Protected escape corridors and stairs**, with shorter permitted travel distances to an exit.
- **Sprinkler system** .
- **Emergency lighting and signage** designed for night-time evacuation.
- **Fire management around the clock**: alarm response plans for when buildings are occupied..

Resident rules and briefings: fire safety inductions for students, drills, and bans on candles, extra cooking appliances or blocking fire doors

Policies on Fire Safety Education and Training Program for Students and Employees

Fire safety training for residence hall directors and assistants is provided by AMU Security administrators. Residence hall directors and assistants are also trained in evacuation procedures. Following fire drills, students are also advised on these procedures by Resident Life staff.

Fire safety training is also available for employees through the Immokalee Fire Department. This training includes fire survival skills, evacuation procedures, and fire extinguisher use. Fire safety training custom tailored to specific departments' requirements is also available.

Reporting Fires

The University is required to disclose statistical data each year on all fires that occurred in on-campus student housing. When a fire alarm is pulled and/or the fire department responds to a fire, these incidents are captured. AMU faculty, staff, and students are instructed to dial 911 for all emergencies, including fires and notify the Department of Campus Safety and Security at 239-280-6289 when safe to do so.

There may also be instances when a fire is extinguished quickly and an alarm is not pulled or a response by the fire department was not necessary. It is important that these incidents be recorded as well. Therefore, if you are aware of such a fire, see evidence of one or hear about one, you should contact the Resident Area Manager on call at 239-280-7344. When providing notification of a fire, give as much information as possible about the location, date, time and cause of the fire.

The Patrol Officers support campus safety activities 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Fire Statistics

Table 3 presents the fire statistics for the AMU campus residence halls for 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Table 3: Ave Maria University Main Campus Residence Hall Fire Statistics

Residential	Other (non-residential)
0	0

Future Improvement in Fire Safety

The University periodically reviews its fire safety protections and procedures. At this time, it has no plans for future improvements.