

**2015 Annual Security Report**

The Department of Education, the Jeanne Clery Act and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges requires Wenatchee Valley College to provide information to students and employees about its campus safety and security policies, procedures and statistics on certain crimes. This report is published and reviewed annually by the College Safety Committee and President’s Cabinet.

The table below consists of crimes reported to WVC campus security, designated campus officials and local law enforcement agencies that occurred on both the Wenatchee and Omak campuses and the adjoining public property during the most recent calendar year and the two preceding calendar years.

Reportable incidents and arrests calendar years 2013, 2014, 2015

 



**HATE CRIMES** – Every college and university is required to disclose the number of reported occurrences, as described by the Hate Crime Statistics Act (28 US C 534) for the following offences – murder/non-negligent manslaughter; negligent manslaughter; sex offences, forcible; sex offences, non-forcible (incest and statutory rape); robbery; aggravated assault; burglary; motor vehicle theft; arson; larceny-theft; simple assault; vandalism; intimidation; and any other crime involving bodily injury to any person, in which the victim is intentionally selected because of actual or perceived race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or disability.

Geographical Areas – Wenatchee and Omak campuses and adjoining public property.

2015 – There were no reported incidents.

2014 – There were no reported incidents.

2013 – There were no reported incidents.

**CAMPUS SECURITY**

In 2015, Wenatchee Valley College designated the Director of Facilities and Operations as the campus security officer, responsible for safety and security at the Wenatchee and Omak campuses. A half-time Safety Officer reports to the Director and is responsible for emergency preparedness planning, as well as compliance with state and local safety rules and regulations. The College contracts with private security firms for security patrols. Wenatchee campus is patrolled by uniformed guards year round, 24 hours/day. The Omak campus is patrolled evenings during the academic quarters. Contact information for safety and security personnel is:

Director of Facilities and Operations, Rich Peters, 509-682-6465, rpeters@wvc.edu

Safety Officer, Bruce Merighi, 509-682-6659, bmerighi@wvc.edu

Wenatchee campus security patrols, CWI Security, 509-682-6911 or 509-423-3705

Omak campus security patrols (evenings), 509-422-7911

Safety and security staff have authority to ask persons for identification and to determine whether individuals have lawful business on campus. Security guards do not have arrest power. Criminal incidents are referred to law enforcement agencies, which have jurisdiction on campus and at off campus sites.

Other employees with campus security authority include the President, Vice Presidents, Counselors, Human Resources Director, Residence Hall Manager, Student Programs Director, coaches and activity advisors.

The WVC Safety and Security website (<https://commons.wvc.edu/safety_security/default.aspx>) has information about fire safety, evacuation, assigned assembly areas, earthquakes, evacuation for people with disabilities, hazardous material spills, intruder/active shooters, and other emergencies. Information is also available from the Director of Facilities and Operations.

Safety of students, employees and visitors is the primary concern of Wenatchee Valley College’s security personnel. Everyone can help keep the campus environment a safe place. Cooperation among students, faculty, staff and security personnel is the key to a successful security program.

**WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE CAMPUS ACCESS**

Campus buildings are locked and unlocked at scheduled times as conditions and usage warrant. Employees can use their ID keycards for access after-hours. Students may also be issued key cards if their responsibilities require access after-hours.

Students who reside in Wenatchee campus student housing have key cards for access to the residence hall at all times.

**WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE POPULATION**

For 2014-2015, the student head count was 4913 on the Wenatchee campus, and 660 on the Omak campus.

The district had 215 full time and 718 part time employees.

**STUDENT PRIVACY**

WVC complies with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 concerning the information which becomes part of a student’s permanent educational record and governing the conditions of its disclosure. Procedural guidelines governing compliance with this statue have been developed and are available through the Office of Admissions and Registration.

WVC allows a student’s “directory information” – name, address, gender, dates of attendance, major or field of study, degrees/awards received, extracurricular activities, height and weight of athletic team members, scholarships received, other institutions attended, email address and veteran status – to be made to the public. Release of other information requires student consent. Any student who does not want this directory information made public may make a written request to the Admissions Office in Wenatchi Hall of the Wenatchee campus, or to the Administration Office in Omak.

**TIMELY WARNINGS**

In the event that a situation arises either on or off campus that, in the judgement of the College administration, constitutes an ongoing or continuous threat, a campus “timely warning” will be issued. Depending on the particular circumstances of the incident, especially in situations that could pose an immediate threat to individuals or the community, the College may employ a number of different mechanisms (email, text alerts, phone system announcements, social media postings, flyers, posters, and radio reports) to notify the campus of the threat. Three primary methods are RAVE text alerts, email alerts and paging over the College telephone system.

The RAVE text alert system is a subscriber-based system the will send text messages and emails to cell phones, pagers or devices capable of receiving text messages and/or email. RAVE Alert is free to users. There may be a fee charged by individuals’ service provider for text messaging if it is not already covered in a cell phone plan. All members of the College community are encouraged to sign up for RAVE Alert by visiting [www.wvc.edu](http://www.wvc.edu).

WVC uses Facebook and Twitter to communicate emergency information, including weather related delays and closures. In an emergency, updates will be posted here as well as through local radio stations as time and circumstances allow.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

All members of the Wenatchee Valley College community are urged to notify campus security or the College administration of any situation or incident on campus that involves a significant emergency or dangerous situation that may involve an immediate or on-going threat to the health and safety of students and/or employees on the campuses. Safety and security personnel have the responsibility for responding and determining if the situation does in fact pose a threat to the campus community. If that is the case, federal law requires that the campus community is immediately notified, or the appropriate segments of the community that may be affected by the situation. Safety and security personnel are also responsible for summoning the necessary resources to investigate, mitigate and document any situation that may cause a significant emergency or dangerous situation.

In the event of a serious incident that poses an immediate threat to members of the WVC community, the College has several systems in place for communicating information quickly. Some or all of these methods of communication may be activated in the event of an immediate threat. These methods of communication include emails, voice messages, fire alarms, RAVE Alert messages (individuals can sign up for this services at [www.wvc.edu/emergency](http://www.wvc.edu/emergency), postings on the WVC website ([www.wvc.edu](http://www.wvc.edu)) and postings to social media.

Upon receiving information regarding an emergency or dangerous situation that poses an immediate or on-going threat to the health and safety of students, employees and/or visitors on campus, security personnel will inform the College President, a Vice President or a designee. If it is confirmed that an emergency or dangerous situation poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of some or all members of the WVC community, then the President, Vice President(s), security personnel or a designee will determine the content of the message and use some or all of the communication systems mentioned above to communicate the threat to the WVC community or to the appropriate segment of the community. WVC will initiate notifications unless issuing a notification will, in the judgment of law enforcement agencies, compromise the efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency.

The College provides safety, security and evacuation procedures on their webpage, and posters and signage located throughout campus. The response and evacuation procedures are reviewed annually. The College also conducts campus emergency drills and exercises and participates in exercises with law enforcement and other first responders.

**WEAPONS POSSESSION**

Possession, transportation or storage of any firearms, explosives, dangerous chemicals or other weapons, devices or substances that can be used to inflict bodily harm or to damage real or personal property is strictly forbidden on all College property. This does not apply to commissioned police officers as prescribed by law. (Washington Administrative Code, 132W-145 WAC)

**REPORTING CRIMES AND OTHER EMERGENCIES**

All crime victims and witnesses are strongly encouraged to immediately report crimes, suspicious circumstances or persons and emergencies to the appropriate law enforcement agencies by dialing **911 for Police, Ambulance or Fire.**

After calling 911, notify one of the following:

* Call 509-682-6911 or text 509-423-3705, CWI Security. The security guards have direct radio communications with the Safety Officer, the Director of Facilities and Operations, and operations staff members.
* Call 509-682-6659, Safety Officer.
* For off campus sites, reports may be made to the Vice President of Administrative Services office, 509-682-6514.

**Prompt reporting will help ensure timely warning notices and disclosure of crime statistics.**

**CRIME LOG**

The office of the Vice President of Administrative Services maintains a log of all crimes and incidents reported to the College, including the nature, date, time, general location, and the disposition of the complaint, if known. These activities are logged and available for public inspection upon request. To view the crime log, contact Heather Maddy in Administrative Services at 509-682-6514, or hmaddy@wvc.edu.

**FIRE SAFETY LOG**

WVC has on-campus student housing. A log of fire safety incidents is maintained by the district Safety Officer and reported annually to the Department of Education. The report can be viewed at: <http://ope.ed.gov/security>.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT JURISDICTIONS**

The Wenatchee Police Department has jurisdiction on the Wenatchee campus, and the Omak Police Department has jurisdiction on the Omak campus. The College maintains an excellent working relationship with these agencies. The law enforcement agencies are responsible for investigating criminal activity that occurs at the College locations.

**MUTUAL AID AND MOBILIZATION AGREEMENTS**

WVC is in the process of preparing and implementing mutual aid agreements with the Wenatchee Police Department, the Omak Police Department, the Chelan County Fire District #1, and the Omak Fire Department. Agreements with other agencies may be developed.

WVC has an agreement with the Chelan Douglas Health District making college facilities available to the Health District in the event of a disaster.

**STUDENT DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

WVC is committed to providing qualified students with a disability an equal opportunity to access the benefits, rights, and privileges of college services, programs and activities, in the most integrated setting appropriate to the student’s needs, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and RCW 28B.10.912.

WVC will provide reasonable accommodations and academic adjustments, including core services, to qualified students with disabilities. The purpose of this policy is to identify the rights and responsibilities of students under ADA/504 and to establish clear guidelines for seeking and receiving reasonable accommodations and academic adjustments.

To receive reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments, students are responsible for requesting accommodations and documenting the nature and extent of their disability in a timely manner. Students may contact the Student Access Coordinator in Wenatchi Hall on the Wenatchee campus, 509-682-6854, for assistance.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT**

WVC is committed to providing its students with an environment conducive to the pursuit of knowledge. Admission to the institution carries with it the presumption that students will conduct themselves as responsible members of the community, refraining from actions that would endanger the health, welfare, or safety of others. Conduct constituting a sexual offense, whether forcible or non-forcible, will not be tolerated. Students committing sexual offenses in any form can be prosecuted under the Washington State criminal statutes and/or subject to disciplinary action under the WVC student rights and responsibilities code (WAC 132W-112-060).

The Washington State Criminal Code (RCW 9A) defines rape as engaging in sexual intercourse with another person by forcible compulsion, or when the victim is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless or mentally incapacitated (e.g., when the victim has consumed alcohol and/or other drugs, either voluntarily or involuntarily), or when the victim does not consent to sexual intercourse with the perpetrator and such lack of consent was expressed by the victim’s words or conduct.

Any sexual assault needs to be immediately reported to the police. There are on and off-campus resources to help victims. Trained staff members assist victims in coping with the aftermath of assaults and in exploring available options confidentially.

Assistance for victims of sexual assault or domestic violence is available from:

SAGE, 509-663-7446

Crime Victim Service Centers, 800-614-5117 (toll free)

Confluence Health, Wenatchee, 509-663-8711

Columbia Valley Community Health, 509-662-6000Confluence Health, Omak, 509-826-1800

The Support Center, Okanogan, 509-826-3221 or 1-888-826-3221 (toll free)

If a sexual assault should occur, the victim should take the following actions:

* Go to a safe place.
* Call 911.
* Get prompt medical attention.
* Police will contact counseling and victim’s advocate services.
* Do not shower, bathe or wash.
* Do not urinate, if possible.
* Do not eat, drink liquids, smoke or brush teeth if oral contact took place.
* Keep the clothes worn during the offense – place in a paper bag, not in plastic.
* Do not destroy the physical evidence that may be found in the area of the crime. The victim should not clean or straighten up until the police have had an opportunity to collect evidence.
* Write down all details remembered as soon as possible.

Sexual assault and rape awareness materials in the form of flyers and brochures are posted around campus with information about community programs and services.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND STALKING**

Relationship or domestic violence may begin with insults, name-calling, shoving, or breaking objects, then proceed to endanger or scare another person, isolation of family members from others, and controlling resources like money, vehicles, and time. More physically violent behaviors include threats of violence or suicide, or threats to take children from the abused person, hurting pets, kidnapping, stalking, hitting, and strangling or choking.

Abuse is a learned pattern of behavior and without intervention becomes more destructive and sometimes lethal. Abusive individuals may have a need for power or control over someone else to compensate for their own low self-esteem, insecurity, fear, and confusion.

Steps to follow if you are being stalked:

* Tell the person that the relationship is over.
* If the stalker has your phone number, do not change it. Let it always go to voicemail and get another unlisted number. If s/he leaves messages this can be helpful to the police. In addition, if you change your number this may upset the stalker and result in worse behavior.
* Report stalking behaviors to the police. Consider filing a protection (restraining) order.
* Alert your friends, family, co-workers and supervisor of the situation. Give them a detailed description of the stalker and any vehicles they use. Have them alert you if they see the stalker.
* Keep a detailed journal of all incidents and suspicious occurrences. Keep all emails, voicemails, social networking pages, pictures, etc.
* If you are being followed, do not go home. Go to the police station, fire department or an open business.
* If you feel you are in immediate danger, call 911.

**SEXUAL HARRASSMENT**

WVC, as a place of work and study, aspires to be maintained free of all forms of harassment, discrimination, intimidation, and exploitation. Members of the College community should be aware that the College will take action to prevent and correct such behavior and those individuals who engage in such behavior are subject to discipline. Retaliation against any employee, student, applicant, visitor, or volunteer who reports harassment is also subject to discipline. See WVC policies 000.330 and 000.340 (<https://commons.wvc.edu/hr/pp/default.aspx>).

Sexual harassment complaints involving students should be referred to the Vice President of Student Services. If employees are involved, refer to the Human Resources Office. All complaints of sexual harassment will be reviewed by the WVC Title IX Coordinator.

**SEX OFFENDERS**

The federal Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act went into effect October 28, 2002, requiring institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement information provided by Washington State concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. Sex offender information may be found by contacting the following:

Chelan County Sheriff’s Office, 509-667-6851, <http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/sheriff>

Okanogan County Sheriff’s Office, 509-422-7200, <http://okanogansheriff.org>

WVC Procedure 1000.220 (<https://commons.wvc.edu/hr/pp/default.aspx>) explains the procedures followed by student development office staff to appropriately notify the WVC community when registered sex offenders enroll at either campus. Procedures are specific to the classification level of sex offender.

**Sex Offender Levels and What They Mean**

**Level I**

The majority of sex offenders are classified as Level I offenders. They are considered at low risk to re-offend. Washington State law strictly prohibits public disclosure of Level I Registered Sex Offender information.

**Level II**

Level II offenders have a moderate risk of re-offending because of the nature of their previous crime(s) and lifestyle (drug and alcohol abuse and other criminal activity), or have failed to complete approved treatment programs. Washington State law prohibits public disclosure of Level II Registered Sex Offender information except under specific criteria.

**Level III**

Level III offenders are the greatest risk to the community. Most are predatory, have other violent crime convictions, may have refused treatment, and are known substance abusers. Community notification is the most extensive for this level of offender. Washington State law permits notifications regarding Level III offenders that include relevant, accurate and necessary information. This information may be disclosed to the public at large.

**ALCOHOL AND DRUGS POLICY**

The possession, use, sale or distribution of any intoxicant or illegal drug on the College campuses is prohibited. The use of illegal drugs by any Wenatchee Valley College student attending a college-sponsored event is also prohibited, even if the event does not take place at the College. The use of alcohol by students attending such events shall conform to State law. Violation or abuse of WVC drug and alcohol policy will result in disciplinary action.

Any violation of State law could result in prosecution by criminal authorities and are punishable by judgments including community service, fines, confiscation of property (real or personal) and/or jail sentences. The College will also impose sanctions consistent with local, state and federal laws, which may include completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program, expulsion from the College or termination of employment and referral to law enforcement for prosecution.

See WVC Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace Policy, [https://www.wvc.edu/directory/departments/policies/**drugfree**.asp](https://www.wvc.edu/directory/departments/policies/drugfree.asp)

The College recognizes dependency on alcohol and other drugs as an illness. Resources available locally to combat drug and alcohol dependency are available from the WVC Counseling Office, Wenatchi Hall, 509-682-6850, and include:

The Center for Drug and Alcohol, 509-662-9673

Central Washington Area Narcotics Anonymous, 877-664-0398 (toll free)

Alcoholics Anonymous, 509-664-6469

**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

WVC Counseling services (first floor, Wenatchi Hall, 509-685-6850) provide academic counseling, career/vocational counseling, and personal counseling. Appointments are recommended, however, drop-in hours are available. Contact the following for more information:

WVC Counseling, 509-682-6580

Mental health crisis line, 509-662-7105

Okanogan Behavioral Health Care, Omak, 509-826-6191 (or 888-826-6191 toll free)

**SAFETY ESCORTS**

Contact campus security at 509-682-6911 to request an escort on the Wenatchee campus. In Omak, call 509-422-7911 in the evenings. If there is immediate danger, call 911.

**CRIME PREVENTION**

Crime can occur anytime, anywhere. Crime does not know any boundaries. People may feel a false sense of security in a familiar place, or they may not notice or recognize a dangerous situation. It is important for individuals to always be aware of what’s happening around them, and take precautions to reduce the risk of crime.

WVC periodically offers personal safety training for students and employees, and makes safety information available through notices, flyers and other media. Some simple safety suggestions include:

* Keep vehicles locked
* Do not walk alone, especially at night
* Be aware of surroundings
* Have car keys in your hand before you leave the building
* Request an escort from security
* Do not ever leave valuables unattended
* Report suspicious activities to security and/or law enforcement

For more information about crime prevention, contact the district Safety Officer at 509-682-6659 or bmerighi@wvc.edu.

**STUDENT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

WVC student disciplinary procedures, student rights and responsibilities, and appeal procedures are published annually in the Student Handbook. The Handbook is available in print and electronic form. It can be viewed online at: [www.wvc.edu](http://www.wvc.edu).

**Questions concerning this report may be sent to:**

Vice President of Administrative Services, Suzie Benson, 509-682-6515, sbenson@wvc.edu

Safety Officer, Bruce Merighi, 509-682-6659, bmerighi@wvc.edu

Director of Facilities and Operations, Rich Peters, 509-682-6465, rpeters@wvc.edu

Administrative Assistant, Heather Maddy, 509-682-6514, hmaddy@wvc.edu

**RELATED LINKS**

Privacy notice: <https://www.wvc.edu/privacy.asp>

WVC Safety website: <https://www.wvc.edu/directory/departments/parents/security.asp>

WVC Risk Advisory Team: <http://www.wvc.edu/directory/departments/behavioralintervention>

WVC Residence Hall Handbook: <http://www.wvc.edu/directory/departments/housing/>

WVC Annual Fire Safety Report: <https://www.wvc.edu/directory/departments/safetystats/>