

The University of Florida Police Department

The University of Florida Police Department, located at the intersection of Museum Road and Newell Drive, is an integral part of the University's dedication to developing and maintaining a safe and secure campus and to making your time at UF as safe and enjoyable as possible.

In March 1996, the University of Florida Police Department became only the 14th university law enforcement agency in the country to achieve national law enforcement accreditation from The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA) and, in 1997, the first university police department in Florida to become state accredited through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (CFA). In December 2007, the University of Florida Police Department became the first police department to achieve the Triple Crown of law enforcement accreditation when it received initial accreditation from the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA). The University of Florida Police Department currently maintains its Accredited status with the three accrediting bodies, most recently receiving CALEA and IACLEA re-accreditation in March 2008, where CALEA recognized the department as a Flagship Agency, and CFA re-accreditation in June 2006. Accomplishing the Triple Crown of accreditation and Flag-ship status provides an excellent indication that the University of Florida Police Department is among the leaders in the field of campus law enforcement.

The department provides a full range of police services including, but not limited to, investigating all crimes committed in its jurisdiction, making arrests, providing crime prevention/community services/programs, victim services, enforcing traffic laws, and providing crowd control and safety functions for campus special events. The department maintains a close working relationship with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in implementing and coordinating campus law enforcement operations. The department has mutual aid agreements with the Gainesville Police Department, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, and the Santa Fe College Police Department.

The UFPD maintains very close working relationships with Dean of Students Office, Department of Housing and Residence Education, Student Judicial Affairs, Student Government, Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils, Physical Plant Division, Transportation and Parking Services, University Counseling Center, and many other campus and non-campus organizations.

Jurisdiction, Structure, and Authority

The University of Florida Police Department is organized as a department of 90 sworn, full and part-time police officers under the auspices of the Office of the Vice President for Business Affairs.

All officers are professionally trained and State of Florida certified, with the same authority and right to bear arms as any officer within the State of Florida. By law, University of Florida police officers are declared law enforcement officers of the state and conservators of the peace with the right to arrest, in accordance with the laws of this state, any person for violation of state law or applicable county or city ordinances when such violations occur on any property or facilities which are under the guidance, supervision, regulations or control of the State University System, except that arrests may be made off campus when hot pursuit originates on campus.

In performance of any of the powers, duties, and functions authorized by law or Florida State Statute 240.268, university police have the same rights, protection, and immunities afforded other peace or law enforcement officers. Each officer must maintain the mandated, on-going training requirements of the State of Florida Police Standards, including qualifying on the firing range every six months.

Crime Reporting - Public Information

The department strictly follows all laws regarding the release of information written in Florida State Statutes Chapter 119. The department believes that dissemination of information is the key to educating our community about the occurrence of crime on campus. For this reason the department employs a full-time Coordinator of Educational /Media Communications who prepares daily news releases for media and public view on matters of public interest. These releases are available for viewing on the media board 24 hours per day at the front desk of the public lobby of the patrol division building and on the web at www.police.ufl.edu. Click on the Media/Public Information link and see Current Press Release Information. The coordinator also provides, through various media, the 'timely notice' of violent crimes and certain property crimes reported to campus or local police to aid in the prevention of similar occurrences.

In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, the coordinator publishes a crime log Monday through Friday that details the date, time, location, and disposition of crimes that occur on campus. This log is available to the media and the general public in the department's front desk area and on the department web site at www.police.ufl.edu. Click on Media/Public Information and see UFPD Crime Log.

In an extra effort to keep the university community informed, the department routinely prepares and distributes campus crime alerts and crime prevention tips. In addition, local newspapers, such as the The Independent Florida Alligator and The Gainesville Sun, and most local radio and television stations, regularly distribute information provided by the UFPD on matters of interest and personal and property safety. Various other public and safety information can be found at the UFPD Community Services Division or the department's web site at www.police.ufl.edu. If you have questions, please contact Captain Jeff Holcomb by calling (352) 392-1409 or by e-mail at jholcomb@ufl.edu.

