

New Mexico State University  
**SAFETY AND SECURITY BULLETIN**

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## **Campus Safety and Security Programs, Policies, and Procedures**

The following information has been prepared to inform you of the types of crimes that occur at NMSU, what NMSU does about them, what to do if you become a victim, and what you can do to prevent becoming a victim. You can obtain more information by contacting the NMSU Police Department. Additional pamphlets, bulletins, and information are available and can either be picked up at the NMSU Police Department or mailed to you. These items are available free of charge.

## **EMERGENCY**

In the event of any emergency on campus, whether it is a fire, police, or medical emergency, dial:

# **9 1 1**

This will put you in direct contact with the police dispatcher who will send the appropriate help. Please call 646-3311 for nonemergency calls.

This document is a summary of specific information on campus crime statistics and security procedures at New Mexico State University, and is published in compliance with the Student Right-To-Know and Campus Security Act (§668.47 of 34 CFR 6 (Public Law 101-542), as amended.)

## **SECURITY OF RESIDENCES AND BUILDINGS**

New Mexico State University's main campus is relatively safe. With a daytime population of up to 31,000 people, and a resident population of about 4,500, crime statistic figures at NMSU are small compared to other universities and cities of similar size. However, burglary and thefts do occur more often than other crimes at NMSU, and are the largest crime problem. Students and staff are encouraged to lock up valuables and not leave them unattended, as this contributes to a large portion of the thefts.

Garcia Hall, Rhodes-Garrett-Hamiel Hall, and the Women's Residence Center have exterior security doors which are kept locked day and night. Guests must enter through the main lobby of each facility. Students living in housing units with doors opening directly to the outside are responsible for keeping their doors locked. Housing Security patrols all campus housing areas each night. Live-in resident staff members are located within each facility.

Most academic buildings at NMSU are open to the public during normal business hours and up to 10 p.m. for evening classes, including weekends. Administrative buildings are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The libraries and certain buildings with computer labs post their hours of operation for the convenience of students and staff. Buildings are closed when not in use.

## **SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN**

A campus community relies on a peaceful, safe, and secure environment. Preserving this environment is a responsibility everyone on campus must share. Members of the campus community are asked to be aware of the policies and procedures of NMSU and to promptly report any crime or suspicious activity.

Everyone needs to be realistic about personal safety. While the NMSU Police Department works to keep the campus safe, it cannot do so when people intentionally choose to engage in risky activity. Being aware of your surroundings and avoiding suspicious or dangerous situations can keep you out of trouble.



## NMSU POLICE DEPARTMENT

The NMSU Police Department is a full-service police agency and is open twenty-four hours a day, every day. The NMSU Police Department functions like most police departments, and is similar to a municipal police department for a city of 31,000 people. NMSU police officers have enforcement authority on all property controlled by the Board of Regents throughout the State of New Mexico, and have concurrent jurisdictional authority in some neighboring areas under mutual aid agreements. NMSU police officers share a good working relationship with all surrounding local, state, and federal agencies.

The primary functions of the NMSU Police Department are law enforcement, criminal investigation, and emergency response. Integral to these are the crime prevention and public education programs sponsored by the NMSU Police Department. These programs include:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Personal Self Defense</b>            | <b>Rape Awareness &amp; Prevention</b> |
| <b>Operation Identification</b>         | <b>Alcohol &amp; Drug Awareness</b>    |
| <b>Traffic Safety Issues</b>            | <b>Violence in the Workplace</b>       |
| <b>Crime Reduction &amp; Prevention</b> | <b>Technology &amp; Policing</b>       |

Programs are scheduled at the request of any on-campus and most off-campus groups or organizations. In addition, the Police Department works with others on campus (such as the Department of Housing and Residence Life) to design specific public education programs for the needs of each area. The NMSU Police Department also teaches blocks during academic courses at the request of instructors and faculty. Courses are tailored for each audience, and range in length from 15 minutes to 8 hours. Further information, including how to request a course, descriptions of the courses, or discussion of specific needs is available by contacting the NMSU Police Department at 646-3311.

People interested in the activities of the NMSU Police Department can find regular news reports on local radio and television stations, as well as articles in the local newspapers. The Round Up student newspaper also publishes stories on recent police reports taken by the NMSU Police Department. The NMSU Police Department experiences a high degree of cooperation from the local news media and issues press releases on cases of public interest. Copies of police reports are available for inspection by the public 24-hours a day in the lobby of the NMSU Police Department. The NMSU Police Department also submits its crime statistics to the U.S. Department of Justice's Uniform Crime Reports.

The NMSU Police Department employs 22 full-time police officers. All officers are certified through the New Mexico Department of Public Safety and must complete a 16-week Field Training and Evaluation program. Officers must maintain their proficiency by attending advanced training and undergoing evaluation every six months. The NMSU Police Department also employs student security aides trained in observation and reporting of suspicious activity. They walk around the main campus each night.

## TIPS TO PREVENT CRIME

Mark or engrave all valuables (including textbooks), and keep a record of these in a safe place. Include their make, model, and serial numbers whenever possible.



Emergency telephones are located throughout campus for easy access to help.

If there are problems with your room that may affect security (such as doors that don't lock well or windows that open easily), let your RA or property manager know immediately.

Register your bicycle with the NMSU Police Department and always secure it to a bike rack on campus with a quality lock.

Lock the doors and windows to your room and your vehicle every time you leave. Do not leave valuables where they can be easily seen by someone passing by, even if it is just for a few minutes.

Always be aware of your surroundings and of any strangers near you. If someone is acting suspiciously, move away toward large groups and well lit areas.

Don't leave valuables unattended in unlocked lockers, study areas, or classrooms.

Alcohol and drug use can reduce your ability to recognize a dangerous situation and your ability to defend yourself. If you are going to drink alcohol, do it legally, responsibly, in a safe place, and with people you can trust.



Officers patrol the main campus 24-hours a day, all year long.

### **IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A CRIME . . .**

If you are the victim of a crime while at NMSU, report it immediately to the NMSU Police Department. In case of emergency, call 911. For nonemergencies, call 646-3311. When you call, give your name, the location you are calling from, a brief description of what occurred, and whether the person who committed the crime is still in the area. Prompt reporting and specific information will increase the chances of solving your case. An NMSU police officer will be dispatched to meet with you and obtain all of the necessary information. If evidence from the crime is still intact, please do not move or destroy it. This is especially important in sexual assault cases. **NOTE:** Showering, changing clothes, or grooming can destroy vital evidence.

Many students worry about reporting crimes to the police because they do not want to testify in a trial. Victims are nevertheless encouraged to at least contact the NMSU Police Department so they can be made aware of other services (counseling services, medical treatment, etc.) that might lessen the trauma of the incident. If the victim does not wish to pursue criminal charges, their wishes will be respected.

Students who are victims of crimes may also pursue recourse through the NMSU Student Judicial System. While this is not a substitute for the criminal justice system, it affords students the opportunity to have their side heard in a less formal environment. If an accused student is found to have violated the Student Code of Conduct, he or she may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from NMSU. Both the victim and accused will be afforded the same opportunities within the student judicial process, and both shall be informed of the outcome of any campus disciplinary proceedings alleging sexual assault. Students interested in this course of action may call the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at 646-1722, or obtain further information in the NMSU Student Handbook or through the NMSU Police Department.

### **OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE**

New Mexico State University offers counseling services free of charge to students at the NMSU Counseling Center. The NMSU Counseling Center staff are well-trained professionals and can help students with a wide range of problems. Students interested should call the NMSU Counseling Center at 646-2731.

Students seeking counseling services off campus may obtain a list of the services available and their phone numbers by calling the NMSU Police Department. The NMSU Police Department can put students in touch with the La Piñon Rape Crisis Center, La Casa Shelter, Doña Ana Victims' Assistance, the Southwest Counseling Center, and numerous other public and private counseling services. Many of these are free of charge or are offered on a sliding fee scale.

For education about sexual assault and misconduct, policy development, and victims' assistance issues, NMSU has given responsibilities to several departments and offices. Students with concerns or needing specific information are encouraged to contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs or the NMSU Police Department. NMSU works specifically toward the goal of reducing the incidence of sexual crimes and providing better services for those victimized. Special assistance for victims in changing

academic and living arrangements is available through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Additional services exist throughout the community to deal with special problems. Students may contact the NMSU Police Department with their needs for referral to the appropriate people or organizations.

### STATEMENT ON CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

The NMSU Board of Regents, the NMSU administration, and the NMSU Police Department strongly discourage any conduct that is illegal or that violates the rights of another individual. This specifically includes laws concerning possession, use, and sale of alcohol and illegal drugs. NMSU's policies on alcohol use, drug use, and crime are located in the Student Handbook, including the Student Code of Conduct. (NOTE: Various drug or alcohol abuse education programs are sponsored by NMSU's Police Department, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, and Personnel Office.) The NMSU Police Department will make every effort to assist victims of crimes and to prosecute those responsible. The NMSU policies on alcohol use, drug use, and crime are found in the Student Handbook.

During the past three years, the following crimes and arrests were recorded by the NMSU Police Department:

|                                   | <u>1997</u> | <u>1998</u> | <u>1999</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Murder</b>                     | <b>1</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    |
| <i>On campus</i>                  | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>In residence facilities</i>    | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus fraternities</i>    | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus public property</i> | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <b>Rape</b>                       | <b>4</b>    | <b>6</b>    | <b>1</b>    |
| <i>On campus</i>                  | -           | 6           | 1           |
| <i>In residence facilities</i>    | -           | 5           | 1           |
| <i>Off-campus fraternities</i>    | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus public property</i> | -           | 0           | 0           |

|                                   | <u>1997</u> | <u>1998</u> | <u>1999</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Robbery</b>                    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>2</b>    |
| <i>On campus</i>                  | -           | 0           | 20          |
| <i>In residence facilities</i>    | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus fraternities</i>    | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus public property</i> | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <b>Aggravated Assault</b>         | <b>4</b>    | <b>6</b>    | <b>6</b>    |
| <i>On campus</i>                  | -           | 6           | 6           |
| <i>In residence facilities</i>    | -           | 3           | 2           |
| <i>Off-campus fraternities</i>    | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus public property</i> | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <b>Burglary</b>                   | <b>59</b>   | <b>70</b>   | <b>65</b>   |
| <i>On campus</i>                  | 59          | 70          | 65          |
| <i>In residence facilities</i>    | 34          | 40          | 34          |
| <i>Off-campus fraternities</i>    | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus public property</i> | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>        | <b>43</b>   | <b>20</b>   | <b>15</b>   |
| <i>On campus</i>                  | -           | 20          | 15          |
| <i>In residence facilities</i>    | n/a         | n/a         | n/a         |
| <i>Off-campus fraternities</i>    | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus public property</i> | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <b>Arson</b>                      | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>3</b>    |
| <i>On campus</i>                  | -           | 0           | 3           |
| <i>In residence facilities</i>    | -           | 0           | 2           |
| <i>Off-campus fraternities</i>    | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus public property</i> | -           | 0           | 0           |

[Bold = totals of on-campus crimes as reported to the UCR. Italics = breakout required by federal law (categories are not exclusive). Unless otherwise indicated, all crimes reported occurred on campus. Crimes occurring off campus are reported to the UCR by the agency of jurisdiction. There were no hate crimes or manslaughter cases reported from 1996 to 1999 on the NMSU campus.]

#### Arrests of Special Interest

|                                   | <u>1997</u> | <u>1998</u> | <u>1999</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Alcohol Violations</b>         | <b>24</b>   | <b>31</b>   | <b>13</b>   |
| <i>On campus</i>                  | -           | 31          | 13          |
| <i>In residence facilities</i>    | -           | 17          | 10          |
| <i>Off-campus fraternities</i>    | -           | 1           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus public property</i> | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <b>Drug Abuse*</b>                | <b>32</b>   | <b>42</b>   | <b>33</b>   |
| <i>On campus</i>                  | -           | 42          | 33          |
| <i>In residence facilities</i>    | -           | 25          | 21          |
| <i>Off-campus fraternities</i>    | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus public property</i> | -           | 0           | 0           |

|                                   | <u>1997</u> | <u>1998</u> | <u>1999</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Weapon Possession</b>          | <b>0</b>    | <b>3</b>    | <b>2</b>    |
| <i>On campus</i>                  | -           | 3           | 2           |
| <i>In residence facilities</i>    | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus fraternities</i>    | -           | 0           | 0           |
| <i>Off-campus public property</i> | -           | 0           | 0           |

\* Includes violations of the Controlled Substances Act.

The issue of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct is at the forefront in universities nationwide. NMSU has a specific policy prohibiting sexual misconduct and will assist victims in seeking counseling (available through the Counseling Center or several off-campus organizations), obtaining medical treatment (available through the Student Health Center and Memorial Medical Center, as well as some private physicians), changing room assignments, making academic changes, and in any other way possible, including criminal prosecution through the District Attorney's Office (if the victim so desires). Students, faculty and staff, and visitors are reminded that they can contact the NMSU Police Department for assistance at any time, and do not have to file an official police report in order to be helped. If a report is filed with the NMSU Police Department, it will be fully investigated with the findings being referred to the District Attorney's Office for prosecutorial decisions.

Crime occurring off campus involving students or chartered NMSU organizations is reported to and handled by the Las Cruces Police Department, the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department, or other appropriate law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction. While the NMSU Police Department assists the other agencies when asked pursuant to mutual aid agreements, the reporting and tracking of crime is done by the agency of primary jurisdiction. Anyone wanting specific information on off-campus crime should contact the appropriate agency(s).

Please help us in deterring any crime on our campus by promptly calling the Police Department at 646-3311 or 911 (in case of emergencies).

**PHONE NUMBER REFERENCE GUIDE:**

|   |                    |            |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| NMSU Police Department                        | - <b>EMERGENCY</b> | <b>911</b> |
|   | Nonemergency       | 646-3311   |
| NMSU Fire Department                          | Nonemergency       | 646-2519   |
| ASNMSU Escort Service                         |                    | 646-4419   |
| Vice President for Student Affairs            |                    | 646-1722   |
| NMSU Student Health Center                    |                    | 646-1512   |
| NMSU Employee Health Services                 |                    | 646-6600   |
| NMSU Personnel Office                         |                    | 646-2420   |
| NMSU Department of Housing and Residence Life |                    | 646-3202   |
| NMSU Counseling Center                        |                    | 646-2731   |

**Visit our website at:**  
[www.police.nmsu.edu](http://www.police.nmsu.edu)



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