



COLLEGE OF  
**CHARLESTON**

## Campus Safety & Security

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### Our Commitment

The College of Charleston prioritizes the safety and well-being of every student, faculty and staff member. Our [nationally accredited](#) Department of Public Safety operates 24/7 to maintain a secure campus environment and maintains close working relationships with the Charleston Police Department and other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

- Public Safety Officers are certified law enforcement officers and South Carolina State Constables with statewide jurisdiction.
- More information is available on the Public Safety Website: [charleston.edu/public-safety/about/personnel/index.php](http://charleston.edu/public-safety/about/personnel/index.php)
- Emergency procedures are clearly outlined on the Public Safety website: <https://charleston.edu/public-safety/staying-safe/campus-emergencies/index.php>

### Emergency Notifications: Cougar Alert

- The College's emergency notification system, Cougar Alert, can reach students, faculty, staff and others within minutes of a campus crisis. Alerts include action steps to take in the event of an emergency.
- Alerts are sent via text, email, phone, and web during major emergencies (e.g., severe weather, active aggressor, etc.).
- Students and employees with CofC credentials are automatically enrolled to receive Cougar Alerts. Campus members can update their emergency contact information in MyPortal.
- CofC parents, families, and others can sign up to receive Cougar Alerts by texting the word **cougaralert** to 333111.
- The College also issues Campus Advisories via College email for non-urgent situations.
- More emergency resources at: [emergency.charleston.edu/cougaralert/](http://emergency.charleston.edu/cougaralert/)

### Pedestrian Safety Tips

- Follow the rules of the road and obey traffic signs and signals.
- Do not cross mid-block. Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections.
- Watch for cars turning, entering or exiting driveways or backing up in parking lots.
- When crossing the street, stay alert: check for signs, signals, and the actions of drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians around you.
- Do not rely on others to keep you safe; stay off your phone, make eye contact with drivers when possible and wait for a clear, complete stop before crossing.

## Safe Transportation: Cougar Shuttle

- [Cougar Shuttle](#) offers free rides for students on the Charleston peninsula.
- Runs 7 nights a week, 11 p.m. – 3 a.m. during fall and spring semesters.
- Call 864.636.0972 to request a ride; Cougar Card required.

## Security Escort Program

- 24/7 escorts available for students who feel unsafe walking alone to and from any campus buildings or spaces.
- Call 843.953.5609 to arrange a security escort.
- More information: [charleston.edu/public-safety/services/security-escort/index.php](https://charleston.edu/public-safety/services/security-escort/index.php)

## Mental Health & Counseling Support

- Free, confidential counseling for all enrolled students: Individual sessions, group therapy, and crisis intervention <https://charleston.edu/counseling/index.php>
- After-hours support: Call 843.953.5640, option #3.
- For life-threatening emergencies, dial 911.
- Students 4 Support is a student organization that has highly trained peer volunteers available to chat, listen and assist with your academic, personal and social questions, concerns and frustrations.
- Clyde the Chatbot offers 24/7 access to academic, financial, and wellness resources.

## Proactive Safety Measures

- Regular training and awareness programs (active aggressor response, crime prevention, etc.).
- Report suspicious activity via Crime Action Line: 843.953.4998.
- Anonymous tips may also be submitted on the College of Charleston's [Silent Witness and Anonymous Reporting](#) page.
- As always, anyone who notices suspicious activity or has any public safety concerns is urged to call 911.