SUMMARY

- Eighty-eight percent of UAlbany students feel safe on campus overall.
- Three-Quarters of UAlbany students agree with the statement, “My own safety and security is up to me.”
- Ninety-seven percent feel safe walking alone on campus during daylight hours, while only fifty-four percent feel safe walking alone on campus after dark.
- Seventy percent of students agree that they know who to call or what to do if they see suspicious activity on campus.
- Half of UAlbany students feel that there is adequate safety/police presence on campus.
- Three-Quarters of UAlbany students feel campus security/campus police are responsive to campus safety issues.
- Fifty-nine percent feel campus administrators and staff consistently enforce the security policies on campus.
- Six percent of UAlbany students have been a victim to crime on campus.
- Less than 3% of respondents have ever seen or known of a student (including themselves) who has possessed a gun while on campus.
- Four out of five students are aware that the University has a Code of Conduct.

OBSERVATIONS: BY THE NUMBERS

79% know how to get help in the case of an emergency on campus.
88% feel safe on campus overall.
96% feel safe in classrooms.
95% feel safe attending athletic events.
95% feel safe inside campus buildings.
94% feel safe in residence hall rooms.
85% feel safe in laundry rooms in residence halls.
69% feel safe working in the library stacks late at night.
84% feel safe utilizing online communities (Facebook, MySpace, etc.).
52% feel safe in the community surrounding buildings.

SAFETY SERVICES

Just over half (53%) of UAlbany students claim to be aware of the formal security policies and procedures in place on campus.

On average, 60% of students indicated that they saw a campus safety officer (University Police Officer or Safety Security Assistant) once a week, several times a week or daily. When asked if they felt there was adequate safety/police presence on campus, 54% agreed that current levels were adequate.

When asked about the concern for safety on campus, 58% of UAlbany students believed their parents/family are concerned about safety on campus and 55% of students felt that others in their residential community take security seriously. However, 73% of students felt campus administrators and staff take student safety and security seriously, with only 59% feeling that campus administrators and staff consistently enforce the security policies on campus.

Less than 2% claimed they used an “emergency phone” (1.47%) or a “campus security escort” (1.04%).

Less than 5% (4.31%) were NOT familiar with the SUNY NY Alert emergency notification (“text messaging”) service. Although over 95% of students were aware of the service, only 43% of students utilized the SUNY NY Alert text messaging service.

When asked if there was adequate lighting on campus, 59% of respondents believed there was adequate lighting on campus.

SENSE OF SAFETY & SECURITY ON-CAMPUS

Although nearly all of UAlbany students feel safe on campus during daylight hours, the feeling of safety drops to half after dark.

- 97% feel safe walking alone on campus during daylight hours versus 54% feeling safe after dark.
- 95% feel safe waiting alone on campus for public transportation during daylight hours versus 46% feeling safe after dark.
- 93% feel safe walking alone in parking lots on campus during daylight hours versus 39% feeling safe after dark.
- 97% feel safe walking alone to a campus residence hall during the day versus 55% feeling safe after dark. Chart 1 (below) illustrates the students’ feeling of safety walking to the various types of student residences.
How safe do you feel walking to a residence?

![chart](chart.png)

Chart 1: Feeling of Safety Walking to a Residence

Table 1: Male vs. Female Feeling of Safety (below) illustrates that UAlbany female students expressed feeling significantly less safe than did male students after dark.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentages of UAlbany students who feel safe in the following situations:</th>
<th>Daylight Hours</th>
<th>After Dark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking alone on campus</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe waiting alone on campus for public transportation</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe walking alone in parking lots on campus</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking alone to a campus residence hall</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Male vs. Female Feeling of Safety

When asked where students feel particularly unsafe on campus, the most frequent responses expressed feeling unsafe after dark in following locations:

- The Downtown Campus
- Alumni Quad
- The tunnels
- Parking lots
- The Podium at night
- Purple Path & the edges of Uptown Campus → SEFCU Arena and athletic fields
- Walking to/from Freedom Apartments

18% of UAlbany female students said they have carried mace or pepper spray for self-defense, while only 3% of UAlbany male students have carried such items.
CRIME VICTIMS

94% of students said they have NEVER been a victim of a crime on campus.

- Of the 6% of students who said they have been victim to a crime on campus, the type of crimes experienced include:
  - Property crime – theft or damage of personal property (68%)
  - Personal, violent crime (16%)
  - Sexual crime (11%)
  - Hate crime (3%)

When asked if they reported the crime to campus police, 68% of on-campus female crime victims said YES, compared to the 47% of male crime victims who reported the crime.

58% of on-campus crime victims who reported the incident were satisfied with the campus police response.

Table 2: Types of Crimes Witnessed (below), captures the various types of crimes that respondents have witnessed or been aware of in the vicinity of their residence within the last 12 months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical fight</td>
<td>42.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious assault involving injuries</td>
<td>22.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats of physical harm</td>
<td>31.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heated argument</td>
<td>53.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hate crime</td>
<td>5.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stalking</td>
<td>9.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape/sexual assault</td>
<td>19.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>44.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism/intentional property damage</td>
<td>37.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intruders/unwelcome guests</td>
<td>31.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secured doors left/propped open</td>
<td>41.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other crime</td>
<td>5.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>21.88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Type of Crimes Witnessed

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- 81% of students are aware that the University has a Code of Conduct.
  - 52% of students know where to find a copy of the Student Code of Conduct.
  - 39% of students have read the University’s Student Code of Conduct.
- 60% of students believe the University’s process for addressing issues of potential student misconduct is fair.
  - 61% believe the process serves an educational purpose.
  - 61% believe the process balances the needs of the community with the rights of the individual student.
• 78% are aware of University policies regarding possession and/or consumption of alcohol on-campus.
• 75% of students are NOT aware of the medical amnesty policy related to alcohol and drugs.
• 72% of UAlbany students are aware of the University policies related to electronically downloading/uploading copyrighted material.

UNIVERSITY POLICY VIOLATIONS

Less than seven percent (6.29%) of UAlbany students have been through the student conduct hearing/judicial affairs process. Less than one percent (0.80%) has been through the process more than once. Chart 2: Nature of Alleged Violation (below) illustrates that 93% of alleged violations are non-academic related.

79% of students going through the process were found responsible for violating one or more University policies.

75% of students agreed that the notification they received outlining the alleged violations was clear.

In regard to the hearing/judicial process:
  o 48% felt treated fairly.
  o 51% felt treated with respect.
  o 54% felt all questions were answered.
  o 63% said that whether they agreed or not, they understood the rationale for the decision made concerning alleged violations.
  o 45% felt the sanctions assigned were educational in nature.

Table 3: Judicial Administrators (below) captures the types of judicial administrators respondents interacted with during the hearing/judicial process.
When asked about the judicial administrators with which students interacted during the hearing/judicial process, respondents expressed being significantly less satisfied with the clarity and performance of the hearing board members. Chart 3: Student Evaluation of Judicial Administrator (below) illustrates the perceived clarity and direction received by said judicial administrator.

Chart 3: Student Evaluation of Judicial Administrator

Table 4 (below) shows how many weeks passed between the time the student received notification of an alleged violation and when student was found responsible or not.

Table 4: Results Turn-around Time
STUDENTS’ PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Over half of UAlbany students expressed that they learned about safety and security on campus during the new student orientation program and via university web pages. Table 5 (below) illustrates the various means in which students learned about campus safety.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Method</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>During new student orientation</td>
<td>54.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence hall programming</td>
<td>30.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>5.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus events</td>
<td>16.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through university written publications/brochures</td>
<td>48.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University web pages</td>
<td>50.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>13.72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Learning Methods

59% DISAGREED that their experience with the hearing/judicial process contributed positively to their overall educational experience at the University.

METHODOLOGY & DEMOGRAPHICS

Findings are based on the 2009 Campus Safety & Student Conduct survey completed by 1224 University at Albany students between February 5 and March 17, 2009. The survey was developed in association with the Association for Student Conduct Administration (ASCA) and was administered electronically through StudentVoice by the Office of the Vice President for Student Success at UAlbany.

Respondents were:

- Mostly women (60% women, 40% men).
- Diverse (66% white, 7% African American/Black, 9% Asian/Pacific Islander, 7% Hispanic/Latino).
- Representative of different class years (17% freshman, 18% sophomore, 22% juniors, 22% seniors).
- Full-time students (93% full time students).
- Living both on and off campus (35% on-campus Uptown Residence Hall, 29% off-campus (alone or with roommates), 12% off-campus with spouse/partner/children, 10% on-campus apartment, 9% off-campus with family, 4% on-campus Downtown Residence Hall).
- Spending time primarily on the Uptown Campus (90% Uptown, 8% Downtown, 2% East).

QUESTIONS

Please direct any questions concerning this assessment brief to:

Michael N. Christakis, Ph.D.
Office of the Vice President for Student Success
University at Albany

TEL: 518.956.8140 EMAIL: mchristakis@uamail.albany.edu
APPENDIX A: PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS (36 participating institutions)

1. Arcadia University - Arcadia University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
2. Augustana College (South Dakota) - Augustana College Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
3. Babson College - Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct Student Survey
5. Butler University - Butler University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
6. Denison University - Denison University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
7. DePauw University - DePauw University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
8. Elmhurst College - Consortium 2010: Campus Safety/Student Conduct Student Survey
9. Evergreen State College - Consortium 2010: Campus Safety/Student Conduct Student Survey
10. George Mason University - George Mason University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
11. Georgia College & State University - Georgia College & State University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
12. Gonzaga University - Gonzaga University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
15. Louisiana State University - Louisiana State University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
16. Macalester College - Macalester College Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
17. Massachusetts College of Art - Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct Student Survey
18. Northwestern University - Northwestern University Consortium: Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
19. Occidental College - Occidental College Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
20. Ohio Dominican University - Ohio Dominican University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
22. Otterbein University - Otterbein College Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
23. Sam Houston State University - Sam Houston State University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
24. Simpson College - Simpson College Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
25. Southern Illinois University, Carbondale - SIUC Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
26. Spring Hill College - Consortium 2010: Campus Safety/Student Conduct Student Survey
27. St. Cloud State University - St. Cloud State University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
28. Towson University - Towson University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
29. University at Albany - University at Albany Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct Student Survey 2009 - Benchmark
30. University of Dubuque - Consortium 2010: Campus Safety/Student Conduct Student Survey
31. University of North Carolina at Greensboro - Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct Student Survey
32. University of Puget Sound - University of Puget Sound Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
33. University of the Pacific - Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct Student Survey
34. University of Utah - University of Utah Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
35. Weber State University - Weber State University Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct 2009 - Benchmark
36. William Paterson University - Consortium: Campus Safety/Student Conduct Student Survey