PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

The HCC Department of Public Safety is available to assist all students and employees. The Public Safety Office patrols college property to detect and deter criminal activity; provide protection to those on campus; provide security for college property; and detect and document hazardous, unusual and suspicious behavior and conditions.

The Department of Public Safety provides information and assistance on a 24-hour basis. The department utilizes uniformed patrol officers with marked vehicles and officers on foot patrol to observe and detect criminal behavior and suspicious activities, enforce traffic and parking regulations, and assist students and employees.

Students, employees, and members of the community are required to obey all local, state and federal laws, statutes and ordinances. In addition, members of the college community must observe all HCC administrative rules and procedures. The Department of Public Safety is responsible for monitoring compliance with these laws and many of the College’s rules and procedures.

Responsible students or employees should
  • inform the Department of Public Safety about suspicious conduct, criminal activities and hazardous situations;
  • refrain from leaving doors and windows open when rooms are vacant;
  • walk to cars and classes in groups or with a companion;
  • walk in well-lighted areas at night, even when in a group;
  • stay alert and use your intuition; (If students feel they are being followed, they should change direction and walk toward a group of people or to a secure area.)
  • watch their belongings;
  • avoid strangers that appear suspicious or out of place; and
  • freely contact the Department of Public Safety to ask for assistance.

Students who notice situations that represent potential or real safety or security problems should notify the local campus Department of Public Safety:

  • 253-7911  • 7911 (from a college phone)

Upon request, the College will make available to future students its policies, procedures, statistics and other information about campus safety and security. The HCC Safety Handbook is available on the HCC website at: http://www.hccfl.edu/ssem/safety-handbook.aspx

THREATS OF VIOLENCE

Threats to do bodily harm or property damage by College personnel, students, visitors or any other individual against another while at Hillsborough Community College will not be tolerated. A threat of violence, verbal or written, expressed or implied, will not, under any circumstances, be tolerated at Hillsborough Community College. Any other threat of a material and substantial disruption to the operation of the College is also prohibited. A student making any threat prohibited by this
rule will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, up to and including expulsion. An employee making any threat prohibited by this rule will be disciplined in accordance with the appropriate administrative procedure, up to and including termination. Any other individual making any threat prohibited by this rule will be required to leave College property immediately. Notification will be made to the appropriate law enforcement agency where appropriate. The failure of any employee or student to report any threat of violence prohibited by this rule that is made by students, employees or any other person against any person or the operation of the College may also result in disciplinary action.

The Board of Trustees of Hillsborough Community College authorizes and directs the President, or his or her designee, to establish procedures to implement a threat assessment protocol for the College. Such procedures shall include a process for the reporting and evaluation of a student’s or individual’s behavior and an assessment of circumstances that might suggest that an individual poses a threat of targeted violence to others or to himself/herself.

It is a violation of this policy to use or possess an unauthorized weapon on College property or a College site except as authorized by the laws of the State of Florida.

**TRAFFIC AND PARKING REGULATIONS**

Traffic and parking regulations apply to two and three-wheel motorized vehicles as well as to cars and trucks and are vigorously enforced.

HCC campuses use standard traffic signs and regulations. All members of the college community and guests operating vehicles must comply with them. Moreover, everyone operating a vehicle on a HCC campus must comply with lawful orders and directions given by HCC Public Safety Officers and HCC employees authorized to direct, control or regulate traffic.

Unless otherwise posted, the campus speed limit is 15 MPH. U-turns are prohibited at all times. Any driver leaving a vehicle on campus overnight must notify the Department of Public Safety.

Only motorized and non-motorized vehicles used by the disabled are permitted on campus sidewalks. Students who need permits to park in spaces reserved for the disabled must obtain those permits from the appropriate state agency.

Faculty, staff, reserved and other restricted parking areas are clearly marked. Students are allowed to park only in those lots and spaces designated for student parking.

Vehicles found in violation of the following regulations may be removed at the owners expense:

- parking in restricted areas such as those reserved for faculty and staff;
- parking in a disabled student space without a Florida Permit (this may also
• result in a substantial fine);
• obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic;
• receiving a third HCC Parking Citation within one year;
• parking motorcycles, bicycles and scooters off the designated areas or special racks;
• parking in fire lanes, or in red or yellow curb zones;
• leaving a vehicle on campus overnight without contacting the campus Department of Public Safety and gaining authorization; and
• parking in any one of the following areas:
  • within 10 feet of a fire hydrant
  • in a loading zone
  • in a driveway in a designated tow-away zone
  • on a sidewalk
  • on the grass
  • out of a marked parking space
  • obstructing a legally parked vehicle

Drivers of vehicles involved in accidents resulting in injury, death, or damage to the property of others must immediately stop, notify the appropriate law enforcement agency, report the accident and any injuries to the Department of Public Safety, and remain with the vehicle until an officer or designee arrives.

Anyone on a campus found driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be subject to both College disciplinary procedures and state statutes and local ordinances. The Department of Public Safety will contact the appropriate law enforcement authorities when such violations are discovered.