

Department of Public Safety

ABOUT DPS:

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is concerned first and foremost with the safety and welfare of Georgetown students. If you need police assistance on campus, it is almost always better to call DPS first. DPS can respond in minutes, whereas MPD could take much longer. If MPD assistance is necessary, DPS will be able to contact them faster than you can.

JURISDICTION:

DPS officers are commissioned special police, vested through the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, with full powers of arrest *on campus* property. DPS may file a violation against you through the Student Code of Conduct, **and/or** may work with Metro Police to file civil or criminal charges against you in the District of Columbia.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE:

If you are asked by a DPS officer to present your GOCard, you **must** comply.

DPS officers also have a broad mandate to enter **university-owned** residences, generally under the following conditions:

- 1) Consent: You or another resident gives consent to enter/search the residence.
- 2) Warrant/Administrative Search: A warrant or administrative authorization was obtained to enter or search the residence.
- 3) Probable Cause: Officers have probable cause to suspect a crime or violation of the student Code of Conduct is occurring. E.g. Loud noises from the street.
- 4) Exigent Circumstances: Circumstances that place campus safety at risk require the search.

As above, DPS Officers may also search your person, including any bags you may be carrying, generally under the following conditions:

- 1) Consent
- 2) University Checkpoints
- 3) Reasonable Suspicion/Exigent Circumstances
- 4) Warrant

DISCLAIMER:

These are general guidelines intended for information, not for legal advice. Any failure to comply with a DPS officer may lead to you being charged with a violation under the Student Code of Conduct.

COMPLAINTS/COMMENDATIONS:

If you believe an officer is overstepping his/ her bounds, **after** the incident you may file an internal complaint against him or her at DPS Headquarters in Village C.

GERMS

Georgetown Emergency Response Medical Service

GENERAL INFORMATION:

GERMS is a free, student-run, volunteer EMS agency for the GU community. GERMS is in service 24/7 all year.

Emergency Line: 202-687-4357

Office: 202-687-7546

Website: www.GeorgetownEMS.com

Location: 2nd Floor Village C West

WHEN SHOULD GERMS BE CALLED?

You should call GERMS any time there is a medical emergency on or near campus (i.e. when you would call 911). They can respond to any call within 5 minutes, while DC Fire & EMS can take up to 17 minutes. If something happens and you are not sure whether or not help is needed, **play it safe and call!**

WILL I GET IN TROUBLE FOR ALCOHOL OR DRUGS IF GERMS IS CALLED?

If GERMS is called for alcohol or drug overdoses, GERMS **will not provide information to the University** about patients or anyone else involved in the scene. However, DPS officers will still be on scene because they accompany GERMS to all calls for safety. The University cares about your safety and the safety of those around you and wants you to call. Unless there is other criminal activity involved, no disciplinary action will be taken for violation of the alcohol/drug policy.

HOW MUCH DOES GERMS COST?

GERMS provides all services, including transport and life support interventions for free. However, hospital emergency rooms will charge for services. Typically, these visits are covered by medical insurance plans.

WHO WILL KNOW I WAS "GERMED?"

Medical information given to GERMS is held in strict confidence between the GERMS crew on scene, hospital emergency department staff, and other pertinent medical staff as required by federal law (HIPAA). Some non-medical information, including name, telephone number, and GoCard number is recorded by DPS, but also held confidentially. Students living in residence halls can expect to have a Residence Life staff member check in with them to make sure everything is okay a few days after any GERMS call. Treatment or transportation to the ER does not generally include parental notification by GERMS unless the patient is under 18 years old; however, under criteria for refusal, GERMS crews assume implied consent for all treatment and transport decisions for the patient. If a patient is under the age of 18, a parental guardian assumes treatment and/or transport refusal rights if allowed by attending physicians at Georgetown University Hospital.



Georgetown Off-Campus Students' Rights Guide

Published by the Student Advocacy Office

DISCLAIMER: This booklet is intended only to be a guide and is not legal advice. The information contained in it is current as of August 2013. Special thanks to the Office of Student Affairs, Department of Public Safety, and GERMS for their help in compiling this document.

Key Campus Emergency Contacts:

GERMS/DPS (emergency): 202-687-4357

Safe-Rides: 202-784-RIDE

CAPS: 202-687-6985

SNAP 24/7 community hotline: 202-687-8413

Student Health Center: 202-687-2200

Sexual Assault/Relationship Violence Services:
202-687-0323

DC Rape Crisis Center 24-hour Hotline:
202-333-RAPE

The District of Columbia does not allow discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived "race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, disability, matriculation, political affiliation, source of income, or place of residence or business of any individual."
-DC Code §1-2519

Code of Student Conduct

The Office of Student Conduct oversees the non-academic judicial process of all undergraduate, graduate, and continuing studies students as set forth in the Code of Student Conduct (Code). The Code has jurisdiction over student behavior both on campus and off campus.

Georgetown Judicial Process

When charged with a violation of the Code, students are contacted and instructed to schedule a meeting with the appropriate administrator. Students are informed of the basis of the meeting and potential charges they may face. Students may present witness statements and other relevant information at the meeting. Cases are adjudicated through either:

(1) Administrative Action (i.e. meeting with Administrator or referral to Residential Judicial Council)

(2) Judicial Hearing Board (3 students and 2 faculty/administrators)

Burden of Proof

In the original case it is presumed that the respondent is not responsible. Therefore it is the complainant's responsibility to meet the burden of proof that it is **more likely than not** the respondent violated the Code for incidents occurring off-campus and **clear and convincing** for incidents occurring on-campus.

SANCTIONING:

If a student is found responsible for a Code violation, sanctions are imposed. Depending on the nature and level of the violation(s), sanctions may range from work sanction hours/fines up to and including suspension or dismissal from the University.

Appeals

Students have a right to appeal any adjudication decisions, given that they can present **clear and convincing evidence** that the original process or decision was substantially flawed.

A decision reached by Administrative Action or Hearing Board may be appealed by the respondent to the Appeals Committee via written statement within seven calendar days from the date of the Hearing Board decision or Administrative Action Letter. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.

An appeal may seek review only on the following grounds:

- (1) Substantial Procedural Error
- (2) New Evidence of a Substantive Nature
- (3) Substantial Disproportionate Sanction

See <http://studentconduct.georgetown.edu> for definitions of the grounds for appeal and a more complete explanation of the appeals process. Typically, sanctions are held in abeyance until resolution of appeal, with the exception of sanctions imposed via Emergency Administrative Action.

Student Advocacy Office (SAO)

The SAO serves as a resource center for student rights and helps students navigate the university adjudication system through free and confidential advising. Student Advocates can assist students by providing confidential advice on their specific cases; explaining the disciplinary process; preparing students for their disciplinary meetings and accompanying them, if the student wishes; and assisting in writing an appeal. For more information about your rights or to submit a case, visit our website at www.gustudentassociation.org/student-advocacy-office/

Office of Neighborhood Life (ONL)

The ONL works with students living in privately owned properties to live safely and successfully off campus. Through programs, resources, and support services, they provide opportunities for off campus students to become integrated into the local community.

Student Tenant Association (GSTA)

GSTA is comprised of trained undergraduate student advocates who can assist students in reviewing potential leases for problematic clauses, referring students to legal counsel and filing complaints with appropriate DC agencies.

Appointments can be scheduled with Tenant Association advocates by either contacting advocates directly or through the GUSA website.

Sexual Abuse Reporting

Georgetown does not tolerate any form of sexual abuse, and violations of this policy are taken very seriously. If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, you SHOULD report it. To report an incident of sexual assault, call DPS or Health Education Services at (202) 687-0323. Confidential resources are available at Health Education Services, including Georgetown Sexual Assault Peer Educators. The UASK DC App, for iPhone and Android, connects survivors to further resources in DC. For more information regarding university reporting guidelines and adjudication policies, visit sexualassault.georgetown.edu.

Disciplinary Rights

In the Georgetown University adjudication process, you have a right to read your own case file prior to your adjudication meeting, and you have the right to have an advisor (i.e. SAO advocate) present during your adjudication meeting. Additionally, in the case of a hearing board, you have the right to a bias-free, closed, and confidential hearing to which you may call witnesses in your defense.

Moreover, Georgetown cannot release your disciplinary history to other people, including your parents, unless you are under 18 years old or your sanctions include housing probation.

Student Neighborhood Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is a service coordinated by the Georgetown University Office of Neighborhood Life to enhance safety, assist students, and respond to our neighbors' concerns about student conduct off campus. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights during the Fall and Spring semesters from 10 pm – 3 am, Georgetown University staff members, along with private security officers, patrol the West Georgetown and Burleith neighborhoods cars marked with the SNAP decal and a yellow flashing light.

The SNAP representatives proactively identify student houses that may raise concerns and respond to calls to the Georgetown University Community Hotline. The SNAP representatives address the issue and provide a report to Off Campus Student Life the following Monday for follow-up. Whether SNAP stops at a student residence on active patrol or in response to a Hotline call, SNAP will address the issue or concern identified or reported. Then, based on the reports received from the SNAP team, the Office of Student Conduct will follow up with the students involved. Whether students will be found responsible for any violations of the Code of Student Conduct is determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances of the incident. If students are found responsible for a violation of the Code, sanctions will be issued.

Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)

Local police in the District of Columbia respond to incidents on Georgetown University's campus and in the surrounding neighborhoods. As the agency with criminal jurisdiction over these areas, MPD works with Georgetown's Department of Public Safety police to patrol campus and surrounding neighborhoods, prevent crime, and respond to emergency calls. When dealing with the police, be respectful and polite at all times. Never fight or run from a police officer, and remember anything you say can be used against you in a court of law.

Identification

You do not have to carry an ID while walking down the street in the District of Columbia. MPD cannot stop you without reasonable suspicion or a warrant. However, using a fake identification to pass for over 21 years of age when you are actually younger is against the law and if you are caught, you can be arrested. Generally, misrepresentation of age carries a fine of up to \$300 and suspension of your driving privileges for up to 90 days.

DC Noise Law

The Disorderly Conduct Amendment Act of 2010 for the District of Columbia, made effective February 1st 2011, states that "it is unlawful for a person to make an unreasonably loud noise between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM that is likely to annoy or disturb one or more other persons in their residences." Officers may use the law against a loud street musician, house party, car stereo and other disturbances. Police may arrest violators on site.

