

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 On-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

Student Code of 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** for lesser violations (i.e. meeting with Administrator or referral to Residential Judicial Council)
- (2) **Judicial Hearing Boards** for more serious violations (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 there is **clear and convincing evidence** that the respondent violated the Code for violations that occur on-campus, and **more likely than not** for violations that occur off-campus. Additionally, all sexual misconduct **and sexual assault** charges **use the standard more likely than not.**

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

Student Advocacy Office

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 helping a student in writing an appeal. The SAO holds regular Office Hours in the GUSA Office, located in Sellinger Lounge in Leavey Center, Mon. – Fri. from 1-5pm. They can also be contacted at studentadvocacy.gusa@gmail.com

For more information about the disciplinary process, appeals or your rights as a student, or to submit your case to solicit advice, visit the website:

www.gustudentassociation.org/student-advocacy-office/

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 \[sexualassault.georgetown.edu\]\(http://sexualassault.georgetown.edu\).](#)

On-Campus Housing Rights

In your on-campus housing, you have a right to a smoke-free environment, privacy within your room, and access to a reasonably quiet study space. Additionally, you have the right to safety in all university-owned housing structures.

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.

Resident Assistants (RAs)

RAs are a resource to you while living in university-owned housing, and if you have concerns about your living situation, they can help you get the assistance that you need. Additionally, RAs serve as university administrators and are in charge of enforcing the Code of Conduct within their residence hall/apartment section. If an RA requests your GoCard, you must comply and give it to them.

However, an RA cannot enter an on-campus residence without your permission unless DPS is present and that DPS officer has received permission from the Office of Student Affairs. This means that if an RA knocks on your door, you may speak to the outside your residence if you want; you are not required to let them enter your room/apartment. With that said, if you do allow the RA to enter your room/apartment, the RA can then document whatever that he/she sees. Additionally, an RA can ask you to open any cabinets/drawers/refrigerators, but you are not required to comply with their request. If you do choose to comply, again, you can be documented for whatever the RA sees. Additionally, if you refuse to allow an RA to enter your room/apartment, yet the RA feels that a search is necessary, an RA can call DPS to initiate a search. Yet, even after this, DPS must still obtain permission from the Office of Student Affairs before actually entering your room without your permission.

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.

