

VWCC
Annual Crime Report

2002



Virginia Western Community College Police Department

Virginia Western Community College has had its own police department since 1985. We currently have six full-time police officers. All officers are graduates of the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy. Officers are sworn in through the City of Roanoke court system, with all the enforcement and arrest authority given any other police department, and the VWCCPD conducts its own investigations of incidents on campus.

All officers are also certified medical First Responders.

The VWCCPD has mutual aid agreements with the Roanoke City PD, and with the Virginia ABC Board by way of a grant for bicycle patrol equipment and training. Our department also maintains communication with other agencies, including the Virginia State Police, to ensure that if needed we can rely on effective and timely assistance in any situation.

The VWCCPD's first priority is the safety of the college's students, visitors, faculty and staff.

Mission and Goals of the Police Department

The Virginia Western Police Department is dedicated to providing protection of persons and property for the college campus and adjacent or surrounding streets and properties. Services provided by our department include law enforcement, medical (First Responder) aid, and fire prevention/response. These services will be provided with professionalism and courtesy.

To accomplish these purposes, the employees and members of the department are dedicated to achieving the following goals:

- To identify criminal offenders and criminal activity and, when appropriate, to apprehend offenders and participate in subsequent court proceedings.
- To prevent the commission of crimes by reducing the opportunities for such crimes.
- To create and maintain a feeling of safety and security within the college.
- To facilitate the movement of people and vehicles.
- To provide an environment that facilitates achieving department goals while providing for the career needs of its employees.
- To provide a vehicle for the provision of college service demands.

In addition to normal policing of the campus, the department is also equipped to assist motorists with jump-starting dead batteries, and to open vehicles that have been locked with the keys inside.

Our department maintains the campus Lost-and-Found repository.

Items can be reported lost, or claimed from the repository, via our office in S102 (ground floor, Student Activities Center).

Reporting Crime to VWCCPD

There are Call Stations in several locations around campus, as well as in every elevator on campus. VWCCPD is also accessible by telephone, via the Internet, and by coming in person to the VWCCPD office (S102).

Emergency Call Station Locations:

- 1) On the wall outside Craig Hall; South Campus
- 2) Between Webber Hall and the Student Activities Center; South Campus
- 3) In the middle of the Four Seasons mall; North Campus

All three Call Stations will dial the campus police directly, and all have blue lights on top that will flash when the station is activated.

Elevator Call Buttons:

All of the elevators on campus have an Emergency Call button that will dial the campus police phone number, and automatically let us know the location of the elevator.

Phone Numbers and Email:

Default/Emergency number: [540] 857-7979 (77979 from an office phone)

Dennis Deacon (Chief of Police)
[540] 857-7797
(77979 from an office phone)
ddeacon@vw.vccs.edu

Sgt. Lennie Atwood
[540] 857-6479
(76479 from an office phone)
latwood@vw.vccs.edu

Officer Mark Bennardo
[540] 857-6479
(76479 from an office phone)
mbennardo@vw.vccs.edu

Officer David Blankenship
[540] 857-6479
(76479 from an office phone)
dblankenship@vw.vccs.edu

Officer Greg Roseberry
[540] 857-6479
(76479 from an office phone)
groseberry@vw.vccs.edu

Officer Guy Gibson
[540] 857-6479
(76479 from an office phone)
ggibson@vw.vccs.edu

VWCCPD Dispatcher
[540] 857-6108
(76108 from an office phone)

When reporting a crime/hazard/situation to VWCCPD, please be prepared to give the call taker specific information regarding the nature of the emergency or complaint, including:

- 1) The location of the crime or emergency
- 2) How long ago it took place, or whether it is an imminent or ongoing offense
- 3) An estimate of the number of people involved (including descriptions)
- 4) Has an EMS unit or Roanoke City PD also been called?

Providing timely and accurate information can be essential to initiating a rapid and effective VWCCPD response.

VWCC PD Online

The VWCC PD maintains pages hosted on the campus' web server. The site contains information on safety, parking regulations, department contact numbers and methods, VWCC-specific notices and other resources useful both on and off campus. We recently added a form that will allow the site's users to rate our department and our officers. We appreciate any and all input, and will use the information to make our department even better in the future. We are committed to continuously updating and upgrading our site, in order to serve its users in a meaningful, comprehensive fashion.

The site also includes an anonymous report form, which can be used to inform our department of criminal activity without having to speak directly with an officer.

The URL for the form is: <http://www.vw.vccs.edu/police/Pages/anonrprt.html#Top>

Submitting an anonymous report does not identify the sender to our department, unless s/he chooses to include a means of contacting him/her. Including contact information can be valuable if someone were willing to be a witness in court, or has evidence that needs to be transferred in person. Including contact information is in no way required in order to complete and send a report.

The submittal is stored in a secure section of the VWCC PD web site (only accessible by authorized personnel), and the results are checked daily. After retrieving any stored data, the submittal is removed from the server to further protect security and confidentiality.

The Webmaster of VWCC PD's pages is Officer David Blankenship, and comments/suggestions concerning the site can be emailed to: dblankenship@vw.vccs.edu

Preparing the Annual Disclosure of Campus Crime Statistics:

VWCCPD will compile and make available all statistics on crime that occurred on the VWCC campus during the previous year.

We will also make every effort to obtain information from the Roanoke City PD, and other agencies in jurisdictions where VWCC has offices or classes, concerning crime that occurred in the areas surrounding VWCC property.

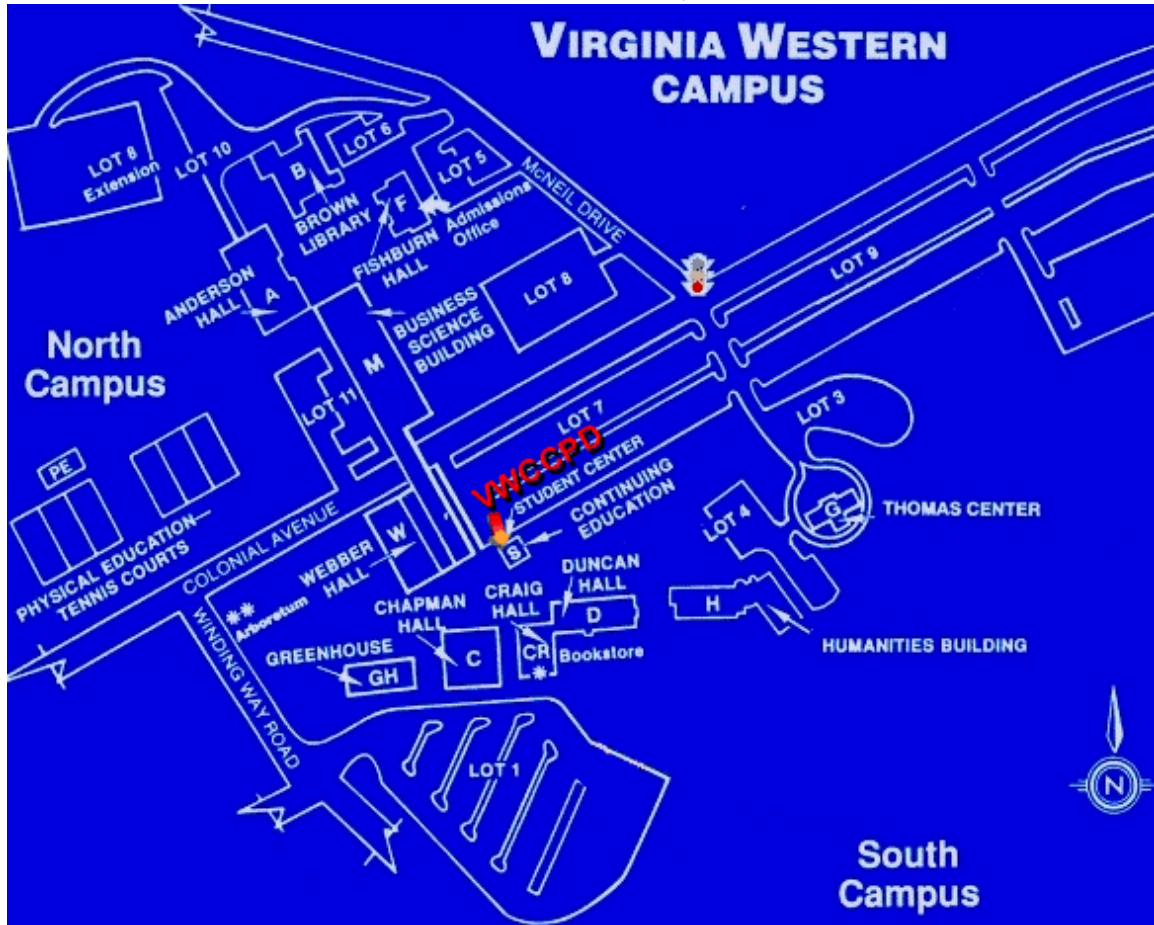
We will make the statistics and other pertinent information available to all current and prospective students and employees, both online and in printed form upon request. Some preprinted copies of the report should also be available in our office, Admissions, the Cashiers cage, and on the Breezeway over Colonial Avenue.

We will also submit the statistics to the DOE web site, for publication in the DOE statistical archive.

We in the VWCC PD are in full agreement with the basic tenet of the Clery Act, which could be summed up as: information on and about crime on (and around) our campus should be available to all of our current, as well as prospective, students and faculty.

Our dispatch log and case log are both available for review in our department's office. Anyone may come to our office and request to see the logs, for any reason.

Our office is located in the Student Activities Center, room S102:



Statistics:

On the Main Campus
(Colonial Ave, Roanoke)

The statistics include incidents investigated by VWCC PD, as well as incidents reported by students, faculty and staff that were not assigned case numbers.

The statistics reflect incidents reported from January 1st 2002 to December 31st 2002.

VWCC PD also received the following reports:

Automobile Accidents (32)

First Responder calls (29)

Intimidation (7)

Simple Assault (2)

Pornography-related
Computer Misuse (3)

Indecent Exposure (1)

Missing Persons (3)

Criminal Activity	2002
Homicides	0
Sex Offenses	0
Robbery	0
Aggravated Assault	0
Burglary	0
Theft From Buildings	4
Larceny	2
Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Vandalism	2
Arson	0
Liquor Law Violations	3
Drug Law Violations	0
Illegal Weapons Possession	0
Totals:	11

Hate Crime	2002
Gender	0
Sexual Orientation	0
Ethnicity	0
Disability	0
Totals:	0

Statistics:

Off-Campus Facilities (Includes Public Property)-

Jurisdiction	Boutetourt Co.	Roanoke City	Salem
Criminal Activity			
Homicides	0	0	NR
Sex Offenses	0	0	NR
Robbery	0	0	NR
Aggravated Assault	0	0	NR
Burglary	0	3	NR
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	NR
Arson	0	0	NR
Liquor Law Violations	0	1	NR
Drug Law Violations	0	1	NR
Weapons Violations	0	0	NR
Larceny	0	14	NR
Vandalism	0	8	NR
Totals:	0	27	0

VWCC PD attempts to gather information from all jurisdictions in which the college holds classes or has offices. Jurisdictions showing a numeric total of incidents have reported those totals to our office; an entry of “NR” denotes a jurisdiction that did not reply at all to our inquiries. Incidents reported do not necessarily indicate VWCC student involvement; they are incidents that occurred in proximity to VWCC classrooms/offices.

Statistics:

Hate Crime (by jurisdiction)-

Jurisdiction	Boutetourt Co.	Roanoke City	Salem
Hate Crime			
Race	0	0	NR
Gender	0	0	NR
Religion	0	0	NR
Sexual Orientation	0	0	NR
Ethnicity	0	0	NR
Disability	0	0	NR
Totals:	0	0	0

VWCC PD attempts to gather information from all jurisdictions in which the college holds classes or has offices. Jurisdictions showing a numeric total of incidents have reported those totals to our office; an entry of “NR” denotes a jurisdiction that did not reply at all to our inquiries. Incidents reported do not necessarily indicate VWCC student involvement; they are incidents that occurred in proximity to VWCC property.

The hate crime statistics by jurisdiction include all incidents reported in or around areas associated with VWCC (but not on the main campus, since those statistics are collected and published separately), whether they occurred on public property or at off-campus facilities.

In Virginia, it is a felony to assault another person based on the victim's race, ethnicity or religion.

If convicted, the offender receives a mandatory 30-day prison sentence.

Community Resources

City of Roanoke:

Sexual Assault Response & Awareness
Blue Ridge Community Services
Roanoke, VA
(540) 345-7273
FAX: (540) 342-1029
Hotline: (540) 981-9352

State of Virginia:

To obtain brochures, etc:

Victims Services Section
Department of Criminal Justice Services
805 East Broad Street, 10th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-4000

Division of Crime Victims' Compensation:

Richmond = 367-8686
Toll-free statewide = 1-800-552-4007
Out-of-state = (804) 367-8686

Division of Crime Victims' Compensation
Post Office Box 5423
Richmond, VA 23220

Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault: (804) 979-9002

Virginians Against Domestic Violence: (757) 221-0990

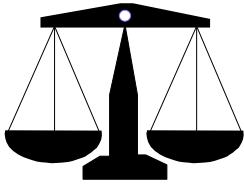
Virginia Commission on Family Violence Prevention:

Family Violence and Sexual Abuse hotline = 1-800-838-8238
Child Abuse hotline = 1-800-552-7096
Elder and Disabled Adult Abuse hotline = 1-800-832-3858

National:

National Organization for Victim Assistance: (202) 232-6682

National Victim Center: 1-800-394-2255



Crime and Safety Awareness Programs at VWCC

Classes sponsored and/or hosted by Virginia Western include:

- Defensive Driving
- CPR
- Self-Defense for Women
- Intervention/Advocacy with Children
- Emergency Medical Technology
- Lifeguard Training
- Safety Program Organization & Administration
- College Survival Skills (classrooms are visited by an officer as a guest speaker)

Contact the VWCC Admissions office (540) 857-7231 for course information.



Safety Publications

In addition to the yearly Crime Report, VWCC PD also publishes “The Safety Zone”, a document devoted entirely to crime and safety. Publication is currently sporadic, due to a lack of input/resources.

VWCC PD also includes information, tips and bulletins concerning crime and safety on the Police Department’s web site. At events such as Spring Fling, Student Fun Day, and other gatherings of students and faculty, our department mans a table or display area with crime and safety related material available to any persons wanting it.

When warranted, special notices are dispatched by way of campus mail or Email, and via bulletin boards throughout the campus.

Crime and safety brochures published by The Department of Criminal Justice Services are available in the campus police office, as well as in various locations/offices around the VWCC campus (Notably the Student Activities Center and the Counseling office).