

Virginia Western Community College

-Campus Police-



Annual Crime Report

2005



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 and two part-time security officers. All full-time officers are graduates of the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy. All full-time officers are sworn in through the City of Roanoke court system with all the enforcement and arrest authority given any other police department. The VWCCPD conducts its own investigations of incidents that occur on the campus.

All full-time officers are also certified medical First Responders.

The VWCCPD has mutual aid agreements with the Roanoke City PD and 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 continually endeavors to improve the quality of life of those we serve by developing partnership with the college community so that we can collectively and successfully address issues and concerns. We believe it is our primary goal and calling to maintain a secure campus environment with equal protection under the law. We strive to provide dedicated service for all students who attend classes as well as all persons who work, visit and reside around the Virginia Western campus.

The Virginia Western Police will at all times put forward a supreme effort to help make the College community as safe and accommodating as possible; however, there are times when violations of law occur and arrests must be made. The fine people whom make up the police force act in accordance with the Virginia Western Police Department's Mission. They are very highly dedicated, with a firm commitment to the college and the people whom make up the college community. The officers in our department are professionally trained and strive to continue this training for the betterment of the campus, the community and themselves. All department personnel are instructed in accordance with standards as mandated and established by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. The foundations of our mission and goals are to foster an environment that promotes safety, security, fellowship and community with all people as we represent Virginia Western Community College.

Craig S. Harris
Chief of Police
November 2, 2005

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 the College Services Building at the end of parking lot #9 near the intersection of Colonial Ave and Overland Rd.

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 (College Services Building room 101).

Emergency Call Station Locations:

On the wall outside the College Services Building

Between Webber Hall and the Student Activities Center; South Campus

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)

Chief Craig Harris
[540] 857-7797
(77797 from an office phone)
charris@vw.vccs.edu

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

Officer David Blankenship
[540] 857-6403
(76403 from an office phone)
dblankenship@vw.vccs.edu

Officer Guy Gibson
[540] 857-6403
(76403 from an office phone)
ggibson@vw.vccs.edu

Officer Mark Bennardo
[540] 857-6403
(76403 from an office phone)
mbennardo@vw.vccs.edu

Officer Charles Karr
[540] 857-6403
(76403 from an office phone)
ckarr@vw.vccs.edu

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:

The location of the crime or emergency; How long ago it took place, or whether it is an imminent or ongoing offense; An estimate of the number of people involved (including descriptions); 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.

VWCCPD 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. The site includes a form that will allow the user 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>

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 concerning crime that occurred in the areas surrounding VWCC property from the Roanoke City PD and other agencies in jurisdictions where VWCC has offices or classes.

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.

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 College Services Building room 101:



Statistics:

On the Main Campus
(Colonial Ave,
Roanoke)

The statistics include
incidents reported to the
VWCC PD as having
occurred on-campus.
The statistics reflect
incidents reported from
January 2005 through
December 2005.

VWCC PD also received
the following reports:

Indecent Exposure: (1)

Breaking and Entering:
(1)

Unauthorized Computer
Use: (7)

First Responder/EMS:
(55)

**Motor Vehicle
Incidents:**

Accidents: (23)

Criminal Activity	2005	Hate Crime	2005
Homicides	0	Gender	0
Sex Offenses	0	Sexual Orientation	0
Robbery	0	Ethnicity	0
Aggravated Assault	0	Disability	0
Burglary	0	Totals:	0
Theft From Buildings	13		
Larceny	5		
Motor Vehicle Theft	0		
Vandalism	11		
Arson	0		
Liquor Law Violations	2		
Drug Law Violations	0		
Illegal Weapons Possession	0		
Totals:	31		

Statistics: Off-Campus Facilities (Includes Public Property)-

Jurisdiction			
Criminal Activity	Botetourt County	Roanoke City	Town of Rocky Mount
Homicides	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	0
Drug Law Violations	0	1	0
Weapons Violations	0	0	0
Larceny	0	0	0
Vandalism	0	0	0
Totals:	0	1	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 owned or leased property.

Statistics:

Hate Crime (by jurisdiction)-

Jurisdiction	Botetourt County	Roanoke City	Town of Rocky Mount
Hate Crime			
Race	0	0	0
Gender	0	0	0
Religion	0	0	0
Sexual Orientation	0	0	0
Ethnicity	0	0	0
Disability	0	0	0
Totals:	0	0	0

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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 (SARA)

(540) 345-7273

24-Hour Hotline: (540) 981-9352

Child and Adult Abuse Hotline

(540) 853-2245

TAP Women's Resource Center (Domestic Violence)

24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-915-8164

Alcoholics Anonymous

(540) 343-6857

Narcotics Anonymous

1-800-777-1515

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

National Poison Center: 1-800-222-1222



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

VWCC PD includes information, tips and bulletins concerning crime and safety issues 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 usually operates 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).