

Western Carolina UNIVERSITY

Police Department

Annual Report 2020-2021



Greetings,

Thank you once again for taking time to review the Western Carolina University Police Department's Annual Report. This document is designed to capture many of our activities and service projects that have occurred over the past year. The information contained within includes essential statistical data, personal achievements, and our outreach to the community. I hope that this report will give you a glimpse into the service that is provided by the officers that protect our campus community. We are committed to ensuring that everyone associated with WCU has a safe and secure environment in which to achieve their academic goals.

The Western Carolina University Police Department once again this year focused on strengthening our partnerships within our campus community during a global pandemic. This critical concept of working together was needed more than ever to ensure we fulfilled our duties while supporting other groups to fulfill theirs. We relied on each other and through our ongoing cooperation, our campus remained open and active in our role of supporting those who have made WCU their home. These efforts culminated in an in-person spring commencement that afforded graduates and their families the opportunity to celebrate once again. Many new partnerships were created, and the staff of the police department filled new roles as our university evolved into becoming a regional leader in the state's efforts to address the many concerns related to the pandemic. We were able to assist in the battle against this new threat while remaining diligent in our efforts to provide a safe learning community for all.

This past year we have continued to support our campus community and maintain the additional procedures needed to ensure the safety of our team. My staff has once again demonstrated that they are committed to creating a safe place for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to enjoy regardless of what concerns exist within our community. The time that we spent planning and practicing for critical incidents have allowed us to seamlessly perform our duties as we continue to adapt to new ideas. I am proud of the work that my staff has done this year and I hope that you continue to know that we will face any situation in order to ensure the safety of our campus.

I hope that you find this report beneficial as you experience the many services that are provided on a daily basis by a trained staff that cares for each member of our community. As a university, we are all responsible for and to each other to keep our campus community safe. Please feel free to contact me at 828-227-3201 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Lillard

Steven D. Lillard
Chief of Police

Western Carolina University Police Department

Mission: Our mission is to provide professional community-oriented police service. We are committed to creating and maintaining an active community partnership and assisting the community in identifying and solving problems to improve the quality of lives on our campus. We respect the cultural and ethnic diversity of our University.

Values: We are capable, caring people doing important and satisfying work for the citizens of our community. Therefore, we respect, care about, trust and support each other. We are disciplined and reliable. We keep our perspective and sense of humor. We balance our professional and personal lives. We involve our community in decisions that we make. We have a positive, can do attitude. We cultivate our best characteristics: initiative, enthusiasm, creativity, patience, competence, and judgment. We do nothing to discredit or dishonor ourselves or our department.

Vision: The Western Carolina University Police Department is a proactive police agency dedicated to excellence through quality community service. We ensure quality community service through accountability to each other and the citizens, who are the source of our authority. We maintain the quality professionalism of employees through training, development, and education for personal and professional growth with a constant emphasis on innovation and improvement.



Western Carolina University Police Department

The Western Carolina University Police Department (WCUPD) is comprised of twenty-six (26) commissioned law enforcement officers authorized under sections 17C and 116-40.5 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Officers employed by the university are required to complete the same training as other agencies that serve a county or municipal population. The initial training process requires completion of the certification course, passage of the state exam and completing the physical assessment within the prescribed time limits.

The Police Department is a full-service agency that performs the same duties as other law enforcement agencies throughout the state and act under the same authority to detain, investigate and arrest. The WCU Police Department works closely with surrounding local and state law enforcement units to address concerns that may not occur on campus but that have an impact on the university community. University Police Officers also work closely with the Department of Student Community Ethics and the staff of Residential Living when addressing violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

Officers are available to assist the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The department strives toward building partnerships with the university community to provide a safe environment.

The police department is currently divided into three (3) distinct sections. Those areas include Administrative Services, Investigative Services/Clery Compliance, and Patrol Services.

- Administrative Services includes the Chief of Police and the Assistant Chief of Police who are primarily responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the department as well as establishing General Orders, Rules and Regulations, and the goals and mission of the agency. This section also includes a Business Services Lieutenant who has multiple responsibilities related to the business functions of the department as well as the care and control of department property and/or items of evidentiary value. One (1) Administrative/Investigative Support Officer is also assigned to this unit. The Chief and Assistant Chief are typically available for consultation and assistance at all times. Careful coordination takes place to ensure that an Executive level officer is always available to aid the subunits of the department with any emergent situation. In addition, the Chief and Assistant Chief are standing members on several committees and teams including the Behavioral Assessment Team and the Student Concern Response Team. The Chief and Assistant Chief act as the primary Incident Commanders for law enforcement emergencies and most campus special events.
- Patrol Services represents the uniformed police staff who are responsible for campus patrol and responding to calls for police services. Patrol operations consist of vehicle patrol, foot patrol and bicycle patrol depending upon staffing levels, special concerns and the needs of the community. Patrol officers are also expected to conduct preliminary investigations into criminal acts that are reported or suspicious activity that

is observed. In addition, Patrol officers enforce traffic laws, the Student Code of Conduct, and certain University policies. Members of the Patrol Section also participate in a wide variety of community outreach programs, staff numerous athletic & special events each year and take part in a number of University initiatives. When fully staffed, the Patrol Services unit is led by one (1) Patrol Lieutenant who oversees four (4) Sergeants that serve as shift supervisors. Fourteen (14) patrol officers are assigned to the established shifts with two officers working in a split shift capacity to ensure seamless transitions during shift change. Patrol shifts are scheduled in twelve-hour increments with fixed day and night shift assignments.

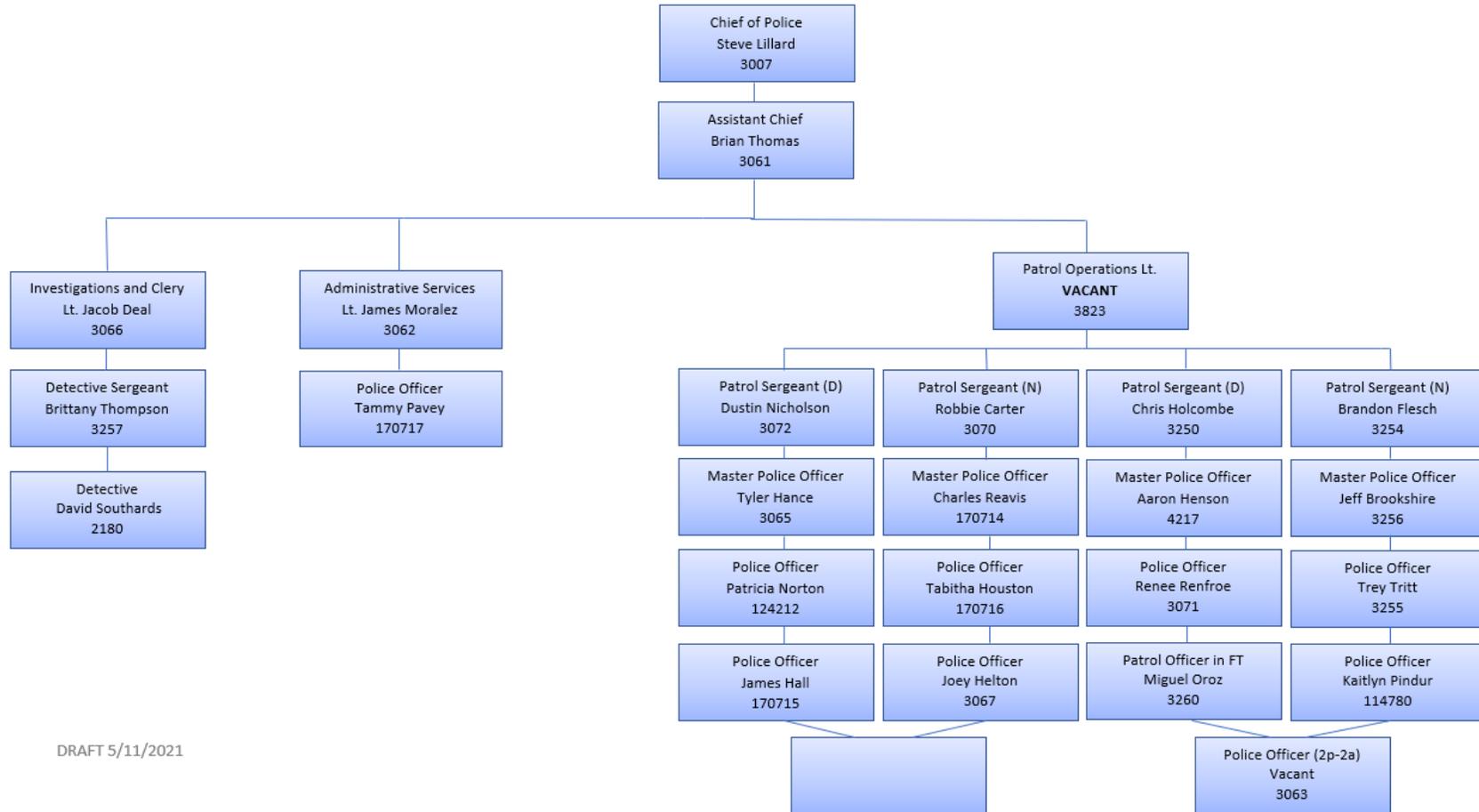
- The Investigative Services/Clery Compliance section is comprised of one (1) Investigative Lieutenant, one (1) Investigative Sergeant and one (1) Criminal Investigator. This section is responsible for the overall duties associated with Clery Compliance, Victim's Services, Community Outreach and Records Retention. This section is also responsible for investigating criminal behavior that has been reported. These investigations are comprised of crime scene processing, conducting interviews of persons involved and compiling evidence for prosecution. In addition to these duties, the Support Services Section must comply with several federally mandated statistical recording requirements regarding criminal activity on campus.



Spring Commencement 2021

Western Carolina University Police Department - Organizational Chart

A Unit within The Division of Administration and Finance



DRAFT 5/11/2021

Police Core Operations 2020-2021

Patrol Services: The Patrol Services section consists of uniformed patrol officers that are on duty around the clock prepared to respond to calls for service. These men and women are the backbone of our agency. They respond to calls for service and perform crime prevention activities as part of their daily tasks. Their focus is on the safety and security of each member of the community and are required to work well with other campus partners.

Statistical Data

WCU Police Statistics	
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	
Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Calls for Service	10,188
Arrests	22
Incident Reports	376
Operations Reports	369
State Citations	136
Campus Traffic Citations	39
University Judicial Citations	102
Parking Tickets	63
Special Event Hours	945
Bike/Foot Patrol Hours	358.75
Area Checks	5,482
Traffic Stops	342
Dorm Walking Patrols	714
Academic/Other Bldg. Walking Patrols	894
Accident Investigations	59



Community Outreach: The WCU Police Department participates in a wide variety of outreach activities both on and off campus. These activities are designed to provide students, visitors and community members with critical information related to safety on campus. The topics focus on areas of concern that can assist our students in their endeavor to be successful at WCU. The items discussed address issues that are common among college students and helps keep the community informed on the dangers of certain behaviors.



Driving While Impaired "Goggles" Program



Department Tour

Community Engagement: In addition to our outreach, the WCU Police Department partners with multiple groups within the community to facilitate a learning environment for interns and staff members as well as to participate in University affiliated community events.



Leason Mashburn Completes Internship



Officers participate in "No Shave" fundraiser for the Staff Senate Scholarship Fund.

Community Outreach and Programming Statistical Data

Program:	Number of Presentations:	Total Attendance:	Sexual Assault Component:
Alcohol Risk Awareness	3	147	0
Alcohol/Drug Risk Awareness	9	197	3
Campus Security Authority	5	158	5
Crime Prevention & Services	6	123	6
Dating/Domestic Violence & Stalking	1	46	1
Drug Risk Awareness	0	0	0
Open House	3	1388	3
Other	9	2408	5
R.A.D. Class	3	43	2
R.A.D. Express	2	31	2
R.A.D. Full	0	0	0
Report IT	0	0	0
Run, Hide, Fight	5	158	0
Sexual Assault Risk Awareness	1	30	1
Traffic/DWI	0	0	0
Total:	47	4729	28



Special Events: Western Carolina University under normal circumstances is an active campus that is not only engaged with the local community but with regional partners and national organizations. Visitors are constantly present at the University for sporting events, conferences, meetings, and educational field trips. Most of these events require some police assistance and a planning process to ensure the safety of those attending. Off-duty officers are routinely required to report for work to assist with the safety and security of these events and it is considered a normal part of the department's operations. While the past year showed a drastic decrease in the number of events held, the police department continued to plan and prepare for a variety of organized activities in order to provide a safe environment for our guests.



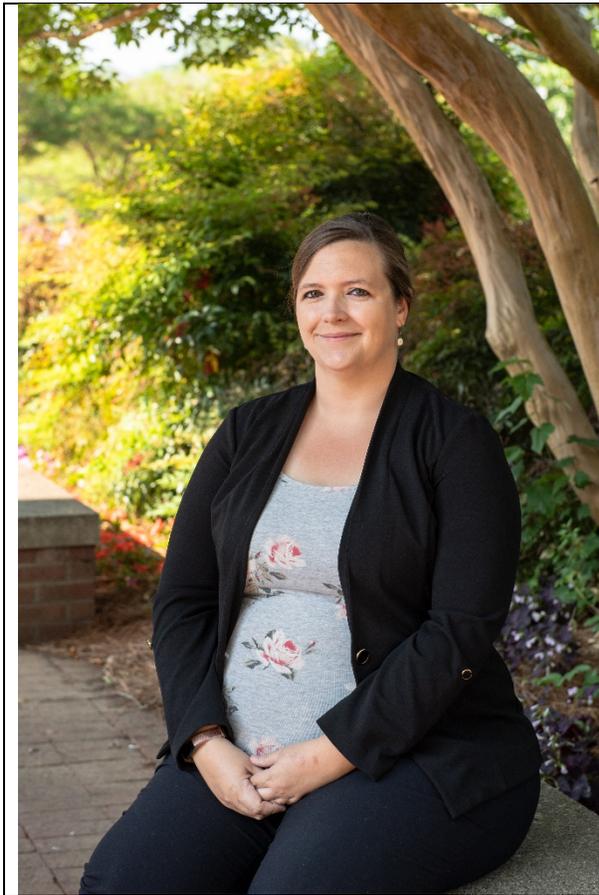
Special Event Statistical Data

Event	Dates	Total Hours
First Amendment Event (March)	8/26/20	5
Congressional Debate	9/5/20	6
MLK Event (March)	2/21/21	8
Groundbreaking Ceremony (Steam Plant)	3/26/21	4.5
First Amendment Event (March)	3/30/21	3
First Amendment Event (March)	4/20/21	6
First Amendment Event (March)	4/26/21	2
Track and Field Championships	5/2/21	10
All Home Basketball Games (21)	11/30/20 to 2/27/21	126
All Home Baseball Games (27)	2/19/21 to 5/15/21	64
All Home Football Games (2)	3/6/21 and 3/13/21	116
COVID 19 Vaccination Clinic Days (55)	2/25/21 to 6/5/21	422
Commencement Ceremonies (5)	5/14/21 to 5/16/21	236
Total Events: 118		Total Hours: 1,008.5

*Totals do not include Administrative Officers

**Multiple Events Cancelled Due to COVID-19

Criminal Investigations: The WCU Police Department is tasked with the responsibility of investigating all crimes that occur within our jurisdiction. Extensive efforts are made to prevent crime, but we are reminded that no community is immune from criminal behavior. The officers tasked with investigating crimes are well trained and able to effectively navigate the complexities associated with our federal mandates and general statutes. Those assigned to investigations must complete tasks such as crime scene processing, interview and interrogation, search warrant creation and courtroom testimony.



Detective Sgt. Brittany Thompson



Detective David Southards

Victim Services: The Western Carolina University Police Department sent an additional staff member to the NC Victims Assistance Network academy for Victim Service Practitioner Certification. This brings the total number of certified practitioners within our department to three. This allows students and employees more access to a trained professional when dealing with the aftermath of criminal activity. This certification is sponsored through the NC Victim Assistance Network and allows the police department to understand and utilize the most up to date best practices for dealing with victims of crimes. In addition, the department has developed a consistent process of providing victims with multiple resources in a convenient packet that will allow them to process the information over time as they recover from the incident.



The WCU Police Department Expanded the number of Certified Victims Service Practitioners this year. There are now three (3) certified practitioners within the department that are able to assist crime victims access the resources needed to cope with the aftermath of victimization.

Police Training Events 2020-2021: In addition to the mandatory In-Service Training that is designated by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission each year, members of the University Police Department also undertake advanced training in critical topics that are related to the specific needs of a campus community. During this past year we have embarked on more remote and virtual training than what has previously been afforded to the law enforcement community and we have supplemented those efforts with more small group, hands on training sessions to cover some of the critical topics associated with our community.

Some of the key areas of training that were addressed this year include:

- Sgt. Chris Holcombe completed the Western North Carolina Law Enforcement Leadership Academy.
- Seven (7) part-time employees completed the first Basic Law Enforcement Training Partnership program with Southwestern Community College.
- Six Police Officers completed the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training program.
- Three staff members became certified to teach the Surviving Verbal Conflict: Verbal De-Escalation program.
- Sixteen members of the department became certified in Crisis Intervention Training that aids in responding to person with mental illness.
- Officer Pavey was certified as a Victim's Service Practitioner through the North Carolina Victim's Assistant Network.
- Fifteen officers completed a new online Community Policing Program: "Winning Back Your Community".
- All officers attended a Solo Officer Response to Active Shooter refresher course.
- Four officers completed the Bike Patrol Operations course.
- Four officers completed the Patrol Rifle Operations course.



Officers attend Crisis Intervention Training



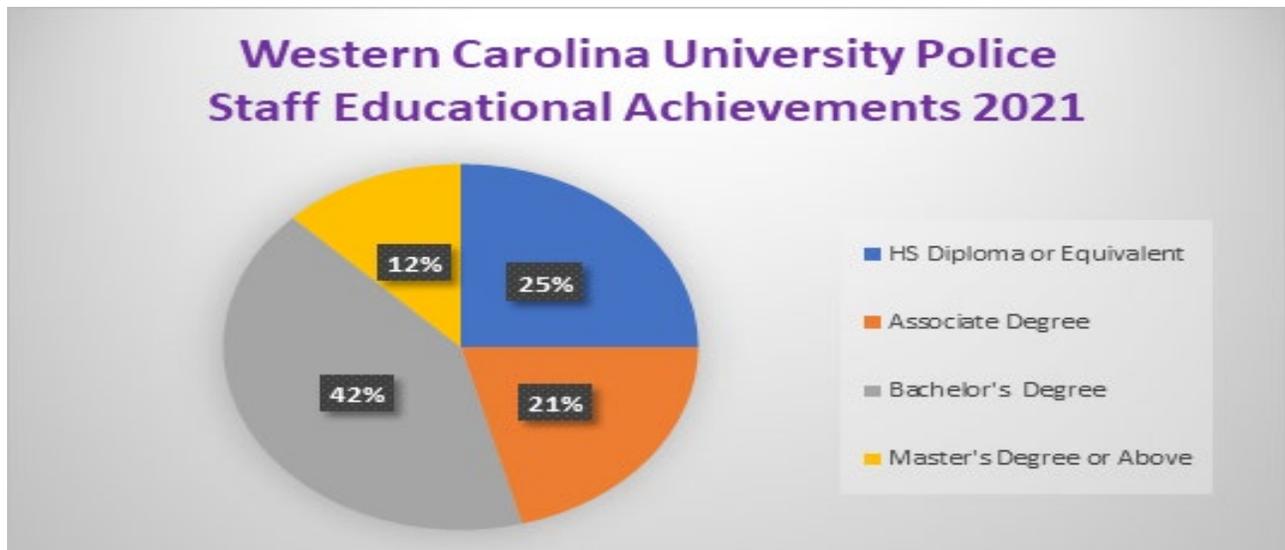
Officers attend Patrol Rifle Training

Police Experience and Professional Development 2020-2021

The Western Carolina University Police Department is proud to be an experienced and developed agency capable of meeting the needs of our community members. The officers maintain a high level of professionalism and a true commitment to serving the campus in a manner that is conducive to the learning environment while also being a safe and secure area for our students, faculty, staff, and guests. The members of the WCU Police represent numerous years of combined service in Law Enforcement with many of those years representing officers that came from other organizations bringing unique perspectives and approaches to crime fighting. This combination helps to diversify the overall services that the police department is able to provide to our campus community.

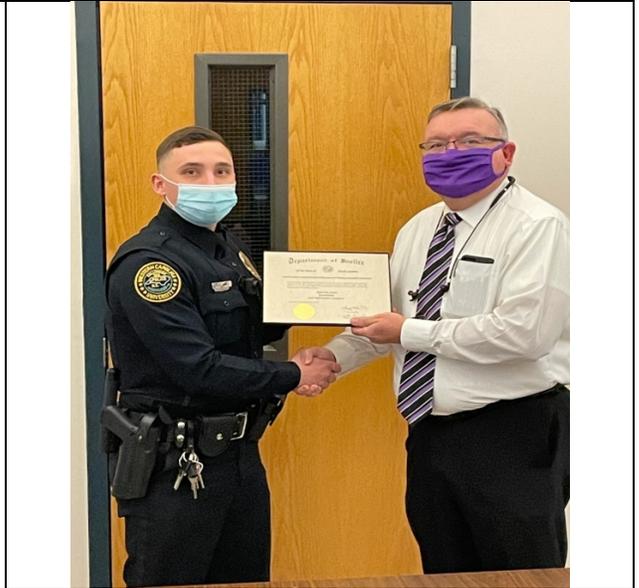
In addition to the vast hours of police training that are found at the WCU Police Department, our officers constantly strive to become better educated so that we can continue to grow our relationship with the campus community by understanding the needs of the students. The chart below shows the officers' commitment to higher education and their understanding of campus life.

The Police Department added four officers this past year that are graduates from WCU. These officers understand the culture of WCU and are able to relate to the students they serve.





Officer Norton Receives Her Bachelor's Degree



Officer Hance Receives His Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate



Officer Nicholson is Promoted to Sergeant



Detective Southards Receives his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate

Special Recognition 2020-2021

This year the WCU Police Department bids farewell to Lt. Jerry Adams and Sgt. Thomas Walawender as their service to our community came to an end. It is always an emotional time when officers retire from an organization after having served with distinction for many years. It is also an exciting time as we see two of our very own start the next chapter of their lives. I will personally miss these two men who constantly set the example, led with honor, and were dedicated to the values of this organizations. Congratulations Lt. Adams and Sgt. Walawender. It has been my privilege to work with each of you and to call you not only my teammate, but also my friend.

Thank you for your service.

Steven D. Lillard



Lt. Jerry Adams-June 30, 2021



Sgt. Tom Walawender-January 1, 2021

Clery Compliance 2020-2021

The Clery Act is commonplace throughout institutions of higher education due to the emphasis that the law places on providing a safe and secure location for students, faculty, staff and visitors to engage in the learning process. This critical piece of legislation requires constant oversight so that our institution can remain compliant with the nuances of the law and corresponding regulations. We also strive to ensure that all available information related to campus safety is shared with the community so that everyone remains informed about criminal activity in the area. This is accomplished each year through the creation of our Annual Fire Safety and Security report that is presented to the US Department of Education and made available to the public.

This report contains items such as the collection and classification of crime statistics, maintenance of a daily crime log, the issuance of campus crime alerts to provide the campus community with information necessary to make informed decisions about their health and safety, and many other procedures that revolved around the safety of the community.

The statistics listed below are police department only statistics that make up a portion of the full report which is normally submitted in October of each year. The upcoming report will contain all police and university statistics for calendar year 2020 and will be used to help direct and modify our operations in order to address specific concerns.

This report provides statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus or in certain off-campus buildings or property owned, leased or controlled by Western Carolina University.

Clery Compliance Statistical Data

Table 1

Clery Defined Data Criminal Offenses	7/1/2020-6/30/2021
a. Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter	0
b. Manslaughter by Negligence	0
c. Sex offenses	
Rape (except Statutory Rape)	6
Fondling	9
d. Sex offenses-Non forcible	
Incest	0
Statutory Rape	0
e. Robbery	0
f. Aggravated assault	9
g. Burglary	4
h. Motor vehicle theft	0
i. Arson	0

Table 2

New VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) Offenses	7/1/2020-6/30/2021
Dating Violence	6
Domestic Violence	0
Stalking	3

Table 3

Arrests (Clery Defined)	7/1/2020-6/30/2021
Weapons	3
Drugs	33
Liquor	3

Table 4

Referrals	7/1/2020-6/30/2021
Weapons	2
Drugs	30
Liquor	42

Main Campus Clery Geography

