

DEPARTMENT VISION, VALUES, MISSION & ROLE		
<input type="checkbox"/> new: <input type="checkbox"/> rescinds: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> amends: All previous		cross-reference: accreditation standards: NYSLEAP Standard(s) 1.1, 12.9, 14.1, 29.1, 29.3
effective date: March 5, 2007	amend date: January 23, 2024	

I. PURPOSE

This General Order aims to establish and describe the values, mission, and role of the University Police Department. In defining the role, two broad purposes are served. First, members are made aware of the attitudes and actions expected of them and can act without hesitation in conformance with department policy. Second, the public is provided with a general standard by which they can measure the department's performance.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the University Police Department to protect life, safeguard property, and enhance the quality of life within the campus of the State University of New York College at Cortland. The department's mission, role, and programs are designed to ensure that the department is responsible for protecting the constitutional rights of the community and the dignity of all persons. To achieve this end, this policy establishes professional standards of conduct and limits of law enforcement authority.

III. DEPARTMENT VISION STATEMENT

The University Police Department-SUNY Cortland will serve as a beacon of excellence. Our vision is to create a better everyday life for our community. Always maintaining the highest level of diverse law enforcement professionals who will work together to be the model of an innovative, community-oriented police department.

Amended 1/23/2024

IV. DEPARTMENT CORE VALUES STATEMENT

Integrity- Respect-Excellence

The department is committed to upholding and defending the rights afforded to individuals by the Constitution of the United States. Sworn personnel will abide by and enforce the laws of the Nation, State, and City in a fair and equitable manner and respect the rights of all community members.

The value of human life is immeasurable. Department personnel will actively preserve, protect, and respect human life and the dignity of all people.

All department personnel will respond to the priorities established in cooperation with our community. Excellence will be the standard to enhance of the quality of life on our campus.

Amended 6/14/2017

V. DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The University Police Department will deliver effective and responsive law enforcement services to all persons on the State University of New York College at Cortland campus in a fair and equitable manner. We will protect and serve all community members and join with them in establishing priorities to enhance the quality of life for our **entire** community.

We will be committed to improving the diversity within our ranks. Recognizing the need to improve our gender, race, and other diversity. Amended 03/01/2023

VI. DEPARTMENT ROLE

A. The role of the University Police Department in providing effective law enforcement services to the community includes the following:

1. **Fair and Equitable Treatment of All Persons** – The department recognizes its obligation to conduct its activities and treat all persons in a lawful, fair, equitable, and evenhanded manner without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, political affiliation, or personal interest.
2. **Enhancement of the Quality of Life** - In addition to dealing with crime, the department recognizes that it is able to address issues impacting the quality of life on campus. The department will utilize available resources, including referrals to and cooperation with other offices or support agencies.
3. **Community Partnership** - Crime is a problem that affects all segments of our society and concerns everyone. The department shall endeavor to involve the community in generating mutual understanding regarding the nature and extent of community policing and to involve the community in crime prevention efforts necessary to reduce crime and improve the quality of life. This police-community partnership will enhance the overall success of the department's efforts.
4. **Victim/Witness Assistance** - It is essential to our law enforcement efforts to protect the rights of victims and witnesses. Therefore, the department shall strive to avoid the traumatization of victims and witnesses by assisting them through an awareness of the psychological trauma associated with their circumstances and providing them with the necessary information regarding resources available either on campus or in the local community.
5. **Public Service** - Because other public or private agencies may be unavailable, the public relies upon the police for assistance and advice in both routine and emergencies. Saving lives, aiding the injured, locating lost persons, keeping the peace, and providing for many other miscellaneous needs are essential services. The department's responsibility is to respond to all calls for service and render such aid or advice as is necessitated or indicated by the situation.
6. **Deterrence of Crime** - Although certain crimes cannot be prevented, crimes committed against the public and crimes against property can be deterred by a proactive police patrol and involved citizenry. The department shall strive to deploy its officers to prevent crime and inspire public confidence in its ability to ensure a peaceful environment.
7. **Investigations of Incidents** – The department must initiate a criminal or service investigation process by identifying offenders, obtaining necessary evidence, supporting victims, and assisting the local DA's office and the Student Conduct Office. The department must strive diligently to solve all crimes and provide the appropriate support services to the community.

VII. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

A. Professional Obligations

1. Members of the University Police Department are among the most conspicuous representatives of local government. To many people, they are symbols of stability and authority upon which the public relies. When actions are excessive, unwarranted, or unjustified, their conduct reflects directly upon all police officers and their departments. Members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring discredit upon them, their profession, the department, the University, or the State of New York. Their conduct shall exhibit the highest degree of professionalism at all times.

B. Code of Ethics

1. The University Police Department has adopted the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics published by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Every sworn officer shall be presented with a copy of the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics. In addition to the rules and regulations of the department, the code relates to the ethical conduct of members of the police department. These rules of ethical conduct shall serve to guide and assist in the continuation of good conduct by police officers and to promote public confidence in the department. All sworn officers shall abide by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics. Ethics training shall be conducted for all uniformed staff periodically. All civilian employees shall receive a copy of the Public Officers Law 74, Code of Ethics.

C. Discretion

1. One of the most critical aspects concerning the use of police authority is that of discretion. Discretion, if appropriately used, can be a highly successful tool to resolve problems and conflicts.
2. The exercise of discretion by University Police Officers is defined in departmental policies, procedures, training, and supervision. To the extent that such discretion is permitted, it will be exercised in a lawful, fair, equitable, and evenhanded manner without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, political affiliation, or personal interest.

D. Oath of Office

1. The President of the University or the Chief of Police will conduct the swearing-in of all newly appointed officers and newly promoted members.
2. The oath of office requires officers to abide by and enforce the law and uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of New York. The oath is as follows:

I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Police Officer in and for the State University of New York, to which I have been appointed, according to the best of my ability."

E. Specific Standards of Conduct

1. Specific standards of conduct are found in the SUNY Cortland University Police Department General Orders and the State University of New York University Police Statewide Manual.

BY ORDER OF

Mark T. DePaull

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Chief of Police