

## Background Information: Clery Act Reviews

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) is a federal statute requiring all colleges and universities participating in federal student aid programs to publish an annual security report that accurately discloses campus crime statistics and security information. The institution must make this report available to the campus community including current and prospective students, faculty and staff. In addition, the institution must annually submit to the U.S. Department of Education its campus crime statistics, which are compiled using the FBI's *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook* (UCR) and *Hate Crime Data Collection Guidelines* or the UCR *National Incident-Based Reporting System* (NIBRS). These statistics are made available to the public at: <http://ope.ed.gov/security/>. A Handbook on Campus Crime Reporting and links to other resources on this topic can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/campus.html>.

The U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid office conducts reviews to evaluate an institution's compliance with the Clery Act requirements. A review may be initiated when a complaint is received, a media event raises certain concerns, the school's independent audit identifies serious non compliance, or through a review selection process that may also coincide with state reviews performed by the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Service (CJIS) Audit Unit.

Federal Student Aid currently has two types of reviews that it performs when determining compliance with the Clery Act: 1.) The review can be part of a general program review of the institution's activities in the federal student aid programs or 2.) The review can be focused strictly on campus security and be an on or off-site examination. In both situations, the review may include comparing the campus crime logs, the institution's annual security report data and incidents reported to local police agencies. Generally, if a general program review has substantial Clery Act findings, a focused campus security review is also conducted. Reports available on this site are limited to focused campus security reviews only.

Once a review is completed, the Department issues a Program Review Report that describes non compliance concerns to the institution and provides the institution the opportunity to respond. After careful review of all the information received on the findings, the Department will issue its Final Program Review Determination letter. Based on the findings, the Department then makes a decision on whether a fine is appropriate, and if so, the amount of that fine.