

Boston University Security Profile

Boston University was established in 1839 as a private institution offering educational programs in liberal arts & sciences, business, and research. The university is composed of 11 undergraduate, and 15 graduate schools within the City of Boston's Kenmore Square neighborhood adjacent to the Charles River. Boston University's network of private educational facilities offer comprehensive undergraduate, and graduate programs in several different fields including biological sciences, business, public health, performing arts, sports management, business, and social work. The school itself is located within hill 2 blocks of Fenway Park, which makes it a student friendly spot, not to mention the surrounding schools across the river in Cambridge.

The university is unique because it's located within the center of Boston's academic neighborhood of Back Bay, Kenmore Square, Cambridge, and Brookline. The area is also unique for it's cobble stone streets and revered Colonial Style Brownstones lining several of BU's surrounding streets. The school is very spread out geographically for a city school with facilities starting on Beacon Street to the east and continuing along Commonwealth Ave down to Alcorn Street to the west. The northern point of the campus footprint lies on Storrow Memorial Drive along the Charles River, the southern edge of campus lies on Commonwealth Ave in the heart of Kenmore Square. BU also has several nature preserves including the Back Bay Conservation Area off Park Drive to the southeast of the campus.

As you can see, the university's footprint is large for a private city school with 132 acres. BU's educational landscape offers students a professional education while still allowing students to enjoy a close-knit city community. The Kenmore Square campus offers students a college town community without boundaries within one of the nation's most popular cities. The campus has approximately 349 buildings including lecture, residential, research, studio, resource centers, and dining facilities. The internal campus setting also provides students, employees, and alumni with several types of services including health, physical fitness, library, cultural meeting places, and several large green areas.

The physical layout of BU's campus is unique to a city school because the facility has no manmade barriers to the campus along Commonwealth Ave, and only has one set of metal gates in the rear of campus along Storrow Memorial Drive. This type of physical layout allows students easy access to campus facilities along Commonwealth Ave including the Green "T" Line. The school uses natural waist high stonewalls as natural barriers for entrance to the green areas of the campus. BU is a city school that has several large concrete plazas that welcome students and parents to the area including Marsh Chapel, and the George Sherman Student Union. Another interesting observation about this educational community is the students themselves. Boston University is a very mixed community with local residents, students, tourists, and commercial facilities all within a 10-block radius. You will find a large number of students wearing BU apparel, but you also have local residents embracing the city culture by not relieving school colors.

BU has developed student housing on the south, west, and north sides of the campus landscape to provide facilities in close proximity to several green areas, lecture halls, athletic fields, and the student union. This type of footprint allows for easy access to all of BU's student life facilities. BU is a large city school that is linked to Boston on a 24-hour basis including government buildings & services, music & theatre productions, sporting & cultural events, museums, nightlife, and restaurants. BU's Kenmore Square location also allows students to enjoy natural landscapes within a city environment while having the ability to engage in professional activities and learning.

The internal campus setting provides students and employees with several types of student services including physical fitness, library services, and cultural meeting places and dining halls. Boston University's observed focal points of reference during the campus tour were the row of academic buildings along Commonwealth Ave including the Fine Arts Building and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. The Sherman Student Union adjacent to Mugar Library was also full of students enjoying the large food court during my daytime visit. The west end of campus off Commonwealth also has several campus life facilities including the Case Athletic, and BU's fitness center for students to enjoy.

BU's external focal points can be found along Commonwealth Ave & Beacon Street with students enjoying several small restaurants and food trucks within a very short walk from campus. Students also enjoy the "T Line" Trolley along the main line for transportation links to everything Boston because the train is located at their doorsteps. Finally, students at Boston University enjoy a large green area behind Marsh Chapel called "The Beach". The beach has no sand, but it does have a great view of the Charles River along the Sorrow Drive Highway. These exterior meeting places were full of students enjoying the city landscape during my visit.

Campus Access Control & Security Systems:

The design, and physical setting of a particular institution has elements relating to the overall culture and social system on campus. Since college and university campuses are designed to offer (open) movement of people through it's borders, the issue of design, along with effective use of space can reduce both the incidence, and fear of crime. This design feature is called "Crime Prevention through Environmental Control." The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life. The issues of identifying formal gathering and high- risk areas within a campus footprint are also critical to public safety resources because manpower must be observed in these areas.

Uniform officers also patrol around the campus on foot, and in several different types of patrol vehicles including 4-wheel drive, bicycle, and regular police patrol vehicles. These resources help officer's patrol around the campus 24-hours a day to reduce the number of people who may not have legitimate business within the property. Public safety also maintains visitor screening and CCTV resources to highlight the need for formal surveillance throughout the campus footprint. BU has developed clearly worded signage that directs visitors to a welcome area within the admissions center located on Bay State Road to improve physical security operations.

Formal gathering and high-risk areas within campus are situated in, and around the student union, beach, athletic, library, and student activities centers, along with the academic mall that winds down Commonwealth Ave to BU's residence village buildings, which are located behind the academic facilities on the campus map. The school has several pedestrian walkways that take you around to the above-mentioned areas including the academic mall that starts at Kenmore Square. These are the main focal areas of the campus because the walkway splits the campus in half with several large concrete plazas between the lecture, and residence halls. Boston University also has a unique internal physical landscape that blends its historic buildings into an urban community with some of the residence halls located within their own brownstone cityscape.

The campus high-risk areas including the residence halls have a higher degree of natural and formal surveillance for students and visitors. Students who enter the residence halls must produce their BU card and swipe it through an access control reader that un-locks the exterior doors. Once inside students must swipe their cards into a turnstile reader to access the residence hall common areas and finally they must use a key to enter their rooms. BU public safety has security guards observing the activity while a digital CCTV camera records student entry as a redundant security feature. These design features constitute a real commitment to campus safety and security.

The perimeter of the Boston University at night is a challenge for public safety because the campus is so large and is situated in an expansive urban community with several city blocks of exterior roadways linking to several South End communities. I have identified several of the university's public safety resources that highlight the diversity of the community and the campus. The school has also developed "Safe Havens" with local restaurants and commercial establishments to highlight its commitment to overall neighborhood security. The program allows students and local residents to stay within a commercial establishment if they feel threatened until campus, and or Boston Police Officers arrive at the scene.

The City of Boston Police Department also supplies foot patrols in the park, transit systems, ball fields, and local streets to enhance public safety. But the issue is this, the campus sidewalks are connected to city streets and you can't stop someone who wants to walk through. The university has developed CCTC resources to maintain formal surveillance through out this main corridor. The school has a combination of IP/ Analog/ and Motion detection cameras with DVR & Virtual Network recording systems to enhance overall security, and public safety operations.

Description of Campus Public Safety Plans & Procedures: BU's public safety plans and procedures can be found in the emergency plan which gives students and employees a lists of instructions, procedures, codes of conduct, and response strategies to follow while on campus. The university also provides Clery Act safety tips and procedures to help educate students to potential risks on, and off campus. This information can be found in Boston University's Annual Public Safety Report. The Emergency Plan can be found on the quick links page of this document.

Innovative Emergency Communications: BU's security network has developed a reverse 911-phone system that sends several types of emergency notifications through e-mail and phone text message systems. Campus alerts, and weather related information is sent through this system. The university also has active shooter protocols for students to follow during an emergency including lock-down, and lockout procedures. These messages are usually received within 1-2 minutes of emergency broadcast and allow university officials to adhere to Clery Act requirements for timely warnings of emergency events.

Types and Descriptions of Published Policies and Procedures to Comply with the Clery Act on Campus

The Clery Act. The Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires all postsecondary institutions participating in the Title IV student financial aid programs to disclose campus crime statistics, university violations and disciplinary data, and finally security information to the U.S. Department of Education on an annual basis. The legislation also describes several required policy statements that address public safety and security issues.

Required policy statements include: addressing timely warnings, disclosure of crime statistics, reporting criminal offenses, confidential reporting, security and access control, arrest authority, security awareness programs, crime prevention programs, sex offenses, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, substance abuse programs, and general codes of conduct. BU's Clery Act info can be found on the quick link page.

Caveat: Boston University's public safety officers have formal arrest powers; they have the authority to detain offenders on campus, but they also call the City of Boston Police to formalize the arrest process. The school does provide public safety resources to reduce victimization off campus. The school uses public safety officers in several of its most active buildings as an added security feature, which seems to have improved crime victimization on campus but the following statement from the department education offers this advice. "The department data reported by the institutions have not been subjected to independent verification by the U.S. Department of Education. Therefore, the department cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data reported.

The following crime data for criminal offenses on campus, and in campus residence halls was reported by public safety to conform to Clery Act regulations

Criminal Offenses/On Campus	2006	2007	2008
Murder	0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0
Sex Offenses/ Forcible	3	7	6
Robbery	4	1	2
Aggravated Assault	9	2	5
Burglary	117	62	59
Motor Vehicle Theft	4	2	1
Arson	1	0	1
Criminal Offenses/ Residence Halls	2006	2007	2008
Murder	0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0
Sex Offenses/Forcible	3	5	5
Robbery	0	0	1
Aggravated Assault	3	0	4
Burglary	52	39	35
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Arson	1	0	1

The following data on arrests for illegal weapons, drug, and liquor violations for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008 on campus, residence halls, and within public areas off campus were reported by Boston University's Public Safety Department.

Arrest Data on Campus: In the year 2006 BU reported 0 weapon violation, 34 drug violations, and 34 liquor violations on campus. In 2007, 0 weapon, 10 drugs, and 21 liquor violations were reported on campus. In 2008, 1 weapon, 21 drug, and 18 liquor violations were reported by public safety

Arrest Data/ Residence Halls: In the year 2006, BU reported 0 weapon violation, 10 drug violations, and 32 liquor violations in the residence halls. In 2007, 0 weapon, 6 drugs, and 17 liquor violations were reported by public safety. In 2008, 0 weapon violations, 15, drugs, and 17 liquor violations were reported in residence halls.

Arrest Data/Public Property: In the year 2006, BU reported 0 weapon, 17 drug, and 60 liquor violations on public property (outside campus perimeter). In 2007, 1 weapon, 4 drug, and 48 liquor violations were reported. In 2008, 1 weapon, 3 drugs, and 27 liquor violations were reported by public safety.

The following data on disciplinary actions on campus for illegal weapons, drug, and liquor violations for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008 on campus, residence halls, and within public areas off campus were reported by Boston University's Public Safety Department.

Disciplinary Action/On Campus: In the year 2006 BU reported 2 weapon violations, 30 drug violations, and 478 liquor violations on campus. In 2007, 3 weapon, 30 drug, and 467 liquor violations were reported on campus. In 2008, 4 weapons, 38 drug, and 405 liquor violations were reported by public safety.

Community Profile

The Kenmore Square of Boston Massachusetts has been described in different ways, including a busy student friendly urban community centered around it's local university and a tourist heaven due to it's geographical location within the City of Boston. Kenmore Square has a relatively high number of restaurants, retail, and entertainment resources within the area. The area can also be considered an upscale residential community with historic brownstones, town homes, and modern apartments buildings lining several streets. BU is also situated in walking distance to Fenway Park, which makes it a very active community for local residents, tourists, and students throughout the baseball season. Student population and historical neighborhood architecture can be found mainly within 10 blocks of the main academic buildings within the overall neighborhood. The greatest number of residents in this area is in fact students, and employees of BU.

Kenmore Square can also be considered a commuter area because large numbers of local residents travel to downtown Boston to work. The Suburbs, and local neighborhoods of Boston are a maze of cultures that are unique to the people who live and work in them; Back Bay Boston is no exception. Kenmore Square/Back Bay can be considered a mixed residential area because you have commercial, residential, cultural, and intellectual all within the same block with people walking through the BU campus on their way to work, or home. The areas around Commonwealth and Beacon Streets are the major pedestrian walkways in the neighborhood for students, residents, tourists, and commuters because it's really in the middle of the community.

Community demographics: The following demographics for Boston Massachusetts describe a multi-cultural community within a total population of 590,763 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. A Census Bureau community survey highlights several characteristics to describe the population including: 48% of residents are male, 52% are female. 56% of residents are white, 26% are African American, 8% are Hispanic or Latino, and finally 8% are Asian. The median age of population is 33 years old. 81% of residents are 18 years old or over, 74% age 21 and over, and finally 10% of city residents are over the age of 65. The issue of housing in Boston is also interesting. 91% of all housing units within the city are occupied. 62% of housing units are renter-occupied, while 38% of units are owner-occupied.

Off Campus Housing: Boston University has been described as a mini-city situated within a mixed residential and commercial community in Boston. The reason I have mentioned the overall community of Kenmore Square is to re-assert the point that BU's network of affiliated campuses has encapsulated it's real estate holdings within the area. The campus footprint allows almost every student to have housing within walking distance to the campus. The demand for housing, especially off campus housing is usually a tough issue for institutions attempting to keep students within the general geographical area.

Boston University has addressed this issue by buying up residential buildings and developing housing networks .BU does have a large commuter student population that enjoys the transportation links to the school so information about local off-campus housing might be mixed with several other universities in the city. Information about off campus housing can be found on the BU's quick links page of this document.

Public Transportation: Boston University has developed a student shuttle system that connects students with several areas of Kenmore Square including Boston's transit system through several different shuttle bus routes. In formation about this service can be found on the quick links page of this document. The Boston Transit Authority (MBTA) has several trolley stops on Commonwealth Ave in the heart of BU's campus. This valuable train service connects to all of Boston's transit lines and regional train services for Amtrak and Logan Airport.

Crisis Management Plans & Procedures Local Community: The City of Boston Police Department, along with the Emergency Management Division has developed emergency management resources to help residents to prepare, respond, and recover from a host of natural, and man made events. BU Public Safety, along with the Boston Police Department has developed an emergency plan for students and employees to follow which highlights several potential manmade and weather related events. The City of Boston has developed a Mayor's Guide to Emergency Preparedness document that describes local crisis plans and procedures. The document can be found on the (Mayors Office of Emergency Preparedness) home page www.cityofboston.gov/MOEP

Local Crime Statistics: The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report for 2008 has developed crime statistics for the City of Boston Mass. In 2008 the City of Boston Police reported 6,676 Violent Crimes, 62 Murders, 237 Forcible Rapes, 2,398 Robberies, 3,979 Aggravated Assaults, 22,429 Property Crimes, 3,493 Burglaries, 16,531 Larceny Thefts, 2,405 Motor Vehicle Thefts, and finally Arson was unreported.

City of Boston: (City Hall)

One City Hall Square, Boston MA 02201

www.cityofboston.gov

Police Department: (District # 4 / South End Headquarters)

650 Harrison Ave, Boston MA 02116

www.cityofboston.gov/police

(617) 343-4250

Fire Department: (Headquarters)

115 Southhampton Street, Boston MA 02118

www.cityofboston.gov/fire

(617) 343-3515

First Due Engine & Truck Company to Boston University's Campus

Fire District # 4. Engine #33 Ladder Company 15 located at 941 Boylston Street

Emergency Medical Technicians (Ambulance Service) for Boston University. The City of Boston Fire Department/EMS handles calls for emergency medical services on campus along with campus police. Boston Medical Center is the nearest hospital to the campus located at the corner of Massachusetts Ave & Albany Street in the South End of Boston. Massachusetts General Hospital is another major facility located in the West End of Boston off Charles Street. Below is contact information for both hospitals.

Boston Medical Center

One Boston Medical Center, Boston MA 02118

www.bmc.org or (617) 638-8000

Massachusetts General Hospital

55 Fruit Street, Boston MA 02114

www.mgh.harvard.edu/default.aspx or (617) 726-2000

Boston University Quick Links Page

Public Safety: www.bu.edu/police

Emergency Communications & Advisories: www.bu.edu/police/advisories

Public Safety Plans & Procedures: www.bu.edu/police/safety/phone

Clery Act Policies & Procedures: www.bu.edu/police/statistics/#DOE

Health Services: www.bu.edu/shs

Campus Shuttle Services: www.bu.edu/thebus

Off Campus Housing: www.bu.edu/offcampus

Campus Parking: www.bu.edu/parking/parking-2/Student

Summary

The focus of this report was to provide the reader with specialized security and public safety assessments that provides a snapshot of the crime, culture, physical environment, and commitment to public safety on specific campuses. The overall campus profile included several traditional security functions including access control, remote surveillance, and campus patrol plans and procedures. This campus report also included a community profile that highlighted the issues of community services, activities, and student resources to evaluate and identify risks to students while off campus. The issue of community profile is a critical element for security assessments because campus environments are usually considered open spaces for students and local residents.

The issue of campus footprints was also observed to identify each college and universities unique features including formal gathering areas within the interior, and exterior of the campus. The profile continued with descriptions of student housing, transportation, parking, and high-risk areas of the campus. Finally, the profile describes each school's crime data and statistics information to evaluate each facility. When I collected the crime data it was obvious to me that each school had it's own way of collecting, and enforcing institutional policies for student conduct. That's not surprising due to each school's level of public safety training and law enforcement credentials. I have found that private schools for the most part, enjoy internal discipline while public schools with sworn police officers tend to be more stringent of the rules.

Finally, college campuses are unique places where young adults experience life, learning, and living away from home. Students come together from around the country, and sometimes the world, to meet life long friends and to experience campus life. Each college and university has its own physical landscape and culture be it a rural, or an urban campus. Students who understand and embrace the campus culture will usually enjoy the facility and experience. The purpose of this profile was to highlight the differences between private and public schools in regard to campus resources and public safety. My campus survey also described the physical setting so families could get a hands-on look into daily activities and campus life. Each university is required to provide public safety and security information through the Clery Act and it's my hope that the profile information helps families make an educated decision about future college or university studies.

