

Your College Profile presents Columbia University Security Profile

New York, New York

The Basics

Founded in 1754, Columbia University is a large Ivy League institution located in New York City's Morningside Heights section in upper Manhattan. The footprint of the site is large for an urban school with approximately 32 acres which starts at West 112th Street between Riverside Drive and Morningside Drive on its southern border, and West 123rd Street on its northern border. The campus has approximately 115 buildings including lecture, residential, research, and dining facilities. The internal campus setting provides students and employees with several types of student services including health, physical fitness, library, and cultural meeting places.

The published demographic information for the university describes a culturally diverse student population with students from all across the world. Columbia University has developed 3 different campuses, within a campus structures to offer students a Liberal Arts and Science, Research, and a Comprehensive education format to enhance its commitment to different types of career endeavors. Columbia has also developed independent affiliates with several local universities including Barnard College of Liberal Arts, which is located across the street from the main campus.

Campus Footprint

The design and physical setting of Columbia University is unique because the campus is encapsulated within an entire New York City neighborhood of Morningside Heights. The campus map also highlights several historic buildings, which form a large manmade barrier around the main campus. These buildings form a large square that's several city block long, and wide. The physical security design seems to be enhanced by the large walls and limited access points to the campus. These buildings maintain the campus perimeter because they act almost like natural barriers.

The university is also linked together by several city streets within its massive real estate holdings with virtually all of the university's lecture halls, arts & science pavilions, residence halls, and historic buildings tied within its large real estate holdings. The footprint of the college is unique because students can retreat to their residence halls, or they can travel to another facilities to experience real big campus living. This type of structure enhances the campus lifestyle within the schools urban footprint because students can walk to several areas of the campus within minutes.

Columbia University has a real big campus feel to it because the area is heavily populated with students, and local residents alike. University students take advantage of the local commercial resources in the Morningside Heights area that cater to college students throughout the upper Westside neighborhood. Students, and local residents also take advantage of the New York City Transit System's train service located across the street from the university main gates at 116th street. Pedestrian traffic outside the perimeter of the university on Broadway is heavy due to the large number of students and local residents within the area.

The main focal point of the campus tour was "College Walk" on West 116th Street. This city street takes you straight through the middle of the campus footprint from Broadway to Amsterdam Ave. This physical layout is shaped like a big square that offers outstanding views of the Butler Library to the south, and Low Memorial Library to the north. This geographical location is Main Street for Columbia students and is the focal point for the schools photo advertising. The overall physical layout of the campus is typical of a college setting with wide sidewalks, grass field meeting places, and park like benches. The pedestrian flow of traffic within the facility was centered between West 113th Street and West 120th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue during my daytime visit. My evening visit observed less foot traffic along the major avenues until you reach 110th street.

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.

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The main campus has 5 entrances and exits to minimize the pedestrian traffic flow within the facility, the issue of vehicle traffic on campus is minimal due to the city setting and a limited

number of street parking spots. Columbia's public safety department deploys officers to several access points around the campus during the day to reduce the number of people who may not have legitimate business on campus. At night, some of these entrances get secured with a lock and chain to further reduce access to the institution. Public safety also maintains visitor screening with clearly worded signage that directs visitors to a welcome area adjacent to the Low Memorial Library, visitors who wish to walk around the campus without an escort can, but only during daylight hours.

Formal gathering areas within Columbia's main campus are situated in, and around college walk which goes straight through the quad on West 116th street from Broadway to Amsterdam Avenue. This area is the main focal area of the campus with several large grassy areas in and around the lecture, and residence halls. The quad is a textbook example of CPTED design because it allows for natural surveillance and open space for people to enjoy while still providing some type of ownership within the property. The campus's great lawn ensures open sight lines by keeping buildings and architectural barriers on the perimeter of the space.

The issue of high-risk areas on campus has been identified during annual risk assessments by security, and feedback by all intuitional stakeholders including public safety officials. The department maintains uniform patrol and high tech remote resources to highlight formal surveillance throughout the campus. The department also has security officers posted in several high-risk areas including the main gate, residence halls, and the library. Public safety also patrols the interior and exterior of the university by foot and patrol vehicles.

The public safety department has developed enhanced lighting resources for campus security because it helps in all areas of surveillance and gives students and visitors an enhanced feeling of safety and security. Columbia University has developed adequate lighting resources within the campus footprint. The issue of lighting and reduced pedestrian traffic for students walking north is still a great concern for all public safety officers on, and off campus. Columbia also has uniformed public safety and contract security guards patrolling the footprint of the university on a 24-hour basis.

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 Columbia card that is swiped by a Resident Assistant to authenticate the person standing in front of them. The system also records the activity while a digital CCTV camera records the activity as a redundant security feature. The residence halls also have a uniformed officer on duty to help the RA's manage visitor requests for entry; the procedure requires a visitor to produce I.D. and to sign a formal register. These design features constitute a real commitment to campus safety and security.

The perimeter of Columbia University at night is a challenge for public safety because the

with my university and community profile that highlights the diversity of the community and the campus. The issue is this, the campus walk is considered a city street according to the NYPD, and you can't stop someone who wants to walk through. The university has developed state-of-the-art 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

Campus communities are unique places due to their populations and physical layouts. In some areas of the United States you really can't tell where a campus begins or ends because people walk through, drive through, and take campus transportation through all areas of the campus footprint. Columbia University has developed public safety plans and procedures to keep students, and employees safe. The school's general public safety plans and procedures can be found in the Guide to Living which gives students and employees a lists of instructions, procedures, codes of conduct, and response strategies to follow while on campus. This information can be found in Columbia University Annual Public Safety Report. The Columbia University Emergency Plan can be found on the quick links page.

Innovative Emergency Communications

Columbia University has developed reverse 911 systems 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. Information for signing up for this emergency notification service can be found by contacting Columbia public safety

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. Below is a sample list of Clery Act Policy Statements for colleges and universities to publish each year within their prospective crime report/audits.

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. Clery info can be found: www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety/SecurityReport.pdf

Caveat

Columbia's security officers don't have formal arrest powers, they only have what every citizen has, the right to detain someone after witnessing a crime. Columbia does have several retired federal, state, and local police officers working within the campus as patrol supervisors and uniformed public safety. These officers receive training in regard to their duties; they also must be licensed by the State of New York as per the Security Guard Act, which requires background checks including finger printing for employees. NYS guard info can be found at www.dos.state.ny.us/lcns/guardfaq.html

Public Safety seems to have improved crime victimization on campus due to improved security resources 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 can't 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	5	8	5
Robbery	3	1	6
Aggravated Assault	8	9	5
Burglary	132	112	87
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Arson	2	0	0

Criminal Offenses/ Residence Halls	2006	2007	2008
Murder	0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0
Sex Offenses/Forcible	3	4	5
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	3	6	3
Burglary	67	34	17
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Arson	2	0	0

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 Columbia University's Public Safety Department.

Arrest Data on Campus

In the year 2006 Columbia reported 1 weapon violation, 2 drug violations, and 0 liquor violations on campus. In 2007, 0 weapon, 1 drug, and 0 liquor violations were reported on campus. In 2008, 0 weapon, 0 drug, and 0 liquor violations were reported by public safety

Arrest Data/ Residence Halls

In the year 2006, Columbia reported 1 weapon violation, 2 drug violations, and 0 liquor violations in the residence halls. In 2007, 0 weapons, 1 drugs, and 0 liquor violations were reported by public safety. In 2008, 0 weapon violations, 0, drugs, and 0 liquor violations were reported in residence halls.

Arrest Data/ Public Property

In the year 2006, Columbia reported 0 weapon, 0 drug, and 0 liquor violations on public property (outside campus perimeter). In 2007, 0 weapon, 0 drug, and 1 liquor violations were reported. In 2008, 1 weapon, 3 drugs, and 0 liquor violations were reported by public safety.

Disciplinary Action/On Campus

In the year 2006 Columbia reported 0 weapon violations, 20 drug violations, and 61 liquor

violations on campus. In 2007, 0 weapon, 89 drug, and 180 liquor violations were reported on campus. In 2008, 0 weapon, 91 drug, and 192 liquor violations were reported by public safety

Community Profile

Morningside Heights has been identified on maps geographically as north of 106th Street, and south of 126th Street between Morningside Avenue and Riverside Drive. The community has been described as scholarly and intellectual due to its student population and historical neighborhood architecture. The greatest number of residents north of 110th street is in fact a college student. Columbia University is the main property owner within the area; it owns most of the housing up to 123rd Street. The local pedestrian walkway on Broadway links local residents to a large number of restaurants and local shops.

The community has a real city type feel to it because people usually walk on Broadway between 120th Street down to 110th Street for food and shopping. I don't suggest that tourists walk beyond West 123 rd Street because the area changes in a hurry. The issue of walking alone at night outside the perimeter of the campus gates should also be curtailed in my opinion. Morningside heights has several community parks and ball fields in the Riverside Drive and Morningside Park areas but local police officers have told students to exercise some caution when using the city parks after dark.

The following demographics for New York City describe a multi-cultural community within a total population of 8,214,426 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Columbia University has a strong relationship with this diverse community. An example of this commitment can be observed through Columbia's community services handbook that describes educational programs, health care programs and services, legal programs and services to local residents who may require community help.

A Census Bureau community survey highlights several characteristics to describe the population including: 47.7% of residents are male, 52.3 are female. 43.9% of residents are white, 25.1% are African American, 27.6% are Hispanic or Latino, 11.7% are Asian, 6.3% are some other Race, and finally 2.0 are two or more Races. The median age of population is 35.9 years old. 76.3% of residents are 18 years old or over and 12.1% of city residents is over the age of 65. The issue of housing in New York is also interesting. 91.2% of all housing units within the city are occupied. 65.6% of housing units are renter-occupied, while 34.4% of units are owner-occupied. Only 8.8% of total available housing was vacant.

Student Housing

Columbia University guarantees housing for all undergraduate students (except transfers) who has filed their intent to reside on campus by the stated deadline and who have continuously registered as full time students. The school has started developing housing resources for upper classman through it's capital improvement initiatives. The University apartments are new, and beautiful, but only upper classmen can rent them. Students who belong to Fraternities and Sororities have Brownstones on West 113th Street, and 114th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue. Each resident unit houses approximately 16-18 students. Information about housing can be found on the quick links page of this document.

The university has also published a document called " A Guide to Living " that gives everyone who lives on campus a roadmap that addresses emergency procedures, codes of conduct, access control procedures, and many other very useful items. It's the best document that I have ever seen that details almost every potential situation or event. Below is a link to this valuable site.

Columbia University Guide to Living: www.columbia.edu/cu/housing/docs/guide-to-living/policies.html

Off Campus Housing

Columbia University has been described as a mini-city in an uptown multi-cultural residential community. The reason I have mentioned the overall community of Morningside Heights is to re-assert the point that Columbia'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 issue of off campus housing has a different feel to it compared to other university off campus housing demands.

The demand for housing, especially off campus housing is usually a tough issue for institutions attempting to keep students within the general geographical area. Columbia has addressed this issue by buying up residential buildings and developing housing networks. One such network is called The Off- Campus Housing Assistance Program (OCHA), which lists local rooms and apartments for students. The OCHA only allows students with an acceptance letter, and or, a current student I.D. to use this program. Below is a link to the program.

Public Transportation

The New York City Transit System has a subway that stops right at the main focal point of the campus, which is 116th Street and Broadway. Students and visitors get off the train and walk across the street to the main entry to the school. The Seventh Ave Line (#1 Train) stops at 116th Street but it also connects with every other subway line within the system. Riders can take the

train from south ferry in lower Manhattan to the Washington Heights in a relatively short amount of time.

Public transportation resources can also be found at New York Penn Station that links with trains to Long Island and New Jersey through the LIRR and Jersey Transit respectively. Amtrak also uses Penn Station as a major hub within it's Northeast Corridor. All these trains can be linked by the #1 train, which makes stops at Penn Station. Riders who wish to go to northern New York State can catch a shuttle train at 42nd Street from the # 1 train to Grand Central Station for the Metro North Trains.

This complex train system also allows riders the ability to travel to Liberty Airport via Jersey Transit, and Kennedy Airport via the N.Y. Subway system. People who live, work, and visit New York usually travel by some type of mass transit. Students should be encouraged to purchase a metro card to get around. Mass transit information can be found at: <http://www.mta.info>

Crisis Management Plans & Procedures Local Community

The City of New York has developed emergency management resources to help residents to prepare, respond, and recover from a host of natural, and man made events. The city agency responsible for emergency operations is the Office of Emergency Management. Columbia has developed an emergency plan for students and employees to follow which highlights several potential manmade and weather related events. Public safety, along with several local Police Departments has developed a local crisis plan that can be found at: <http://nyc/html/oem/html/home/home.shtml>.

Local Crime Statistics

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report for 2008 has developed crime statistics for the neighborhood of Morningside Heights. In 2008 the NYPD's 26 Precinct reported 285 Violent Crimes, 2 Murders, 10 Forcible Rapes, 197 Robberies, 76 Aggravated Assaults, 361 Property Crimes, 57 Burglaries, 270 Larceny Thefts, and finally 34 Motor Vehicle Thefts. The crime of Arson was un-reported.

On Campus Emergency Resources:

Emergency Health Services (212) 854-2284

Columbia Campus Ambulance (CAVA) (212) 854-5555

Rape Crisis/ Anti-violence Support Center (212) 854-HELP, 854-WALK

Public Safety (212) 854-5555

Morningside Heights Community Quick Links

New York City Police Department (NYPD)

26 Precinct Station House: 520 West 126th street between Amsterdam Avenue and Old Broadway (Under the elevated subway on 126th street) Phone# (212) 678-1311

The New York City Fire Department (FDNY)

Engine 47: 502 West 113th Street (S/W of Amsterdam Ave) 1st Due Engine
Engine 37, Ladder Company 40: 415 West 125th Street (East of Convent Ave)

Engine, 1st due Truck, and Engine Company assigned to Columbia University

Emergency Medical Technicians (Ambulance Service)

The New York City Fire Department handles calls for emergency medical services in the city. EMT crews are assigned to a Division and Battalion for ambulance deployment. .

St Lukes / Roosevelt Hospital Phone Numbers:

General Number (212) 790-7000

Emergency Room (212) 523-3335 & Psychiatric Emergency (212) 523-3347

Columbia University Quick Links

Public Safety Plans & Procedures: www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety/

Shuttle Services: www.columbia.edu/cu/studentservices/transportation/shuttles.html

Medical Services: www.health.columbia.edu/

On Campus Emergency Resources

Emergency Health Services (212) 854-2284

Student Housing: www.columbia.edu/cu/housing/docs/residence-halls/index.html

Off Campus Housing: www.columbia.edu/cu/ire/ocha.

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 were 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 it's 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.