

Community Safety: CAMPUS VEHICLES, UNIFORMS, AND EQUIPMENT (VUE) PROGRESS REPORT

As of September 30, 2023

GUIDANCE FOR COMPLETION

Please complete and submit by October 31, 2023.

Email submissions to CampusSafety@ucop.edu

Recommendation 16 of the Vehicles, Uniforms, and Equipment (VUE) Workgroup Guidelines and Recommendations provided that:

In consultation with the UC community, campuses and medical centers are to develop an implementation plan regarding these guidelines and recommendations by March 31, 2023.

- These plans must address how each recommendation will be achieved and may prioritize actions based on resource availability and considerations such as vehicle and equipment turnover.
- All recommendations should be implemented as soon as practically possible.

If the recommendation has been implemented, state “fully implemented” for the recommendation with no further explanation.

Final reports will be published on the public-facing UC community safety website. Please provide a detailed description of your campus’s implementation of each listed recommendation. Additionally, pictures or photos are highly encouraged.

CAMPUS NAME: MERCED

PROGRESS AND UPDATES

Provide updates on progress.

Recommendation 1 — Distinctiveness of sworn police officers’ VUE

All public safety providers who are not sworn police officers will not have badges, stars, patches, or other overt VUE similarities to those of sworn police officers.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started

Fully Implemented

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UCMPD is compliant and on 10/5/2023, UCM TAPS provided:

Note from TAPS

Transportation and Parking Services, in response to University of California Office of the President VUE report have completed the following:

1. Our previously known staff parking enforcement “officers” are identified as “Parking Compliance Ambassadors”, and our students, when brought in, will be referenced as “Parking Compliance Student Ambassadors”.
2. Any/all duty belt equipment, including radios, have been decommissioned.
3. Any/all uniforms previously worn have been updated to reflect appropriate identification. See attached photo of polos disseminated prior to the required date of change.
4. All Parking Compliance vehicles are clearly identified with “Parking Enforcement”.



Recommendation 2 — Distinctiveness of sworn police officer titles

Campuses will not call any public safety personnel, other than sworn police officers, “officers.”

Completed, In Progress, Not Started

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Fully Implemented

Recommendation 3 — VUE of non-sworn public safety personnel

Seeking to decrease the visibility of public safety individuals who look like sworn police officers, no other public safety personnel will look, carry equipment, or drive vehicles substantially similar to those of sworn police officers.

- a. Parking enforcement personnel uniforms should consist of a polo-style uniform with an embroidered logo and the words “PARKING” printed across their back. Their vehicles shall be clearly identifiable as parking enforcement.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started

Fully Implemented

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

See response from UCM TAPS detailed in the response to recommendation 1.

Recommendation 4 — Sworn police roles

Campuses should evaluate a sworn police role to respond to calls for service that do not require a visibly armed and traditionally uniformed sworn police and to serve in a campus and community affairs-related position. These officers' uniforms should be distinguishable from those of regular patrol police officers, such that uniforms should be a polo shirt or plain clothes.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started

Fully Implemented

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Sworn Officers, Public Service Ambassadors, and Student Service Ambassadors all wear very distinct uniforms unique to their roles.

Recommendation 5 — Alternative vehicles for sworn-officer patrols

Campuses should evaluate and increase the use of alternative vehicles other than traditional patrol car — for example bicycles, e-bikes, electric vehicles, or golf-carts — for sworn-officer patrols.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started

Fully Implemented

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Sworn officers perform their task using pedal bikes, golf carts, and vehicles.

Recommendation 6 — Load-bearing vests

Load-bearing vests will not be issued as standard equipment for new hires of sworn police officers.

- a. Understanding the potential needs for load-bearing vests (not limited to ergonomics, officer safety, etc.), such vests will be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Police Chief or designee.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started Fully Implemented

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Recommendation 7 — Less than lethal weapons

In addition to existing required equipment, including firearms, less than lethal weapons shall be required equipment for all sworn police officers and carried on their person as required equipment.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started

Fully Implemented

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Officers are already equipped with Tasers. In addition, UCMPD is trying to procure and provide officers with other less than lethal tools and staging them in the officer's patrol car.

Recommendation 8 — UCPD identification

Any marking of "POLICE" must identify that the police officer, equipment, or vehicle is that of the University of California, such that a marking, badge, or insignia shall say "UC POLICE" or "CAMPUS POLICE" or "UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA POLICE", or similar.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started In Progress

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

The vehicles, badges and other insignia all state "University Police" or "UC Police." The back of the uniforms only state "POLICE" As new uniforms are ordered, they will be updated.

Recommendation 9 — UCPD sworn police patrol cars

Sworn police patrol cars should be distinguishable from local law enforcement authorities, with patrol cars displaying "University of California Police" or the campus name with any marking of police. Campuses and medical centers are encouraged to move from a black and white patrol car to a solid white patrol car or other approved alternative color (solid blue, etc.) to distinguish the vehicle from local law enforcement.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started

In Progress

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

While the campus patrol cars are clearly identified as “University of California Police” they are still the traditional looking black and white vehicles. As the campus replaces the vehicles, we will move to the solid white car as recommended.

Recommendation 10 — Need for fully-uniformed officer

Campuses and medical centers should develop procedures to determine if a fully-uniformed patrol police officer is needed for specific events and functions. For example, plain-clothed police officers providing security and protection services for visiting dignitaries.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started

Fully Implemented

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UCMPD currently approaches all of its events with this methodology and works with event planners and stakeholder to ensure an measured/appropriate presence provided.

Recommendation 11 — Uniforms for medical center non-sworn public safety personnel

Medical centers should reimagine security services by having a public safety ambassador wearing a professional blazer-style uniform and more typical safety or security personnel wearing a utility-style uniform.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started N/A

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Recommendation 12 — VUE of unarmed security and public safety services personnel

Given the importance of unarmed security and public safety services as part of the UC Community Safety

Plan and each location's tiered response models, campuses and medical centers with personnel in this tier shall adopt the minimum for systemwide consistency:

- a. These personnel shall not carry a firearm.
- b. Identification: Non-sworn safety personnel with a primary role of ensuring safety and security shall be identified systemwide as "University of California Protective Services". Campuses will not identify these individuals as officers, but as protective services, community partners, public safety partners, or another similar title.
- c. Uniform: Clearly distinguishable from sworn police officers, such as khaki utility pants and a light blue uniform or polo shirt, with insignia that identifies the individual as "University of California Protective Services."
- d. Equipment: Duty belt to hold a radio, flashlight, and a self-defense device, such as pepper spray.
- e. Vehicles: Identifiable as part of UC protective services, with no stars or other markings similar to those of sworn police patrol cars.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started Fully Implemented

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Recommendation 13 — VUE of mental health and student service professionals

Mental health and student service professionals responding to a known mental health emergency call as part of a campus' tiered response model must wear professional, clinical, or similar attire.

- a. They must wear a hanging style photograph identification card, which shall indicate that they are mental health, clinical professionals, or another type of safety responder.
- b. The equipment they carry should be directly related to their responsibilities within the campus' tiered response model.
- c. If they are required by the campus to carry equipment on their person, a smock-type vest is recommended with insignia identifying them as mental health professionals.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started

In Progress

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Currently, UC Merced partners with the Merced County Behavioral Health services to provide response to mental health crisis response during M-F, 8AM to 5PM. This service is provided by plan clothes staff from the county, along with the clinicians from CAPS, none of whom wear any uniform clothing to create a comfortable environment with the students.

The campus has non-sworn staff, Public Service Ambassadors, who provide intervention after hours and on weekends. These individuals are dispatched from UCMPD, and will be dressed as identified in recommendation 12.

Recommendation 14 — VUE of student safety partners

Student Safety Partners should highlight their role as student-peers trained to provide safety escorts to fellow students and staff. Their uniforms should consist of polo-style shirts with no stars, badges, police department patches, or logos. The campus mascot and campus colors should be utilized as a part of the uniform.

- a. Campuses that use the word officer in the identification of these personnel should reimage these positions as student safety partners.
- b. When providing safety escorts, a hanging style photograph identification card must be visible indicating that they are students.
- c. Their uniforms should have reflective or other high-visibility elements for night-time safety.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started Fully

Fully Implemented

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Recommendation 15 — Changes to VUE

Any changes to VUE for public safety personnel shall be made in consultation with the campus' responsible administration officer and with the systemwide director of community safety.

Completed, In Progress, Not Started

Fully Implemented

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Recommendation 16 — VUE implementation plan

In consultation with the UC community, campuses and medical centers are to develop an implementation plan regarding these guidelines and recommendations by March 31, 2023.

- a. These plans must address how each recommendation will be achieved and may prioritize actions based on resource availability and considerations such as vehicle and equipment turnover.
- b. All recommendations should be implemented as soon as practically possible

Completed, In Progress, Not Started In Progress

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

On 5/20/2022, VC Nies sent a message to the UCM campus community to solicit feedback regarding VUE.

Other updates