

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

As of March 1, 2023

GUIDANCE FOR COMPLETION

Please complete and submit by March 31, 2023.

You may also email it to the Systemwide Director of Community Safety, jody.stiger@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

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.

Achieved

No (in progress)

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UCMPD Student Community Service Officers (CSO) - now called Student Service Ambassadors (SSA), already wear clearly distinguishable polo shirts to distinguish them from sworn officers.

Public Service Officers (PSO), now known as Public Service Ambassadors (PSA), are in the process of switching to polo-style uniform shirts while working on campus.

Both position title will clearly be identifiable as employees or affiliates of UCMPD but will be very distinguishable from Police Officers.

*** While working on the off-site locations, PSAs will continue to wear their existing uniforms. This was discussed and approved with Jody Stiger in November of 2022. This request was to ensure PSAs are readily recognized as university employees with public safety responsibilities, to mitigate physical confrontations due to them not being easily recognizable, and to be able to quickly provide a uniformed representative on site during a critical incident so that other responding allied agencies will recognize the PSA as an official with the UC.

UCMPD notified UCM TAPS via email on 9/8/2022 regarding the VUE requirements for their parking enforcement personnel.

Recommendation 2 — Distinctiveness of sworn police officer titles

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

Achieved

Yes

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UCMPD Student Community Service Officers (CSO) - now called Student Service Ambassadors (SSA), Public Service Officers (PSO), now known as Public Service Ambassadors (PSA)

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.

Achieved

No

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UCMPD notified UCM TAPS via email on 9/8/2022 regarding the VUE requirements for their parking enforcement personnel.

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.

Achieved

In progress

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

There are currently no PSA hired to serve the lake campus. Three positions have been funded to be hired for this role and are expected to be in place by fall 2023.

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.

Achieved

Yes

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UCMPD has explored patrolling by alternative means. Officers serve the campus through car patrols, bike patrols, golf carts and foot patrol.

The frequency of these methods is sometimes a challenge due to staffing.

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.

Achieved

Yes

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Load bearing vests will not be issued to new personnel without being considered first on a case-by-case basis by the Chief of Police.

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.

Achieved

Yes

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Officers are already equipped with Tasers. UCMPD added less lethal tools to its AB 481 list to purchase in the future.

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.

Achieved

In progress

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Vehicles already indicate in very large letters "University of California Police"

Uniforms are in progress of being 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 to distinguish the vehicle from local law enforcement.

Achieved

In progress

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Vehicles already indicate in very large letters “University of California Police”

The campus is working on the transition to the solid white patrol car.

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.

Achieved

Yes

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UCMPD already evaluates which personnel and the attire they wear is appropriate for each event. UCMPD discusses this with event organizers as well to ensure common understanding and expectations

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.

Achieved

N/A

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UCM does not have a medical center.

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.

Achieved

Yes

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UCMPD non-sworn personnel do not carry firearms. UCMPD PSAs no longer have the word "officer" in their title.

Uniforms for non-sworn personnel distinguish them from sworn personnel. Uniforms consist of:

- Gray Polo Top with campus logo on left chest with UC Merced Police Department underneath.
- "Public Service Ambassador" in white letter 1" letter on right chest and underneath that is the person's name.
- One the back in 3" letter is "Public Service Ambassador" in white on the back. No shoulder patches.
- Pants will be blue dress pants with hidden cargo pockets.

Equipment and vehicles for non-sworn are in line with VUE. PSAs have a duty belt, which includes a radio, pepper spray, handcuffs, and Taser. Vehicles used by non-sworn are clearly for support purposes and do not bear star logos.

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.

Achieved

In progress

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

The campus is still developing its tiered response protocols in partnership with the county.

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.

Achieved

In progress

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

The campus is still developing the tiered response protocol with the county for a mobile response unit.

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.

Achieved

Yes

Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UC Merced has established an executive steering committee that reviews decisions related to the implementation of the campus safety plan. A student intern assists with student input and information sharing.

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

Achieved

No (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.

UCMPD has already implemented the name/title change for impacted PD positions and equipment. The uniform appears is in transition as new uniforms have not all come in.

Other updates

None