Allegany College of Maryland

CAMPUS SAFETY SECURITY GUARD USE OF FORCE POLICY

Drafted & Reviewed by Board 11/2018
Officially Approved by Board of Trustees September 16, 2024
Implementation Date September 17, 2024
Type of Policy - Mandated

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Promoting and maintaining a safe campus environment for students, employees, and visitors is a primary function of the Allegany College of Maryland Campus Safety Department. To maintain a safe, welcoming campus environment conducive to student learning and success, Allegany College of Maryland is adopting the following policy and definitions of use of force. This shall be implemented by each ACM Campus Safety Security Guard to ensure a proper use of force and to determine when use of deadly force is the appropriate action. This policy applies to all campus safety officers/guards whether assigned to the main campus, Willowbrook Woods, or any other ACM location for all or part of any shift. A separate policy, 05.01.004, applies specifically to the ACM Special Police.

DEFINITIONS

The State of Maryland has defined Use of Force as:

- Any physical striking of an individual
- Any significant physical contact that restricts the movement of an individual, including control techniques
- The detainment of an individual without the individual's consent.

USE OF FORCE

The State of Maryland states that Use of Force includes:

- The discharge of a firearm
- The discharge of pepper mace, as define in §4-101 of the Criminal Law Article
- The use of an electronic control device, as defined in §4-109 of the Criminal Law Article
- Use of Force does not include mere presence, verbal commands, or escorting an individual with minimal resistance.

ACM SECURITY GUARDS

- At no time will ACM Security Guards be allowed to possess any weapons on Campus.
- This includes firearms, Taser, baton, OC Spray (Mace), handcuffs or any restraint device, etc.
- The Security Guard position at ACM is an unarmed position, therefore no weapons, incapacitating devices or any item used to detain individuals are permitted.

- Security Guards as of January 1, 2025, will be mandated to receive 12 hours of initial training and then 8 hours of in service training every 3 years. This training includes:
  - Relevant criminal law
  - Maryland use of force policy
  - Alternatives to use of force including de-escalation techniques
  - Techniques that can be employed when encountering an individual in crisis, individual with a disability, a juvenile, an individual with behavior health concerns and how to seek aid for a person in need.
  - All training objectives mandated in Senate Bill 760 (Chapter 763)

USE OF FORCE BY ACM CAMPUS SAFETY SECURITY GUARDS

The Campus Safety Security Department Use of Force policy follows the definition of the State of Maryland. Security Guards at ACM are unarmed and are not authorized to possess weapons or restraints on ACM properties.

A. It is the policy of Allegany College of Maryland that Special Police Officers and Security Guards use the least amount of force reasonably necessary to control an incident, to effect an arrest, or to protect themselves or others from personal harm or death. The degree of force used by the officer should be progressive along a continuum that spans from verbal commands to deadly force. When circumstances allow, officers/guards should communicate to the suspect their identity, purpose, and intention of using force.

<u>Use of Force for Security Guards is only authorized if:</u>

- If the guard is assaulted or physically attacked and/or defending the life of another
- The guard has no other options including retreat
- The guard is in fear for their life or severe bodily harm
- The guard is protecting others from actual or imminent physical harm/danger

REPORTING USE OF FORCE

A Security Guard is responsible to report any use of force against a person while providing Security Guard services on behalf of ACM to the Director of Campus Safety and Special Police or a designee immediately. It is the responsibility of the user of force to complete an incident report regarding the use of force before the end of the shift. The report needs to include:

- The type of encounter
- The type of force used
- The location of the incident where force was used
- Whether the individual against whom force was used was arrested and, if known, what charges the individual received
- Whether the individual against who the force was used requested or required medical care
- Whether the Security Guard requested or required medical care

- The demographic information about any individuals against whom force was used and any Security Guard involved. This demographic information should include race, ethnicity, gender, and age of all involved.

REVIEW OF USE OF FORCE ACTION

Every use of force shall be investigated and reviewed to determine if an unwarranted use of force was applied. Authority for delegating the investigation work and review should be at the discretion of the President. The reasonableness of an officer's use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight. Discipline will be handled by the supervisor according to Human Resources policies in conjunction with the Director of Campus Safety and Special Police.

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

The Director of Campus Security & Special Police along with the Vice President for Finance & Administration are responsible for implementation, administration, and oversight of this policy.

POLICY CHANGES

Substantive changes to this policy require approval by the Board of Trustees; editorial changes, title/position changes, and/or changes to its implementation procedures may be made as required by Federal or State mandate and/or institutional need with timely notice to employees.