

Police Department

Message from the Chief of Police

We Are Committed to Serve & Protect

The primary responsibility of the Delaware State University Police Department is to provide a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff and all who work and visit our University; and we solicit your support and active participation in our safety and security efforts. Police Department personnel work closely with federal, state and local enforcement agencies to gather intelligence and resources utilized in proactive policing at Delaware State University. Equally important is the relationship with our community partners who provide diverse resources which aid in the overall mission of the University Safety.

The continuing safety initiatives of the Delaware State University Police Department include:

- A progressive, highly visible patrol force
- A mass notification system
- An expansive Emergency Blue Light System
- A proactive Crime Prevention program, designed to educate and inform all university personnel on the "best practices" to take to avoid becoming a victim
- And a vibrant partnership with various student groups, our staff, and faculty, as well as with Dover Police, Delaware State Police, and our other law enforcement partners

Harry W. Downes, Jr.
Chief of Police
Director of Police Department

About the Police Department

The Delaware State University Police Department is the primary law enforcement agency throughout the University, responsible for the safety and security of students, faculty, staff and visitors. We are a fully operational law enforcement agency that operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As a community-oriented policing organization, we are committed to a partnership with the community in which we pledge to provide high-quality community policing programs and services. Our mission is to work with all members of the campus and the communities to preserve life, maintain human rights, protect property, and ultimately enhance the quality of life on campus and in the community.

The Delaware State University Police Department is governed by the Policy & Procedure and General Orders Manual, as well as University-wide Policies. We currently employ approximately 30 sworn and non-sworn members. This number includes the Chief of Police, Operational officers and Administrative staff. We are a legally appointed law enforcement agency whose sworn personnel have all the powers of law enforcement officers generally, including the authority to make arrests, as well as the legal authority to carry and use firearms in defense of the State in the performance of their duties. Our security officers do not have arrest powers, but do have the right to detain. Both sworn and non-sworn officers attend in-service training annually.

