

String Theory School of Design
2024-2025 Security and Fire Safety Report
1600 Vine Street
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EMERGENCY CONTACTS

All Emergencies (24/7)

911

Police - 9th District
400 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130

(215) 686-3090

Fire
240 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

(215) 686-1300

String Theory School of Design

Security info@stringtheorydesign.org

(267)-428-2224
press 2 for front desk

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to inform the community of String Theory School of Design (“STSoD”) about security policies, initiatives to prevent and respond to crime and emergencies, and the occurrence of any crime on campus. This report complies with the Uniform Crime Reporting Act of Nov. 29, 2004, P.L. 1383, No. 180, Cl. 18, as amended, and uses information collected by the Director of Security of STSoD and information provided by the Philadelphia Police Department. This report includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as policies regarding possession or use of weapons, alcohol, and illegal drugs, and sexual assault. STSoD distributes a notice of the availability of this Annual Security and Fire Safety Report by September 1 of each year to every member of the STSoD community. Anyone, including prospective students and employees, may obtain a copy of this report by contacting the Director of Security at jmcbride@stringtheoryschools.org.

CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY - “A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY”

Campus safety and security at STSoD is a shared responsibility. The best protection against campus crime or other threats is an aware, informed, and alert campus community of students, faculty and staff, who use reason and caution to alert authorities of any perceived dangers. Students, faculty, staff, and parents are encouraged to report legitimate threats of harm and other safety concerns to the Director of Security, Security Officers, or other personnel.

To date, there have been no incidents of crime or fire reported at STSoD. If you have concerns, questions or comments about state law requirements or STSoD’s compliance with the law, please contact the Director of Security at jmcbride@stringtheoryschools.org.

CAMPUS ACCESS

STSoD is located at 1600 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. There are 7 full-time employees of the college and 34 full-time students. The 8-story building may be accessed by students during the academic year from 7:00 am until 6:30 pm Monday through Friday by entering the main campus entrance with a customized and personalized electronic access controlled Brivo security pass. Employees may access the building either by entering the main entrance or through the garage, depending on their level of security clearance, with a customized and personalized electronic access controlled Brivo security pass. Visitors must receive pre-authorization in order to receive a visitor’s pass. Authorized visitors must then provide ID to the Front Desk Security Officer and sign a log book in order to obtain a timed electronic access controlled visitor pass with limited access to the campus facilities. No walk-in visitors are permitted to enter the building.

SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY TECHNOLOGY

STSoD has a state-of-the-art electronic security and fire safety infra-structure. This includes an Alertus emergency mass notification alert system, ParentSquare notification, and numerous Merki and cloud-based 360° rotating and fixed closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras throughout the campus and in the garage, which monitor and record all activity on campus 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Electronic access controlled Brivo card readers, burglar and door alarms, sensors, loud speakers, and walkie-talkies are the other key features of the security technology program located in the building. The campus is equipped with fire alarm systems with fire detection components that are monitored by the Director of Security, who is required to immediately contact the Philadelphia Fire Department upon receipt of a fire alarm, 24/7. In the event a fire alarm is sounded when the classes are not in session, the Philadelphia Fire Department is notified automatically. Further, the campus is equipped with automatic fire sprinkler systems monitored by the building fire alarm system and there are multiple fire extinguishers on every floor of the campus and in the garage.

SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY TEAM

The President of STSoD, Jason Corosante, oversees all security measures of the college. The Director of Security, Joe McBride, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, PA. He was a Police Sergeant and Incident Commander in the City of Philadelphia for 22 years. He is licensed to carry a firearm. Mr. McBride oversees the Security Officers of the college, including Deborah Silveti, who is also a retired police officer licensed to carry a firearm. The Director of Security serves as the STSoD liaison with the Police and Fire Departments of Philadelphia. He is responsible for developing and maintaining a daily log of valid complaints and reports of crime (the “Daily Crime Log”), investigating allegations of criminal activity occurring at STSoD, and reporting his findings to the President and Dean of the College and/or local or federal authorities, as warranted. The Daily Crime Log includes the incident type, date incident is reported, date and time of occurrence, and general location of each reported incident type, as well as the disposition of the incident, if this information is known. The Director of Security posts specific incidents in the Daily Crime Log within two business days of receiving a report of an incident and reserves the right to exclude reports from a log in certain circumstances as permitted by law.

The Director of Security also manages fire and emergency services programs at STSoD in collaboration with the City of Philadelphia Departments of Fire and Licenses and Inspections. He monitors and enhances compliance with local and state codes, national standards, and best practices through periodic building inspections and reviews of plans and specifications for renovation projects. He is responsible for developing and maintaining a daily log of fire safety activity (the “Daily Fire Safety Log”), investigating reports of fire, smoke, or other hazardous substances, and reporting his findings to the President and Dean of the College and/or local or federal authorities, as warranted. The Daily Fire Safety Log includes the incident type, date incident is reported, date and time of occurrence, and general location of each reported incident

type, as well as the disposition of the incident, if this information is known. The Director of Security posts specific incidents in the Daily Fire Safety Log within two business days of receiving a report of an incident and reserves the right to exclude reports from a log in certain circumstances as permitted by law.

Under the direction of the President, the Director of Security serves as the leader for the college's crisis and emergency planning functions by preparing people to respond appropriately in the event of an emergency and overseeing the readiness of all campus building life safety systems and equipment. In addition to his planning functions, the Director of Security liaisons with governmental agencies to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from crisis events on or near the campus.

The Director of Security and his team provide numerous additional services, including monitoring emergency drills, safety training for new students and employees, and developing a crisis management action plan.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS & PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency, the Director of Security and/or the President will liaison between the Police Department, Fire Department, and other relevant Government Agencies. A Command Center at the campus will be established and a predetermined chain of command will be placed into operation. The safety and welfare of the students and staff are the primary concern.

Lockdown - In the event a lockdown is warranted (e.g., if there is an armed assailant in the building, severe weather warning, or other external threat to the safety of students and staff and the Director of Security determines it necessary to lock down the building), a lockdown alarm will be transmitted over the loudspeaker system, the Police and Fire Departments will be notified, and students and staff will be prohibited from leaving the building until they receive direct instructions from the administration. The students and staff have been trained in active shooter and shelter-in-place procedures. The Police or Fire Department will determine when a lockdown is over.

Evacuation - In the event evacuation is warranted (e.g., fire, smoke or hazardous material is detected), an alarm will be sounded over the loudspeaker system, and the Fire Department will be contacted. When a fire alarm is activated, the elevators in the campus will automatically recall to a pre-designated fire safe floor. Occupants should use the stairs to evacuate the building. If you are caught in the elevator, push the emergency phone button. Floor captains are responsible for monitoring the situation on their assigned floor and for evacuating the students and staff from the building, using stairwells rather than elevators. Special procedures are in place for assisting disabled persons.

Each classroom displays directions for evacuation in the event of a fire or other emergency. Multiple fire drills take place throughout the academic year. All personnel are trained to assist in

the orderly evacuation of the college and are responsible for the safe evacuation of all students during the time of the drill.

CRIME REPORTING

All valid reports or complaints of crime are recorded in the Daily Crime Log maintained by the Director of Security. The Daily Crime Log is available to the public. The Director of Security is responsible for investigating allegations of criminal activity occurring at STSoD and reporting his findings to the President and Dean of the College and/or local or federal authorities, as warranted. Students and staff are informed that they can report incidents of crime to the Director of Security, any Security Officer, or any faculty, staff member, or employee.

STSoD has in place an anonymous tip reporting system called “Safe2Say Something” (“S2SS”). Safe2Say Something is a youth violence prevention program run by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. The program teaches youth and adults how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, from individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and to “say something” before it is too late. This program allows anyone to report a crime or threat by email, SMS text, phone, through the S2SS app, or online. All submissions are reviewed, assessed, and processed by trained Analysts in the Office of the Attorney General Crisis Center. They triage each tip to ensure there is enough information to act upon the tip, determine if the tip is life safety or non-life safety as well as conduct an on-going 2-way dialog with the tipster where needed. The Crisis Center sends all life-safety submissions immediately to school administration and/or 911 Dispatch law enforcement officials for intervention, as warranted. Students and staff receive training on how to use S2SS.

CRIME PREVENTION

Assault - A student will be suspended or expelled if the student commits an assault against a teacher, administrator, board member, fellow student or other community member, or other employee who is acting within their duties and in a situation where his/her authority to act is apparent, or as a result of their relationship with STSoD.

Sexual Assault - “sexual assault” includes the following offenses:

- Rape;
- Statutory sexual assault;
- Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse;
- Sexual assault;
- Aggravated indecent assault; and
- Indecent assault.

Students who have been convicted or adjudicated delinquent for sexual assault of another student at STSoD must give notice to the President and Director of Security within 72 hours of the conviction or adjudication.

If the victim of the sexual assault attends the college and if the convicted or adjudicated student has not already been expelled, the President must take action to expel the convicted or adjudicated student. Prior to any expulsion, STSoD must provide due process, including all of the procedures required in the College Code of Student Conduct for these consequences.

If the sexual assault occurred on campus or in a school setting, the Principal or Dean of the College shall notify the Title IX Coordinator who will determine whether the incident has been addressed in accordance with the College's Harassment and Discrimination policy and procedures.

Harassment - All students have the right to a learning environment that is free from intimidation, harassment, and hostility. STSoD strives to provide a safe and positive learning climate for students and staff at the college, and at all STSoD functions and activities regardless of location on or off campus premises, or to or from campus.

“Harassment” is defined as verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct relating to a person's gender, age, race, color, sexual orientation (known or perceived), gender identity expression (known or perceived), national origin, religion, disability, socioeconomic status and/or political beliefs when such conduct:

- Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects a person's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment;
- Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's education; or
- Otherwise adversely affects a person's learning opportunities, safety or well-being.

In order for STSoD to maintain a safe educational climate, the college will not tolerate any form of harassment by any of its students or staff.

Prohibited forms of harassment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Verbal Harassment, such as derogatory comments, jokes, slurs, or threats;
- Physical Harassment, such as unnecessary or offensive touching, or impeding or blocking movement; or
- Visual Harassment, such as derogatory or offensive pictures, posters, cards, pictures, graffiti, drawings, gestures or symbols.

STSoD encourages students and/or their parents/guardians and third parties who have been harassed to promptly report such incidents to the President of STSoD, Dean of the College, Vice President of Academic Affairs or to any other member of the staff, including teachers, guidance

counselors, coaches and administrators. Any staff member who receives such a report will immediately notify the President, Dean of the College, or Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Complaints of harassment will be investigated promptly. If the allegations are substantiated, corrective action will be taken for this serious violation of STSoD policy, including the appropriate level of discipline of the student(s) who committed the infraction. Confidentiality of all parties will be maintained, consistent with STSoD's legal and investigative obligations.

No reprisals or acts of retaliation are permitted as a result of good faith charges of harassment. Any student who engages in such conduct will face disciplinary action.

Any student who is determined to have knowingly made a false complaint under this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Sexual Harassment

“Sexual Harassment” is a form of “Harassment,” in which case the same rationale exists for prohibiting this behavior, and which STSoD thus reaffirms its policy prohibiting harassment in all forms.

“Sexual Harassment” consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other inappropriate verbal, written, graphic or physical contact of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's academic success;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting such student; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic environment.

Forms of Sexual Harassment include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Verbal Harassment, such as derogatory comments, jokes, slurs, sexually oriented sounds or remarks;
- Physical Harassment, such as unnecessary or offensive touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another person's body, or impeding or blocking movement; or
- Visual Harassment, such as derogatory or offensive pictures, posters, cards, cartoons, graffiti, drawings, or gestures.

Formal complaints must be in writing and signed by the complainant. The President, Dean of the College, or the Vice President of Academic Affairs or their designee will investigate complaints of “Sexual Harassment” promptly. If the charge is substantiated, corrective disciplinary action will be taken for this serious violation of the STSoD policy.

Confidentiality will be maintained within the confines of the college's investigation of the alleged prohibited behavior. All parties will be treated with dignity and due process.

Cyber Harassment

"Cyber Harassment" means direct use of electronic communications or electronic social media service to inflict harm to a student, including threats to inflict harm or making seriously disparaging statements or opinions about the student's physical characteristics, sexuality, sexual activity, mental or physical health. Cyber Harassment of a student, whether on campus grounds or not, is a crime to warrant notification to the Police Department. This may result in a criminal investigation and criminal charges to be filed against the student.

Hazing

A person commits the offense of hazing if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting, or affiliating a student into or with an organization for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a student's membership or status in an organization, causes, coerces or forces a minor student to:

- Violate State or Federal criminal law.
- Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid drug or other substance which subjects a student to a risk of emotional or physical harm.
- Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics, or exposure to the elements.
- Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment.
- Endure brutality of a sexual nature.
- Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the student.

Any of the above may be considered aggravated hazing (resulting in serious bodily injury or death) and organizational hazing (an organization that promotes or facilitates hazing).

Hazing of a student, whether on campus grounds or not, is a crime if committed by any person or by another student – to warrant notification to the Police Department. This may result in a criminal investigation and criminal charges to be filed against the student or person.

Sexual Discrimination - STSoD is committed to providing a learning and working environment that is free from sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual discrimination. STSoD is dedicated to ensuring a safe school climate for all students and the entire community. Through a comprehensive compliance, investigative, and adjudication program, STSoD promotes fundamental rights, individual and institutional integrity and uphold the aims of Title IX legislation.

Possession of Weapons, Firearms and Dangerous Instruments - Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff, and is prohibited by law and school policy.

The term “weapon” will mean any object, device, or instrument designed as a weapon or capable of threatening or inflicting serious bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury. This definition includes, but is not limited to: any firearm, shotgun, or rifle, whether loaded or unloaded; any knife, cutting instrument, or cutting tool; any nunchaku; any chemical agent such as pepper spray or mace; laser pointer; stun gun; incendiary device; any other tool, instrument or object used or intended to be used to inflict serious bodily harm to another.

Students are prohibited from possessing and bringing any weapon within 100 feet of the campus, onto the campus property or garage, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to campus or to a school-sponsored activity.

A student is regarded as in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student’s locker; or under the student’s control while on school property, on property being used by STSoD, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the campus, or while the student is coming to or from campus or a school-sponsored activity.

Being in possession of a weapon is not limited to using it or intending to use it. Merely carrying the weapon, keeping it in a locker, backpack or purse, or even holding it for another person, is sufficient to be considered in possession of a weapon.

Any student who violates this weapons policy, which is an egregious offense, may be subject to a referral for expulsion. However, the President, after a hearing, may decide to allow the student who brought a weapon to campus to remain at the college.

Additionally, STSoD will notify the Police upon discovery of any weapon mentioned above.

Terroristic Threats - STSoD recognizes the danger that terroristic threats by students present to the safety and welfare of students, staff and community, even if the result is fear or disruption without physical injury. Therefore, STSoD will not tolerate any such conduct by any student, which is prohibited.

“Terroristic threat” is defined as a threat communicated either directly or indirectly to commit any crime of violence with the intent to terrorize another; to cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility of public transportation; or to otherwise cause serious public inconvenience, or cause terror or serious public inconvenience with reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience.

Any student whom the President determines, after investigation, to have engaged in such conduct, alone or having involvement in any part thereof, will have committed the egregious offense of “terroristic threat.” Such students will be recommended for expulsion.

Substance Abuse and Possession - The use, possession, sale, distribution, or possession with intent to sell or distribute any substance as defined below (a) on school property, (b) at any place where the interscholastic and/or athletic contest is taking place, (c) during the course of any college field trip, (d) upon school transportation vehicles at any time is prohibited, as well as (e) the use of any substances prior to participation in the activities listed in (a)-(e) above is prohibited.

Use by a student, in proper amounts, of a drug authorized by a medical prescription for the student from a licensed physician will not be considered a violation of this rule.

Likewise, no student will aid, abet, assist, or conceal the possession, consumption, purchase, or distribution of any substance by any other pupil or pupils (a) on school property, (b) at any place where an interscholastic and/or athletic contest is taking place, (c) during the course of any field trip, or (d) upon school transportation vehicles at any time.

Any student found engaging in any of the foregoing prohibited activities will be subject to appropriate disciplinary consequences pursuant to existing administrative procedures for the discipline of pupils and any other applicable provisions of the law.

*Definition: For the purpose of this policy, “substance” will mean alcoholic beverages, anabolic steroids, controlled dangerous substances or any chemical or chemical compound which releases vapors or fumes causing a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system including, but not limited to, glue containing a solvent having the property of releasing toxic vapors or fumes, and any prescription drugs, except those for which permission for use in school has been granted.

DISCIPLINARY POLICIES

Any student who fails to comply with STSoD policies or local, state or federal laws may be subject to discipline under the College Code of Student Conduct. Sanctions can include, but are not limited to, a reprimand, disciplinary probation, and withdrawal of privileges, suspension, and expulsion. When a student’s presence on campus is considered a threat to order, health or safety, the President or his designee may impose a mandatory leave of absence or conditions on the student’s attendance. The College’s student disciplinary procedures are described in the College Handbook.

Generally, prospective students are asked about previous criminal records, and if relevant to the issue of student admission, this is a factor considered in the admission process. Employees are required to disclose any and all convictions for a felony, crime of violence, dishonesty or crime

against property or involving the threat of violence. Each prospective employee must undergo an FBI background check and a PA criminal background check, and must also receive a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance under the State's Child Protective Services Law.

CRIME STATISTICS

The Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting Act requires the release of crime statistics and rates reported to the police to students and employees, and it requires that those statistics be available to applicants and new employees upon request. The rate is based on the actual number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) students and employees, calculated according to a state-mandated formula. The college's FTE population for 2024-2025 is 41.

Offense	2024-2025 - actual number of incidents
Criminal Homicide	0
Forcible Rape	0
Robbery	0
Aggravated Assault	0
Simple Assault	0
Burglary	0
Arson	0
Forgery/Counterfeiting	0
Fraud	0
Embezzlement	0
Stolen Property (Buying, Receiving, Possessing)	0
Vandalism	0
Weapons Offense	0
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	0
Sex Offenses (except Rape and Prostitution)	0
Drug Abuse Violations	0
Gambling	0

Offenses Against Family	0
Liquor Laws	0
Drunkenness (except Liquor Violation Laws)	0
Disorderly Conduct	0
Vagrancy	0
All Other Offenses, including harassment, harassment by communication, threats, unlawful restraint, loitering and prowling and trespass.	0
Total	0