

## **Student Safety Policy**

### **Sumgait State University**

#### **I. Purpose and Scope**

At Sumgait State University (SDU), the safety and well-being of students are of paramount importance. This “Student Safety Policy” outlines the university’s commitment to fostering a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment. The policy is designed to protect students from physical, emotional, and digital harm while ensuring compliance with national and international regulations and standards. This policy reflects SDU’s dedication to creating a safe academic environment that prioritizes the personal security and mental well-being of every student. It applies to:

1. All SDU premises, including classrooms, dormitories, laboratories, libraries, and recreational facilities.
2. University-sponsored activities, whether conducted on-campus, off-campus, or online.
3. Students’ interactions with university-managed services, platforms, and systems.

#### **II. Key Principles**

SDU’s approach to student safety is built on the following principles:

1. **Prevention:** Actively identifying and mitigating risks and hazards before they occur.
2. **Inclusivity:** Respecting diversity and ensuring equitable treatment for all students, regardless of gender, race, religion, nationality, or disability.
3. **Transparency:** Clearly communicating safety protocols and incident response measures to the university community.
4. **Responsiveness:** Ensuring swift action and comprehensive support in response to safety concerns or emergencies.
5. **Confidentiality:** Protecting student privacy when handling safety-related incidents or concerns.

### III. Campus Safety Measures

SDU implements a comprehensive set of measures to ensure students' physical and emotional safety on campus:

#### III.I. Physical Safety

1. **Security Personnel:** Trained security staff are stationed across campus 24/7 to respond to emergencies and monitor activities.
2. **Surveillance Systems:** The campus is equipped with a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system to monitor public areas and deter unauthorized access.
3. **Access Control:** Entry to campus buildings, dormitories, and restricted areas is managed through an identification system to prevent unauthorized access.
4. **Emergency Exits and Equipment:** All buildings are fitted with clearly marked emergency exits, fire extinguishers, and evacuation plans.
5. **Infrastructure Maintenance:** Facilities are regularly inspected and maintained to meet national safety standards.

#### III.II. Health and Wellness

1. **On-Campus Medical Support:** First aid kits and medical assistance are available at designated facilities. Partnerships with local clinics and hospitals ensure access to advanced care if needed.
2. **Hygiene and Sanitation:** Regular cleaning and sanitation are carried out in all academic and residential spaces, especially in high-traffic areas.
3. **Disease Prevention:** SDU enforces health protocols to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, including vaccination requirements and quarantine measures when necessary.

#### III.III. Psychological Safety

1. **Counseling Services:** Professional mental health counselors are available to support students dealing with stress, anxiety, or other psychological challenges.
2. **Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy:** SDU enforces a zero-tolerance policy for bullying, harassment, and discrimination. Students are encouraged to report incidents through confidential channels.
3. **Inclusive Environment:** Efforts are made to promote inclusivity, respect, and understanding among students of diverse backgrounds.

### III.IV. Emergency Preparedness

1. **Emergency Response Plan:** Detailed procedures are in place to handle emergencies, including natural disasters, fires, and medical crises.
2. **Drills and Training:** Regular safety training and evacuation drills are conducted for students and staff.
3. **Incident Reporting:** A streamlined system is in place for reporting safety concerns or incidents, ensuring timely investigation and resolution.

### IV. Digital Safety

With the increasing use of technology in education, SDU prioritizes the protection of students in digital environments:

1. **Data Security:** Students' personal and academic information is protected in compliance with data privacy laws.
2. **Cyberbullying Prevention:** SDU will monitor online platforms for any signs of cyberbullying or harassment and addresses such incidents promptly.
3. **Guidance on Safe Practices:** Students are educated on recognizing and avoiding cybersecurity threats, such as phishing scams.

### V. Off-Campus and Online Safety

SDU recognizes that student safety extends beyond the physical campus:

**Field Trips and Off-Campus Activities:** Safety measures, including risk assessments and supervision, are conducted for all university-sponsored events and trips.

**Virtual Learning Environments:** SDU ensures the security of its online platforms by using reliable systems and enforcing policies that protect against misuse or cyberattacks.

### VI. Student Responsibilities

Students play an essential role in maintaining a safe university environment. Failure to comply with safety policies may result in disciplinary action as outlined in the university's regulations, **Internal Discipline Rules, Student Code of Conduct** and **Honor Code**. All SDU students are expected to:

1. **Follow University Policies:** Adhere to all safety guidelines and protocols outlined by the university.
2. **Report Issue Immediately:** Notify university authorities of unsafe conditions, hazards, or incidents.
3. **Participate in Training:** Attend safety training programs and drills organized by the university.
4. **Respect Others:** Maintain a culture of respect and responsibility toward peers, faculty, and staff.

5. **Use Resources Responsibly:** Ensure proper use of university facilities and online platforms.

## **VII. Reporting and Support Mechanisms**

SDU provides accessible and confidential mechanisms for reporting safety concerns. All reports are handled with the utmost confidentiality and professionalism, ensuring appropriate follow-up and resolution:

1. **Emergency Contact Points:** Students can contact campus security or the designated emergency hotline for immediate assistance.
2. **Confidential Reporting:** A secure system is in place for reporting sensitive issues, such as harassment or mental health concerns.
3. **Support Services:** Students affected by safety incidents are offered counseling and other forms of support as needed.

## **VIII. Monitoring and Policy Review**

To ensure continuous improvement, SDU regularly reviews the Student Safety Policy in alignment with national and international safety standards, as well as feedback from students and faculties. Updates to the policy are communicated clearly to the university community.

**Approved by:**

**Signature:**

**Sumgait State University Administration**

**Effective Date:**

**Next Review Date:**