



Clery Act Requirements and Crime Reporting

*Compliance Continues to Challenge California's
Colleges and Universities*

Background

To help inform students and their families about campus safety, postsecondary educational institutions (institutions) that participate in federal student aid programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 are required by the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) to publish annual security reports by October 1 of each year. These security reports must contain statistics related to certain crimes, and the institutions must disclose or have in place a number of security policies. When institutions do not comply with the Clery Act, they inhibit the ability of students and others to make informed decisions about campus safety. Further, the U.S. Department of Education can impose financial penalties of up to nearly \$56,000 per violation against noncompliant institutions. We selected six institutions and performed audit work related to crime statistics they reported and the completeness of their policies.

Key Findings

During our review of the six institutions' compliance with the Clery Act, we noted the following:

- None of the six institutions fully complied with the Clery Act and federal regulations.
 - » Four reported a significant number of inaccurate crime statistics. The majority of the errors involved institutions either overreporting or underreporting crimes.
 - » Five of the six institutions did not develop or disclose all required policies, which impedes students and other stakeholders from being able to compare campus safety at different institutions.
 - » Five of the institutions did not have complete or updated daily crime logs. In fact, one institution did not maintain a crime log until June 2017.
- We have reported inaccurate crime statistics by institutions in five previous audit reports over the last 15 years. Although systemwide offices for the State's public institutions have undertaken efforts to increase institutions' compliance with the Clery Act as a result of recommendations we made in 2015, two systemwide offices need to improve certain aspects of their guidance.

Key Recommendations

We made various recommendations to several entities including the following:

- The institutions should develop or strengthen procedures and adhere to applicable guidance related to the Clery Act to ensure they correctly compile and report crime statistics, disclose the required campus security policies, and maintain complete and up to date daily crime logs.
- Both the California State University Office of the Chancellor and the University of California Office of the President should fully implement recommendations we made in 2015 and provide more guidance to their respective institutions on how to include in their policy more detail regarding annual security report disclosures.