

CAMPUS CLIMATE REPORT

The Salvation Army College for Officer Training Suffern, New York, 2020

Campus Environment

The Salvation Army College for Officer Training for the Eastern Territory of the United States is in Suffern, New York, a small village with proximity to New York City. The village of Suffern is composed of small, family-owned businesses, a hospital, a train station for commuters to larger communities in New Jersey and New York, restaurants and single- and multiple-family homes. The village of Suffern in New York is also contiguous with Mahwah, New Jersey. Both Mahwah and Suffern maintain that small-town feel.

The physical resources, particularly instructional facilities, are designed, maintained and managed so that the College can fulfill all of its purposes. We seek to allow cadets to meet and achieve their educational objectives while living in a collective community of God-honoring and loving families and singles. Adequate and separate spaces are set apart for all educational and living functions and services that individuals and families would require including instruction, support services, food services, administration, and childcare facilities. The Campus is a welcoming residential space and all cadets live on the grounds with their immediate families in separate or shared (for most singles) housing.

In all respects, the campus is people-friendly with child, youth and adult space for active living. The campus contains a full-size gymnasium, a smaller gym, and work-out spaces. Modern equipment exists either in dormitory settings or attached to the main instructional buildings for use by all adults and supervised youth. Equipment and opportunities for outside exercise and team play exist with a soccer field, walking/running paths, a basketball court, and a tennis court. Finally, a fully functional, licensed Family Care Center with two playgrounds and a separate staff is provided on-campus, with modest expense to cadets/students and at reasonable charge to some employees who need/elect this benefit.

"The College for Officer Training Campus is a place where laughter is heard, and happy memories are made. Often, through the stress and difficult times of growth it's the relationships and connections you make that form you into the vibrant and Godly leader you will become." **Cadet Kiara Blaire**

For instruction, sufficient equipment is available for every function required, either by individuals or, frequently, in a shared environment. Facilities exist for public gatherings in a large (250+ seating) auditorium, a similar chapel (200+ seating), and a lecture hall (250+ seating). Most classrooms are smaller (capacity 18 to 36), and 2 are intermediate-sized (45 to 56 capacity). A piano laboratory and music room (for band and ensemble instrumental practice/playing) are also available to individuals and cadet groups (along with musical instruments) and are used for appropriate instruction.

The College provides each matriculating cadet with a laptop upon arrival and an I.T. department and staff aid in instruction and maintenance of these learning resources. Additionally, printers and other equipment are available in the I.T. department and printers are also available in the Library. Smart Boards for electronic instructional presentations exist in 10 of the classrooms.

The Brengle Library at the College for Officer Training is a welcoming, comfortable, quiet and sufficiently large space within the Administration Building which can accommodate a variety of learning activities for cadets and their families. The library collection houses print materials, including books, journals, monographs and serials, and a variety of non-print media adequate in breadth and depth to support the institution's mission and curriculum, in addition to full-text electronic databases.

Campus Living

The College has a current enrollment of 49 cadets. The population living on campus, including some instructional staff and families of those staff and all students and their families, is usually 140 to 160 each year. The cadets have shown an average of 79.4% retention rate over the two years of study and a 91.0% graduation on time rate from 2009 to present. Cadets and their families will spend considerable time on the campus as a living and caring community. Campus grounds are well structured for various experiential learning activities such as outdoor walking/prayer walk, exercise, and community gatherings in lounge areas and so much more.

*Life at CFOT is part college campus and part living with a large extended family. Everyone you see is ready with a friendly smile or to lend a hand. **Cadet David LaBossiere***

Campus Climate Report 2020

The College maintains a safe and secure open campus. A private twenty-four hour, seven days per week security firm, as well as the local Police Department are initial contact providers. Additionally, Salvation Army staff in the offices of Personnel and Business are continuously available for reporting incidents and triage. The Suffern Fire Department responds to any incident of reported injury or fire. Finally, almost contiguous with the campus is a modern hospital with complete ER facilities and professional health treatment providers.

The College abides by and attempts to comply with the Federal Clery act against violence on campus ("Enough is Enough" laws) and the Educational Acts of New York State (Act 129B) which aim to protect all parties on college campuses and higher learning institutions. As part of our responsibilities, an incident report is required to be filed yearly. During the most recent academic term (two-year period – 2017-19), the major reporting incidents on campus were 25 false fire alarms, 11 reported door or elevator malfunctions, 2 reported thefts, 2 gas leaks detected and 1 report of a vagrant on campus. No crimes against persons or vandalism of personal property were reported. Additionally, in the most recent academic term (2019-2020), a report of a disorderly vagrant, one report of an employee medical issue and one damage report of a fallen tree with structural damage to a campus building occurred. Fire alarm reports continued at the pace of previous years, but no actual fires occurred.

Campus Climate Report 2024

The Campus Climate survey was expanded to include all on Campus, not only students, in the latest iteration (Spring of 2024). As only students (Cadets) live 24/7 on campus, prior assessments of quality and perceived safety on campus life had only focused on this group. Employees, Faculty, Staff and Cadets were encouraged to answer the survey to increase the number of assessments and theoretically establish a more accurate representation for all. The total population of individuals in these groups on campus is approximately 80 to 90 (fluctuates day-to-day) and just over 55% completed and returned the survey.

As with the most recent prior survey (2021), over 85% of respondents reported their perceptions of “safety and security on campus” as “completely”, with the remaining answering “at most times.” Analyzing these data using a 4-point scale, as in previous years, yielded a score of 3.85 out of a 4.0 possible (when respondents are evaluating the question concerning perceptions of “completely safe and secure”), essentially replicating earlier administrations of the survey. Unfortunately, unlike the earlier years’ experiences, a few minor thefts were reported; happily, no reports of harassment, stalking, abuse or violence were reported to the Administration.