

BSC Surveillance Policy

Purpose

Birmingham-Southern College is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our campus community. One of the components of our safety and security practices is video surveillance. All surveillance must abide with the Code of Alabama – Criminal Code. Surveillance is to be confined to public areas where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. The only exception is video taken to further an investigation by the Birmingham-Southern College Campus Police Department and approved by the Chief of Campus Police and appropriate Vice President. The limitation of the video would be as an investigative tool to be used by law enforcement and authorities in the prosecution and identification of suspect or suspects. Violation of this policy will be dealt with by the proper campus authority or governing agency. All surveillance on campus must be approved by the Chief of the Birmingham-Southern College Campus Police Department.

Systems, Viewing Retention, and Distribution.

Our surveillance cameras are not actively monitored. However, Birmingham-Southern College reserves the right to monitor any campus surveillance system as the need arises. Video for the most part is only viewed upon the report of a crime or violation. Information obtained from the cameras shall be used exclusively for law enforcement and disciplinary purposes. Video Monitoring will not be used in the evaluation of employee performance. No audio shall be recorded. Information obtained must be handled with an appropriate level of discretion. Distribution of said information must be approved and in cooperation with the Campus Police Chief, appropriate Vice President and/or Chief of Staff prior to distribution. Any unauthorized distribution would be a violation of policy and would be dealt with by the appropriate campus authority. Video surveillance information is only maintained in a long term capacity if it is in use as evidence in an investigation. Any long-term evidence would be maintained in a secure environment by the Campus Police Department. All other video surveillance files will be maintained temporarily, the time is determined by the capabilities of the specific surveillance equipment.

Exceptions

This policy does not apply to cameras used for academic purposes. Cameras that are used for research, communications, class projects or Communication's department organizations would be governed by other policies involving subjects and are, therefore, excluded from this policy. This policy also does not address the use of student/employee personal cameras Webcams, videotaping events, live streaming for general use by the college. This policy also does not apply to the use of video equipment for the recording of public performances or events, interviews, or other use for broadcast or educational purposes. Examples of such excluded activities would include videotaping of athletic events for post-game review, videotaping of concerts, plays, and lectures, live stream activity or videotaped interviews of persons. Automated teller machines (ATMs), which may utilize cameras, are also exempt from this policy.