



# CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR

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# FACT SHEET

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Report: 2012-032

## The California State Auditor released the following report today: **California's Postsecondary Educational Institutions**

*Some Institutions Have Not Fully Complied With Federal Crime Reporting Requirements*

### BACKGROUND

Postsecondary educational institutions (institutions) that participate in student aid programs under Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, are required by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) to create an annual security report by October of each year. This security report must contain required crime statistics for the institution as well as certain security policy disclosures. When institutions do not comply with the Clery Act, they inhibit the ability of students and others to make informed decisions about campus security. Further, the U.S. Department of Education can impose financial penalties of up to \$27,500 per violation against noncompliant institutions.

We visited six institutions to determine whether their annual security reports issued in 2011 contained all required security policies and accurate crime statistics for 2010. We also surveyed 80 of the 540 campuses that reported no Clery Act crimes for 2010 to determine whether their institutions' procedures for compiling and distributing the statistics were sufficient.

### KEY FINDINGS

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

- All six institutions had errors in their reported crime statistics. The majority of the errors involved institutions overreporting crimes and were mostly generated from two of the institutions.
- Four of the institutions did not keep complete daily crime logs as required and thus, the public may not have complete and timely information related to campus safety.
- None of the institutions fully disclosed all the required information in their 2011 annual security reports.
- Although all six institutions published their annual security reports, some did not properly notify students and employees of the availability of the reports.
- Most of the 71 campuses that responded to our survey indicated they have sufficient processes in place to help ensure that they report accurate crime statistics, but by their responses, it appears that some institutions need to strengthen their practices for notifying students and employees of the availability of their annual security reports.
- All six of the institutions had their crime statistics publicly available on their individual Web sites and thus, we do not believe that the public's access to campus crime data has been impeded since the California Postsecondary Education Commission has ceased operations.

### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that institutions correctly report all applicable crimes and disclose all the required campus security policies by:

- Reviewing and adhering to applicable guidance related to the Clery Act.
- Thoroughly reviewing the Clery Act crime statistics and security policy disclosures in their annual security reports for accuracy.
- Ensuring that they have a complete, accessible daily crime log, as required by the Clery Act.

Further, we recommend that institutions ensure that they properly notify both current and prospective students and staff of the availability of their annual security reports as required.

