



# Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

## University of Akron Police Department

February 2025

The University of Akron Police Department is a full-service law enforcement agency staffed with 36 full-time sworn officers and four non-sworn personnel. Their mission statement reads,

“It is the mission of the University of Akron Police Department to protect, serve, and provide safety for a diverse university community in order to promote student success. The University of Akron Police Department strives for excellence and legitimacy in pursuit of its mission.”

As you can see from their mission statement, their approach is to focus on campus safety with law enforcement being just one element of safety. They take this approach through a variety of programs and efforts, a few of which are highlighted below.

### ***Community and Housing Oriented Policing***

Since 2009, UAPD has maintained a Community and Housing Oriented Policing (CHOP) team. The CHOP officers serve as liaisons with the University's residence halls students and staff. The CHOP officers tend to the unique needs of the residence halls while getting to know the students and staff in each hall. They accomplish this relationship-building by attending residence hall events and by creating opportunities for informal but positive interactions with UAPD on a regular basis.

### ***Parent Q & A Panels and Presentations***

Safety is an important topic for parents. Understandably, they want to know their child will be safe while away from home for the first time. University of Akron Officers attend Q & A sessions and deliver safety presentations so parents can have an accurate picture of what safety looks like on campus. Officers also field telephone calls from parents on a regular basis who are concerned about their student's well-being. In those instances, UAPD officers reach out directly to the student to check on them.

### ***Pizza With the Police***

The University of Akron Police Department partners with the Undergraduate Student Government once a year to host “Pizza with the Police” at the Student Union. It has been one of UAPD's best attended community events for the past two years. This event creates an opportunity for all students to stop by and get to know the officers of UAPD.



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## ***Educational Programming***

Sometimes it just isn't efficient for law enforcement to arrest their way out of a community problem. This is especially true on a college campus. With this in mind, UAPD, offers several educational programs for the campus community, the most critical of which is Run – Hide – Fight. This important program aims to prepare students for an active threat situation. The department also offers training such as self-defense, and Alcohol and Drug Awareness, which features the use of “drunk goggles” to help students understand the impact of alcohol and drug abuse.

## ***Officers in the Classroom***

Some UAPD officers are not just police officers for the University — they are students as well. While officers attend classes in their off-duty time, they sit in the same classrooms as other students and share the same student experience with their community. Numerous officers have taken classes at the University while also serving as a UAPD officer over the years. This experience provides officers with a community perspective while also showing the community that UAPD officers are a part of their same community.

## ***Safety Communications Campaign***

The University launched a safety communications campaign this semester. The campaign was the result of collaboration between UAPD and the University's Communications and Marketing team. The campaign includes a monthly newsletter to the community. The newsletter provides safety tips and includes entries to help the community have a better understanding of recent happenings within UAPD. Other elements of the campaign include such things as UAPD open houses, digital and print safety messaging, and partnering with students to conduct research on perceptions of safety at the University.