

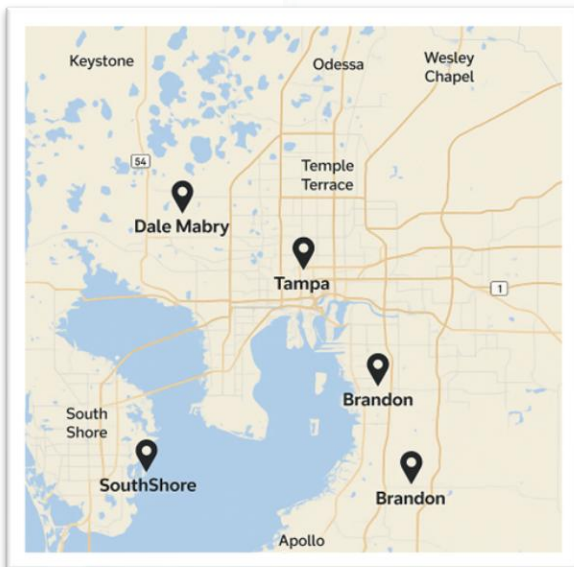
Area Assessment - Hillsborough County, Florida – Hillsborough Community College (HCC)

General Information

Geography

Hillsborough County is located on Florida's Gulf Coast and includes the city of Tampa as its county seat. It's the fourth most populous county in Florida and forms the core of the Tampa Bay metropolitan area. Hillsborough Community College has five campuses spread across the county, with major locations in **Dale Mabry**, **Brandon**, **Ybor City**, **Plant City**, and **SouthShore**.

- **Total Area (County):** ~3,300 square kilometers (1,266 square miles)
- **Elevation:** Generally flat terrain, ~48 ft (15m) above sea level on average
- **Terrain:** Coastal lowlands, estuaries, and urban sprawl mixed with suburban and rural zones
- **Climate:** Humid subtropical climate. Long, hot summers with frequent thunderstorms. Mild, dry winters. Hurricane season runs June–November.



Map of Hillsborough County showing the five HCC campuses and surrounding neighborhoods.

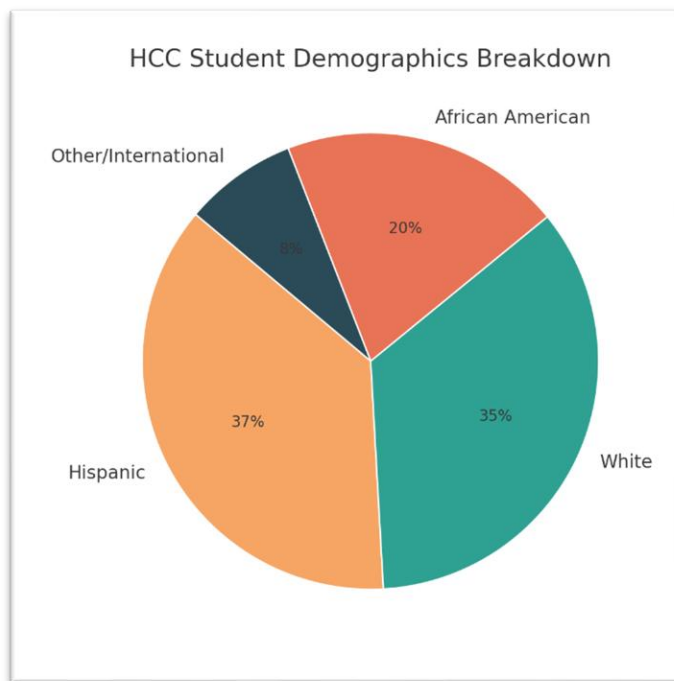
People and Society

- **County Population:** ~1.5 million
- **Tampa Metro Area Population:** ~3.3 million

- **Languages:** English (official); Spanish widely spoken, Haitian Creole and Vietnamese present in immigrant communities
- **Diversity:** Hillsborough is highly diverse, with large Hispanic, Black, White, and Asian populations
- **Religious Composition:** Predominantly Christian, with growing Muslim and non-religious groups

HCC Student Body:

- **Enrollment:** ~38,000 students annually (credit and non-credit combined)
- **Demographics:**
 - ~37% Hispanic
 - ~20% African American
 - ~35% White
 - ~8% Other/International
- **Campuses Are Located In:**
 - Urban core (Ybor City, Dale Mabry)
 - Suburban communities (Brandon, Plant City)
 - Rural/coastal fringe (SouthShore)



Demographic pie chart showing breakdown of HCC's diverse student population.

Government

- **Government Type:** County-level Board of Commissioners; cities like Tampa operate under mayor–council model
 - **Law Enforcement:** Multiple agencies with overlapping jurisdictions:
 - Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office (HCSO)
 - Tampa Police Department (TPD)
 - Plant City and Temple Terrace Police Departments
 - HCC Campus Security (non-sworn officers with coordination via local PDs)
 - **Emergency Management:** Coordinated by Hillsborough County Office of Emergency Management
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Economy

Hillsborough County’s economy is a mix of port activity, finance, health care, and logistics. It’s also home to major employers in defense and education.

- **Key Industries:**
 - Health care & biomedical research
 - Port Tampa Bay shipping & logistics
 - Financial services (Raymond James, JPMorgan Chase)
 - Aviation & aerospace (MacDill AFB)
 - Higher education (HCC, USF, UT)
 - **Tourism:** Strong contributor via sports (Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Lightning, Rays), Ybor City nightlife, and beaches
-

Energy

- **Providers:** Tampa Electric Company (TECO), Duke Energy
- **Sources:** Natural gas (primary), solar, and limited nuclear
- **Infrastructure Risks:** Power outages during major storms; some campuses (e.g., SouthShore) experience slower recovery due to coastal proximity
- **Renewables:** Solar farms growing along I-75 and in southern Hillsborough

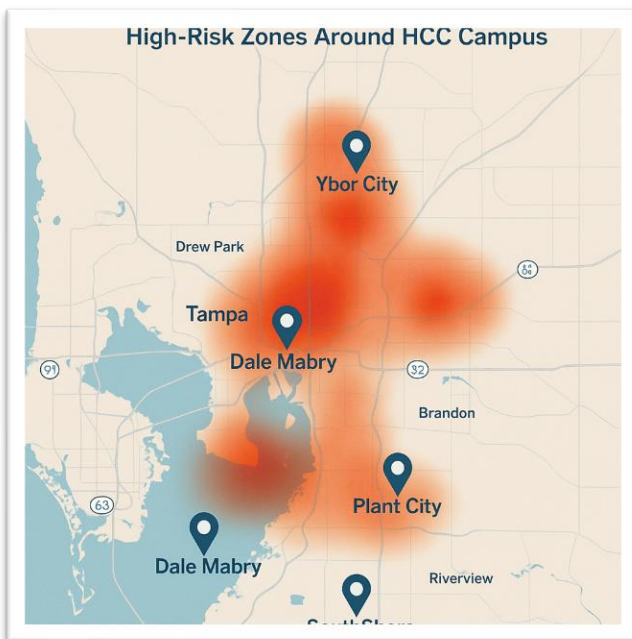
Threat Picture - Hillsborough County, Florida – Hillsborough Community College (HCC)

Criminal Threats

Hillsborough County has a **moderate-to-high crime profile**, particularly in urban areas like Tampa, Ybor City, and East Hillsborough. While most HCC campuses experience relatively low

on-campus crime, adjacent neighborhoods, especially near **Ybor City, Dale Mabry, and Brandon**, pose risks for students commuting or living nearby.

- **Countywide Crime Rate:** ~32 crimes per 1,000 residents
 - **Violent Crime:** ~5.4 per 1,000
 - **Property Crime:** ~26.6 per 1,000
- **Common Offenses Near HCC Campuses:**
 - Vehicle break-ins
 - Assaults and robberies near public transit stops
 - Drug-related arrests, particularly in nightlife zones (Ybor, West Tampa)
 - Domestic violence spillover affecting students in shared housing



Crime Heat Map showing high-risk zones around each HCC campus

Terrorism & Extremism

- **Strategic Target:** MacDill Air Force Base (U.S. Central Command and Special Operations Command HQ) increases regional strategic visibility
- **Crowded Events Risk:** Large public events in Tampa (Gasparilla, NFL games, concerts) are considered soft targets
- **Ideologically Motivated Threats:** Periodic white supremacist and extremist activity noted in East Hillsborough, rural fringe, and during election cycles
- **Local Extremism Monitoring:** FDLE and JTTF maintain presence in the region

📌 *Empower Tip:* Train students to recognize pre-incident indicators, suspicious behaviors, and staged emergencies in crowded venues

Natural & Environmental Threats

- **Hurricanes:** Hillsborough County is **high-risk** during hurricane season; vulnerable to wind, flooding, and infrastructure collapse
 - Hurricane Irma (2017) and Ian (2022) both caused major local impact
 - **Flood Zones:** SouthShore and low-lying areas near the Bay are especially vulnerable
 - **Heat Emergencies:** Extended heatwaves during summer can trigger heat exhaustion, especially for commuter students and outdoor campus staff
 - **Lightning Capital:** Florida leads U.S. in lightning deaths, frequent summer storms make outdoor exposure risky
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Cyber Threats

- **Institutional Risk:** HCC, like many colleges, has experienced attempted phishing attacks and system intrusions
- **Vulnerabilities:**
 - Shared public Wi-Fi
 - Older IT infrastructure on some campuses
 - Student mobile devices as soft entry points
- **Known Incidents:**
 - 2023: Credential phishing campaign targeting staff email accounts at HCC Dale Mabry
 - 2024: Ransomware attempt intercepted in county public school district, raised alert level for HCC IT
- **Mitigations in Place:**
 - Firewalls and email filtering
 - Student cybersecurity awareness campaigns (though limited in reach)

📌 *Empower Integration:* Training students on device security, phishing detection, and behavior-based social engineering tactics

Nightlife Violence – Ybor City, SoHo & Tampa's Entertainment Corridors

While vibrant and central to Tampa's social scene, **Ybor City** and **SoHo (South Howard Ave)** are considered **high-risk nightlife zones**, especially on weekends. HCC students from Dale Mabry, Ybor, and Brandon campuses frequently visit these areas, which are marked by:

Common Threats:

- **Bar fights and assaults:** Escalating from verbal disputes or minor bump-ins
- **Gun violence:** Several recent shootings in and near Ybor nightlife district
- **Armed robberies:** Targeting individuals walking alone after bar close
- **Group confrontations:** Street crews and gang presence near club entry zones
- **Drugging and drink spiking:** Particularly during large themed events or Gasparilla
- **Over-intoxication:** Vulnerability increases due to alcohol and social disorientation

Notable Incidents:

- **October 2023:** Two killed, 16 injured in a **mass shooting on 7th Avenue in Ybor City**, tied to gang retaliation
- **Spring 2024:** Multiple stabbings during Gasparilla afterparty in SoHo district
- **Recurring:** Reports of drugged drinks and sexual assault investigations linked to clubs on East 7th and Howard Ave

Why This Matters for HCC Students:

- Many HCC students are **commuters**, they drive or rideshare to nightlife areas and may park several blocks away from venues
- Campus safety coverage **does not extend** to these nightlife areas
- **After-hour transitions** (2–4 AM) are when most targeted incidents occur

📍 *High-Risk Zones for Nightlife-Related Violence:*

- **East 7th Ave (Ybor City)**
- **16th Street near Ybor Club Row**
- **South Howard between Platt St. and Swann Ave**
- **Bryan Glazer JCC area during Gasparilla and afterparties**

Empower Academy Response:

Threat	Empower Strategy
Nighttime street confrontations	Proxemics control, movement through crowds, de-escalation cues
Armed robbery risk	Situational scanning, route prediction, escape route planning
Drink spiking or manipulation	Open-container awareness, non-verbal control, distraction drills
Group behavior escalation	Reading crowd dynamics, threat cue stacking, early disengagement
Disorientation while commuting	Movement planning, vehicle approach discipline, digital check-ins

📌 *Tip for Students:* Treat nightlife like a **high-threat training environment**, the earlier you can detect red flags, the more control you retain.

Law Enforcement - Hillsborough County & Hillsborough Community College

Primary Law Enforcement Agencies

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO)

- **Jurisdiction:** All unincorporated areas of Hillsborough County, including **SouthShore**, **Plant City**, and parts of **Brandon**
 - **Staffing:** Over 3,000 personnel including deputies, detention, and civilian staff
 - **Capabilities:**
 - Full SWAT, K-9, Marine, Aviation, and Gang Enforcement Units
 - Real-Time Crime Center
 - School and College Resource Deputies for campus coordination
 - **Relevance to HCC:** Main responder for **Brandon**, **SouthShore**, and **Plant City** campuses
-

Tampa Police Department (TPD)

- **Jurisdiction:** City of Tampa (including **Ybor City**, **Dale Mabry**, **Downtown**)
- **Staffing:** ~1,000 sworn officers
- **Specialized Units:**
 - Rapid Response Unit (RRU)
 - Violent Crimes Bureau
 - Mounted Patrol and Bike Units (frequently deployed in nightlife zones)
 - Human Trafficking Task Force
- **Relevance to HCC:** Primary responder for **Dale Mabry** and **Ybor City** campuses

📌 *Note:* TPD handles most high-visibility events like Gasparilla, parades, and downtown protests

Other Supporting Agencies

- **Plant City Police Department:** Works with HCC Plant City campus
- **Temple Terrace Police Department:** Covers border zones near USF and East Tampa
- **Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE):** Provides investigative and homeland security support countywide

- **FBI Tampa Field Office:** Joint Terrorism Task Force oversight due to MacDill AFB presence

HCC Campus Safety & Security

- **Security Presence:** Each campus has **on-site security officers** (non-sworn)
- **Capabilities:**
 - Campus patrols, building checks, incident response
 - Work closely with local law enforcement for emergencies
 - Blue light emergency towers on major campuses (esp. Dale Mabry, Brandon)
 - Safety escorts available on request during certain hours

📌 Limitations:

- Security is not armed
- Limited coverage during early morning/late night hours
- No investigative capacity, must defer to TPD or HCSO

Public Safety Capabilities

Capability	Notes
911 Integration	Multi-agency call routing between TPD, HCSO, Fire/EMS
Real-Time Crime Center	Used by both TPD and HCSO for camera surveillance and analysis
Mass Casualty Training	Regular inter-agency drills involving schools and colleges
Crisis Negotiation Units	Available through both TPD and HCSO
School/College Resource Officers	Assigned through partnerships, especially in wake of state mandates

📌 *Empower Tip:* Most response time delays occur during **rush hour** or **large-scale events**. Students should be trained in **self-led decision-making** and **pre-incident planning**.

Medical Infrastructure - Hillsborough County & Hillsborough Community College (HCC)

Hillsborough County is home to a robust medical network that includes multiple trauma centers, advanced EMS, and mental health crisis services. However, **access varies greatly by campus**, and **on-campus medical resources at HCC are limited** compared to universities like USF.

Major Hospitals & Trauma Facilities

1. Tampa General Hospital (TGH)

- **Level I Trauma Center**
- **Location:** Davis Islands, near downtown Tampa (~15 min from Dale Mabry & Ybor City campuses)
- **Capabilities:**
 - Mass casualty and trauma response
 - Burn center, airlift helipad
 - Affiliated with USF Health

2. St. Joseph's Hospital – Main Campus

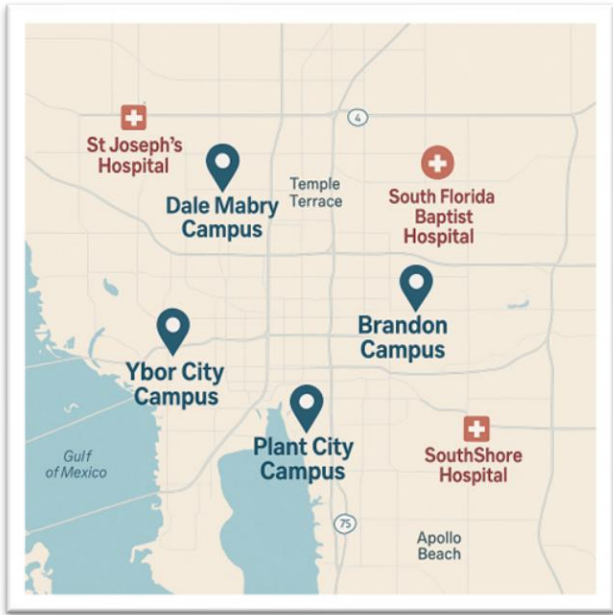
- **Level II Trauma Center**
- **Location:** West Tampa (~10–15 min from Dale Mabry)
- **Capabilities:**
 - General ER and pediatric ER
 - High-volume emergency response facility

3. South Florida Baptist Hospital

- **Location:** Near HCC Plant City Campus
- **Capabilities:**
 - Community ER services
 - Non-trauma facility, serious cases referred to Tampa

4. Advent Health Riverview (Planned 2025)

- **Future relevance:** Will serve SouthShore campus students once completed
- **Current backup:** South Bay Hospital or TGH



Map of HCC campuses with nearest trauma centers and ER locations highlighted

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- **Agencies:**
 - Tampa Fire Rescue (serves Dale Mabry & Ybor)
 - Hillsborough County Fire Rescue (Brandon, Plant City, SouthShore)
 - **Capabilities:**
 - Advanced Life Support (ALS)
 - Coordinated air medical via Tampa General's AeroMed
 - **Challenges:**
 - Slower response in rural areas (SouthShore, Plant City)
 - Delays possible during hurricane/flooding events
-

HCC Student Health Access

- **On-Campus Medical:** HCC does **not** operate full student health clinics
- **Services Offered:**
 - Periodic wellness checks via mobile or third-party providers
 - Flu shots, HIV/STD testing on event basis
- **Referral System:** Students must seek off-campus providers for urgent or chronic issues

📌 *Empower Tip:* Train students to pre-identify nearby urgent care or ER locations, especially if commuting from remote areas

Mental Health & Crisis Services

BayCare Student Assistance Program (SAP)

- Free to all HCC students
- Provides:
 - Short-term counseling (phone or in-person)
 - Mental health screenings
 - 24/7 phone support line

📞 **BayCare SAP Line:** 1-800-878-5470

🌐 www.baycare.org

Crisis Center of Tampa Bay

- 24/7 phone and mobile crisis response
- Works with TPD and HCSO for on-scene evaluations
- Offers:
 - Suicide intervention
 - Sexual violence response
 - Human trafficking survivor services

📞 **Crisis Line:** 2-1-1 or (813) 234-1234

🌐 www.crisiscenter.com

Gracepoint Crisis Center

- Inpatient and outpatient mental health services
- Coordinates with law enforcement and schools for Baker Act (involuntary psychiatric hold) evaluations
- Mobile crisis unit available countywide

📌 *Empower Strategy:* Help students recognize early signs of crisis in peers and confidently engage support services

Hillsborough Community College - Campus Threat Summary

HCC operates five campuses across Hillsborough County, each with unique safety profiles based on geography, surrounding neighborhoods, and infrastructure. While on-campus incidents remain relatively low due to security presence, **adjacent zones frequently expose students to elevated threats**, especially those who commute, walk, or use public transit.

1. Dale Mabry Campus (Tampa)

- **Location:** Across from Raymond James Stadium, near Hillsborough Ave and Dale Mabry Hwy
- **Environment:** Dense urban, heavy vehicle traffic, stadium congestion, nightlife nearby
- **Risks:**
 - Vehicle burglaries in campus and overflow lots
 - Assaults or confrontations during large event days (NFL games, concerts)
 - Pedestrian safety issues along Dale Mabry and Tampa Bay Blvd

📌 *Nearby Hotspots:* Stadium bar district, parking lot incidents during Bucs games

2. Ybor City Campus

- **Location:** In Tampa's historic nightlife district
- **Environment:** Urban core, dense nightlife scene, historic buildings and alleyways
- **Risks:**
 - Nightlife violence (shootings, bar fights)
 - Vehicle break-ins and muggings within blocks of campus
 - Drug activity and loitering in side streets and alleyways

📌 *Notable Incidents:* 2023 Ybor shooting, mass casualty event blocks from campus

📌 *Empower Tip:* Students attending night classes here are especially vulnerable and should pre-plan exit and transit

3. Brandon Campus

- **Location:** Suburban, near Parsons Ave and SR 60
- **Environment:** Commercial corridors, strip malls, moderate residential density
- **Risks:**
 - Property crimes (car break-ins, package theft)
 - Domestic violence-related spillover incidents
 - Catalytic converter theft in large lots

📌 *Security Note:* Brandon area sees spikes in crime during economic downturns or holidays

4. Plant City Campus

- **Location:** Rural edge, near Park Road and Cherry St
- **Environment:** Quiet and low-density, but remote
- **Risks:**
 - Slow EMS/police response time
 - Higher potential for isolation-related risk (stalking, ambushes)
 - Less lighting and fewer witnesses during early or late hours

📌 *Tip:* Encourage buddy systems and route awareness, especially in evening classes

5. SouthShore Campus (Ruskin area)

- **Location:** Southern coastal Hillsborough, near I-75
- **Environment:** Semi-rural with mix of residential and light industrial areas
- **Risks:**
 - Flooding during storms, poor drainage on feeder roads
 - Slower emergency response due to distance
 - Transitional zones from agricultural fields to campus roads increase surveillance risk for lone students

📌 *Unique Challenge:* Hurricane evacuation routes pass nearby; campus may serve as staging or shelter site

Threat Type | Key Concern | Empower Academy Response Grid

Threat Type	Key Concern	Empower Response
Off-campus assaults & robberies	Night class transitions, parked vehicles, nightlife proximity	Parking lot scanning, shadow detection, vehicular entry control
Sexual violence or stalking	Ybor and Brandon area reports; domestic spillover threats	Early indicators, behavioral read, exit planning, pattern breaking
Vehicle break-ins	Common at all campuses; tech and bags targeted	Concealment tactics, park positioning, dash scan before re-entry
Medical response gaps	SouthShore and Plant City EMS delays	Pre-incident awareness, self-led response prep, ID'ing fastest aid source

Threat Type	Key Concern	Empower Response
Commuter unpredictability	Exposure across multiple neighborhoods daily	Route variation training, digital check-in culture, observational awareness

Gang Activity & Organized Crime - Hillsborough County & HCC Vicinity

Gang presence in Hillsborough County remains a **persistent and evolving threat**, particularly around urban nightlife zones and rural recruitment corridors. While the HCC campuses themselves are not direct gang targets, students frequently interact with **high-risk environments**, either by living nearby, commuting, or attending social events in known gang-influenced areas.

1. Urban Crews – Ybor, West Tampa, and SoHo

- **Groups:** Neighborhood-based groups with evolving turf and digital coordination
- **Activity:**
 - Nightclub fights, retaliatory shootings
 - Armed robbery near bars and party venues
 - Intimidation and recruitment around community events
- **Student Exposure:**
 - Most direct at Ybor campus and Dale Mabry (via SoHo spillover)
 - Students walking or ridesharing after night classes/events are high-risk

📌 *Notable Event:*

October 2023 Ybor shooting tied to group rivalry, mass casualty incident just blocks from HCC Ybor campus

2. Transnational Gangs – Latin Kings, MS-13, Sureños

- **Presence:** Confirmed cells operating throughout Tampa Bay metro
- **Activity:**
 - Drug trafficking and distribution near low-income housing
 - Human trafficking activity tied to nightlife zones and hotels
 - Arms trading, often tied to ports and rural smuggling routes

📌 *Recruitment Risk:* High among youth in economically challenged areas like **East Tampa, Ruskin, and Wimauma**

3. Rural & Migrant Community Influence

- **Location:** South Hillsborough (SouthShore), Plant City, and Wimauma
- **Activity:**
 - Unofficial crews leveraging agricultural labor routes
 - Exploitation of undocumented or vulnerable populations
 - Party crews involved in drug sales, illegal gambling, and underage exploitation

📌 *Unique Threat:* Rural transition zones with low lighting, limited law enforcement, and slow EMS access increase ambush risk for commuters or isolated students

4. Nightlife Exploitation & Organized Crime

- **Zones:** Ybor City, SoHo, Downtown Tampa
- **Activity:**
 - Escort services, “modeling scams,” and targeted drink spiking linked to trafficking
 - Scouting of intoxicated students leaving bars alone
 - Fake Uber/Lyft drivers operating during peak nightlife hours

📌 *Student Risk Profile:*
HCC students, especially from Ybor and Dale Mabry, are prime targets due to night class schedules, weekend social activity, and use of rideshare services

Gang Type | Risk to HCC Community | Empower Academy Response Grid

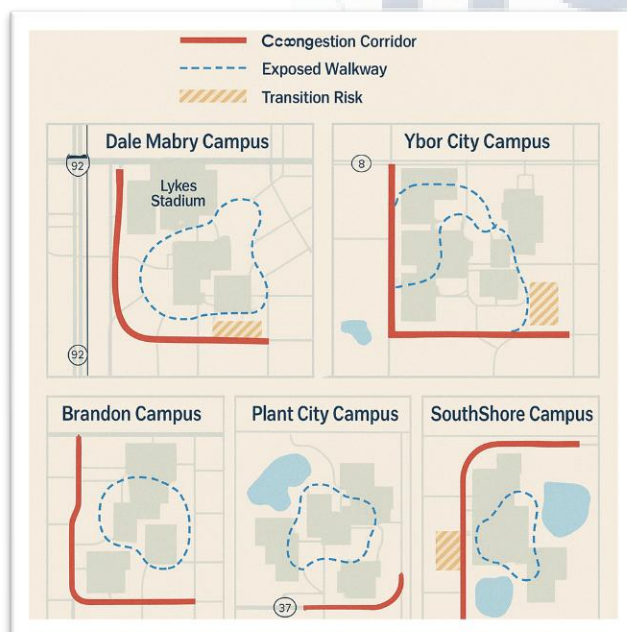
Gang Type	Risk to HCC Students	Empower Response
Urban crews	Robbery, fights, surprise attacks near bars or parking zones	Crowd behavior analysis, surprise countermeasures, proxemic control
Transnational gangs	Trafficking, drug activity, organized grooming schemes	Pattern deviation training, digital footprint control, anti-manipulation skills
Rural exploitation crews	Ambushes, scams, or surveillance on commute routes	Route unpredictability, transition awareness, surveillance counter-detection
Nightlife-linked actors	Drink spiking, fake Ubers, social engineering at events	“Refuse early” strategy, vehicle ID protocols, party exit and buddy systems

Choke Points, Channelization & Transition Spaces - HCC Campuses

Each Hillsborough Community College campus presents **natural movement bottlenecks** due to design, geography, and surrounding urban or rural structure. These **predictable student flow paths** create elevated risk zones for surveillance, confrontation, and opportunistic attacks, particularly in parking areas, shuttle stops, and pedestrian crossings.

Common High-Risk Characteristics Across HCC Campuses

- Limited visibility in stairwells and multilevel parking
- Narrow sidewalks near major roads
- Isolated bus stops or rideshare pickup zones
- Predictable bell-change movement between buildings
- Evening class transitions (5PM–9PM), especially in winter months



Map overlays per campus showing congestion corridors, exposed walkways, and known transition risks

Campus-Specific Choke & Transition Points

◆ Dale Mabry Campus

- **Parking Lot Entrances (E & F Lots):** High vehicle volume and minimal lighting after sunset

- **Pedestrian crossings on Tampa Bay Blvd & Dale Mabry Hwy:** Exposed crossings with limited buffer from traffic
- **Event spillover risk** during games at Raymond James Stadium

📌 *Threat:* Crowd confusion + parking chaos used by predators to blend in

◆ Ybor City Campus

- **7th Ave & 15th St Intersection:** Crowded nightlife zone, vehicle and foot congestion
- **Rear alley exits from classrooms:** Poor lighting and limited surveillance
- **Transition between night class and parking decks:** Frequent student complaints about loitering and catcalling

📌 *Threat:* Multiple access/escape points with poor camera coverage; easy ambush opportunity

◆ Brandon Campus

- **Central loop near buildings A through D:** Major funnel zone between classrooms and admin
- **West parking lot perimeter:** Path to/from lot runs along a wooded edge
- **Bus stop on Parsons Ave:** Often isolated, especially mid-day and after 8PM

📌 *Threat:* Predictable travel paths and blind corners during bell change

◆ Plant City Campus

- **Back path to cherry-street parking:** Long, isolated stretch with shrubbery and zero passersby
- **Bike rack corridor:** Known to have poor lighting and limited egress options
- **Front drive loop (student drop-offs):** Cars bottleneck in confined area, increasing exposure for loiterers

📌 *Threat:* Campus is quiet and remote, students walking alone are easily surveilled

◆ SouthShore Campus

- **Front entry near Marsh Creek Trail:** Limited sightlines and surrounding tree cover

- **Rural approach roads:** Long stretches with few structures, poor lighting, and no foot traffic
- **Outdoor seating zones near back lot:** Poorly lit and out of camera range

📌 *Threat:* Transition spaces between lot and building are long, flat, and visible to anyone watching from a distance

Why These Spaces Matter

Choke points and transition areas are **where routine becomes vulnerability**. Students who walk the same paths daily, especially while distracted, are easier to approach, observe, or trap.

For a predator, these areas offer:

- **Control of terrain**
- **Advance observation of patterns**
- **Quick retreat options**
- **Natural distractions (crowds, darkness, noise)**

📌 *Empower Academy Training Focus:*

- Target hardening through awareness drills
- Behavior change (timing/route variation)
- Escape route recognition
- Environmental scanning and staging detection

Public Transportation & Ride Share Safety - HCC & Hillsborough County

Many HCC students rely on public transit, rideshares, or personal vehicles due to the college's commuter-based design. While cost-effective and accessible, these modes of transportation create **predictable exposure points** that increase risk, especially at night, in isolated pickup areas, or when students are distracted and alone.

1. Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART)

Key Routes Serving HCC Campuses:

- **Dale Mabry:** Route 36, 7, 45
- **Ybor City:** Marion Transit Center connections, Routes 8, 12, and TECO Line Streetcar
- **Brandon:** Route 46, 31

- **Plant City:** Limited service, most students drive or carpool
- **SouthShore:** Served by **HART flex** and Route 31 connectors, minimal frequency

HART Risks:

- Bus stops are often **poorly lit and unmanned**, especially in East Tampa, Brandon, and Ybor
- **Assaults and thefts** have occurred on or near buses serving Dale Mabry and Ybor
- **Overcrowding** during peak hours creates distraction and pickpocket risk

📌 Incident:

2022 – Woman assaulted at a bus stop near HCC Ybor after evening classes; suspect followed her off the bus

2. Ride Share (Uber, Lyft, etc.)

Common Student Use:

- Popular during **night classes, weekend outings**, and to/from Ybor nightlife
- Frequently used at Dale Mabry, Ybor, and Brandon campuses due to proximity to entertainment zones

Risks:

- **Fake driver scams** and unauthorized pickups reported in downtown and club districts
- **Drink-spiked or intoxicated students** have mistakenly entered the wrong vehicle
- Some **rideshare drop-off zones** (especially near Ybor or SoHo) are unsupervised and poorly lit

📌 Red Flag Example:

Unmarked vehicle waiting outside Ybor campus at 9PM repeatedly offered students free rides, not a registered driver

3. Transportation Choke Points

Zone	Why It's a Risk
Dale Mabry front loop	Congested during game days; confused rideshare traffic
Ybor TECO Streetcar stop	Tourists, students, and loiterers converge unpredictably
Brandon campus bus bay	Often empty after 8PM; near wooded edges
Plant City lot perimeter	Few lights, no visibility, no cameras

Zone	Why It's a Risk
SouthShore campus entry	Rural entry roads are dark and far from public view

Empower Academy Ride Share Safety Protocol:

Action	Why It Matters
Confirm license plate and driver	Fake ride operators often impersonate apps
Wait indoors or in lit zones	Prevents being targeted while distracted
Share trip with a contact	Adds accountability and time stamping
Sit in the back seat	Provides flexibility if threat escalates
Trust your instincts	Exit immediately if anything feels off

📌 *Empower Tip:* Treat all transportation zones, bus stops, Uber drop-offs, and parking garages, as **transitional threat spaces**. Train for pre-entry scan, exit prep, and early threat detection.

Important Emergency Contacts - Hillsborough Community College & Hillsborough County

Providing quick-access emergency and support contacts is essential for student readiness, especially for commuters and night students across HCC's multiple campuses.

Law Enforcement & Emergency Services

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO)

- **Emergency:** 911
- **Non-Emergency:** (813) 247-8200
- **Website:** www.teamhcsso.com
- **Jurisdiction:** Brandon, SouthShore, Plant City, and unincorporated areas

Tampa Police Department (TPD)

- **Emergency:** 911
- **Non-Emergency:** (813) 231-6130
- **Website:** www.tampa.gov/police
- **Jurisdiction:** Dale Mabry and Ybor City campuses

Plant City Police Department

- **Non-Emergency:** (813) 757-9200
 - **Website:** www.plantcitygov.com/police
-

Campus Safety & Security (HCC)

- **General Security (All Campuses):**
 - Phone: (813) 253-7911
 - Hours: Vary by campus, generally staffed during class times
 - Not armed; coordinates with local law enforcement when needed
- **Website:** www.hccfl.edu/public-safety

📌 *Tip:* Students should store local **non-emergency numbers** for their specific campus jurisdiction in their phone, especially if they attend multiple sites.

Medical Facilities & Emergency Rooms

Tampa General Hospital (Level I Trauma Center)

- **Phone:** (813) 844-7000
- **Address:** 1 Tampa General Circle, Tampa, FL 33606
- **Website:** www.tgh.org

St. Joseph's Hospital

- **Phone:** (813) 870-4000
- **Address:** 3001 W MLK Blvd, Tampa, FL 33607
- **Website:** www.baycare.org

South Florida Baptist Hospital (Plant City)

- **Phone:** (813) 757-1200
 - **Address:** 301 N Alexander St, Plant City, FL 33563
 - **Website:** www.baycare.org
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Mental Health & Crisis Support

BayCare Student Assistance Program (HCC Students)

- **24/7 Hotline:** 1-800-878-5470
- **Free, confidential short-term counseling**

- **Website:** www.baycare.org/sap

Crisis Center of Tampa Bay

- **24/7 Hotline:** Dial 2-1-1 or (813) 234-1234
- **Website:** www.crisiscenter.com
- **Services include:**
 - Suicide prevention
 - Sexual violence support
 - Mobile crisis units

Florida Poison Control

- **Phone:** 1-800-222-1222
- **Website:** www.floridapoisoncontrol.org

Empower Academy - Be the Hard Target

For immediate support, personal safety training, or to report a concern:

1-888-AWARE-98

www.empower-academy.online

Serving students, campuses, and communities nationwide

Prevent. Prepare. Prevail.

Empower Academy equips students with the skills to recognize, avoid, and disrupt threats before they strike.

Situational Awareness & Target Prevention
Digital Safety & Social Engineering Defense
Route Planning, Heat Mapping & Choke Point Recognition
Human Trafficking Red Flags
Nightlife & Rideshare Safety Training
Crisis Response Confidence & Peer Support Tools

“Awareness isn’t fear, it’s freedom. You can’t control the threat, but you can control how prepared you are to face it.”

