

BEST PRACTICES:

Six features every higher ed security system needs



Maintaining a safe and secure campus is a major priority, and involves multiple locations, systems, and people working together. Your current security system may cover basic functions found in general commercial systems, but these systems are built as one-size-fits-all and do not meet the specific requirements of the education community.

Here are six features a comprehensive, education-focused security system should have to meet the needs of your campus.

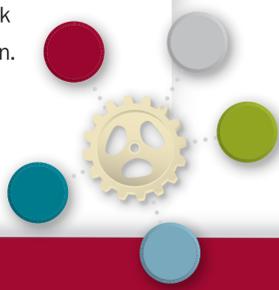


1 Integrated door access control, video surveillance, and alert/alarm monitoring in an enterprise-class security system

Having a security system that is built for the education community means it starts with all the basic features and functionalities of the best security systems. That means it has door access control, video surveillance, monitoring capabilities, and alerts/alarms. The key is to ensure these are properly integrated and used with other features to create a system that is truly unified for both the best security and the best student experience.



When systems don't communicate with each other, duplication of efforts is inevitable. Your security system should integrate with your student information system (SIS), transaction system, housing information system, and card production to ensure it's easier and more efficient to manage. Instead of manually making changes to various systems, these systems should work together through modern integration. This eliminates duplication of data and reduces error.



2 Integration with key campus technology systems

Colleges and universities welcome vast numbers of incoming students each year. Thousands of students with unique access levels expect to have their access privileges granted immediately upon arriving on campus. Manually assigning each incoming student access privileges—not to mention updating existing student access levels—for residence halls, specialized classrooms, recreation facilities, and more would be extremely time consuming. Using a system that automatically assigns access levels to cardholders via configuration rules and cardholder roles and data is more efficient and provides students with immediate and correct access.



3 Automated assignment of access privileges

Commercial security systems have a limit on the number of schedule exceptions in a year—typically correlating with the number of major holidays. This may work for a commercial business, but a college or university has many other times that warrant schedule exceptions like move-in/move-out days, winter break, graduation, spring break, orientation, or even a big game or event. Finding a system that allows for unlimited schedule exceptions eliminates the need to manually add a significant number of changes every time the school schedule fluctuates.



4 Unlimited number of schedule exceptions

Hardware is a major investment and colleges must be versatile to maximize the return and longevity. At the same time, campuses must be sensitive to adopting new technology if it better secures and adds convenience for your students. Supporting a mix of current, new, and future hardware is imperative to keep system costs low, remain up to date with technology and prepare for the future.



5 Support for many types of hardware (including existing hardware)

On campus, you have a need to take immediate action if an emergency dictates it. If a storm necessitates campus closure, or you need to lock building doors due to an active situation, having the ability to act immediately is critical. Pre-configured profiles for various types of emergencies make the lockdown process simple and quick.



6 Ability to make immediate change to door states and permission schedules (lockdown)

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