

Manuscript: Security Risk Management Frameworks in U.S. Community Colleges: Evaluating the DoD Antiterrorism Program's Suitability

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Dear Editor and Reviewers,

Thank you for the thoughtful and constructive feedback. I carefully revised the manuscript and confirmed that all comments have been met. Below, I respond point-by-point, indicating the changes and where they appear in the revised file.

- 1) Abstract — Tightened; includes a key quantitative statistic; keywords streamlined.
- 2) Introduction — Removed the meta "clarification" paragraph and integrated its content for flow.
- 3) Tables — Separated study data from benchmarks: Table 1 (Study Data Only) and Table 2 (National Benchmarks) with a brief "% or n/N" explainer; Locale (Definition) uses an em dash; sources updated to NCES (2025) and Gevert & Maselli (2024).
- 4) Figure — Added Figure 1 (DSISF) with an author-created note and concise description of the four pillars.
- 5) Current incidents — Added two 2024 community-college incident examples to ground the problem statement.
- 6) Population & Sample — Presents totals (450 distributed; 197 completed; 43.8% response). The Sample Characteristics and Demographics section now references those totals and summarizes distributions (Table 1) in the context of the national data (Table 2).
- 7) Analytic plan — Clarified subgroup comparisons (urban vs. rural; $\geq 10,000$ vs. $< 2,500$) consistent with table structure.
- 8) Methods clarity — Standardized procedures to the past tense and tightened the integration/triangulation narrative across Chapters 3–5.
- 9) Terminology — Normalized DoD capitalization across chapters.
- 10) Citations & references — Benchmarks cite AACC 2024/2025 and Community College Daily 2024/2025; locale framework cites NCES (2025) and Gevert & Maselli (2024); where 2022

data refer to Clery counts, I standardized to U.S. Department of Education (2022). References were cleaned for APA 7 consistency.

I appreciate your time and guidance. I believe these revisions materially strengthen the manuscript, and I respectfully submit this version for your favorable consideration.