



PERSONAL SAFETY FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

→ HELPING TO MAKE YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE AS SAFE AND MEMORABLE AS POSSIBLE

The Basics

- Do not consent to having your photo and personal information distributed in campus community publications.
- Do not give out personal information, such as your social security or credit card numbers, over the phone to people you do not know.
- Share your school/work/social schedule with family and close friends.
- Do not attach your name or address to your key chain.
- Always carry identification with you.
- Report any suspicious or unusual activities immediately to campus or local police.
- If you sense a potential threat, assess the situation and take action. If you are followed, move to a well-lighted area or create a commotion. Shout for help.

On Campus

- Study the campus and surrounding neighborhood. Learn where the emergency phones are located.
- Travel in groups. Never walk alone at night—use a shuttle or escort service if one is available. Avoid taking shortcuts.
- Check out the campus during the day and at night. Be familiar with dark areas near buildings, in parking lots, etc.
- Never leave personal property unattended. Take items with you or lock them up, even if you are only leaving for a few minutes.
- If you are working/studying late, make sure that the office or classroom door is locked.
- Never leave doors propped open.
- Avoid entering an elevator occupied by a suspicious person. If someone in the elevator makes you feel uncomfortable, get off at the next floor.

On and Off Campus Housing

- Doors and windows to your residence should be equipped with quality locking mechanisms. Entry doors should have peep holes and dead bolt locks.
- Never loan out your key.

- windows at night. Never leave a door unlocked for a roommate.
- Dormitories should have a central entrance/exit where access is monitored, especially at night.
- Do not leave your valuables, such as your ID, wallet, jewelry, credit cards, etc. in open view.
- Program your phone with emergency numbers.
- Do not let strangers in the building or allow them to “tailgate” in behind you.
- Do not leave notes on your door indicating that you are not there.
- Keep your shades drawn when changing clothes or retiring for the night.
- Leave spare keys with a trusted neighbor; never hide them around the exterior of your apartment.
- Arrange for service people to come when someone else will be present.
- Avoid isolated areas, such as stairwells, laundry rooms, the basement, etc., when you are alone.

In your Vehicle/While Driving

- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Do not leave valuables lying in plain view in the vehicle. Take them with you or lock them in the trunk.
- Do not leave your keys in your car.
- Remember where you parked your car so you don’t have to wander around looking for it.
- Keep your doors and windows locked.
- Have your key ready to open your doors as you approach your car. Look underneath as you approach to ensure no one is hidden there.

- Look inside your vehicle before getting inside.
- If you are followed by someone in another vehicle, drive to an open business, fire station, police station, etc. for help. Do not drive to your residence.

Online

- Protect your computer from Internet intruders. Use up-to-date anti-virus software and use firewalls.
- Create passwords that would be difficult for someone to guess. Protect your passwords.
- Never give your name, address, telephone number, passwords, credit card numbers, or other personal information to others online.
- Never agree to meet alone and face to face with someone you’ve met online. Take a friend with you and meet in a public place.
- Never respond to messages from unfamiliar persons.

The Social Scene

- Be smart. Be responsible. Underage drinking is against the law. If you choose to drink alcohol, be aware of the consequences.
- Pace yourself. Avoid hard alcohol and other drinks that are powerful and have fast effects. Know your limits.
- Don’t drink and drive. Have a safe ride home planned before you go out.
- Pour your own drinks if possible, or watch others that fix your drinks. Never leave your drink unattended.
- Go out with your friends and go home with your friends. Look out for one another.

(Information updated March 2026)