

Am I Safe on Campus?

As a student, images of the recent horrors at Virginia Tech are probably lingering in your mind. You may be wondering, "How safe am I on campus?" While we can't ever promise absolute safety, we can remind you of the importance of taking responsibility in helping us keep our campus as safe as possible.

Taking Care of Yourself

- Lock your residence hall room door. Even though you "know everyone on your floor," you can't control guests and visitors strolling the hallways. Same goes for off campus residences. You never know who might make their way into your neighborhood.
- Ask who is at your door before opening it. The residence hall community does not have to be as informal as you think.
- Walk with a buddy late at night or in potentially dangerous situations. Whenever possible, use an escort system or call campus security to help you get to your destination safely.
- Be smart about your use of alcohol and other drugs. Being under the influence makes it difficult for you to think clearly.
- Get to know your public safety officers. Then, you won't be so hesitant to call for help.
- Be careful about the information you choose to share online. Whether it's in an away message or on a social networking site, more people have access to your profiles than you think.

Working Together with Campus Officials

Campus officials are trained to work with college students. They have a great deal of expertise in helping to manage difficult situations, referring students to the appropriate resources, and working together to create a safe and positive educational environment. Don't be afraid to tap into their experience! If you are struggling or are concerned about someone's behaviors, ask for help.

- Don't advertise your whereabouts. Posting your schedule on your door or online is not a good idea. If you need people to know where you are, make phone calls or email them directly. If someone else needs to find you, they'll call.
- Keep your vehicle locked and store valuables out of site. Be cautious and aware when approaching your car late at night.

Taking Emergency-Preparedness Drills Seriously

Tragedy provides an unfortunate reminder of the importance of being prepared for disaster to strike. As a student, your cooperation with emergency-preparedness drills can help in ensuring the campus is as safe and prepared as possible. When asked to participate in fire, lockdown or other drills, participate respectfully. A campus can only be as safe and prepared as the community allows it to be.

Taking Care of the Community

- Don't prop doors to residence halls or other buildings on campus. This makes public safety's job more difficult and compromises the overall security measures in place. Anyone can slip in.
- Don't let in people behind you when entering your residence hall. Even though it can be hard to confront a stranger and deny access, your diligence will help keep *everyone* that much safer.
- Treat the campus grounds with respect. Vandalizing and damaging directional signs, fire extinguishers and other safety equipment costs the college valuable funds and effort that could be directed to other areas.
- Follow campus policies – they're in place for your safety.
- Report suspicious behavior to the appropriate campus officials, even if it's "just a hunch." Your tip may be one of many being received about an individual. Every little bit of information about a potential threat is critical.

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