Personal Safety and Crime Prevention

35 tips for safety on and off campus
Safety at Home
- Lock your door, even if you intend to return shortly or are just going down the hall. It takes a thief five seconds or less to enter an open room and steal your property.
- Do not prop open residence hall exit doors.
- Lock or secure doors and windows when you are alone or asleep.
- Do not leave valuables out in plain sight.
- Record the serial numbers of your valuable items. Electric engravers can be checked out free of charge to mark your valuables. Call the Community Awareness and Resource Team at 512.245.8341.
- Do not leave a note on your door saying that you are away and giving a time when you will return.
- Do not let strangers into buildings or residence halls.
- Do not let anyone borrow your room keys.
- If you lose your keys, report it to the University Police Department (UPD).

Safety on Campus
- Know the locations of the emergency call boxes.
- Consider taking a self-defense class, such as UPD’s Rape Aggression Defense course.
- Keep university police numbers handy and save them in your cell phone.
- If you have a feeling that something is wrong, trust your instincts and go to a safe place.
- If you feel scared or threatened, call the police.

Safety on Foot
- Stay alert and use good judgment to avoid becoming an easy target.
- Walk purposefully. Convey that you are calm, confident, know where you are going and know what is going on around you.
- Stand tall and make quick but deliberate eye contact with people around you.
- If you are being followed, turn and walk quickly in the opposite direction. Go to a well-lit and well-populated area.
- Avoid walking alone, and stay away from dark streets. Avoid shortcuts through deserted areas.
- Avoid displaying large amounts of cash or expensive jewelry.

Safety on the Go
- Park in well-lit areas so you can see your car and its surroundings from as far away as possible.
- Have your car keys ready before you approach the car. Don’t make yourself vulnerable while searching for the right key.
- Tell a friend when you’re leaving and when you expect to return.
- If someone threatens you with a weapon, give up your vehicle immediately. Your life is more important than your car.
- When using the bus, be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention so you do not miss your stop.
- If someone looks suspicious and is getting off at your stop, consider staying on the bus.

Safety in Social Situations
- Go to parties with a friend and watch out for each other.
- If you go to the party together, you should leave the party together.
- If alcohol is involved, make sure that someone is assigned to be the designated driver.
- Don’t leave your drink unattended.
- Never drink something you did not open yourself.
- Never leave someone who is intoxicated and passed out alone or unattended.
- If you see a person unconscious and you know they have consumed a large amount of alcohol, call UPD.
- Obey state laws and campus rules about alcohol and drug use.
- Remember that possession or consumption of alcohol by anyone younger than 21 is a misdemeanor.