

Campus Housing Safety Tips

Personal safety is everyone's responsibility. You must assume responsibility for your own personal safety and the security of your personal belongings by taking simple, common sense precautions. Many crimes occur simply because an opportunity permitted them to happen. If each student takes a few reasonable precautions to enhance personal safety, student-to-student crime will be greatly reduced.

Steps to Help Prevent Room Thefts

1. Lock your residence hall room. Open doors are invitations. Most incidents of theft from residence halls occur when a room is unlocked. Keep your residence hall room locked at all times even if you will be out for just a minute, such as going to the bathroom or the room next door. Be sure to lock your door when leaving a roommate asleep inside.
2. Put billfolds, purses, jewelry and other valuables in a safe place in your room. Leaving them out and unattended makes them an easy mark.
3. Never loan out your room key or have your room key duplicated.
4. Engrave all valuable items with your driver's license number and keep a record of all valuables with descriptions and serial numbers. This is available through Public Safety free of charge.
5. Report to the area director all doors, locks and windows needing repair.
6. Report all thefts to the Department of Public Safety immediately.

Access to Residence Halls

All residence halls have a card access system that helps increase the security for student residents. Students ID cards afford access to specific doors from 7:00 a.m. until midnight every day. From midnight until 7:00 a.m. students may only access their assigned residence hall.

Doors not providing ID card access allow egress only. An alarm sounds if one of these doors is propped open. Residents are encouraged to help keep all doors closed.

Emergency phones outside each residence hall provide communication to the Department of Public Safety in case of an emergency.

Unknown Visitors in the Residence Hall

1. Do not prop exterior residence hall doors.
2. Make it a point to get to know the staff in your residence hall, especially your area director.
3. Report any suspicious-looking individuals who you do not feel belong in your residence hall or any unusual incidents in and around the residence hall to the Department of Public Safety.

4. Do not allow door-to-door sales people to enter your room. College policy prohibits anyone from soliciting on campus.
5. Do not take in an overnight guest whom you do not know.
6. Keep track of visitors you invite into your residence hall. Their actions are your responsibility.
7. Be careful what you write on your message board. Memo boards on your door are great for communicating with friends but you should avoid announcing where you will be or when you will return.
8. Carry a whistle with you at all times; use it if you find yourself in trouble. Get one from Public Safety for free!
9. Try to take showers only when there are other residents on your hall.
10. If a stranger calling on the phone asks "Who is this?", do not give your name. Ask instead, "Who are you calling?" or "What number are you calling?" If you receive nuisance, obscene or prank phone calls, do not engage in conversation. Calmly hang up and immediately notify the Department of Public Safety.
11. Attend Public Safety-sponsored programs on personal safety and property protection. The most important thing to remember about safety and security is to use common sense.