STUDENT SAFETY GUIDE
DEAR NEW STUDENT:

SAFETY IS VITALY IMPORTANT TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE UVA COMMUNITY. AS A STUDENT, IF YOUR SAFETY IS COMPROMISED, YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND GROW IS ALSO COMPROMISED. BECAUSE WE VALUE SAFETY, ALL OF US IN THIS COMMUNITY SHARE A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR OURSELVES AND FOR ONE ANOTHER. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO LEARN ABOUT THE SAFETY RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU AND HOW YOU CAN IMPROVE SAFETY FOR YOURSELF AND FOR OTHERS. TOGETHER, WE CAN ENSURE THE SAFEST COMMUNITY POSSIBLE.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

TERESA A. SULLIVAN
PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT SULLIVAN WITH STUDENT SAFETY LEADERS.
From left: Ben Webel and Madalyn Kimlick, co-chairs of Student Council’s Safety and Wellness Committee; Samantha Westrum and Ben Cosgro, vice president and president of Hoos Ready.
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UVA EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

In an emergency, the University uses multiple systems to quickly make community members aware of a threat and the steps to take to stay safe. In case of an imminent threat, one or more of the following notifications will be used:

**UVA Alerts** - Notifies registered users through text messages and email. Students can register parents and others. [Sign up at www.virginia.edu/uvaalerts.](http://www.virginia.edu/uvaalerts)

**Siren and Public Address Broadcasts** - Outdoor warning system audible throughout many areas of the Grounds.

**University Email** - Notifies everyone with an @virginia.edu account.

**Alert Notices** - Appear on UVA home page, [www.virginia.edu](http://www.virginia.edu), and on UVA emergency home page, [www.virginia.edu/emergency](http://www.virginia.edu/emergency).

**Desktop Notifications** - For all registered users. Students can register at [virginia.edu/emergency/alertus-desktop](http://virginia.edu/emergency/alertus-desktop).

**LCD and LED Screen Messaging** - In classrooms and public spaces.

Clery Act Timely Warnings

To provide timely notice to the University community in the event of a crime that may pose a serious or ongoing threat, the University Police Department (UPD) may issue a “timely warning,” generally for the following crimes: arson; aggravated assault; criminal homicide; robbery; burglary; rape; fondling; incest; statutory rape; and hate crimes. Timely warnings also may be issued for other Clery Act crimes as deemed necessary. The purpose of a timely warning is to notify the University community of the incident and to provide information that may enable community members to better protect themselves from similar incidents.

UPD will issue a timely warning whenever the following criteria are met: (1) a Clery Act crime is reported, (2) the crime occurred in a Clery reportable location, (3) the perpetrator has not been apprehended, and (4) there is a serious or ongoing threat to the campus community because of this crime.

In certain circumstances, an incident may not meet the criteria of a Clery Act crime, but may constitute a serious or ongoing threat to the University community. When a timely warning is not required by law, the Chief of Police and/or the Assistant Vice President for Clery Compliance (or designee) may choose to issue a “community alert” via email notifying the campus community of the threat. The content of a community alert may vary depending on the type of incident reported and the location where it occurred.
SAFETY NEAR THE UVA GROUNDS

Ambassador Program

The University provides Ambassadors who patrol a broad area off Grounds where students live and spend time. Ambassadors are not police, and they are not armed. They provide “eyes and ears” on the street helping students and anyone else who needs assistance. An Ambassador will be your buddy if you need one. Ambassadors patrol on foot, on bicycle, and in vehicles in densely populated areas, including the Corner (the business area near UVA that students frequent). On foot, Ambassadors cover an area from University Avenue to Preston Avenue, and from Rugby Road to 14th Street, as well as along Wertland Avenue. Ambassadors on bikes extend further, patrolling east along West Main Street to Ridge Street, and south on Jefferson Park Avenue to Maury Avenue.

For the full territory, see the map at http://www.virginia.edu/uvapolice/AmbassadorZoneMap.pdf. Ambassadors are highly visible—look for their green neon shirts—and highly engaged with the community. You should feel free to approach them to ask for a walking escort or for help in calling Safe Ride, a taxi, or an ambulance. Ambassadors also can assist you to get help for someone else. Ambassadors are not a substitute for calling 911.

Public Safety Substation

A Public Safety Substation located in the heart of the Corner is staffed by Ambassadors 24/7. The substation increases the presence of University Police and city of Charlottesville Police in the area by providing a location for officers to carry out administrative duties. Students can use the substation as a place to get non-emergency help on the Corner or as a meeting place to wait for friends or a ride. The substation is not a substitute for calling 911.
TRANSPORTATION AFTER HOURS

Late Night Bus Service
The University Transit Service normally operates until 12:30 a.m., but on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights while school is in session, bus service is extended until 2:30 a.m. These late night buses run approximately every 20 minutes along the Northline and Outer U-Loop routes. Use Transloc, a bus tracking app, for live service predictions at http://uva.transloc.com.

Safe Ride
Safe Ride is an on-demand van shuttle service intended to provide UVA students with safe transportation in lieu of walking alone when UTS buses are not in service.
Safe Ride operates within a specific service area to maximize van availability and minimize wait times. Rides may be requested via Transloc OnDemand (an online or mobile app that requires registration) or by calling 434.242.1122. Ride requests will be grouped with nearby pick-up and drop-off points. Learn more at www.virginia.edu/parking/saferide.

UBike
UVA’s bike-sharing program, UBike, provides access to bicycles across 15 conveniently located UBike hubs on Grounds. The bikes can be taken from one hub and returned to another, allowing students to cover a lot of ground in a short amount of time. UBike requires purchase of a subscription online. For more information and to download the app, go to http://ubike.virginia.edu/.

SAFETY TRAINING
R.A.D. Self-Defense Training
UVA police officers lead classes in self-defense for students. R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) instruction is designed for female students and covers escape, physical attack, personal awareness, risk avoidance, community assistance, and procedures for prosecution. Self-defense training also is available for male students. For more information, contact UPD Officer Rexrode at br7u@virginia.edu.

HOURS DURING FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS
• Overnight Sunday through Wednesday: 12:30 a.m. to 7 a.m.
• Overnight Thursday through Saturday: 2:30 a.m. to 7 a.m.

HOURS DURING SUMMER AND ACADEMIC BREAKS
• 12:30 a.m. to 7 a.m. every night

Charge-a-Ride (with Yellow Cab)
Students who find themselves in uncomfortable situations with no reliable or safe means of local transportation and no money for cab fare can call Yellow Cab Charge-a-Ride at 434.295.4131.
Using your valid UVA ID card, you can charge the ride to UVA and be billed via the Student Information System—no questions asked. For more information, see www.virginia.edu/deanofstudents/programsandservices.

ALWAYS TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS: CALL 911.
ALCOHOL AND PERSONAL SAFETY
• If you choose to drink, the following tips can reduce your risk:
  • **Pace and space.** Sip your drink instead of chugging, alternate with water or soda, and have no more than one drink per hour.
  • **Eat before and while drinking.** Alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream more slowly when there is food, especially protein, in your stomach.
  • **Avoid mixing alcohol with other drugs.** Some prescription and over-the-counter drugs (for example, antihistamines and sedatives) can increase alcohol’s effects, even to the point of overdose. Caffeine and other stimulants can trick you into feeling less impaired.
  • **Use caution when sick or tired.** When you are sleep-deprived or ill, alcohol enters the bloodstream more quickly.
  • **Be aware of your environment.** Alcohol can cause greater impairment when drinking different beverages or in new locations that are not typical for you.
  • **Avoid “punches” and other drinks you did not make yourself.** They often include high concentration alcohol masked by a sweet taste.
  • **Stay in a group in which at least one person does not drink that night.**
  • **Know that students drink less than you think.** On a typical Friday, 60 percent of students don’t drink, or they consume 3 or fewer drinks.
  • **Never leave a drunken friend alone.** A person’s Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) may continue to rise after passing out or stopping drinking. Use PUBS as a guide to the symptoms of alcohol overdose:
    - Puking while passed out.
    - Unresponsive to stimulation (pinch or shaking).
    - Breathing (slow, shallow, or no breathing).
    - Skin (blue, cold, or clammy).
    - If you see even one sign of alcohol overdose, call 911.
    - If you are unsure, call the Poison Center at 800.222.1222 for confidential, expert advice.

Green Dot
The Green Dot program, adopted by UVA in 2015, is grounded in research and aimed at measurably and systematically reducing power-based personal violence (sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking) by creating a cultural shift. In order to create a cultural shift within a community, a critical mass of individuals needs to engage in a new behavior that makes violence less sustainable. That new behavior is a Green Dot. The power of Green Dot is the momentum that can be built and sustained when individuals see themselves in connection with others as part of something ultimately bigger than the sum of its parts. Students are invited to learn more and get involved in Green Dot. See http://notonourgounds.virginia.edu/greendot.

Fire Safety Training
UVA’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) provides comprehensive fire and life safety programs, serving as a model for other colleges and universities. For more information or to request services, contact fire-safety@virginia.edu.

FIRE DRILLS. UVA fire professionals conduct drills in all residence halls to ensure that students understand how to evacuate and where to assemble. By state code, four drills are required per year. The first drill is conducted within the first 10 days of classes, and at least one drill is conducted at night.

MANDATORY RESIDENCE HALL FIRE INSPECTIONS. The State Fire Marshal’s Office is required to conduct inspections of UVA residence halls. About 20 to 25 percent of all rooms are randomly selected for inspection. Notices are written for violations.

COURTESY INSPECTIONS FOR RESIDENCE HALLS. UVA fire safety inspectors are available to educate and assist students in residence halls in correcting fire safety issues and violations upon request. This service is educational and informative; no violations are issued during these voluntary inspections.

SAFETY PRESENTATIONS. University fire professionals are available to review evacuation procedures, fire prevention information and tips, fire protection systems, testing of smoke alarms, and other safety topics. Available to small groups upon request.

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ORGANIZATIONS AND EVENTS

Hoos Ready

With a goal to enhance safety at UVA, Hoos Ready acts as an extension of the Office of Safety and Emergency Preparedness, serving as a liaison with the student body and as a sounding board for administration. Hoos Ready helps increase students’ awareness of the safest practices for living both on and off Grounds.

To learn more about Hoos Ready and how you can get involved, see www.facebook.com/hoosreadyuva or contact Ben Cosgro at bcc5d@virginia.edu.

Student Council Safety and Wellness Committee

Student Council’s Safety and Wellness Committee serves as the primary advocate for student safety at UVA. The committee seeks to create an environment in which safety- and wellness-related organizations can collaborate on initiatives and work to educate the student body on available resources. Contact Ben Webel (bkw4dp@virginia.edu) and Madalyn Kimlick (mhk9rj@virginia.edu), the committee co-chairs, with any questions or concerns.

Student Safety Fair. Look for announcements about an annual fall Student Safety Fair, designed to build awareness about safety and response measures that can save lives. Representatives from UVA and the Charlottesville community share information and provide engaging hands-on exhibits to help students ramp up their personal safety knowledge.

UVA Security and General Safety Committee

The Security and General Safety Committee receives suggestions and recommendations for improvement of safety conditions in various University facilities and reports its findings to the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. The committee encourages the practice of safety procedures in everyday routines and recommends training programs for the University community. Contact the Office of Safety and Emergency Preparedness at 434.982.0565.

NIGHT TOURS. The committee conducts annual fall and spring night tours to assess safety conditions across Grounds in darkness. Students are encouraged to submit suggested locations for night tours to osep@virginia.edu.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALKS. The University is continuously improving pedestrian crosswalks and has recently installed a crosswalk warning system called Rapid Flashing Beacons (RFBs). RFBs allow the University to put more lights in more locations across the Grounds. The main key to using the RFB: Pedestrians must push the button to activate the lights.

ALWAYS TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS: CALL 911.
SAFETY RESOURCES

Automated External Defibrillators
The University maintains the most robust public access defibrillation program among all colleges in the United States, providing more than 260 Automated External Defibrillators in its academic and administrative buildings, intramural-recreational sports locations, and athletic facilities. Specific locations and other information are available at www.virginia.edu/emergency/aed.

Emergency Phones
More than 480 emergency phones are located throughout Grounds and nearby areas where students live and congregate. The phones include blue-light phones (the most common model) and other phones that are located along frequently traveled pathways, in parking lots, garages, and in some buildings.

To use the phone, simply push the button or pick up the phone (depending on the model) to be immediately connected to University Police. (Off-Grounds phones near the Corner connect to the 911 dispatcher.) If for any reason you cannot remain at a phone, you should push the buttons on the phones that you pass; police will respond to that area.

SUMMONING HELP
• Call 911 from any phone, including your cell phone. You will be connected to a regional dispatcher who will send help based on your location.
• If on Grounds, just push a button on a blue-light telephone. You automatically will be connected to University Police.

HOME/APARTMENT SAFETY
• Keep doors and windows locked.
• Use outdoor lighting.
• Trim shrubs and trees to prevent the possibility of prowlers hiding in dense, darkened areas.
• If you see any of the following, immediately call 911: a prowler; someone peeping into a residence; an individual who seems out of place and is watching, photographing, or filming an area; or any other behavior that under the circumstances seems odd or suspicious.
• Work with your neighbors and fellow community members to ensure a safe environment.

MAKE SAFETY A ROUTINE
• Be familiar with all available safety resources, and use them.
• Make safety part of planning your day or an event. When you go out, especially to socialize, follow the plan you’ve created with your friends for getting there and getting back safely. Check in with your friends throughout the evening, and make sure everyone leaves together.
• Be an active bystander—within your own comfort level. When your “gut” tells you things aren’t right, do what you can—comfortably and safely—to confront the situation.
• Learn about the Green Dot initiative at UVA and all the ways you can help prevent power-based violence.
REPORTING TOOLS

Just Report It

Students, faculty, staff, or others who experience or witness an incident of bias or abuse directed toward themselves, or other acts of sexual violence, stalking, harassment, or hazing in violation of University policy, are urged to report the incident through Just Report It. This online incident reporting system is operated by the Office of the Dean of Students. The system enables anyone to report a situation in which she or he believes a student was treated wrongly—whether verbally, physically, or in writing—by another individual. The perpetrator may or may not be a student. Information can be submitted anonymously or may include a name or other personally identifying information. The University's ability to act on reports submitted anonymously may be limited. See www.virginia.edu/justreportit.

Report a Safety Hazard

Anyone can make the University aware of a safety concern (such as cracked steps, a malfunctioning emergency phone or AED) via this online tool at www.virginia.edu/emergency/safety.

Report a Barrier

This online tool facilitates the reporting of barriers that would prevent an individual with disabilities from equally accessing and participating in the University's academic programs, sponsored events, or the Grounds. See http://reportabarrier.virginia.edu.

TipSoft

This confidential platform allows members of the community to supply information or tips to the University Police. You can submit tips through UPD's website at www.virginia.edu/uvapolice or use the TipSubmit app. For an emergency, or to report a crime or an act or threat of violence in progress, call 911 immediately.

Safety Apps

For help in an emergency, dial 911 on any phone or press the word “emergency” on the locked screen of a mobile phone. As technology advances, the University continues to evaluate safety applications. Students are free to choose the app that works best for them, especially since apps change frequently. “Circle of 6” is a free app for iPhone and Android that quickly connects you with six friends of your choice. This offers you the advantage of choosing local friends who can help you when you may need it.

RELATED SAFETY AND HEALTH RESOURCES

Counseling and Psychological Services

CAPS is located within the Department of Student Health. Psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, and other mental health care professionals provide assessment, counseling, and medication management for students coping with anxiety, mood, disordered eating, adjustment issues, relationship concerns, substance abuse, and other issues. Counselors are available to assist with emerging mental health crises. Case management services help bridge care into the community as needed. Additionally, programming to promote mental wellness and suicide prevention is delivered to the entire UVA community. See http://www.virginia.edu/studenthealth/caps.html.

To reach CAPS, call 434.243.5150 during business hours. For emergencies after 5 p.m. and on weekends, call 911 or 434.972.7004.

Sexual Violence Support

UVA takes gender-based violence seriously and provides support and information to survivors, friends and families of survivors, and the University community. The Sexual Violence Education and Resources website provides information on what to do after an assault, how to support a survivor, reporting options, and how to get involved in addressing and preventing sexual violence. See www.virginia.edu/sexualviolence.

An infographic, “What Students Need to Know,” is an important resource informing students about assistance, support, and reporting options. See www.virginia.edu/sexualviolence/get_help_now.pdf.

Additional training and programming around sexual violence are available to students when they enter the University and throughout the academic year.

Gordie Center for Substance Abuse Prevention


ALWAYS TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS: CALL 911.
IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 911

Ambassadors 924.7166
Public Safety Substation 924.7166
Building Issues 924.1777
CAPS (Counseling Services) 243-5150
Hazing Hotline 243.4293
Inclement Weather (recording) 924.7669
or 243.7669
Office of the Dean of Students 924.7133
Safe Ride 242.1122
Sexual Assault Resource Agency 977.7273
Student Health 924.5362
UVA Police (non-emergency) 924.7166
Charge-a-Ride (with Yellow Cab) 295.4131

(Area Code 434 for all numbers above)

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
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