

Summer 2023

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to the University of Virginia! The safety of our community members is always our top priority. Toward that end, we share a sense of personal responsibility for ourselves and each other. Please take a minute to read these FAQs about the resources available for students at UVA, then encourage your student to download the Rave Guardian Mobile Safety App (details below). We also encourage families and friends to sign up for emergency text alerts by texting “UVA” to 226787.\*

We are honored to serve your students. Working together, we can create the safest possible community.

Timothy Longo, Sr., Associate Vice President for Safety and Security and Chief of Police

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***In the event of an emergency on Grounds, how will the University notify the community?***

The University has a multi-tiered emergency notification system to communicate an emergency alert and provide instructions on actions to take:

- Students will automatically receive an email alert.
- Students will automatically receive a text message alert to the mobile phone number they registered with the University during orientation.
- UVA has a free safety app known as Rave Guardian. Students, faculty, and staff can receive emergency alerts through the app if push notifications are turned on. See <https://safetyandsecurity.virginia.edu/mobile-safety-app>
- LCD and LED screens in most classrooms and public areas will display emergency messages.
- Alertus desktop notification on computers with the software installed and connected to the UVA network will display the emergency message. (Students can download Alertus at [www.its.virginia.edu/software/desktopalert](http://www.its.virginia.edu/software/desktopalert).)
- The siren and public address system is utilized for active attacker and tornado warnings. These announcements are audible at many outdoor locations on and near Grounds.
- The University’s homepage ([www.virginia.edu](http://www.virginia.edu)), UVA Emergency page ([www.virginia.edu/emergency](http://www.virginia.edu/emergency)), and University Police page ([www.uvapolice.virginia.edu](http://www.uvapolice.virginia.edu)) will display the alert.
- Alerts are tweeted on @UVA\_EM and @UVAPolice, and @HoosSafe.

***Can families and friends of students sign up for UVA text message Alerts?***

Yes. Text “UVA” to 226787 to receive alerts from the University of Virginia.\*

***What other kinds of safety messages does UVA send?***

In compliance with the federal Clery Act, Community Alerts are released by the University when certain crimes are reported on or near University property to protect members of the University community, to promote safety, to help reduce the likelihood of future crimes, and to raise awareness of how to seek prompt assistance should a crime occur. In cases when a Community Alert is not required, the University

\* Message and data rates may apply. Text messages are sent on an as-needed basis. This service is provided per the Terms of Use: <https://www.getrave.com/help/Terms.action>, and Privacy Policy: <https://www.getrave.com/help/Privacy.action>. Text STOP to 226787 to cancel or HELP for tech support.

may choose to issue a General Communication. Both types of messages are sent by email and provide information to enable community members to protect themselves from similar incidents. Recent Community Alerts and General Communications are posted on <https://uvapolice.virginia.edu>.

***What are the roles and responsibilities of the University Police Department (UPD)?***

UPD is an internationally accredited police department, providing the same level of service offered by a municipal police department, as well as other services unique to an academic institution. UPD operates 24/7 year-round. UPD comprises sworn police officers certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia and unarmed security officers. The department's primary jurisdiction is UVA main Grounds. If an incident occurs in the city of Charlottesville or Albemarle County, the police department with appropriate jurisdiction responds. UPD maintains a cooperative relationship with Charlottesville Police and Albemarle Police but does not control how or when other jurisdictions investigate their crimes. UPD does, however, routinely monitor and seek information about cases closest to Grounds.

***What is UVA doing to enhance safety off Grounds?***

Through a third-party agreement with RMC, University Police oversee an Ambassador Program to enhance safety and visibility in the areas adjacent to Grounds. Ambassadors are easily recognizable with their neon shirts. Ambassadors are not law enforcement but are trained to engage with the public and recognize and make requests for medical or police assistance. From 6 pm to 2 am, Ambassadors provide safety walks. Students can request a Safe Walk by either asking an Ambassador directly, walking into the Safety Substation on the Corner, or calling 434-984-7622, ext. 406.

UPD operates the "Community-Oriented Policing Squad" (COPS) Wednesday through Saturday in UPD joint-patrol areas such as the Corner. The goal is to create a safe environment by building relationships and providing a sustained police presence in areas where students live and socialize off Grounds.

***Does the University have an emergency plan?***

Yes. UVA Emergency Management can quickly organize a multifaceted Critical Incident Management Team to manage incidents guided by the *University's Critical Incident Management Plan*. UVA follows the National Incident Management System to guide our response and to ensure a coordinated effort. See <https://uvaemergency.virginia.edu> for more information. You can email the office at [uvaem@virginia.edu](mailto:uvaem@virginia.edu).

***Does UVA have a threat assessment team?***

Yes. The mission of the Threat Assessment Team (TAT) is to assess, manage, and mitigate identified threatening behavior by and against students, faculty, staff, employees, patients, and visitors or other non-affiliated individuals. The TAT believes that early recognition, intervention, and referral are critical to getting someone help and preventing violence. More information is available at <https://threatassessment.virginia.edu/faqs>. You can email the office at [threatassessment@virginia.edu](mailto:threatassessment@virginia.edu).

***What should I or my student do if we have a safety concern?***

In an emergency, call or text 911. Students may hesitate to call 911 if they only *feel* that something is wrong but they aren't certain. Be assured the police want students to call. When the police respond, they will focus on the student's safety and well-being. If outdoors, students can push the button on an emergency phone to reach a dispatcher for a two-way conversation. Even if a student does not speak, a police officer will be dispatched to investigate the area if the button is pushed.

To reach the Dean of Students outside business hours, call 434 924-7166.

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