

Staying Safe on Campus

by Justine Simon

Fall semester is just around the corner and with that comes a new group of students. During this time, people are more likely to be outside, oftentimes at night, and with this new found freedom come the opportunity to partake in parties. The combination of these three factors can make students more susceptible to crime. Here are a few pointers to keep in mind while you get ready for the new school year.

If you're out and about at night:

- **Walk on well-lit paths.** Try to use paths that are used by a lot of people.
- **If your campus has emergency phones, be aware of where they are.** Arm yourself with knowledge. You will appear more confident, and this is the best emotion to project.
- **If your campus has a shuttle service, you can always use this to get you where you're going.** It may take longer, but it saves you having to walk alone at night.

Vandalism and robberies are more prevalent when people are out partying.

Keep yourself and your possessions safe:

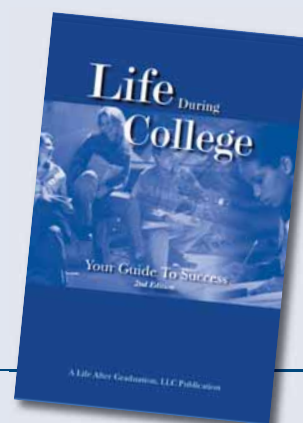
- **Park in well lit areas and keep any valuables left in your car hidden.**
- **Lock your car when you leave it, and the same goes for your room.**
- **Avoid carrying large amounts of cash on your person.** If you do have to carry a lot of cash, put it somewhere unexpected, like inside you shoe.
- **Regardless of the situation, if someone threatens your safety in an attempt to rob you, never resist.** Your safety is far more valuable than losing a few material items or trying to be a hero.

If you are drinking:

- **Drink responsibly.** It's always a good idea to buddy-up. Make sure that your friend is drinking within his/her means and your friend should do the same for you. Watch out for each other and make sure you leave together.
- **Alcohol and drugs are involved in approximately half of all sexual assaults and rapes.** For women, the best prevention is to avoid situations where your safety is compromised.
- **2.1 million students between the ages of 18 and 24 drove under the influence of alcohol last year.** If you are drinking, do not get behind the wheel.

Being aware of the main safety risks is a great first step in improving your security. Go out and enjoy the warm weather and time with your good friends. Play by these rules and you're sure to have a great time on campus.

For more information about staying safe on campus and other vital college success tools, read *Life During College: Your Guide To Success*.



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