Tips to Stay Safe & Prevent Crime at ODU

- **Sign-up for Campus Safety Alerts.** Sign up for ODU Alerts at [www.odu.edu/alerts](http://www.odu.edu/alerts).

- **Personal Property Safety.** *Never* leave valuables, backpacks, books, or electronics unattended in public spaces such as common areas, cafeterias, bathrooms and the library—not even for “just a second.”

- **Pedestrian Safety Tips.** Here is a quick summary of what you should and shouldn’t do as a pedestrian:
  - Avoid using listening devices (cell phone and earbuds).
  - Walk where sidewalks are well-lit and well-traveled.
  - At night, especially, walk in groups...this is true for both male *and* female students!
  - Do not cross in the middle of the street or between parked cars; use the marked crosswalks.
  - Virginia drivers can turn right after stopping if there is a red light. Drivers don’t always stop or look to the right before they turn, so be sure you know the driver has seen you before you cross.
  - Using a sidewalk is always best, but if you have to walk on a road that does not have sidewalks, walk towards incoming traffic.
  - Wear bright colors or reflective clothing if you are walking near traffic at night.
  - Use the pedestrian buttons at intersections.
    - **Crosswalk signals**
      - Green/white=go
      - Blinking=don’t go or complete walking if you’ve already started
      - Red=STOP.

- **LiveSafe App.** This free app can be downloaded to your phone to increasing personal and public safety because it allows you to report crimes by speaking, texting or uploading pictures to ODUPD in real time. iPhone users can get it in the Apple Store and Android users through Google Play. When registering your account, select *Old Dominion University* to gain a direct connection to the ODU Police Department.

- **At Home.** Keep doors locked, including the doors to your dorm room, off-campus residence and car. NEVER prop open any doors to the residence halls. Also, don’t leave windows open--especially if you live on the first floor. NEVER hold the door open or invite strangers into your dorm room or off-campus house – this includes people you just met at a party, concert, and/or through social media sites or people who are selling things.

- **Bicycle Safety/Skateboard.** Be responsible, obey all traffic control devices and use proper hand signals. *You are responsible for following the same laws as cars.* Wear a helmet to prevent serious injuries and always carry your ODU ID card and your insurance card. At night, wear reflective clothing and apply reflective tape to your bicycle. Walk your bicycle when you get into traffic situations beyond your cycling abilities. Lock up your bicycle to bicycle racks that are provided; D-ring locks are the most secure. Register your bicycle with ODU Police to reduce the risk of theft and increase the chance of recovery if it is stolen.

- **See Something, Say Something, Report It.** International students may feel uncomfortable speaking directly to the police, but please know that information you provide is very important. Report an on-campus crime/emergency at 757.683.4000; for non-emergencies, call 757.683.5665. Off-campus, call 911. Also, if you prefer to speak with a female officer, you can always request one.
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Special Programs Offered by ODU Police Department

- **Patrol Aides Escort Services.** This free service provides Student Patrol Aides to walk with you across campus between 6:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. during weeknights and 8:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday while school is in session. The phone number is 757.683.4000.

- **Safe Ride.** Transportation & Parking Services provides a safe mode of travel for students, faculty and staff who would otherwise have to walk alone at night. Safe Ride is a free service that operates from sundown to 2:30 a.m., seven days per week while school is in session. For services, call 757.683.3477 or use [www.odu.edu/parkingservices](http://www.odu.edu/parkingservices).

- **Drive a Car to Campus?** Park your car in well-lit areas. Make sure any valuables in your vehicle are not visible. If your car has a dead battery, ODUPD can loan you jumper cable boxes. To borrow one, go to ODUPD at 4516 Monarch Way with a valid photo ID. For more information, call 757.683.4000 (police dispatch).

- **Emergency Phones.** Additional resources to notify the police of an emergency or suspicious activities are red emergency telephones located inside campus buildings, and blue call boxes located outside and in the parking garages around campus.

- **Special Safety Training for Female Students.** R.A.D. is a course offered on campus by specially trained instructors to provide you with options for protecting yourself in a variety of unsafe situations. Dates for the R.A.D. class will be advertised on the ODU website as they become available.

Emergency Preparedness Tips

- **Get Ready Well in Advance!** Weather here is relatively good but we do get occasional hurricanes and snow storms. You should *always* have a flashlight and first aid kit; however, for bigger weather events, have a supply kit (battery-powered radio, 3 days of food and water per person, cell phone charger, cash, medications, sanitary items) in a sturdy, portable container. Don’t forget pets and important documents!

- **Updating Friends & Family.** Be sure to keep friends/family informed if you leave town before a weather event and let them know when you’ll return. Also, always keep your emergency contact name/number updated in your phone. Some phones have a feature for you to designate someone; if yours doesn’t, you can just put ICE (In Case of Emergency) in front of that person’s name.

Relationship Safety

- **Know Before You Go.** Go out in groups until you get to know people, and when you go out, tell someone you trust where you are going and when you’ll return.

- **Ask Others About American Dating Culture.** Seek information from trusted friends and mentors about healthy dating or sexual behavior in the US.

- **You Know Best!** Trust your feelings. If you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or scared, it’s OK to say “no, thank you” and leave quickly.