DEAR NEW STUDENT:

SAFETY IS VITALLY 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

CALL 911 WHENEVER SOMETHING DOESN’T FEEL RIGHT OR IF YOU NEED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. ALWAYS TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS: CALL 911.

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.

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.

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

DESKTOP NOTIFICATIONS
For all registered users. Students can register at http://uvaemergency.virginia.edu/alertus-desktop.

LCD AND LED SCREEN MESSAGING
In classrooms and public spaces.
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.

Personal Safety

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid isolated areas.
- Avoid walking alone at night. Use Safe Ride, walk with friends, or take a late-night weekend bus.
- Use the lighted pathway system.
- Tell a friend where you are going and when you will return.
- Do not hesitate to contact police, by calling 911, about a person or situation that does not seem right. You will not have to give your name to police. Even if everything is fine, University Police do not in any way consider this “bothering” them.

Residence Hall Safety

- Remember: Your RA is a resource for safety concerns.
- Never allow strangers to follow you into the building by “tailgating” when you use your card-key.
- Call 911 if you see someone in the building who seems suspicious.
- Never prop open card-reader doors or leave room doors open.
- Secure doors and windows prior to leaving.

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.

Pedestrian and Biking Safety

- Use caution when crossing the street, especially in the dark. Cross only in designated areas, and do not let music or a cell phone conversation distract you.
- At crosswalks with Rapid Flashing Beacons, remember to push the button to activate the lights.
- Likewise, use caution when bicycling. Wear a helmet and reflective clothing, and follow all rules of the road, whether you are a biker or motorist.
- Register your bike with UPD at www.virginia.edu/upd/registration.html.

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.

SAFETY NEAR THE UVA GROUNDS

UVA Ambassadors

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.

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 Wiltland 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 zone map on the Ambassadors website.

Ambassadors are highly visible – look for their 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. See http://ambassadors.uvapolice.virginia.edu.

Public Safety Substation

A Public Safety Substation located in the heart of the Comer 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 Comer 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 when 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 U-Loop outer 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.

HOURS DURING FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS:

- Overnight Sunday through Wednesday: 12:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.
- Overnight Thursday through Saturday: 2 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

HOURS DURING SUMMER AND ACADEMIC BREAKS:

- 12:30 a.m. to 7 a.m. every night

Note: Safe Ride does not operate on certain holidays. Check the service schedule on the website.
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.

See www.rodns.virginia.edu/parking/saferide.

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 http://odos.virginia.edu/areas-services#ride.

UBike
UBA’s bike-sharing program, UBike, provides access to bicycles across 21 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.

Fire Safety Training
UBA’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety provides comprehensive fire and life safety programs, serving as a model for other colleges and universities.

To request services, contact fire-safety@virginia.edu. See www.ods.virginia.edu.

Fire Drills. UBA 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 UBA residence halls. About 20 to 25 percent of all rooms are randomly selected for inspection. Notices are written for violations.

Courtsey Inspections for Residence Halls. UBA 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.

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UBA’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety provides comprehensive fire and life safety programs, serving as a model for other colleges and universities.

To request services, contact fire-safety@virginia.edu. See www.ods.virginia.edu.

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.

Green Dot
Green Dot is an evidence-informed bystander intervention program designed to prevent power-based personal violence (sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking) by increasing positive bystander behaviors. Green Dot trainings, offered to students, faculty, and staff, provide participants with the skills to know how and when to safely intervene in a concerning situation. In addition to skill-building, the Green Dot program is a community mobilization strategy that gives people the framework and support they need to maintain a culture in which violence is not tolerated and everyone is expected to do their part to create a safe environment. Students are invited to learn more and get involved in Green Dot. See http://notonourgrounds.virginia.edu/greendot.

ORGANIZATIONS AND EVENTS

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

Alcohol and Personal Safety
• Stay in a group in which at least one person does not drink that night.
• Nearly all UBA students (90 percent) believe it is their responsibility to intervene when they notice a problem situation.
• 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.

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.

Call 911 whenever something doesn’t feel right or if you need emergency assistance. Always trust your instincts.
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.

Reporting Tools

Just Report It
Civility and respect are cornerstones of the community of trust at the University of Virginia. Any student who believes he or she has been the target of bias may file a complaint through the “Just Report It” incident reporting system. The website provides complete details, including UVA’s definition of “bias complaint,” what to expect in response from the University when such a complaint is received, how to preserve evidence, and what resources and support are available. Complaints can be filed online, over the telephone, or in person.
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, administered by the ADA Coordinator in the University’s Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights (EOCR), facilitates the reporting of barriers that would prevent individuals with disabilities (including students, faculty, staff, and visitors) from equally accessing and participating in University programs, services, or activities. 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 UPO’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, an outpatient clinic located in Student Health, offers clinical services, suicide prevention programming, and other educational outreach. Clinical services include psychological and psychiatric assessment; referral and care management; individual, couples, and group psychotherapy; psychiatric medication services; in-person emergency services; and after-hours on-call crisis consultation.
To reach CAPS, call 434.243.5150 during business hours. For emergencies after 5 p.m. and on weekends, call 911 or 434.297.4261.

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. Through presentations, training, and ongoing programming, students will receive information about this issue during Summer Orientation and throughout the academic year. The University’s comprehensive Title IX website provides information on resources and reporting options.

Gordie Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
Student Health’s Gordie Center for Substance Abuse Prevention coordinates University-wide alcohol and other drug abuse prevention strategies and support for students in recovery.

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency 911
Building Issues 924.1777
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
Title IX Office 297.7988
UVA Police (non-emergency) 977.7166
Charge-a-Ride (with Yellow Cab) 295.4131
(Area Code 434 for all numbers above)