UVA and its surrounding communities continue to be one of the nation’s safest places to learn, work, and live. Members of the Department of Safety and Security are committed to providing high quality public safety services inclusive of all members of our community. The University offers a variety of safety resources for students. Please take a moment and become familiar with the resources in this guide. We are all safer when everyone is working together.

Gloria S. Graham
Associate Vice President for Safety and Security

THE CLERY ACT AND TIMELY WARNINGS

The Clery Act is a federal law designed to help create safer campuses by mandating transparency around campus crime policy and statistics. The act requires the University to issue timely warning notifications about Clery Act crimes that may pose a serious or ongoing threat to students and employees. These notifications are issued to current students and employees via email. Timely warnings are generally issued 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.

The Clery Act also requires institutions to publish and distribute an Annual Fire Safety and Security Report each fall. UVA’s report is available at cleryact.virginia.edu.

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.

UVA ALERTS

To receive emergency text alerts, students should add mobile phone numbers to their account at https://uvaemergency.virginia.edu/uva_alerts. Students are automatically enrolled to receive emergency emails; they can also add multiple email addresses.

SIREN AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

Audible through many areas of Grounds.

LED AND LCD SCREENS

In classrooms and public spaces.

ALERT NOTICES


DESKTOP NOTIFICATIONS

Students can register at http://uvaemergency.virginia.edu/alertus-desktop.

LIVESAFE MOBILE SAFETY APP

Free and available to everyone at Google Play and the App Store.

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

CALL 911
SAFETY REMINDERS

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, Biking, and eScooter 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.
• If you use an eScooter, be sure to follow rules for safety and usage adopted by the University: https://uvapolicy.virginia.edu/policy/SEC-043.

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.
• Avoid driving or riding if impaired. Even if you consume moderate amounts of alcohol, you could be impaired and unknowingly risk a serious accident.

LIVESAFE MOBILE SAFETY APP
The LiveSafe app provides two-way communication with UVA police and offers personal safety features. With LiveSafe, students can quickly report an incident, access resources, share information with UVA police, and invite friends and family to virtually walk with them to destinations.
SEE https://safetyandsecurity.virginia.edu/mobile-safety-app

UVA AMBASSADORS
Ambassadors are not police or security, but they are an additional safety resource in areas where students live, shop, and socialize off Grounds.
Ambassadors patrol on foot, on bicycle, and in vehicles in densely populated areas, including the Corner (the business area near UVA that students frequent). 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 law enforcement; you should always call 911 in an emergency.
SEE https://uvapolice.virginia.edu/ambassadors

AFTER HOURS TRANSPORTATION

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 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. A valid UVA ID will be required to board the van.
Safe Ride operates within a specific service area to maximize van availability and minimize wait times. Use the Transloc app (uva.transloc.com) or call 434.242.1122 to request a ride. Check the website for complete details about Safe Ride.

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: VARYING
SEE www.parking.virginia.edu/after-hours-parking-and-transportation

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.
Use your valid UVA ID card to charge the ride to UVA. You will be billed via the Student Information System – no questions asked.
SEE www.parking.virginia.edu/after-hours-parking-and-transportation
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBSTATION
Located in the Corner district, the public safety substation is staffed by the Ambassadors 24/7. Additionally, UVA Police and Charlottesville City Police frequently stop into the substation while patrolling the Corner area. The public safety substation is a safe location that students can use while waiting for a friend or ride, or just when they need somewhere safe to go.

SELF-DEFENSE TRAINING CLASSES
UPD offers two types of self-defense training classes free of charge. For details and registration, contact Sgt. Rexrode at 434.924.8845 or br7u@virginia.edu.
R.A.D. Systems of Self Defense for Women:
A 10-hour course taught over several sessions.
Basic Self-Defense Course: A one-hour course offered throughout the year. Popular in first-year dorms. Interested first-year students should ask their resident advisor to set up a class for their hall. Other students should contact Sgt. Rexrode (see above).

BIKE REGISTRATION
Many students bring their bikes to conveniently get around Grounds and the surrounding community. Register your bike with University Police to aid in its recovery if it is lost or stolen.
SEE https://uvapolice.virginia.edu/registration/bike

FIRE SAFETY TRAINING
UVA’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.ehs.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 small groups upon request.

STUDENT COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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. Representatives serve on UVA’s Security and General Safety Committee.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds handles student concerns regarding lighting around Grounds, serving as the main conduit for student concerns. Committee members also attend the Security and General Safety Committee’s night tours in the spring and fall.

Student-Police Advisory Board facilitates regular communication between the student body and University Police.

Contact Student Council for more information on these groups.

Alcohol and Personal Safety
• 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.

Alcohol and Personal Safety
• Stay in a group in which at least one person does not drink that night.
• Nearly all UVA 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 Hoos Got Your Back initiative at UVA and all the ways you can help prevent power-based violence.
SAFETY RESOURCES

Dial 911

For help in an emergency, dial 911 on any phone or press the word “emergency” on the locked screen of a mobile phone. 911 will reach police, fire, and emergency medical services on Grounds and off Grounds.

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.

When you push the emergency button on a blue-light phone, you will be immediately connected to UVA Police with two-way communication. UVA Police can track where a phone has been activated, even if you are unable to speak into it, and will always respond when an emergency phone has been activated to search the area for any activity.

Automated External Defibrillators

The University provides 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.

UVA SECURITY AND GENERAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Security and General Safety Committee receives suggestions and recommendations for University-wide improvement of safety conditions 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 Department of Safety and Security at 434.243.5636

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 Student Council’s Committee on Buildings and Grounds.

REPORTING TOOLS

Just Report It

Civility and respect are cornerstones of the community of trust at the University of Virginia. Any student who believes they have experienced or witnessed sexual or gender-based harassment and violence, bias or discrimination/harassment, or hazing may file a complaint through “Just Report It,” UVA’s online incident reporting system. The website provides additional information and links to resources and reporting options.

SEE http://justreportit.virginia.edu

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 the online tool.

SEE 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 anyone with disabilities 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 anonymous information or tips to the University Police. You can submit tips via text or email.

SEE https://uvapolice.virginia.edu/report-tip

For an emergency, or to report a crime or an act or threat of violence in progress, call 911 immediately.

RELATED SAFETY AND HEALTH RESOURCES

Counseling and Psychological Services

CAPS, an outpatient clinic 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.

SEE https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/caps

To reach CAPS, call 434.243.5150 during business hours. For after-hours and weekend urgent consultation, call 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.

SEE http://eocr.virginia.edu/title-ix

Poison Center

Students should remember PUBS (see previous page) as a guide for the symptoms of alcohol poisoning. They should not hesitate to call 911 if they see even one sign. If unsure, the Poison Center at 1.800.222.1222 can provide confidential, expert advice.