

What every student needs to know about Campus Safety from



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Q:

How can I find out about crime and security on my campus?

It used to be impossible to get college crime statistics, since universities were not mandated to report campus crime to city police. That all changed on April 5, 1986 when a 19-year-old student, Jeanne Ann Clery, was raped and murdered in her residence hall at Lehigh University. Her killer gained access to her building by entering through a series of propped open doors. The Clery family realized crime on campus was one of the best-kept secrets in the country and founded an organization called Security on Campus, Inc. The Clerys lobbied the state government to make colleges report campus crimes. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990, now known as the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. Visit the Security on Campus website (www.securityoncampus.org) to get the scoop on what's happening on your campus.

Top 3 Tips for Staying Safe while away at College

1

Set some guidelines with your roommate

Most universities require R.A.'s to have residents sign roommate agreements before the semester starts, but if not, take the initiative to sit down with your roommate and discuss protocol for the situations below. Write down what you collectively agree to and sign it. Make sure each of you has a copy to refer to if someone starts breaking the code. This should include rules about visitors, keys and propping doors, and borrowing stuff.

2

Leave valuables at home or find a way to secure them

Keep in mind there are some belongings you might want to leave behind when packing for school. While flashy items may be fun, they are also attractive to a burglar or thief. Things like expensive bikes, family heirlooms, and pricey electronics might be better off left at home or in a secure off-site location. If you insist on bringing valuables to college, have them engraved with your driver's license number and consider getting them insured.

3

Living on campus your first year has its perks

If you look at the numbers, the safest places are located on campus. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 93% of crimes occurred off campus. Why is this? On-campus areas tend to have better police patrols, are more populated, have 24-hour buildings, staffed residence halls and better lighting. Living in a residence hall freshman year is a good idea, in order to get a sense of your campus and community.

To-Do List:

Things you can do to keep yourself safe at college.

- Find your campus crime statistics at www.securityoncampus.org.
- Educate yourself about blue emergency phones, escort services and other security options available to you.
- Do a search for sex offenders in your community.
- Look into renter's insurance.
- Set up a friendly "Roommate Code" with whomever you live with.
- Get valuables or expensive items insured.
- Give a copy of your class schedule and activity meeting times to your family and close friends.
- Program emergency numbers into your cell phone including campus police, 911, your parent/guardian contact info and your ICE (in case of emergency) contact.
- Create a list of emergency numbers and post them on the wall next to your phone in your dorm or apartment.

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