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Being Safe on the College Campus [brochure and video]

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CAMPUS SAFETY

By
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Parents experience many emotions when sending their students away for college. Many are excited for their child, some are sad, and a majority of these parents are worried. Parents now have to worry for a child that they are no longer in the same town as, whom they can no longer set a curfew and monitor when at home. Though people would like to believe that the university their child has chosen is safe the numbers tell a different story. According to Readers Digest (2008) of this country's 6,000 colleges and universities there are 40,000 burglaries, 3,700 forcible sex offenses, 7,000 aggravated assaults and 48 murders reported a year.

In the last ten years universities are learning from past failings in safety and taking steps to be safer. Learning from these mistakes many universities have installed numerous policies and procedures to ensure safety. All students, university employees and guest deserve to feel that they live and work in a safe place. There should be no fear when leaving dorm rooms, walking to class, or studying in the library. But a university can only do so much. Students should be trained on campus safety and responsible decision making. Students only fear should be finals week, not their personal safety.

SAFETY CHECKLIST

Check the list below to make sure your university is taking these steps to ensure campus safety.

- ☐ Make sure campus is well lit with well lit paths and stairwells.
- ☐ Install emergency call boxes around campus. Emergency call boxes should be well lit and clearly seen.
- ☐ Enlist a university police department. An on campus police department can patrol campus and respond quickly to emergencies on the university campus.
- ☐ Make sure dorms have locks and a desk clerk monitoring people entering and leaving 24 hours a day.
- ☐ Resident halls should have a system to ensure only residents can enter and guest will need to be escorted by a resident.
- ☐ Provide a student escort service. This service should be available to students, employees and visitors 24 hours a day.
- ☐ Universities should have a system to contact students and employees when there are threats to their safety, i.e. text messaging and email.

SAFETY CHECKLIST

Check the list below to make sure you are taking these steps to ensure your safety while on campus

- ☐ Always have your dorm key and student ID card with you.
- ☐ Keep your contact information updated so that you can be up to date with campus matters.
- ☐ If you feel uncomfortable call the campus escort services or a friend to walk with you.
- ☐ Lock your dorm room door and windows when you leave and sleep.
- ☐ Keep possessions close to you while in library, dinner hall, or common's areas.
- ☐ Try and keep yourself out of unsafe situations while drinking (i.e. don't drink to the point where you can't take care of yourself, stay with friends, don't go with strangers if can be avoided)
- ☐ Use your best judgment and don't invite someone you are not comfortable with to your dorm or go anywhere alone with this person.
- ☐ Report incidents to campus police so that you and other members of campus are safe.