At Carolina, we’re committed to making our campus as safe as possible. And we’re always striving to improve campus safety.

Our nationally accredited Department of Public Safety includes a full complement of law enforcement and transportation management professionals. We have more than 50 sworn officers, including a detective team, special bike patrols, a community response unit that focuses on issues such as larceny reduction and pedestrian safety, a silent witness program to encourage reports of suspicious activity, and extensive mutual aid agreements with off-campus law enforcement agencies.
personal safety tips

In an Emergency CALL 911
OR USE THE CALL BOXES

If you see anything suspicious, call 911. Your call goes directly to a full-service 911 response center on campus at the Department of Public Safety.

For emergency help, you can also call Public Safety by using the emergency call boxes located around campus. Push the button to automatically alert police where you are; police will respond immediately.

If you are concerned about another student, call the Dean of Students Office at 966-4042.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
Use good judgment in your daily activities. You can be responsible for your own safety and security by being careful, watching out for each other and reporting any suspicious activities and people.

DON’T WALK ALONE AT NIGHT. USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM.
WALK IN WELL-LIT AREAS OF CAMPUS.

Know your surroundings. It’s easy to become absorbed in thought or listening to Ipods, making it easier for a suspicious person to approach unnoticed. It’s not safe to walk near dark, shaded or heavily foliaged areas. When possible, walk with friends and classmates, especially at night. Use the campus lighting corridors, which run from East Franklin Street at the north end of campus to Rams Village residence halls on south campus. East-west corridors follow Cameron Avenue and South Road. These corridors provide increased lighting for walks and parking lots that are frequently used at night.

Use campus or public transportation whenever possible.

On Campus

Use UNC’s Point-to-Point express service, free to students, operating between 7 p.m. and 3 a.m. nightly during spring and fall semesters when residence halls are open. Show your OneCard. After 3 a.m. use UNC’s free Point-to-Point demand service by calling 962-7867 (962-P-TO-P) and providing your UNC personal identification number. The service is available at night to students at locations not served by the P2P Express Route or after normal P2P Express service hours.

Point-to-Point shuttle service also includes runs from South Road and the Carolina Union to south campus residence halls Mondays through Thursdays between midnight and 3 a.m. at 20-minute intervals or as demand warrants.

Off Campus

Use Chapel Hill Transit, free to all passengers. www.chtransit.org Before heading to the bus stop, you can go online to see if the bus is on time. www.nextbus.com/predictor/publicMap.shtml?&a=chapel-hill

Use the free Safe Ride Program, serving parts of campus, Chapel Hill and Carrboro from 11 p.m. to about 2:40 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Safe Ride runs three routes originating from Franklin Street. The T route goes to Weaver Dairy Road. The JV route goes to Smith Level Road and Southern Village. The G route goes to the William and Ida Friday Continuing Education Center near Meadowmont.

Driving

If you are driving, both on and off campus, be sure your doors are locked.
DON’T ADVERTISE.
Secure your valuables properly. Don’t leave items like book bags or laptop computers unattended and unprotected. Protect your wallet or purse. Carry only what you need for each day and leave the rest at home secured in a proper place. Also check your credit card bills and statements for any unauthorized purchases. Immediately report any unauthorized purchases or transactions to your credit card company and contact the police.

USE GOOD JUDGMENT.
Trust your instincts. If something doesn’t feel safe, it probably isn’t.

BE CAREFUL ONLINE.
Facebook, a popular social networking Web site, says you should never share your password. Be cautious about posting and sharing personal information, especially information that could be used to identify you or locate you offline, such as your address or phone number. Block and report anyone who sends you unwanted or inappropriate communications.

THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK.
Alcohol impairs many of the faculties we depend on to make good decisions. Impaired people may take risks a sober person would never consider. Never drink and drive, but never walk home alone either. Call a cab, call a friend or take the bus or shuttle. Walking home drunk can be nearly as dangerous as driving. Intoxicated pedestrians are more likely to become crime victims.

BE STREET SMART.
Know where you need to go and the safest way to get there. Avoid shortcuts in secluded or dark areas. When biking or jogging, go with a friend. Avoid headphones, which can make you less aware of your surroundings and consider varying your routine. Changing the time, routes and other details can throw a stalker off guard.

PAY ATTENTION COMING HOME.
Before you reach the door, have the key in your hand. Fumbling for a key outside makes you vulnerable. Note the condition of your home as you approach and before entering. Are lights on that weren’t when you left? Is the door ajar? Is there damage to a door or window? If you think someone who doesn’t belong there might be in your home, leave immediately and call 911.

Outside doors of campus residence halls are locked 24 hours a day to keep out people who shouldn’t be there. Don’t defeat this safety measure by holding the door open for the person behind you.

When you’re on an elevator, try to stand near the control panel and note the location of the emergency alarm button. Don’t hesitate to push the alarm button if you feel at risk.

COMMUNICATE.
Always file a report with the Department of Public Safety when a crime has occurred. Share your safety concerns with Public Safety so police can take appropriate action. If you live on campus and notice lights burned out in and around residence facilities or any other safety hazard, report them to Facilities Services at 962-3456 or Public Safety at 962-8100.

Recently we launched Alert Carolina, a safety awareness campaign focusing on what people should do in an emergency and where to find information and resources. The University is committed to informing the campus as quickly as possible about an emergency. During a life-threatening emergency, emergency sirens will sound to warn people outside, followed by a text-message alert to students, faculty and staff who have registered their cell phones with text-message capability in the campus directory. We encourage you to sign up at alertcarolina.unc.edu.

We will use a variety of others ways to communicate in an emergency, including campus e-mail, the Adverse Weather and Emergency Phone Line, 843-1234, for recorded information, and campus or local media.
Every woman needs to take special precautions because women are much more likely than men to become victims of rape and sexual offenses, domestic violence, indecent exposure, stalking and harassment. These crimes have no social, economic or cultural boundaries, and they can happen any time and anywhere.

Rape, whether committed by a total stranger or someone you thought was your friend, is a serious, life-changing crime. One of four college women has been raped by someone known to her. Drugs and alcohol play a major role in these occurrences. Only about 5 percent of these rapes are ever reported to police.

Often women will meet someone at a club or party and give an almost total stranger their phone number. Don’t give that number out so readily. When a man asks for your number, ask for his instead.

Don’t be afraid to declare your sexual limits early on. Doing this before you get into a sexual situation can prevent one from happening in the first place. Make sure your date understands that when you say no, it means NO!

Never leave your drink – alcoholic or not – unattended, especially in crowded bars and parties. “Date-rape drugs” are real. Once slipped into an unsuspecting person’s drink, these drugs can dramatically alter the person’s decision-making processes and make them do things they normally wouldn’t even consider.