

# Preventing Crime

## Be Safe at Middle Georgia State University

Colleges and Universities are places of tremendous growth and learning. Unfortunately, campuses are also a fertile environment for criminals. Students must remember that stepping onto the property of a public or private university does not make them immune from crime.

The MGA Police Department stresses a common-sense approach to on campus safety. If it looks unsafe, it probably is. Take all the precautions you can and use your intuition to identify when something isn't quite right. If you get a strange feeling about someone or some place, it may be for a reason. Follow the tips below and have a safe learning experience.

- Most crimes that occur on university campuses are crimes of opportunity that can be easily avoided. A purse being left unattended, dorm rooms left unlocked and unattended – these are all crimes waiting to happen.
- Be aware of your surroundings – avoid being in isolated areas, out of sight or earshot of others. Find an escort, whether a University Police officer, a faculty member or a fellow student you trust.
- Have keys readily available when walking in parking areas. We recommend everyone have a whistle and small flashlight on their key chain for their own safety.
- Park in well-lit areas at night.
- Don't go out alone at night. The saying about there is safety in numbers is true.
- If you have a cell phone, program a quick call buttons to 911 and MGA Police and keep it handy.
- Ensure that those closest to you know your whereabouts. Occasionally someone will report a roommate who has been missing for several days and it turns out the person had left town to visit relatives and had not told anyone.
- Notify MGA Police to report suspicious behavior, vandalism, fire, medical emergencies or anything else out of the ordinary.
- Remember that campus roads differ from city streets in several ways. One is that there are many more pedestrians, students walking to and from class. This should always be in your mind. Also, be mindful that there tends to be a larger percentage of maintenance vehicles, golf carts, bicycles, joggers and skaters on these streets.
- Know where the nearest fire escape is and what you would do in case of a fire.