



University of Utah  
Department of Public Safety

# WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW...

a safety guide for students and families

*“Our team remains dedicated to earning the U community’s trust and partnering with you to create a safe and welcoming campus where everyone feels accepted and empowered to succeed.”*

*-Keith Squires, Chief Safety Officer*

Students are important to every member of the University of Utah Department of Public Safety ([University DPS](#)). The well-being of our students is a highest priority to us -- we sincerely want them to be happy and enjoy their time on campus. We understand the specific concerns and stressors that accompany the college experience; these stressors are felt not only by students but also by their parents and families.

University DPS serves as an advocate for students as they navigate their collegiate journey; we also serve as a support to parents and families, as they support their students.

University DPS strives to ensure a secure campus for our community; however, it is imperative that students also make every effort toward their own personal safety. With a focus on that safety, this guide was created -- with input from parents, students, and law enforcement -- to encourage responsibility and vigilance.

## UNIVERSITY OF UTAH POLICE DEPARTMENT

*“I want these students and parents to know that their safety and well-being is our priority. Yes, we show up when things go wrong or people are breaking the law, but I want them to know that we are more than that.*

*Especially for these younger kids who may be away from home for the first time, we are a resource and campus partner that is always there. Holidays, nights, weekends, they can always reach out to us for help. Even if nothing criminal is happening, we are there for them and are happy and willing to help answer questions, be a listening ear, or get them pointed in the right direction.”*

*-UUPD officer*

The University Police Department (UUPD) cares about our students, and we seek opportunities to get to know you better. We hope you also will find opportunities to become familiar with who we are and what we can do for you.

The UUPD, a division of University DPS, is committed to constant growth and development. Our progress includes expanded resources, more highly-specialized personnel, and extensive training. Some of our resources include:

- Patrol Unit  
40 + POST-certified police officers
- Crime Victim Advocate program
- K9 Unit
- Community Outreach Program
- Investigations unit
- On-campus dispatch center

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

- The UofU has many [resources](#) available to meet the needs of our students.
- The [Feed U Pantry](#) inside the Union Building is open to all University of Utah students, faculty, and staff with a current University of Utah ID.
- The [UUPD](#) and [Campus Security](#) are always resources to students and families.

## COURTESY & PROTECTED ESCORTS

- The [Safe Ride](#) program provides rides to and from any location on campus except Research Park. This service is available Monday through Friday from 6 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Users can schedule a trip using the [TransLoc App](#).
- The Campus Security [Protected Escort Program](#) provides a ride or walking escort from anywhere on campus to anywhere on campus. Available 24/7/365.

## DATING

- For first dates, meet in a public location; consider bringing along a friend.
- Group dates, especially for a first date, are fun - and safer!
- Going out with someone you don't know well - let a friend know where you are going, whom you will be with, and check in when you return home.
- If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe on a date – leave. If you need to, text a friend. You can also text 911 for help.

- Do not location share on social media except with close friends or family; this could enable harassment or stalking.
- Be careful of engaging in any sexual relationships online. Scammers will often record these and demand money.

## FRAUDS/SCAMS/EXTORTION

Be cautious with all emails, text messages, and online transactions. Do not always assume that the sender is legitimate or honest.

Very common scams include:

- **Job Offer Scam** – Victims receive an unsolicited email from a scammer posing as a “professor” offering a work opportunity or needing a student assistant. The scammer may use a real professor’s information to make the scam seem legitimate. Responding to these emails often lead to identity theft or loss of your money.
- **Imposter Scam** – Victims receive an email or telephone call from a someone posing as a police officer / FBI or IRS agent / immigration official / university official, etc. The scammer will use the threat of arrest, deportation, fines, etc. if money is not paid. These are almost always a scam. Legitimate government agencies or universities will never ask for money this way.
- **Deposit Scam** – Victims will be tricked into depositing a check into their own personal bank account and then wiring money back to the scammer. These checks are usually fraudulent and worthless. Victim is now responsible for paying back any money lost by the bank.
- **Gift Card Scam** – Victims will be tricked into purchase gift cards (Amazon, Apple, Visa, Green Dot, etc.) and giving the scammer the gift card code number via telephone/text/email. The victim’s money is now gone.

- Sexual Extortion Scam - Victims will be encouraged by a scammer (pretending to be interested in a relationship) into engaging in sexual acts over webcam or cell phone. Victim later receives an email demanding money to keep the acts, which scammer has recorded, private.

## RESIDENTIAL SAFETY

- Always lock the door to your dormitory / apartment / house.
- Do not prop dormitory doors open.
- Do not leave the windows to your residence unlocked or open at night. If you do, use a window security bar or lock.
- Do not allow people that you do not know into your residence.
- Let a friend or family member know if you will be away for a period of time.

## RELATIONSHIPS

- It is your right to decide who you have physical relations with. Your consent is YOURS to give.
- Consent is unambiguous and voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time. If there is no consent, or consent is refused – it is sexual assault.
- If you feel you have experienced any sexual misconduct, the UUPD can be a resource to you. If you do not wish to make a report with police, help is available from other campus and community resources.

- Be careful of engaging in any sexual relationships online. Scammers will often record these and demand money.

## SOCIAL LIFE

- Be kind to everyone -- it is very easy to do.
- Be open to new friends, new ideas, and new activities -- just do them safely!
- Leave the drama behind. Surround yourself with good people who uplift you and honor your values.
- Get involved! There are many exciting [events](#) and [organizations](#) at the UofU.
- Find a good support system with people you can lean on - especially when you may be feeling stressed, upset, or depressed.
- The UofU has many [support organizations](#) with friends who are eager to help.
- Enjoy all the wonderful things that [Salt Lake City](#) and [Utah](#) have to offer.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- Sharing too much personal information on social media is dangerous.
- Do not send photos, videos, or posts that may embarrass or hurt you later. Once they're on the web, they're on the web.
- Location sharing on social media could enable harassment or stalking. Only allow trusted friends or family to follow where you are.

## THE STUDENT

- Many students are away from home for the first time, and some lack life experience. As college students, you are now adults and must understand that your behaviors can have adult repercussions.
- UUPD may not, unless for exigent health and safety exceptions, share a student's protected information - even with parents or families. Learn more about [FERPA](#) here.
- UUPD are always available to discuss or address safety concerns with parents or family members regarding their student.

## SUBSTANCE USE

- The first 6 weeks of college are a very-high risk time for first year students.
- Peer pressure is still a thing – even in college.
- Drink responsibly; alcohol and drugs can substantially impair decision-making.
- Before drinking, make a plan with friends to keep an eye on each other.
- Have a plan to get out of a situation where you may be cornered or pressured into doing something you do not want to do.
- If you are of legal age and plan on drinking...

### BEFORE GOING TO A PARTY:

- Leave at home any excess valuables that you won't need.
- Designate a sober friend.

- Set a drinking limit - tell your friends and stick to it.

### **AT THE PARTY:**

- Look around, not everyone drinks -- it's okay not to.
- If you're the designated friend, watch out for your buddies; do not let them leave alone or with a stranger.
- Don't assume an unconscious / passed out person will "sleep it off", **Call 911.**
- Switch between alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.
- Watch your drink. If you set a drink down and leave the area, throw the cup away -- you don't know if something was put in it while you were away. Likewise, don't trust a drink that you did not pour or did not watch someone else make in front of you.
- Leave with a sober friend (or two), especially if you've been drinking in the last hour. Your blood alcohol level will continue to rise for 20 to 40 minutes after your last drink.

### **LEAVING THE PARTY:**

- Leave with the friends you attended the party with.
- Know who is around you, and stay in well-lit areas.
- Trust your instincts, and call for a ride if you feel uneasy about walking home at night.
- Know the name of the street you're walking on and your direction of travel. If you need an emergency response, you will need to know your location.
- Let your friends know where you are going and when you expect to get there. If something does happen, someone will know the path you took and s/he can inform emergency responders.



## TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

- Utah state traffic laws are observed and enforced on campus.
- Vehicles must be registered and insured or they are subject to traffic fines and/or impounds.
- Honor the posted traffic signs and speed limits on campus. There are many people, pedestrians, trains, busses, and vehicles on campus at all times of the day and night.
- You are responsible for safely operating your wheeled device on campus bicycle paths.
- The speed limit for all wheeled devices on the campus bike paths and lanes is 10 mph.
- An electric (e-bike) bicycle is classified under Utah law as a bicycle. E-bikes are subject to the same operating rules as a non-motorized bicycle.
- Bicycles and other property can be registered with UUPD.

## WEAPONS

- The University of Utah enforces state law regulating firearms on campus.
- Utah state law prohibits dangerous weapons on school premises; individuals who have been issued a permit to carry a concealed firearm are exempt.

## WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

*“We are here to help you succeed in a safe environment. We are listeners and caregivers. Don’t be afraid to approach us. “*

*- UUPD officer*

UUPD officers care about our students and their families. We love opportunities to meet you and hear your thoughts. We have several events on campus throughout the year, or you can call or stop by our police station at any time!

Crime prevention is everyone’s responsibility. We urge all members of our campus community to remain vigilant in recognizing and reporting suspicious activity – if you see something, please say something. If you have been the victim of a crime, please let us help.

The UUPD is available **24/7/365** at: **801-585-2677** and **911** for emergencies. You can also text 911.

Like something? Don’t like something? Please [let us know](#) – we very much appreciate your feedback and / or suggestions.

We also encourage you to reach out and / or get involved. Two public safety committees were established in 2020.

The [Public Safety Advisory Committee](#) and the [Independent Review Committee](#) are comprised of students, faculty, and staff from across the institution and are designed to ensure that a broad representation of constituents are included in public safety decision-making.