

Crime Prevention

Programs and Services

Resources for the university community in the areas of crime prevention and personal safety education are available from a variety of sources, including the Dean of Students Office, the Student Health Care Center, and the University of Florida Police Department. In 1976, the University of Florida Police Department established a specialized unit to help the department in carrying out its responsibilities for crime prevention and personal safety within the university community. This unit directs its efforts toward reducing criminal opportunity through the development and implementation of educational programs and activities. Special emphasis is placed on personal safety. The ultimate goal of these programs is to make the university environment as safe and crime-free as possible by raising the level of awareness of individuals and promoting willingness to assume individual responsibility in reducing opportunities for crime to occur. All new University of Florida employees are required to attend an Employee Orientation Program within a month of their hire date. UFDP attends all of these monthly orientations and provides information about campus security procedures and practices. All new University of Florida students also receive information about campus security procedures and practices from UFDP at Preview, the required new student orientation program offered throughout the year.

The UFDP Community Services Division Crime Prevention Resource Center

The Community Services Division's Crime Prevention Resource Center is a fantastic source for a myriad of literature on various topics of crime prevention. Also, anyone can receive personal counseling on crime prevention and self-defense tactics.

Orientation Programs

The University of Florida Police Department participates in the Dean of Students Office new student orientation program, Preview. A police officer provides an overview of safety and security programs, safety policies, as well as safety tips and resources, and a victim advocate provides information on victimization issues and assistance provided by the Office of Victim Services. Preview presentations are provided for all new freshman and transfer students. These presentations provide students with the information they need to make informed decisions about the choices they will face while helping them learn how to reduce their risk of becoming a victim of crime.

The University of Florida Police Department participates in Human Resources' New Employee Orientation program. A police officer provides an overview of safety and security programs, safety policies, safety tips, and resources for additional information at each of the several sessions held each month.

Both Preview and New Employee Orientation programs provide opportunities to learn about security programs, safety policies, and resources available, and both programs emphasize the importance of personal responsibility in the control of crime.

UFDP K-9 Team

The UFDP has responded to the need for increased security precautions on campus and at special events that take place on the university campus with the formation of a K-9 unit. The K-9 team, consisting of Officer Matt Davis and German Shepherd "Gator," has been specially trained and certified in the search and detection of explosive devices. Officer Davis has been with the University of Florida Police Department's Patrol Division since 2001, and Gator is a three-year-old pedigree German Shepherd imported from Europe specifically for the purpose of explosives detection.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programs

The university offers a number of education programs and resources available to everyone in the university community. These programs include presentations, information, and literature promoting responsible decision-making concerning the use of alcohol and drugs. These programs are presented on a continuing basis through Gatorwell Health Promotion Services, Dean of Students Office, Department of Housing and Residence Education, Interfraternity Council, and the University of Florida Police Department.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) - Room 328, Student Health Care Center. Located within Student Mental Health Services, ASAP provides confidential screening, individual counseling, and group therapy for students who have questions or concerns about their use of alcohol or other substances. A psychoeducational group for students who have been impacted by the alcohol or substance use of family members or friends is also offered. All appointments are with licensed therapists, are confidential, and are covered by your student health fee. (352) 392-1171.

Gatorwell Health Promotion Services - Room 302, Student Health Care Center. Gatorwell offers confidential screening assessments for alcohol and drug use and referrals to campus and community agencies for recovery assistance. Brochures, fact sheets, posters, videos, CD-ROMs, and other educational materials are available to all students. Gatorwell staff also provides educational programming to campus organizations and residence halls as requested. Gatorwell works collaboratively with the Dean of Students Office to address alcohol, drug use, and other related issues. www.shcc.ufl.edu/gatorwell/ or (352) 392-1161, ext. 4281.

University Counseling Center - Room 301, Peabody Hall. Individual appointments and group sessions are available for students who want assistance with alcohol and drug use issues. All services are provided free to registered students and are completely confidential. (352) 392-1575.

University of Florida Police Department (Community Services Division) - The Community Services Division offers educational programs, presentations, and literature promoting responsible decision-making and educating on the legal consequences of alcohol and drug use. The resource center maintained in the Community Services Division contains an excellent supply of brochures, posters, and other printed materials about this subject, which are available to the public free of charge. Students should take time to familiarize themselves with the University of Florida Alcohol Policy, which is available online at <http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/committees/ade/policies.shtml>. Please call (352) 392-1409 for further information.

Personal Safety and Rape Prevention Programs

Personal safety is a top priority at the University of Florida. Programs are directed towards educating the university community on personal safety issues, increasing public awareness, and providing facilities to aid in the prevention of crime. The University of Florida is a pioneer in this area. Informational programs on the issues of date/acquaintance rape, relationship violence, workplace violence, and personal safety are provided on a regular basis. The Community Services Division of the University of Florida Police Department is proud to offer R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) self-defense training to all women of the university community. R.A.D. training focuses on personal safety skills and threat assessment to empower women with the ability to protect themselves in violent situations. For more information call the Community Services Division at (352) 392-1409.

Other organizations that contribute to the success of these programs include the University of Florida Police Department's Office of Victim Services, Center for Sexual Assault/Abuse Recovery and Education (CARE), University Counseling Center, Student Judicial Affairs, Department of Housing and Residence Education, Student Government, other student organizations, and the Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center.

University Sponsored Programs for New Students and Their Parents

During orientation programs such as Preview, Scholars Program, and Minority Orientation, discussion groups are organized with students, parents, and police. The purpose of these groups is to provide newcomers and their parents with important information and literature on personal safety, campus security, available emergency and crime prevention services, and other safety and security issues of concern.



Annual Spring Break Safety Fair

The University of Florida Police Department, local law enforcement agencies, and community organizations sponsor an annual pre-Spring Break information fair. The fair provides a fun and informative day for our students, encouraging Spring Break safety and compliance with beach laws, alcohol laws, etc. The fair is held on the Reitz Union Colonnade and usually attracts between 10,000 to 12,000 participants.

Free Bicycle Registration

Bicycles can be a target for theft on the University of Florida campus. The University of Florida Police Department offers a free bicycle registration program to help combat this problem. Registration provides an opportunity for instruction in the proper type and use of security devices for bicycle protection, as well as information pertaining to bicycle laws and safety. This service is available at several locations at the beginning of each semester and during regular business hours at the University of Florida Police Department's Community Services Division. Bikes can also be registered online at www.police.ufl.edu. Click Online Bicycle Registration and complete the provided form. Then bring your bike to the University of Florida Police Department to confirm your serial number and receive your decal.

Operation Identification

The Community Services Division provides Operation Identification ("OP - ID"), a program promoting identification of personal property, in residence halls, sorority and fraternity houses, family villages, and business and academic offices. During "OP - ID" programs, items of personal property are registered and the participants are provided an opportunity to talk one-on-one with police officers about security concerns. As an added convenience property can be registered online. Any type of property can be registered with the police department at www.police.ufl.edu. Click on Online Personal Property Registration, and complete the provided form. Multiple items can be registered and you may add to your list at any time by returning to the web site.

Gator Watch Crime Watch Programs

Gator Watch Crime Watch programs are available for all members of the community. Students have access through their housing facilities and university employees can attend programs through their work units.

Gator Watch Crime Watch programs introduce concepts of personal responsibility, how an individual can positively affect crime by being observant and reporting to the police, as well as basic personal safety and property security principles.

Contact the Community Services Division at (352) 392-1409 for more information or to establish a Gator Watch Crime Watch in your area.

Stall Stories

Stall Stories is a publication featuring stories about personal safety, crime prevention, and special security issues. Published in cooperation with the Community Services Division, the Department of Housing and Residence Education, and other university departments, Stall Stories are routinely placed on the inside of bathroom stall doors in all residence halls.

Voluntary Inspection Program (V.I.P.)

The Voluntary Inspection Program was created to encourage apartment complexes and rental properties to practice safety standards known as "Community Safety Guidelines." The program is a partnership between local law enforcement agencies, the University of Florida, and the Gainesville Apartment Association. To participate, complexes must volunteer to be inspected by a specially trained law enforcement officer using the Community Safety Guidelines. If the complex passes inspection, they receive a certificate to display and a free listing on the University of Florida Police Department website. Be sure to check the UFDP website at www.police.ufl.edu often for newly certified complexes. If the property where you live has not been inspected, encourage the management to participate in the V.I.P. and help make our community safer for everyone.