Safe Campus Initiatives

Campus safety is of the highest importance at Georgia Tech, especially in light of our status as an open campus operating in an urban environment. In these financially austere times, Georgia Tech has maintained its full support for its campus safety programs.

We work continually to improve campus safety and security through education, safety programs and the commitment of the Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) to support the Atlanta Police Department (APD) to identify and stop those who choose to break the law in the Midtown area.

Providing a safe and secure environment for students, faculty and staff while sustaining and nurturing an open campus is Georgia Tech’s top priority. To that end, we have:

- 76 sworn police officers who undergo ongoing training and specialized exercises
- 24-hour patrols on foot, motorcycle, bicycle, car and Segway, as well as K-9 patrols
- Five duty stations staffed by officers in each campus sector
- A special police tactical unit assigned to high-risk areas
- Two full-time crime prevention officers providing education and awareness presentations to members of the campus community
- A Safe Sister training program for sorority women, with information on how to avoid risky situations, healthy partner communication, and how to respond when a friend has experienced any form of sexual violence
- Greek Peer Education, a program for new members of the Greek community, featuring alcohol and hazing seminars facilitated by their older peers and sexual assault seminars facilitated by Georgia Tech faculty
- A Greek liaison program providing point of contact in fraternity houses for GTPD and one officer per 12-hour shift to handle fraternity-related incidents
- 402 emergency phones that include “blue light” outdoor emergency phones, call box phones and elevator emergency phones located across campus
- More than 1,000 security cameras throughout campus
- Key and secure card entry to specific buildings and campus housing
- Residence hall entry doors equipped with alarms that sound when door is open for more than 15 seconds; emergency stairwell exits are similarly equipped
- An annual safety evaluation walk organized by the Student Government Association (SGA) with participation from Georgia Tech’s president and key administrative leadership
- An annual Campus Safety Day to remind students to take safety precautions, coinciding with seasonal rises in specific types of crime
- 250 fire and burglar alarms monitored by a private company that tests connectivity on a daily basis
Georgia Tech devotes significant staff and safety resources to the provision and maintenance of a safe and secure campus community.

- Free Stingerette Nighttime Shuttle for intracampus transportation from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. with a standard response time of 15–30 minutes
- Safe Ride Home membership program for Home Park and Centennial Place residents from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- Inoperative exterior lights reportage system at www.facilities.gatech.edu
- Proactive landscaping and maintenance measures that reduce vagrancy
- Police Department website providing crime statistics, alerts, maps and prevention protocols
- Crime awareness presentations during freshmen orientation by GTPD and APD addressing safety precautions to take both on campus and in surrounding areas
- Emergency notification system (email, text and phone) and outdoor siren warning system
- Notifying students, faculty and staff of serious crimes that occur on or adjacent to campus per the federal Clery Act
- Digital screen system allowing emergency messages to be projected in classrooms and around campus
- Services provided by the Women’s Resource Center (programs focusing on sexual violence prevention), the Counseling Center and the Georgia Tech Wellness Center
- An annual Crime Awareness Brochure that provides statistics of criminal activity on campus
- Security surveys offered by GTPD for campus buildings and on-campus residents
- Campus identification program that provides marking/tracking information (serial and model numbers, etc.) of valuable items; engravers for marking valuables are available, and program participants are provided inventory cards
- Laptop and bicycle registration with GTPD at www.police.gatech.edu/services
- Weekly meetings with housing, law enforcement, Dean of Students and other key campus representatives to review crime reports and to identify preventative actions
- Parent and student communicator positions providing ongoing information regarding resources, concerns, programs and other activities
- Emergency response exercises, testing established plans and protocols
- Emergency Preparedness certificate training program
- Residence Life Emergency Alert Plan designed to deal with natural disasters and security concerns in residence halls
- 18 Resident Advisors (RAs) and two full-time hall directors on-duty in the residence halls every evening (8 p.m. – 8 a.m.) and 24 hours on the weekends during spring and fall; one full-time hall director on-duty during summer
Safe Campus Initiatives

» Three Dean of Students staff, including a member of the Counseling Center, are on call during spring and fall; two staff members are on call during summer
» All custodial and maintenance staff wear logo shirts and carry Georgia Tech identification

Georgia Tech works in tandem with the communities around campus to continually work towards creating a safe and healthy environment.

» As a member of Crime Stoppers Atlanta, GTPD fosters an ongoing partnership with the APD and the Georgia State Patrol to provide targeted patrols around campus
» Connecting Atlanta, various agencies/departments and other organizations with communities attempting to build capacity toward improvement and urban renewal
» Leveraging relationships with corporations, non-profits and others to improve quality of life for our communities
» Advising SGA to collaborate with counterparts at Atlanta University Center and Georgia State on efforts toward improving campus safety
» Working closely with surrounding neighborhood associations to strengthen public safety initiatives, particularly in Centennial Place, Home Park and English Avenue
» Assisting surrounding communities through stakeholder groups comprised of representatives from the neighborhoods to collectively solicit improved public safety initiatives
» Collaborating with faith-based organizations and providing support for community service initiatives
» Hosting the Centennial Place Stakeholders group with the APD Zone 5 police commander to encourage a continued focus on public safety initiatives
» Guiding Home Park in the establishment of a neighborhood watch program and encouraging students who reside in that community to participate
» North Avenue beautification project, bringing new lighting to the North Ave. bridge
» Communicating the need for GTPD, APD and MARTA police to work closely with Centennial Place Apartments management to apprehend campus and community crime suspects
» Worked with Coca-Cola to clean up and better police its park, which previously provided a haven for criminals among the homeless population
» Catalyzed the re-establishment of a bicycle police patrol and an increased presence of the Downtown Improvement District’s Ambassador Police Force in the Centennial Place community
» Assigned three officers to patrol Home Park and one to Centennial Place
Safe Campus Initiatives

What students, faculty and staff should do:

» Take an active role in your safety and well-being
» Be alert of your surroundings; walk confidently and briskly, and avoid doing other activities while walking, such as reading or using an iPod or cell phone
» Walk in groups after dark
» Always lock doors and windows
» Security doors should never be propped open
» Do not leave personal possessions unattended
» Use a recommended U-lock to secure bicycles and scooters
» Do not allow unfamiliar people into residence halls and other buildings without identification
» Practice the “clean car” rule – remove anything of value from sight, including small items such as spare change
» Use after-hours campus transportation services or call for a safety escort
» Seek guidance from the Student Health Center or the Student Counseling Center
» Immediately report crimes or suspicious activity to the Dean of Students Office or GTPD
» Enter the GTPD number, 404-894-2500, in personal cell phones
» Sign up for the emergency alert system at www.gatech.edu/emergency/notification.html
» Add GTPD to your social networks on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GaTechPD) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/GaTechPD, www.twitter.com/GTPDalerts)

What parents can do:

» Reinforce common safety precautions with your sons and daughters
» Encourage students to sign up for the GTENS emergency alert system
» Keep an open line of communication with your students
» Notify GTPD or the Dean of Students if you have any concerns
» Subscribe to the parents’ newsletter at www.parents.gatech.edu