



Safe Campus Initiatives

May 2009

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 program.

We work continuously 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.

- » 84 sworn police officers who undergo ongoing training and specialized exercises
- » 24-hour patrols on foot, motorcycle, bicycle, car and Segway
- » K-9 patrols
- » Two police precincts
- » Special police tactical unit assigned to locations and times of higher criminal activity
- » Two full-time crime prevention officers providing more than 75 education and awareness presentations to members of the campus community (2008 – present)
- » 190 blue light safety phones
- » Security cameras
- » Key and secure card entry to specific buildings and campus housing
- » Annual safety evaluation walk organized by the Student Government Association with participation from Georgia Tech's president and key administrative leadership
- » Crime Stopper's tip line in conjunction with the Atlanta Police Foundation, 404-577-TIPS



Safe Campus Initiatives

May 2009

Devoting significant staff and safety resources to the provision and maintenance of a safe and secure campus community.

- » Free intracampus transportation that runs between 6 p.m. – 6:30 a.m. with a standard response time of 15 to 30 minutes.
- » Inoperative exterior lights reportage system at www.facilities.gatech.edu
- » Police Department Web site providing crime statistics, alerts, and prevention protocols
- » Crime awareness presentations during freshmen orientation made by APD and GTPD addressing safety precautions to take both on campus and in the surrounding areas
- » Emergency notification system (e-mail, text message and phone alerts) and outdoor siren warning system
- » Digital screen system allowing emergency messages to be projected in classrooms and around campus (System to Create and Relay Emergency Action Messages)
- » Services provided by the Women's Resource Center (programs focusing sexual violence prevention), the Counseling Center and the Georgia Tech Wellness Center
- » Crime alerts and other e-mail notification
- » 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/registration.htm
- » Weekly meetings with housing, law enforcement, Dean of Students and other key campus representatives to review crime reports and to identify preventative actions
- » Parent communicator position who provide 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 2 full-time hall directors on-duty in the residence halls every evening (8pm-8am) and 24 hours on the weekends 365 days per year.
- » One Dean of Students and one member of the Counseling Center are on-call year round.
- » All custodial and maintenance staff wear logo shirts and IDs
- » New GTPD precinct opened in North Avenue Apartments



Safe Campus Initiatives

May 2009

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

- » 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 help “fill in the gaps” in these communities where resources are needed
- » Working closely with surrounding neighborhood associations, particularly in the Centennial Place and English Avenue communities, to strengthen public safety initiatives
- » Assisting surrounding communities through stakeholder groups comprised of representatives from the areas surrounding Georgia Tech who collectively solicit improved services from APD and encourage better self-patrolling and collaboration
- » Increasing the Centennial Place Stakeholders group to 17 businesses and encouraging a cooperative policing concept
- » Helping strengthen faith-based organizations/churches to work collaboratively to elevate issues and concerns
- » Hosting meetings for the Centennial Place Apartments management and the Zone 5 police commander
- » Encouraging the Centennial Place Apartment management to provide funding that purchased updated lighting on the North Ave. bridge
- » Communicating the need for MARTA police to work closer with APD and Centennial Place Apartment’s management to apprehend campus and community crime suspects
- » Providing a Tech student intern to APD who updated the criminal activity database
- » Encouraging Coca-Cola to clean up and better police their park which provided a haven for criminals among the homeless population
- » Encouraging APD to re-establish a bicycle police patrol in the Centennial Place community
- » Encouraging the Downtown Improvement District’s Ambassador Police Force to increase their presence in the Centennial Place community



Safe Campus Initiatives

May 2009

What students, faculty and staff should do:

- » Take an active role in your safety and well-being by practicing the following:
- » Be alert of your surroundings
- » Do not walk alone after dark
- » Always lock doors
- » Do not prop security doors open
- » Do not leave valuables unattended
- » Use a recommended lock to secure your bicycle/scooter
- » Do not allow unfamiliar people into residence halls and other buildings
- » Practice the “clean car” rule – Do not leave any belongs in sight
- » 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
- » Sign up to receive crime alerts at www.police.gatech.edu/crimealerts

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 communications 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
- » Sign up to receive crime alerts at www.police.gatech.edu/crimealerts