

Staying Safe at USC and in Los Angeles

USC is committed to protecting students and educating them about how to protect themselves in Los Angeles' urban environment. The information in this handout will tell you how to exercise caution in day-to-day situations, maximize personal safety and wellbeing, and make use of the extensive safety resources and services available at USC.

3 THINGS WE WANT YOU TO KNOW

1. ENHANCE YOUR SAFETY

Avoid walking alone or in isolated places. A city as large as Los Angeles has exciting highlights from downtown high rises to sundrenched beaches. Like most major cities, Los Angeles has crime that occurs.

To enhance your safety when out late, always:

- Avoid talking on your cell phone while walking or riding a bike
- Avoid taking shortcuts through alleys
- Use the escort services provided by USC Transportation.

USC Transportation

Tram and Bus Services provide safe transportation between the University Park and Health Sciences campuses as well as to North University Park, downtown Los Angeles, Marina del Rey, Alhambra and other locations. Trams and buses operate during working hours as well as on weekends and into the evening for some routes.

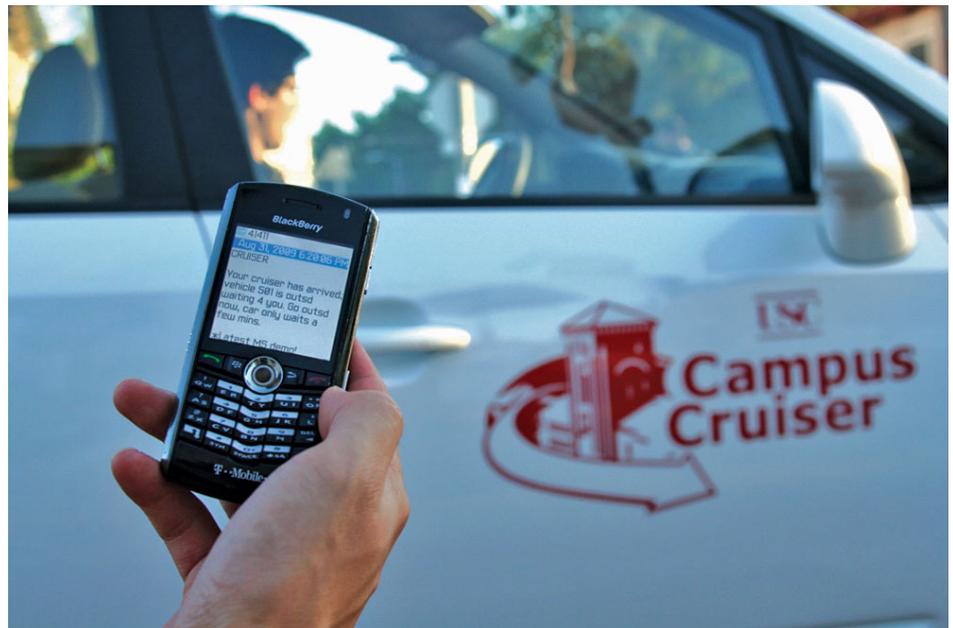
Campus Cruiser provides walking or vehicle escorts within approximately one mile from the center of the University Park campus for students, faculty, staff and university guests who work, study or take classes at night.

Program the phone number for Campus Cruiser into your cell phone:
(213) 740-4911

The Yellow Cab Program allows students, faculty and staff to use their USC card to pay for transportation within a broad service area. Call (800) USC-TAXI For more information on USC Transportation Services or call (213) 740-3575.

2. PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Avoid leaving your personal property unattended or unsecured. Even for a short while thefts can occur because it is a crime of opportunity. You may get distracted and leave



your laptop, cell phone, or book bag containing valuable property or pertinent information such as identification cards, or class assignments, unattended. Most common places where thefts occur include libraries, resident hall rooms, cafeterias, classrooms, parks and athletic fields, bleachers, and locker rooms.

You can reduce your chance of becoming a victim of theft by doing the following:

- Take your property with you.
- Use anti-theft devices such as laptop cable locks or portable alarms.
- Avoid "piggy-backing" when you enter your building. Piggy back by definition is when you allow others to follow you inside a building.
- Close and lock your room door after leaving, even for a short while.

Prevent Bicycle Theft

Avoid leaving your bicycle locked and free standing. Although your bike may be conveniently locked to itself, a thief can easily pick up the bicycle and walk away with it. Always lock your bicycle to a bike rack and lock the frame of your bicycle not just the tire. See the sample to the right.

3. FOLLOW BICYCLING RULES

USC requires all bicycles to be registered and display a decal issued by the Department of Public Safety. You may register your bicycle online or visit the Department of Public Safety office located at Parking Structure A. The cost for the decal and registration is FREE.

Important Applicable sections of the California Motor Vehicle Code pertain to bicycle use and are enforced on the campus and in the community surrounding the USC campus. Any person operating a bicycle implicitly accepts responsibility for adherence to the university bicycle policy.



Staying Safe at USC and in Los Angeles *cont'd*

GETTING AROUND USC SAFELY

There are many ways to avoid walking alone when traveling off campus. Listed below are some suggestions for getting around USC safely.

- If possible avoid walking alone, especially when upset, depressed, or after drinking. Instead of walking alone, get a friend to walk with you, or check the USC bus and tram schedules. Call Campus Cruiser if the tram does not operate in your area.
- Connect with roommates and others in your complex concerning class schedules and studying at libraries. Possibly others are going to the same location and you can walk together. Also connect with others in your classes to see if they are going to the same location as you after class.
- If you commute to campus: Connect with other commuter students in your classes and inquire on the possibility of parking in the same area or lot when you arrive or perhaps carpooling.
- While walking off campus, stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you - don't become lost in thought or daydreams.
- Avoid talking on your cell phone while walking, skateboarding, or bicycling. Use of cell phones while traveling often can result in accidents and can be a target for a thief.
- Walk with a self-assured stride; keep your head up; pay attention to your surroundings.
- Keep your keys separate from your purse or backpack. Have your keys ready before you approach your vehicle or home.



- At night, stay in well-lighted areas as much as possible. There are security guards in yellow jackets in the surrounding neighborhood who are in direct contact with the USC Department of Public Safety (DPS).
- Get familiar with campus locations that are open 24 hours daily; such as the campus entrance gates (Gate 3 at Figueroa and 35th Street and Gate 5 at Jefferson Blvd. and McClintock Ave.); the Department of Public Safety, located on the westside of campus in Parking Structure A on McClintock Ave. by 36th Place).
- Get familiar with the locations of the Emergency Phones (phones outside will have a blue light on top).
- Try to vary your route; some assaults are planned in advance and an irregular schedule makes it easier to avoid an attack.
- Try to keep one hand free when carrying books, packages, etc.
- When waiting to cross the street, stand a foot or two back from the curb.
- If you hear someone behind you, turn and look.
- Be wary of people requesting help (directions, change, time, a cigarette, etc.). Some rapists, purse snatchers, and other criminals use this approach to judge how compliant a person is, and to get physically close to them.
- Be cautious around people asking for spare change or money to wash your car windows, etc. A number of these people are taking advantage of the current economic and homeless situation; they use the money they receive for alcohol and/or drugs and some of these people can be very dangerous.



CAMPUS ACCESS POLICY

To ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff the university implemented the following campus access policy:

From 9pm to 6am each day, security personnel stationed at each open entrance will ask anyone coming onto campus—including students, faculty and staff—to provide their USC identification card or other approved photo identification.

Guests, including parents and family members, must be registered to access campus after hours.

Students and employees may use the online guest registration system at <http://visitor.usc.edu> to register their guests. Once guests are in the system, their information will be immediately available to entrance personnel will be admitted upon showing their photo ID.

Any vehicle driven onto campus after hours will have its license plate photographed and cross-checked by campus police.

There are many security patrols, campus cruisers and cameras on or near campus.

Students Living On Campus

Students have to present their USC IDs at all on-campus dorms 24 hours a day and have to register guests with their USC ID and a fingerprint scan.

Student Safety Tips

HOME SAFETY

- Keep your doors locked
- Do NOT “prop” doors open
- Lock windows and block sliding doors
- Do not admit strangers into your home
- Get to know your neighbors
- Keep emergency telephone numbers on your phone

PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY

- Record serial numbers and descriptions of all your valuable items
- License your bike at University Security; it’s required by law
- Report all thefts immediately
- Be alert at all times and report any suspicious activities to security

SMART PHONES

Avoid leaving your cell phone unattended or unsecured. In the event your cell phone is lost or stolen, we recommend the following to aide you in the recovery of your device.

Apple iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, or Mac

Apple has an app that will allow you to locate your apple device on a map, remotely lock your device, or erase your data. Read more about this app at apple.com. Type the words “Find My iPhone” (or iPad, iPod, mac) in the search engine on the Apple website

Android Smart Phones

If you own an android phone, we suggest Lookout Mobile Security (www.mylookout.com/premium) where you can immediately map the location of your phone in any browser and sound a loud alarm, even if your phone is in silent mode. If your Android is lost or stolen, Lookout Premium enables you to remotely lock it and clear your personal data.

LAPTOPS

Many options are available to protect your data and to prevent theft, such as laptop locks, alarms, security labels and laptop tracking software. Victims can lose hardware, software and sensitive data that has not been backed up, as well as give thieves access to sensitive data and personal information.

DRIVING SAFELY

- Always wear a seatbelt (it’s the law)!
Everyone in your car MUST wear a seatbelt at all times!
- Never pick up strangers

- Keep car windows and doors closed and locked
- Try to park in well-lit areas and avoid parking next to large vehicles
- Check the back seat every time before you get in your car
- Do not text or talk on the phone while driving. You can get a very expensive ticket for breaking this California law.
- Make sure children are in an appropriate car seat that meets legal requirements

BICYCLES

Bicycle registration is required at the university. Registration and licencing is free at the DPS Office. Go to: <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/bike-registration> to register online.

Things you must have when riding your bike:

- A bike light when riding at night
- Working brakes - get new pads and adjustments at any bike shop.
- Helmet - California law requires all bicyclists under 18 years of age to wear a bike helmet when riding on all streets, bikeways, public paths, and trails (Section 21212 CVC). Persons 18 years or older are highly encouraged to wear a bike helmet while riding their bicycles. Helmets are available at any bike shop.

If you ride a bicycle on the road, you must follow all California Vehicle Codes, the laws for cars and moving vehicles. This includes:

- Stopping at stop signs and traffic lights, moving in the same direction as cars and not wearing a headset or earplugs that cover both ears
- Riding in bicycle lanes: New bicycle lanes have been installed on campus to ensure the safety of bike riders and pedestrians. The bike lanes run along the central median of Trousdale Parkway. Arrows and a cardinal Trojan mark the new lanes. Bicyclists and skateboarders must ride in the direction of the arrows and are required to dismount when crossing pedestrian traffic.
- You may not ride your bicycle through a crosswalk. If you are crossing the street at a light in the crosswalk, you must get off your bicycle and walk.

SKATEBOARDS

If you are riding a skateboard on the sidewalk, you cannot perform “tricks” or ride in a way that will damage property (including the

sidewalk, benches, etc.) or can be unsafe to others on the sidewalk.

PEDESTRIANS (Walking)

If you are on foot and you want to cross the street, you must cross in a marked crosswalk (between the white lines). You cannot cross diagonally unless the crosswalk is marked for crossing diagonally with white lines.

EARTHQUAKES

In the event of an earthquake, get under a table or desk and protect yourself from falling objects. Do not stand in a doorway. If outside, move away from structures, power poles and other possible hazards. Do not use elevators

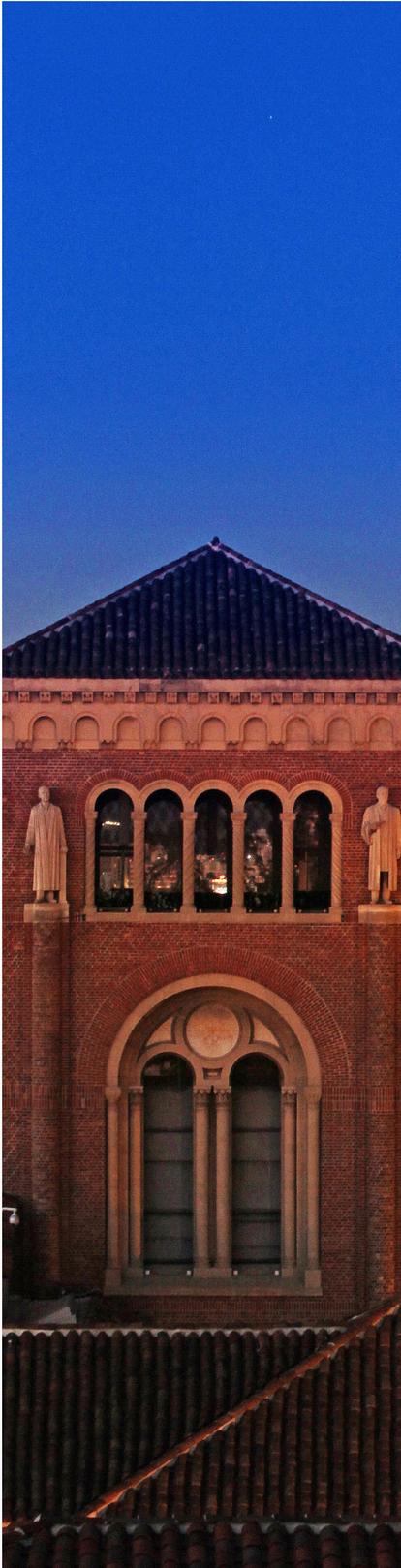
After the earthquake, call public safety (213) 740-4321 to report any serious injuries or other immediate emergencies. Once you have exited the building (after the earthquake), do not reenter until the building has been inspected by trained USC emergency personnel and they say it is safe to return.

ONLINE SAFETY

Here are some safety tips to remember when using email, chat rooms, instant messaging, blogs, and social networking sites like Twitter or Facebook:

- Control the information you post.
- Never post your private information. Don’t post your full name, ID number, address, phone number, or bank and credit card account numbers — and do not post other people’s information either.
- Make sure your screen name doesn’t give specific information about you. Don’t use your name, your age, or your hometown.
- Be careful what you put on a webpage. Make sure only people you know can see the webpage.
- Be careful about posting a photo of yourself. It can be changed in ways you may not like. If you do post a photo, choose it wisely.
- Talking to strangers online is dangerous. People lie about who they really are, and you never really know who you are chatting with.
- NEVER agree to meet a new online friend in person.
- If someone you are chatting with says something bad or potentially dangerous, tell an RA or an Academy staff member.

Adapted from: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/tech/tec14.shtm>



In an Emergency

To report a crime in progress, suspicious or threatening behavior, or other emergencies:

AT USC

- Call the Department of Public Safety (DPS):
213-740-4321

OUTSIDE OF USC

- Call the Los Angeles Police Department or Fire Department:
911

If USC has a major emergency or power failure, your family can receive updated information by calling 213-740-9233 or going to <http://emergency.usc.edu>

Non-Emergency

- USC Department of Public Safety (DPS):
213-740-6000
- Los Angeles Police Department:
213-994-5273
- Fire Department:
213-485-6185

The USC Department of Public Safety is located on 3667 McClintock Ave, in the lobby of Parking Structure A.