

Campus Safety

Welcome to USF! We hope that through orientation sessions, campus tours, and a host of both formal and informal conversations with wonderful students, faculty and staff members, you are feeling just as excited as your student to be part of the USF community. With that excitement, there may still be some looming questions you might have about your student's experience here on campus with us. Campus safety may be one of those questions!

We have a number of personnel and features designed to keep our campus safe. Here is a list of 10 safety features at USF:

- 1. University Police:** The USF Police Department an accredited full-service law enforcement agency here in Tampa. They have been trained, however, to work with a very special population in the area: OUR STUDENTS! USFPD offers a variety of emergency services, as well as a number of workshops and initiatives, designed to generate awareness around issues of campus and personal safety. Contact the USF Police Department at (813) 974-2628.
- 2. Allied Barton:** Here at USF, we have a security company that works in conjunction with our University Police to keep our residential campus safe. Allied Barton officers also patrol our residential campus on golf carts to look for suspicious activity, as well as to ensure all residence exterior doors are secured.
- 3. 24-Hour Desks:** Our residential area is equipped with two 24-hour desks. There is one on the south side of campus in the Juniper-Poplar lobby and another on the north side of campus in Holly M. Your residential student can go there to address issues with swipe access, their keys, and also in the event that they need to contact the University Police, emergency services, and/or a member of the Housing and Residential Education Staff.
- 4. Mo-Bull Alerts and Services:** Mo-Bull is the Emergency Notification here at USF. In the event of unforeseen critical incidents and/or weather related emergencies, students will receive text message alerts with updates and safety information. Additionally, students may turn their cell phones into a personal safety device through use of Guardian and Smart911. For more information and to sign-up, please visit: <http://www.mobull.usf.edu/>.
- 5. Blue Light System:** Our campus is equipped with a blue light system to keep our community safe. Each blue light post has a call button that when pressed in times of an emergency, will alert our University Police. Our officers will respond within minutes to the location of that specific blue light post to provide assistance to the caller.
- 6. Yellow Call Boxes:** All of our residence halls have yellow call boxes outside of main entry doors. Inside these boxes there is a phone that students may use to reach the University Police, an RA on Duty, or the 24-hour desks.

7. **SAFE Team:** We have a team of students who are dedicated to keeping students safe in the evening by offering golf cart rides or walking escorts from (6:30pm until 2:30am). Additionally, SAFE team also patrols parking lots and garages, and offers Alert Cab rides for students 21+ coming from any event at which alcohol has been served within Hillsborough County. Contact the SAFE Team at (813) 974-SAFE.

8. **Card-swipe Access to Residence Halls and Laundry Facilities:** Our residence halls and area laundry rooms are equipped with swipe card readers. Your student will be issued a USF ID card. If s/he is a resident on campus, his/her ID card will be programmed to provide access to the residence hall s/he is assigned. Only students and staff with access to a particular residence hall/laundry facility will be able to gain entry into that residential facility using their swipe card.

9. **Housing Professional and Resident Assistant Staff:** We have a talented, well-trained team of Resident Assistants (RAs) to help keep our campus safe. Each residential area will have at least one RA on duty during the evening hours and on weekends to assist with any issues that may arise in our communities. We also have full-time professionals and graduate students who serve on-call for our residential community of 5600 students. These staff members are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all 365 days of the year! They work to support the University Police, Allied Barton, and the RAs on duty to address any resident concerns that occur in the residence halls.

10. **YOU:** Here at USF, we believe that safety begins with our students and their families. Between orientation and move-in, we have provided your student with a number of safety strategies and tips to utilize on- and off-campus. Please consider helping us to spread the following information to your student:

- **Always be alert:** Keep your head up, know the surroundings, and refrain from using electronic devices (music players, cell phones, etc...) when walking around at night.
- **Stay in well lit, populated areas:** Crimes are less likely to occur when there are people who can serve as witnesses.
- **Keep people informed:** As a general rule of thumb, it is a good idea to inform at least one person of your destination and to confirm your arrival.
- **Travel in pairs or groups whenever possible:** If this is not possible, consider using SAFE Team or calling a friend for a ride.
- **Set limits and stick to them:** The more control one has over one's surroundings, the more prepared one will be in any situation. Whether it's a night out with friends, a first date, or something in between, set limits and stick to them!
- **Refrain from holding/propping doors open:** Everyone who is supposed to have access to the space is issued a swipe card for a reason; make them use it!
- **Keep doors locked and valuables out of view:** Whether it's a residence hall room, an apartment, or a car, take the extra second to ensure doors are locked.

Also, consider the use of a safe to protect those things that are expensive or irreplaceable.

- **Consider getting renter's insurance and always have a plan:** This is Florida and the weather can be unpredictable. Planning and preparation ahead of time means less stress in the event of an emergency!
- **Sign up for Mo-Bull/Guardian/Smart911:** Knowledge and proactivity are critical in taking proper safety precautions!
- **Keep emergency numbers on speed dial!**