

# PERSONAL SECURITY TIPS

## PROTECT YOURSELF

Campus Police, the Student & Residence Life staff and Buildings & Grounds staff are available to assist you in protecting yourself by providing safety and security programs. However, only you can protect yourself by being aware of your surroundings and taking appropriate steps to prevent crime from happening.

Even if you have taken the necessary precautions, you may be a victim of a crime. If that should happen to you, be sure to report the situation immediately to Campus Police and/or the Bismarck Police Department. If you feel threatened, call 9-911 and/or Campus Police 224-2700.

If you feel that there may be an area of the campus that is unsafe, please bring that to the attention of Student & Residence Life, Buildings & Grounds or Campus Police.

## PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

- Personal property (purses, backpacks, calculators, etc.) should never be left unattended. Take such items with you if you are leaving the office, classroom or residence hall room.
- Lock your door whenever you leave your residence hall room or office. Always lock your door when sleeping.
- Never open the exterior doors of the building to strangers or non-residents. Always escort your guests to and from the main entrance doors.
- Protect all valuables in your room or office. Do not leave valuables in plain view.
- Take valuables home with you during vacations.
- You are encouraged to open a savings or checking account rather than allow large sums of money to accumulate in your room or apartment. If you open a checking account, remember the number of the last check written. The theft of a single check can go undetected until a bank statement discloses a forgery.

## PROTECT YOUR AUTOMOBILE OR BICYCLE

- Always lock your car doors and never leave your keys in the vehicle.
- Try to park your car or bicycle in a well-lit area.
- Avoid leaving property where it is visible.
- Park your bicycle where you can keep an eye on it if at all possible. Lock your bicycle.
- Bicycle thefts are on the rise. There are several good bicycle anti-theft devices available. Casehardened heavy locks and chains afford the best protection.
- Record serial numbers, model numbers and the value of your bicycle. Engrave the bicycle with your Operation Identification number.

## PROTECT YOURSELF WALKING OR JOGGING

- Refrain from taking shortcuts; walk where there is plenty of light and traffic.
- Avoid walking or jogging alone after dark.
- Walk along well-lit routes.
- Be alert to your surroundings. If you suspect you are being followed, run in a different direction, go to the other side of the street and yell for help, or head quickly for a lighted area or group of people.
- Have your keys ready when returning to your residence hall or apartment and keep your personal or valuable items concealed and close to your body.

## HELP US PROTECT YOU

- Watch for suspicious persons in and around College buildings and in parking lots. Do not pursue them. Call the Residence Supervisor or Campus Police if you should enter your room and find a stranger, regardless of the "cover story" supplied.
- Door-to-door soliciting is not permitted in College residence facilities. Violations of this rule should be reported to your hall supervisor immediately.
- Report all thefts and property losses immediately to the Campus Security.
- Be security conscious at all times.

## SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

- If you see any suspicious activity or people on or near the campus, call Campus Police. Do not assume that what you observe is an innocent activity or that it has already been reported.
- Do not assume the person is a visitor or College staff member that you have not seen before.
- Suspicious people may be:
  - Loitering about at unusual hours and locations: running, especially if something of value is being carried.
  - Exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms. Person(s) could be under the influence of drugs, or otherwise needing medical or psychiatric assistance.
- Carrying property that might be suspicious, depending on the circumstances, going from room to room trying door handles.



[bismarckstate.edu/security](http://bismarckstate.edu/security)