



# Proceed with Caution

By Emily Creech

**“A student at Princeton was assaulted while walking from the parking lot to her dorm this evening. Stay tuned for the latest news at 11 o’clock.”**

Stories like these are heard everyday. With campus crime on the rise, students need to be more aware of ways to keep safe.

According to the American School and University journal, there are several steps a student can take for safety.

The first is to have your ID ready. On many campuses, dorms are on an electronic-access system that requires an ID card to unlock the door. Card access systems are far superior to standard metal key and lock systems, since they can be immediately changed when keys are lost, stolen, or when housing assignments shift. Most hotels and hospitals have changed to card access systems for safety reasons.

Another way to keep safe is to always walk in groups at night. Some universities have student teams that are specially trained to accompany students to their dorms. Check to see if your university offers a similar program.

Many campuses have well-lighted sidewalks. It is best to stay on those paths after dark. Walking in shadowed places



leaves you open for an attack; it gives the attacker a place to hide. These paths are typically near campus buildings that are used heavily after dark. Be aware of where they are.

Following these simple steps can help you to be safe. Never walk alone at night. There is safety in numbers. 🧠

## Safety Smarts

- ! Always travel in groups. Use a shuttle service after dark. Never walk alone at night. Avoid “shortcuts”.
- ! Study the campus and neighborhood with respect to routes between your residence and class/activities schedule. Know where emergency phones are located.
- ! Share your class/activities schedule with parents and a network of close friends. Give network telephone numbers to your parents, advisors, and friends.
- ! Always lock the door to your dorm room or apartment, regardless of how long you plan to be gone. (It only takes a few seconds for someone to enter your room and steal your valuables.)
- ! Do not loan out your key. Rekey locks when a key is lost or stolen.
- ! Do not leave notes on your door announcing no one is at home.
- ! Don’t leave identification, wallets, checkbooks, jewelry, cameras, and other valuables in open view.
- ! If checks and/or credit cards are stolen, report the theft to campus security and contact your credit card companies.
- ! Get to know other residents on your floor or in your complex and don’t be reluctant to report illegal activities and suspicious loitering.
- ! Require identification and authorization from repair or maintenance persons wanting to enter your room.
- ! Keep your car or truck locked at all times.
- ! Park in a well-lighted parking lot.

**For more information, check out [campussafety.com](http://campussafety.com).**