



# Campus on Watch

*Safety is everyone's responsibility.*



**VCU** Police Department

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY



POLICE



See something shady?  
Dial 828-1234  
for the VCU  
Police Department



**S**afety is a top priority here at Virginia Commonwealth University, the premier urban, public research university that we call home. We provide a broad spectrum of security measures that keep our students, faculty, staff and visitors safe and feeling secure, starting with a sworn police force devoted to the VCU community. The VCU Police Department is not only one of the largest campus police agencies in the country, but it also boasts a close relationship with the Richmond Police Department whose officers work in tandem to ensure the safety and protection of the campus and the city at large. The entire university takes safety very seriously.

## Your participation

At VCU safety is everyone’s responsibility. More than 96 percent of the VCU community say they feel “safe” or “very safe” on our campuses\* Students, faculty and staff can help improve the quality of life on campus by taking an active role in their own safety as well as that of those around them. Reporting suspicious or emergency situations to the VCU Police Department can help solve crimes, provide emergency assistance that may save a life and help deter criminal activity.

*\*Spring 2015 Perception of Safety survey*



John Venuti,  
VCU Police Chief

## Observe and report crime

**Suspicious circumstances:** strange persons or events, unusual behaviors

**Safety hazards:** faulty lighting; broken doors, windows or locks; blocked hallways, windows or doors; vehicles leaking fuel; etc.

**Fires:** buildings, auto, grass, trash

**Accidents:** vehicles, people, animals

**Call:** On-campus emergency ..... 828-1234  
 On-campus nonemergency ..... 828-1196  
 Off-campus emergency ..... 911  
 Text a tip ..... 274637, keyword: VCUtip

**LiveSafe:** Download the free LiveSafe app to Apple and Android devices to send texts, videos and photos directly to VCU Police 24/7.





# Urban safety

VCU, comprising the Monroe Park Campus and the MCV Campus, is surrounded by Richmond's many vibrant and diverse cultural offerings. While attending school in a city provides numerous educational and enriching opportunities for VCU students, the realities of living in an urban environment rely upon awareness and common sense.

## **Please follow this advice as you venture around VCU and Richmond, Va.**

- Be alert and aware.
- Project an image of confidence.
- Make eye contact with those you meet.
- Don't isolate yourself.
- Travel in well-lit, busy areas.
- Choose safety over courtesy. Often suspects will try to stop you and engage in conversation before committing a crime.
- Stay in the company of others (three or more at night).
- Ride RamSafe when travelling at night.  
Call 828-SAFE (7233).
- VCUHS employees can call 828-WALK (9255) for a security escort on the MCV Campus.
- Avoid displaying large sums of money in public.  
Carry only the credit cards you need.
- Don't text or talk on the phone while walking.
- Don't wear both earbuds.
- Check in often with friends and family.
- If you feel unsafe, contact VCU Police immediately.

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## For students

- **Ride RamSafe** when travelling at night.  
Call 828-SAFE (7233).
- Call 828-WALK (9255) for a security escort on the MCV Campus.
- **Download the RamSafe mobile app** to your smartphone to reserve rides and monitor the van's location and arrival time.
- Don't leave your **personal property** unattended at any time.
- **Emergency Reporting Telephone System phones**, located throughout the Monroe Park Campus and the MCV Campus, provide a direct connection to the VCU Police Department Emergency Communications Center and identify the location from which you are calling to the answering communications officer. Outdoor ERTS phones are yellow call boxes labeled "VCU Police," and indoor ERTS phones are red dial-less wall phones.
- **Rape Aggression Defense training** is a basic self-defense system for women. The course is taught in four three-hour sessions or two six-hour sessions by VCU Police Department employees who have been certified through R.A.D. Systems Inc. R.A.D. classes are offered several times throughout each semester and occasionally in the summer months. The class is free to VCU students.
- Follow the VCU Police Department on **Facebook, Twitter and Instagram** ([www.facebook.com/VCUPD](http://www.facebook.com/VCUPD), [www.twitter.com/VCUPD](http://www.twitter.com/VCUPD) and [instagram.com/VCUPD](http://instagram.com/VCUPD)).
- **Sign up for VCU emergency text alerts** at [www.alert.vcu.edu](http://www.alert.vcu.edu).



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## For parents

- Please **review the VCU Police Department website** at [www.police.vcu.edu](http://www.police.vcu.edu) where you will find resources such as the VCU Annual Security and Fire Safety Report and the daily incident log.
- Encourage your student to **register personal property**, such as laptops, iPads and bikes.
- **Sign up for text message alerts** at [www.alert.vcu.edu](http://www.alert.vcu.edu) to receive information about campus emergencies and cancellations. After signing up for VCU Alert text messages, non-VCU subscribers may log in to change their settings or add an additional cell phone number or email.
- Please **review all appropriate housing policies** with your student.
- Follow the VCU Police Department on **Facebook, Twitter and Instagram** ([www.facebook.com/VCUPD](http://www.facebook.com/VCUPD), [www.twitter.com/VCUPD](http://www.twitter.com/VCUPD) and [instagram.com/VCUPD](http://instagram.com/VCUPD)).
- **Safety is a top priority at VCU.** Students, faculty and staff may have noticed an increase in email notifications from the VCU Police Department regarding crimes that have occurred in our community. This increase in notifications is not due to an increase in criminal incidents. The reasoning behind these notifications is two-fold: These emails ensure our compliance with federal legislation that mandates notification to the community when certain crimes that meet specific requirements occur on our campus. Secondly, these emails often assist in locating perpetrators since they contain information about the crimes that the community should be aware of. VCU is committed to keeping students, faculty and staff informed and aware of what is occurring in and around our community so that we are all equipped to be safe and responsible.

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## For faculty and staff

- **Notify the Threat Assessment Team** of any threatening behaviors and dangerous incidents involving students, faculty or staff before escalation to violence. Email [safetycasemgr@vcu.edu](mailto:safetycasemgr@vcu.edu).
- The university limits access to its buildings to authorized persons for authorized purposes. **Notify the VCU Police Department if you are in a building after hours.** Refer to the official VCU access control policy, available at [www.police.vcu.edu](http://www.police.vcu.edu), for more information.
- **Don't share your computer password.** If you have questions about technology concerns, please visit VCU Technology Services at [www.ts.vcu.edu](http://www.ts.vcu.edu).
- **Close and lock your office door when leaving,** even for a short period. Take items such as purses, cell phones and wallets with you when you leave or lock them in a cabinet or drawer.
- **Don't leave your property unattended** at any time.
- **Document serial numbers, model numbers, descriptions, etc.,** for all property in case the information is needed to locate your property.
- **Do not assume** someone else will watch your office or property for you.
- **Be attentive to who is in your office area.** If you do not know someone, ask who they are and how you can be of assistance. Sometimes letting people know that you are aware of them can be a deterrent if they are there for the wrong reasons.
- **Ride RamSafe** when traveling at night. Call 828-SAFE (7233).
- VCUHS employees can call 828-WALK (9255) for a security escort on the MCV Campus.
- Follow the VCU Police Department on **Facebook, Twitter and Instagram** ([www.facebook.com/VCUPD](http://www.facebook.com/VCUPD), [www.twitter.com/VCUPD](http://www.twitter.com/VCUPD) and [instagram.com/VCUPD](http://instagram.com/VCUPD)).

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## Personal safety precautions

- **If an emergency happens at VCU, please contact your family to let them know that you are safe.**
- **Never walk alone or isolate yourself, especially after dark.** Whenever possible, walk with a group or call RamSafe at 828-SAFE (7233).
- VCUHS employees can call 828-WALK (9255) for a security escort on the MCV Campus.
- **Travel in well-lit and populated routes.** Walk with confidence. Be alert and aware of who is around you.
- **Have your keys in your hand before leaving your car or doorway.** Always lock your doors when alone and never prop open exterior doors.
- **Secure your personal belongings.** Always lock personal items in the trunk of your car; do not leave anything in plain view for others to see as they walk by.
- **Report all suspicious persons or incidents,** however minor, to the VCU Police Department Emergency Communications Center at 938 W. Grace St. or 828-1234. Simply dial 8-1234 from any university phone. (Note: 911 will not directly dial from university phones.)
- **Become aware of ERTS phones located throughout both campuses.** ERTS phones are direct lines to the VCU Police Department.
- **If followed while walking,** change directions and turn toward well-lit, populated areas or use an ERTS phone.
- **If followed while driving,** proceed to a public area, hospital or police station. Do not drive home.
- **If confronted, cooperate.** Give the criminal what he asks for. Do not make sudden moves or try to apprehend the criminal yourself. Concentrate on remembering a description and call the police immediately.

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## Property security

- **Theft is 100 percent preventable** — you are the key to prevention. Campus crime typically involves theft of personal property. Always secure your property when it is not under your direct supervision.

## Robbery prevention

- Always keep the zippers and pockets of purses, shoulder bags and backpacks, etc., closed.
- Keep your wallet in the inside pocket of your coat or the front pocket of your pants.
- Carry your purse close to your body but do not loop or wrap straps around you. Keep your wallet in an inside pocket.
- Don't leave your property unattended at any time.
- Always look at the people around you.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- If a situation doesn't look or feel right, leave.
- Mark your personal property so that if it is lost or stolen and then recovered, you can be identified as the owner.
- Register your laptop and consider purchasing theft recovery software.



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# Resources

The **VCU mobile app** includes a directory, news, maps, videos, emergency numbers and more. It is available for download at [www.vcu.edu/mobile](http://www.vcu.edu/mobile).

**Text a tip** allows you to report crimes quickly by using your cell phone. Crime tips may be sent anonymously by texting “VCUtip” to 274637. Once the system responds with an identifying phone number — the only identification police will have for the informant — you can send your tip.

**Computer registrations** allow the VCU Police Department to collect manufacturer’s serial numbers and other identifying information for use if the computer is lost or stolen. To register your computer, visit [www.police.vcu.edu](http://www.police.vcu.edu).

**Bicycle registration** makes it easier to recover your bike if it is stolen. Fill out a bicycle registration form at [www.police.vcu.edu](http://www.police.vcu.edu). If you would like a registration decal, complete the online form and visit 938 W. Grace St. to pick it up.

**Like and follow the VCU Police Department on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.**



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# Numbers to know

## VCU Police Department

- On-campus emergency .....828-1234
- On-campus nonemergency..... 828-1196
- Off-campus emergency..... 911
- RamSafe..... 828-SAFE (7233)
- MCV Campus security escort.....828-WALK (9255)
- Text a tip.....274637, keyword: VCUtip
- Crime prevention..... 828-6226
- Victim/witness coordinator .....828-6356

## Fire/safety

- Monroe Park Campus emergency.....828-1234
- VCU Medical Center fire/hazards..... \*50
- Fire safety information .....828-0040
- Repairs for university facilities .....828-9444
- Repairs for VCU Health System  
plant operations..... 628-4772

**Subscribe to VCU Alert  
at [www.alert.vcu.edu/signup](http://www.alert.vcu.edu/signup).**



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**Virginia Commonwealth University**

**VCU Police Department**

938 West Grace Street  
P.O. Box 842024

Richmond, Virginia 23284-2024

Phone: (804) 828 1196

Emergency: (804) 828 1234

Nonemergency: (804) 828 1196

[www.police.vcu.edu](http://www.police.vcu.edu)

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