CRIME PREVENTION: SAFETY AFTER DARK

Don’t be a victim!

Preventing crime is critical to having a safe environment for teaching, learning and living. The main goal of crime prevention is to reduce the risk of being a victim, which is best achieved by removing and avoiding opportunities for a criminal to take advantage of you or your property. You can take several steps to avoid becoming a victim, including taking the Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) classes through the JCSU Campus Police Department. Being a victim of crime is often avoidable. The more you know about safety after dark and heed the prevention tips, the safer you will be both on and off campus.

Prevention Tips

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), crime happens at all times of day and night, though particular crimes exhibit different patterns.\(^1\) The crime of robbery is mainly a nighttime crime, increasing after 8 p.m. and subsiding after 3 a.m. in most areas. An estimated 63 percent of rapes and 72 percent of motor vehicle thefts occur at night.\(^1\) Crime generally increases during the winter months because of extended periods of darkness. To reduce your risk of becoming a victim, please follow these tips:

- Travel with a group after dark.
- Attach a small flashlight to your keychain, and make sure it always has working batteries.
- Keep your keys and cell phone in your hand when walking to your car at night.
- Park near the entrance of parking garages or as close as possible to buildings when shopping or running errands at night.
- If you must cross a roadway at night in an area without crosswalks and/or signals, try to cross near streetlights or other light sources so that you are visible to approaching motorists.
- When walking in the evening or at night, always wear reflective or light colored clothing.
- Let someone at your intended destination know your expected arrival time.

You may contact the JCSU Campus Police Department to report any suspicious activity or poorly lit areas on and around campus. The emergency number is 704.378.1003 or 1004. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department’s emergency number is 911.

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