

Emergency Plan for Parents

As a rule, emergencies are not planned, and we can all plan for emergencies. William Paterson University is no exception to that rule. Consequently, the University's Department of Public Safety as well as other departments within the university plan for emergencies that your sons or daughters may experience on campus. You, as a parent of one or more of our students, are included in our plan.

Being the parent of a college student, you contributed to the way your child perceives emergencies, and being the parent of a college student, you can continue to contribute to the way your child responds to them. You can contribute by knowing how to help your child avoid a crisis situation or where to acquire assistance.

Here is some general safety and/or crime prevention information that will help you assist you child.

1. The university uses Connect Ed as its communication system to alert everyone on campus about emergencies. To have the emergency information transmitted to your child, your child must sign up for the service.
2. There are over 50 blue light emergency telephone stations installed throughout the campus. They are phones with a direct line to the Campus Police. At any given time your child is within 450 yards of a blue light emergency telephone on this campus, and most of the time he or she is within 200 yards of one.
3. Every computer has a serial number. Your child's computer serial number should be recorded in case it is stolen or lost.
4. A student can purchase a cable (similar to a bicycle cable) and a lock with which to secure his/her computer when left unattended.
5. The computer should be secured when left unattended, even in the residence halls.
6. When you buy a computer, a lo-jack, which is a security device by which the location of the computer can be located, can be installed.
7. To legally drink alcohol on this campus, a person must be 21 years of age.
8. Your child will be assigned an identification number that begins with the numbers 855. That number, which can be used similarly to a credit card number, should remain a secret to avoid other people using it. And
9. The residence halls have fire alarms, which are directly connected to the Campus Police, and fire drills are conducted on campus.

You can also assist your child by asking him or her to telephone you or e-mail you once weekly (or more often if you so choose) and by asking him or her to telephone you if an emergency situation occurs on campus. By doing so, you can be assured of your child's well being.

If you lose contact with your child and you need assistance contacting him or her, feel free to contact Campus Police and request a "welfare check", which means that a police officer determines the well being of your child and reports those findings to you.

In addition, keep a list of the campus emergency numbers near your telephones and at your place of employment in case you need them, or learn where to retrieve emergency numbers on the William Paterson University's computer website.

Also, encourage your child to keep his or her birth certificate, social security card, or passport at home unless those documents are actually needed on the campus to avoid identity theft, and encourage your child to record his or her expenses and to compare those expenses to his or her bank accounts or debit card in order to catch errors.

If you have time or the inclination to do so, talk to you child about the following:

1. Learning the locations of fire exits and fire alarm pull stations, and learning evacuation techniques and how to report an emergency. All fire exits are designated with an exit sign, all pull stations are labeled, and evacuation instructions are contained in the Guide for Emergency Readiness found on the Campus Police website.
2. Learning about how the building fire protection-systems within the campus buildings are activated and what the impact of tampering with them is. Students may be charged criminally or may be referred for a disciplinary hearing for tampering with fire protection systems and equipment.
3. Thinking about the relationship between the use of alcohol and drugs and the starting of fires. In addition, a person's ability to detect and safely escape from a fire is decreased when a person is intoxicated or high.
4. Thinking about engaging in prohibited acts on campus. Smoking, using candles and incense, cooking in unapproved locations or without proper precautions and overburdening electrical outlets and extension cords can set fires. Engaging in those activities where they are prohibited can be considered reckless and can lead to criminal charges and/or disciplinary actions.
5. Responsibly caring for his or her valuables. By not doing so, your child may be the victim of a theft or fraud. And
6. Obeying motor vehicle regulations and parking regulations. By not doing so, your child may be required to pay for tickets or appear in court.

Thank you for taking the time to help us keep your child safe and free from crime.