

Dear Students,

Welcome back to campus! To both new and returning students, we're glad you're here.

Since Aug. 21, the University has received several concerning reports relating to student safety. Specifically, two students reported physical assaults in downtown Binghamton, multiple cases of theft were reported both on and off campus, and multiple incidents of intoxication have resulted in medical intervention. These reports are concerning.

Your safety is a priority for me, and the campus is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for living and learning. As you navigate the campus and surrounding communities, keep these safety tips in mind:

Safety tips

- Be aware of predatory behavior. A predator might attempt to harm individuals:
 - wearing earbuds/headphones
 - walking alone or in small groups
 - clearly under the influence
- Theft is a crime of opportunity. Things that might enable a thief include:
 - a bag or backpack left unattended, even for just a few moments
 - unattended laptops
 - unlocked residence hall doors
 - unlocked cars
 - easily accessible phones, including in back pockets
- If hosting a party, ensure that your guests are safe and you have designated individuals who will remain sober to help others. Avoid alcoholic punches – these are not safe for anyone.
- Remember that underage drinking and serving underage individuals is against the law. Legal and student consequences are associated with underage drinking and serving underage individuals.
- When out with friends, be aware of your surroundings and have a plan for getting to your destination and back home as a group. Don't leave anyone behind; check on each other.
- Practice good bystander behavior. If you are in crowd and see something wrong, don't assume someone else is calling for help. Make the call yourself or go to the bouncer/bartender or a police officer – and make sure Harpur's Ferry, local emergency and taxi cab numbers are in your phone.
- Don't cause harm.

ALWAYS call for help. Reporting to the appropriate agencies/authorities is strongly encouraged.

The Good Samaritan policy at Binghamton is a longstanding tradition of taking care of each other. In cases of alcohol and prohibitive drug intoxication, the primary concern is the health and safety of the individual(s) involved. Individuals are strongly encouraged to call for medical assistance for themselves or for a friend/acquaintance who is suffering alcohol poisoning. **No student seeking medical treatment for an alcohol or other drug-related overdose or other life-threatening medical emergency will be subject to University discipline for the sole violation of using or possessing alcohol or drugs. This**

policy shall extend to another student seeking help for the intoxicated student or the student who is facing a life-threatening medical emergency. [Find the complete policy online.](#)

Resources

- A fully empowered, state law enforcement agency. The University Police are trained to address the unique needs of our diverse campus. Community police agencies in Binghamton, Johnson City, Vestal and Endicott are also resources.
- Harpur's Ferry Volunteer Ambulance Service
- University Police presentations on campus safety, party safety, personal safety and self-defense classes
- An on-campus safe-ride escort program that operates from 9 a.m. to 3 a.m., seven days a week
- Mandatory new-student prevention programs relating to sexual assaults
- Our Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs Prevention Programs and Services
- The University Counseling Center
- Case Management services through the Dean of Students Office

I encourage you check out additional information on [campus safety on our website.](#)

But more important than these resources are the actions that you take as students. As members of the Binghamton University community, you have a responsibility to demonstrate respectful behavior to others and to look out for your fellow Bearcats! Together, we can create a campus that boasts an environment that is safe and secure.

I wish you a productive, enjoyable and safe semester.

Sincerely,

April Thompson
Associate Vice President and Dean of Students