

Global Education Office (GEO)

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SAFETY IN ALBUQUERQUE

CAMPUS SAFETY

While the UNM campus is fairly safe, it is in an urban setting and you should be mindful of safety. Avoid walking alone on campus after dark, especially if you are a woman. Always ask a classmate or friend to walk with you to your bike, car, apartment or dormitory. You can also take advantage of the **UNM Escort Service (277-2241)** offered by Campus Police on campus at night. Call the number from any phone and campus police will take you or walk with you anywhere on the UNM campus. Tell your roommate or neighbor when you expect to be arriving home. If you ever feel threatened, find one of the blue emergency phones located throughout campus and push the button to contact Campus Police. The phones are for emergencies only. In addition, you can download to your cellphone the app “**LOBOGUARDIAN**” where you can easily contact the UNM police, and keep your family and friends updated with your location by setting a safety timer. Go to <http://loboguardian.unm.edu/> for more information.

PERSONAL SAFETY

It will take you some time to become familiar with what constitutes a safe or unsafe environment in Albuquerque and the US. Always be aware of your surroundings and who is around you. Always walk with confidence. UNM offers Personal Defense Classes through the Physical Education (Non-Professional) Department.

A list of tips for adults on staying safe:

- Do not walk or jog early in the morning or late at night when the streets are deserted.
- When out at night, try to have a friend walk with you.
- Carry only the money you will need on a particular day.
- Do not display your cash or any other inviting targets such as pagers, cell phones, electronic devices, or expensive jewelry and clothing.
- If you think someone is following you, switch directions or cross the street. If the person continues to follow you, move quickly toward an open store or restaurant or a lighted house. Do not be afraid to yell for help.
- Try to park in well-lighted areas with good visibility and close to walkways, stores, and people.
- Make sure you have your key out as you approach your door.
- Always lock your car, even if it is in your own driveway; never leave your motor running when not in the car.
- Do everything you can to keep a stranger from entering your home or car, or to keep a stranger from forcing you into his or her car. Do not give your address to strangers.
- If a dating partner has abused you, do not meet him or her alone. Do not let him or her in your home or car when you are alone. Contact the Lobo Respect Advocacy Center or GEO for help.
- If you have children, give them a “code word” that only someone familiar to you/them will know. Teach them that if someone talks to them who does not know this code word, they should seek out another adult and tell them loudly “a stranger is bothering me.”
- If you are a battered spouse, call the police immediately. Assault is a crime, whether committed by a stranger or your spouse or any other family member. If you believe that you and your children are in danger, call a 24-hour crisis/shelter hotline (1-800-773-3645) or a health center and leave immediately.
- If someone tries to rob you, give up your property—do not give up your life.

If you are robbed or assaulted, report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent someone else from becoming a victim.

EMERGENCIES

In an emergency, call **911**. If you are on campus, there are also blue emergency phones. Make sure you know the locations of emergency centers near you, as well as which hospital is your insurance policy’s preferred “in-network” provider and where it is located. Always carry your health insurance card in your wallet. (Do not call an ambulance if it is not an emergency as it will be very expensive.)

BIKE AND AUTO SAFETY

It is very important to take bike precautions on and off the UNM campus. A U-lock is the only lock that can help prevent bike theft. You can get a U-lock at the campus bike store or most discount stores. Lock the bike frame and tires together, and always take your bike seat with you if it is detachable. Bicycle lockers are available on UNM campus; for further information, contact Parking and Transportation Services (277-1938). Always wear a helmet when riding a bike, and use lights on your bike and body at night. Register your bike with the UNM Campus Police for possible return in case of theft. Never lock your bike to a handrail as UNM Police will confiscate your bike. If you have a car, keep your car doors locked when you are both in and out of it. When walking to your car, especially at night, have your car door key in your hand ready to unlock the door. Get in quickly and lock the door. Never park in dark or isolated areas.

HOME AND APARTMENT SAFETY

Keep your doors locked when you are both away and at home and check that all doors and windows are locked at night and whenever you leave. Use a bar to keep sliding doors in position when not in use. Never open the door unless you know exactly who is outside. If you plan a vacation or plan to be away from your home for a long period of time, ask a neighbor or friend to keep an eye on it for you. Ask them to pick up your mail and newspapers for you so it is not obvious there is no one at home. Be sure that they can contact you in case of emergency.

MONEY

Use a credit/debit card when you are traveling, and ATM cards, credit/debit cards or personal checks while in Albuquerque. Never carry a large amount of cash. Do not leave backpacks, wallets or purses where they can be easily seen or stolen. Always report the loss of a checkbook, ATM card, or credit card to your bank or credit card company immediately (to do this, you will need to keep a list of all your cards and contact numbers in a safe place separate from the cards). Only use ATM machines during the day or use well-lit machines at night. Do not let others see the amount of money you are withdrawing.

PROTECTION FROM SCAMS

International students may be contacted by people pretending they work for the US government asking for money or personal information, such as social security numbers, passport information, credit card numbers and online passwords. **DO NOT PAY ANY MONEY OR PROVIDE PERSONAL INFORMATION TO ANYONE CLAIMING TO BE A PUBLIC OFFICIAL ON THE PHONE OR BY EMAIL!** Please be aware that no US government agency will EVER require you to wire money immediately to ANY entity or request funds by phone or email. **If you receive this type of call or message, please report it immediately to iadvisor@unm.edu!** In addition, it is easy for people to steal your information when you use public computers if you do not erase your log-in trail, so be sure to delete all downloaded documents on public computers.

SAFETY RESOURCES:

ABQ Police Department:

For emergencies, always call 911. For non-emergencies, call 242-COPS (505-242-2677).

UNM Police Department and Escort Service:

UNM Police can send an escort to accompany you from one on-campus location to another on-campus location. This service is available 24/7. Call 505-277-2241.

Lobo Alerts Emergency Notification System:

Confirm your contact information at <http://loboalerts.unm.edu/> to ensure you will be notified via this system in the event of an on- or near- campus safety alert.

Personal Defense Course at UNM (Spring and Fall):

UNM offers a 2-credit Personal Defense Course during spring and fall semester (*PENP 136: Personal Defense*). The course provides instruction in basic self-defense skills. Check the UNM website for the class schedule.