SUNY NEW PALTZ UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Pedestrian Safety



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Pedestrian Safety

Tips for drivers

- **Yield to pedestrians** anywhere in a crosswalk and come to a complete stop if necessary.
- Do not pass vehicles stopped at crosswalks.
- Slow down when driving on-campus. The on-campus speed limit is 20 mph. Be alert to heavy foot traffic.
- If an older adult or physically challenged person is crossing at an intersection or crosswalk, be patient.
- Watch out for pedestrians when you are making a turn or backing up in parking lots or driveways.
- As you drive, **scan for pedestrians about to cross or enter your path.** Always be alert.
- Use caution driving at night. Pedestrians and cyclist are very difficult to see.
- In foul weather (rain, sleet or snow), remember that your braking distance increases.
- The behavior of alcohol-impaired pedestrians is unpredictable. Be particularly attentive after sporting events, late at night and on weekends.

Pedestrians' Right of Way at Crosswalks

- When traffic-control signals are not in place or not operational, **the driver** of a vehicle must yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping to yield to a pedestrian within a crosswalk.
- *Exception:* A pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where there is a pedestrian tunnel or overpass must yield the right of way to all vehicles.
- A pedestrian must not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and enter into the path of a vehicle where it is impractical for the driver to yield.
- If a vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any intersection with an unmarked crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, **the driver of a vehicle approaching from the rear must not pass the stopped vehicle.**



Tips for pedestrians

- Look left-right-left before and during crossing a road.
- Always cross the street at marked crosswalks.
- Avoid using headsets or in-ear audio devices when crossing roadways.
- Stay away from traffic after drinking alcohol or when taking medication that may cause dizziness or blurred vision. Call a cab if necessary.
- When walking after dark, carry a flashlight and wear retroreflective materials.
- In bad weather, allow extra time and distance for a vehicle to stop. Do not let umbrellas or jacket hoods block your view of approaching traffic.
- If your view of approaching traffic is blocked, **move to where you can see traffic before crossing.** Stop and look left-right-left again.
- Watch out for cars backing out of parking spaces. Stay out of a driver's blind spot.
- Where sidewalks are available, use them. If sidewalks are not available, walk facing traffic and keep to the left of the roadway.
- At intersections, scan over your shoulder for turning vehicles. Make eye contact with the driver of a stopped car before crossing in front or in back of it.
- Do not step in front of a moving vehicle, even if you have the right of way. Be alert and use common sense.

PROTECTING NEW YORK'S FUTURE

NEW YORK STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE

SUNY New Paltz 1 Hawk Drive, Service Building 100 New Paltz, NY 12561 Main: 845-257-2222 TTY: 845-257-3369 Fax: 845-257-3334 Email: upd@newpaltz.edu



