



UAB Police

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, on average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic crash every 2 hours and injured in a traffic crash every 8 minutes. The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is a large urban campus comprised of over 100 city blocks in downtown Birmingham. It is also home to the world renowned UAB Medical Center. On a daily basis, there are over 19,000 students, 23,000 employees, and 6,000 visitors, guests, and patients who come to our campus and medical center. Thousands of individuals and vehicles are on our campus every day.

Our pedestrian safety program was created in 2000 following a tragic pedestrian-vehicle accident on campus that left the pedestrian permanently paralyzed. Our department pledged to ensure that all pedestrians, as well as motorists, are aware of the safety laws and rules governing pedestrian safety. The goal of the pedestrian safety program is to make sure that everyone is making their way around our campus and medical center in the safest way possible to minimize the risk of accidents. Our department solicited the assistance of local law enforcement and government agencies to help us in achieving this goal.



At the inception of the program, we conducted a study to determine the areas on campus that were most vulnerable to pedestrian-vehicle accidents. Pedestrian crosswalks were made more visible by painting vertical lines in the crosswalks. Signs with flashing yellow lights were placed at or near the crosswalks. Parking spaces within 20 feet of all crosswalks were removed to allow for more pedestrian and vehicle visibility. A large number of pedestrian traffic accidents is the result of distracted driving by motorists or motorists failing to yield for pedestrians. Our department partners with various organizations to teach our students and employees about the potential consequences of driving distracted such as driving simulators equipped with virtual technology where participants use a real vehicle to cruise through an animated environment that reacts to driving motions.

Our department also manages an extensive media campaign as part of our pedestrian safety program. Each year in September, we sponsor a pedestrian safety campaign for one week. Brochures and pamphlets detailing pedestrian/vehicle accident statistics as well as local city ordinances on jaywalking and right of way are passed out on campus by our officers. We participate in new student and employee orientations and departmental events on campus to make everyone aware of how important pedestrian safety is on a large urban campus as busy as UAB.