



Pedestrian Safety

A Shared Responsibility



The streets on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have a large number of pedestrians and are congested with vehicles. This high traffic volume requires extra care on the part of pedestrians and motorists alike. North Carolina law defines the exact, legal responsibilities of pedestrians and motorists in two separate statutes:

~NCGS 20-173: “Where traffic control signals are not in place or in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked* crosswalk at or near an intersection...”

* an “unmarked crosswalk” at an intersection is that area within an intersection which also lies within the lateral boundaries of a sidewalk projected across that intersection.

~NCGS 20-174: “Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within a marked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles on the roadway.”

Remember, only you can ensure your own safety when traveling around campus, either on foot, by bicycle, or in a vehicle.

PEDESTRIANS

- Do not assume drivers can or will stop. It is the responsibility of the pedestrian to ensure that it is safe to proceed across the roadway. Traffic flow and / or congestion may prevent a driver from seeing you or from stopping. Stepping in front of oncoming traffic and expecting it to stop could cause an accident involving the pedestrian, the motorist, or other motorists and may result in personal injury.
- Do not assume a driver has seen you. Establish eye contact with the driver before entering a crosswalk.
- Watch all lanes you must cross. Even though one vehicle has stopped, vehicles may pass in another lane or in an opposite direction.
- Cross the street within the marked lines of the crosswalk. Your full attention should be directed to oncoming traffic. **BE ALERT!**
- If you cross the street at a place other than within a designated crosswalk or intersection, the vehicle has the right-of-way. It is your responsibility to yield to the vehicle.
- Use good judgment. Watch traffic at all times. Just having the right-of-way will not prevent you from being hit.

DRIVERS

- Striking a pedestrian in a crosswalk is extremely difficult to defend and can lead to severe liability consequences.
- Be attentive when traveling through crosswalks. Be prepared to stop.
- Do not overtake and pass other vehicles stopped for pedestrians on your side of the roadway
- Be aware that some pedestrians may “challenge” you to stop since they have the right-of-way in a crosswalk. Failure to yield to a pedestrian within a marked crosswalk is a violation of North Carolina law. **BE ALERT!**
- If you are making a turn with a green light, a pedestrian crossing with the same green light has the right-of-way.
- A pedestrian passing through an uncontrolled intersection has the right-of-way if they have entered the roadway, even if there is not a marked crosswalk.

For more information or to offer suggestions related to pedestrian safety, please call the Pedestrian Hotline at 843-PEDS (7337) or visit our website: www.dps.unc.edu/pedestrian.

This brochure is provided by the UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Public Safety as a means of educating the community it serves in order to make the University campus a safer place.

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Department of Public Safety
Information: 962-3951 Emergency: 911

