

Defensive driving on our campus requires a heightened level of awareness due to the constant interaction between pedestrians, bicyclists, scooters, buses, service vehicles, and personal vehicles in a confined environment.

College Campus Defensive Driving Best Practices

1. Drive at Safe and Appropriate Speeds

- Obey all posted speed limits.
- Reduce speed in high pedestrian areas, parking lots, residence halls, and academic zones.
- Be prepared to stop suddenly for pedestrians who may enter crosswalks unexpectedly.

2. Expect the Unexpected

- Assume pedestrians may be distracted by phones, headphones, or conversations.
- Anticipate bicyclists and scooter riders changing direction quickly.
- Be alert for students crossing between parked vehicles or outside designated crosswalks.

3. Maintain a Constant 360-Degree Awareness

- Continuously scan ahead, behind, and beside your vehicle.
- Check mirrors frequently.
- Monitor blind spots before changing lanes, turning, or backing.

4. Yield to Pedestrians

- Stop for pedestrians in marked and unmarked crosswalks when required.
- Never pass a vehicle stop at a crosswalk.
- Exercise extra caution around mobility-impaired individuals.

5. Eliminate Distractions

- Do not use handheld phones while driving.
- Avoid eating, adjusting controls, or using mobile devices.
- Focus solely on driving when operating a vehicle on campus.

6. Practice Safe Backing Procedures

- Avoid backing when possible.
- Use a spotter when available.
- Conduct a walk-around inspection before backing service, fleet, or utility vehicles.

7. Use Extra Caution Near Buses and Service Vehicles

- Watch for passengers entering or exiting buses.
- Allow adequate following distance behind large vehicles.
- Be aware of limited visibility areas around trucks and maintenance equipment.

8. Plan Ahead

- Allow extra travel time between destinations.
- Avoid rushing to meetings or appointments.
- Expect traffic congestion during class changes and special events.

9. Prepare for Weather and Environmental Conditions

- Reduce speed during rain, fog, or low-light conditions.
- Use headlights when visibility is reduced.
- Watch for slippery surfaces, leaves, and standing water.

10. Follow Parking Lot Safety Practices

- Drive slowly through parking lots.
- Yield to pedestrians and cyclists.
- Watch for vehicles backing from parking spaces.

Key Message for Campus Drivers

Drive as though every pedestrian, cyclist, scooter rider, and vehicle around you may make an unexpected move. Maintaining low speeds, scanning continuously, eliminating distractions, and anticipating hazards are the foundations of defensive driving on a college campus.



**Fleet
Management**

<https://facilities.gatech.edu/fleet-services>