



SAFETY
IN THE
CITY

Presented
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New York and the Surrounding Boroughs

Pratt students are statistically safer than the average city residents, who are safer than most other large city residents. However, this is a major city and is not without crime.



Awareness

- **Students need to be aware of their surroundings, walk with a positive bearing.**
- **Trust your instincts; if a situation makes you feel uncomfortable get away as quickly as possible, make casual eye contact with the person making you feel uncomfortable just to let them know you are aware of their presence.**



The Buddy System

- Travel in groups of two or more (the buddy system).
- Let a roommate or friend know where you are going and when you plan on returning.



Be Aware of Pickpockets

- Be aware of pickpocket situations — crowded areas e.g. subways.
- Men should carry wallets in front pants pocket.
- Women should use bags, pocketbooks etc. that zipper well; keep pocketbooks on your lap when in restaurants etc. Avoid placing purses or bags on the backs of chairs or under the table, carry your bag close to your body, tucked in the bend of your elbow. Avoid bags that clasp or snap shut.

Caution

- Beware of scam artists offering big returns for little or no money (often referred to as good faith money). If it seems too good to be true - IT IS.
- Also be aware of diversions that may distract your attention.



ATMs and Cash



- The best time to use ATMs is during the daylight hours.
- Bank ATMs are SAFER.
- Avoid ATM locations as shown here.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; avoid counting or displaying money on the street. Minimize the number of credit cards carried.
- Carry money for emergencies e.g. cab fare, quarters for phone calls

Traveling To and From



When traveling, plan your route ahead of time and know how to get to where you are going.

Knowing the Subways



- Subway stops with lit green globes are open 24 hours a day, red globes means entry is closed, red over white coloring is a metro-card only entrance. It is always a good idea to have a metro-card with a sufficient balance.



- Where possible, stay in the token booth area until your train arrives .

Knowing the Subways (CONTINUED)



- On the platform — look for a black and white striped board. That is where the car with the conductor will stop. You can also ride in the first car where the engineer is located.



- When entering a subway car look around. Does anyone make you feel uneasy if so move. Try sitting in the middle of the seat away from the doorway.
- Keep chains and jewelry hidden. Turn gemstones in toward your palms.

On the Streets

- On the street — Travel well-lit and populated areas. Avoid “short cuts”. If you must travel alone late at night, call someone at your destination to let them know you are coming and how long it will take you to arrive.
- If a car approaches you and asks for directions, speak with the occupants at a safe distance no matter what.



Consider Taxis or Car Service

- Yellow taxis are about \$25.00 to Manhattan.
- Call the local car service
New Bell Car Service
718-230-4499.
- Local trips should cost \$6.00 to \$10.00.



On the Streets (continued)



- If you feel you are being followed across the street, cross to the other side of the street. If you are still being followed, look for an open store, begin to run, call out “FIRE”!! or call out to someone on the street as if you know them.

Safety if You're Going Out to a Bar or Club

- Do not go out alone. Always go out in groups of 2 or more and travel in well-lit and populated streets.
- Tell your friends/roommates if you're leaving, with whom, where you're planning to go and when you'll see them back at home.



Safety if You're Going Out to a Bar or Club (CONTINUED)



- Do not accept open drinks (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) from others who you do not know or do not trust; this includes drinks that come in a glass.
- At parties, only accept drinks in close containers: bottles, cans or tetra packs.
- Never leave your drink unattended or turn your back on your table.
- Do not drink from open beverage sources like punch bowls, pitchers or tubs.

Safety if You're Going Out to a Bar or Club (CONTINUED)

- **Keep your eyes and ears open; if friends appear to be "too intoxicated" for what they have consumed, leave the party or club immediately, and return home or seek medical attention. Do not return to the club or party!**
- **Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times.**
- **Know where you need to go and the safest way to get there.**
- **Trust your instincts: If you sense something is wrong, get away from the situation.**

Safety on Campus



When in the library and study hall, eating facilities, etc. keep wallets, cell phones and laptops with you. This is the prime time this type of property will be stolen. Buy a laptop security cable and use it.

Safety on Campus (CONTINUED)

- **In your residence always close and lock your door even if leave for just a minute. Insist your roommate(s) do the same.**
- **Establish rules with your roommate(s) regarding visitors (above and beyond Pratt Housing rules).**

ENJOY NEW YORK

