

Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Pedestrian and Driver Safety Information
2018

Your safety is the University's No. 1 priority; pedestrian and traffic safety is an area of particular concern on a campus where people and vehicles share some of the same spaces. Please take a few minutes to read the information below, which is taken from Texas statutes, and learn what you can do to make Texas A&M University - Kingsville a safer place to live, learn and work. If you have more questions or want to comment or make a suggestion, call the University Police Department at 361-593-2611.

Pedestrians

Pedestrians should use caution when walking and running on campus and should at all times be aware of motor vehicles while crossing streets, driveways and parking lot entrances. Pedestrians should look both ways before crossing any road and should not assume that vehicle drivers have seen them or that they will stop. Pedestrians should be aware of what is happening around them and should not be texting or otherwise distracted while walking or running. If listening to music, lower the volume in order to hear possible warning sounds.

Crossing the street where the intersection is controlled by an electronic traffic control signal displaying green, red, and yellow lights or lighted arrows applies to a pedestrian. A pedestrian facing a green signal may proceed across a roadway within a marked or unmarked crosswalk unless the sole green signal is a turn arrow. A pedestrian facing a steady red signal alone or a steady yellow signal may not enter a roadway.

A pedestrian control signal displaying "Walk," "Don't Walk," or "Wait" applies to a pedestrian. A pedestrian facing a "Walk" signal may proceed across a roadway in the direction of the signal, and the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to the pedestrian. A pedestrian may not start to cross a roadway in the direction of a "Don't Walk" signal or a "Wait" signal. A pedestrian who has partially crossed while the "Walk" signal is displayed shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island while the "Don't Walk" signal or "Wait" signal is displayed.

Pedestrians have the right-of-way at crosswalks. The operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing a roadway in a crosswalk if no traffic control signal is in place or in operation and the pedestrian is on the half of the roadway in which the vehicle is traveling or approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.

A pedestrian may not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and proceed into a crosswalk in the path of a vehicle so close that it is impossible for the vehicle operator to yield. Pedestrians should pause to make sure that cross traffic is aware and yielding.

Crossing at a point other than a crosswalk. A pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to a vehicle on the highway if crossing a roadway at a place other than in a marked crosswalk or in an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection. Between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation, a pedestrian may cross only in a marked crosswalk. A pedestrian may

cross a roadway intersection diagonally only if and in the manner authorized by a traffic control device.

Use of sidewalk. A pedestrian shall proceed on the right half of a crosswalk if possible. A pedestrian may not walk along and on a roadway if an adjacent sidewalk is provided and is accessible to the pedestrian. If a sidewalk is not provided, a pedestrian walking along and on a roadway shall if possible walk on the left side of the roadway or the shoulder of the roadway facing oncoming traffic.

Driver's responsibilities while operating a vehicle

Drivers of motor vehicles shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian on a roadway, give warning by sounding the horn when necessary and exercise proper precaution on observing a child or an obviously confused or incapacitated person on a roadway.

The operator of a vehicle approaching from the rear of a vehicle that is stopped at a crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross a roadway may not pass the stopped vehicle.

The driver of a vehicle emerging from or entering an alley, building, or private road or driveway shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian approaching on a sidewalk extending across the alley, building entrance or exit, road, or driveway.

Drivers who observe pedestrians on a street or roadway or pedestrians approaching the street while using a sidewalk should slow down and watch for pedestrians who might step in front of their vehicle.

While vehicles have the right of way if a pedestrian crosses the street at any place other than a marked crosswalk, the driver still has a duty to avoid the pedestrian, so drivers must be prepared to stop if pedestrians step into the road where there is no crosswalk or from between parked vehicles.

Distracted Driving/Walking

Drivers of motor vehicles are prohibited from using wireless communication devices while operating a motor vehicle within a school-crossing zone, unless the vehicle is stopped or the wireless communication device is used with a hands-free device. The City of Kingsville ordinances prohibit the use of wireless communications devices while operating a vehicle.

Distracted walkers take longer to cross the street and are more likely to ignore traffic control devices and lights or neglect to look both ways while crossing the street.

Riding bicycles on campus

Bicyclists must observe the same laws as vehicles, including obeying traffic lights and signs, including direction of travel. Bicyclists should use hand signals when turning and stopping. Hand signals can be as simple as pointing for 5 seconds in the intended direction of travel.

Bicycles may be ridden on campus sidewalks if they are operated safely. Pedestrians have the right of way on sidewalks and bicyclists must yield to pedestrians.

The University Police Department encourages bicyclists to follow these safety tips:

- Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.
- Wear brightly colored or reflective clothing
- Attach lights and/or reflectors to the bike to help with visibility during poor weather conditions or at night.
- Always check for traffic before entering an intersection or crossing a road.
- Don't ride more than two abreast on roads.
- Don't use mobile devices or iPods that might interfere with your ability to hear or see oncoming traffic. Pull over and get off your bike to use them.
- Give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian.

Skateboards on campus

Skateboards being used for transportation are allowed on most campus sidewalks, as long as they are used safely; however, acrobatic maneuvers, stunts, trick riding and speed runs are prohibited on campus. Curbs, benches, steps, railings and similar objects have been damaged by skateboards.

Police recommend that skateboarders:

- Wear a helmet and other protection to avoid serious injury
- Avoid riding in areas where there are a lot of pedestrians
- Not ride in the street
- When using a skateboard, look both ways before crossing the street. Pedestrians have the right of way on sidewalks.

Driving golf carts and utility vehicles on campus

Drivers of golf carts and utility vehicles should adhere to the same traffic laws as cars and trucks. They must obey traffic signals and they should give pedestrians the right of way at crosswalks. They should avoid traveling on sidewalks or other walkways unless it is necessary for the task at hand (for instance, brush removal), and should make an audible signal when they are about to overtake pedestrians. Drivers also should signal their intention to stop or turn. If the vehicle is not equipped with signals they should use hand signals. **(Should we make reference to the cart driving guidelines?)**

Speed limit on campus

The speed limit on campus streets is 20 mph unless they are otherwise marked. Because of the pedestrian and bicycle traffic on campus it is not safe to drive faster than the speed limit. The speed limit in parking lots is 10 mph but less if pedestrians are present.