



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

Police Department

The University of Tennessee Police Department provides professional police services, while working with faculty, staff, and students to reduce criminal opportunity and community anxiety. UT police officers perform a variety of tasks that include: investigation of criminal activity, apprehension of criminals, accident and fire response, traffic enforcement, and security for special events. In addition, UTPD provides a variety of services to enhance safety, including safety training, property inventory and tracking, physical security assessments, and other public safety functions.

UTPD has the primary responsibility for safety of all UT-owned property. This includes academic buildings, residence halls, and green spaces on the UT campus. As part of this responsibility, UTPD responds to active calls for service as well as routine patrol functions on UT property. UTPD is responsible for crime reports and crime statistics that occur on UT property.

The Knoxville Police Department has the primary responsibility for crimes that occur on non-campus property such as Cumberland Avenue, all non-UT owned property in the Fort Sanders area, and other properties adjacent to the UT campus. KPD is responsible for crime reports and statistics that occur on non-campus property in the city of Knoxville.

UTPD and KPD have a memorandum of understanding in place regarding the joint investigation of serious incidents such as armed robbery. Both agencies, along with other law enforcement entities in the area such as the Knox County Sheriff's Office, may arrest offenders on campus property or in areas contiguous to the UT campus.

The department's main objective is to provide a safe campus for students, staff, faculty, and visitors. To accomplish this objective, they not only enforce the law, but also educate the members of our community on ways they can reduce their risk of becoming victims of crime.

The UT Police Department is made up of two Divisions. The Administrative Division consists of Accreditation Unit, Community Relations Unit, Communications, Investigations Unit, Recruitment, Records, Strategic Initiatives Unit, and Training and Technical Services. These sections contribute support and training to assist the department's overall police function. Budget and Payroll also fall under this division.

The Operations Division is the largest departmental division. Operations includes Campus Protection Specialists, Capital Escorts, Community Service Officers, K9 Unit, Motor Unit, Patrol, and Special Events. Patrol provides the highest level of security and public safety assistance twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. Whether officers patrol campus or the surrounding area in vehicles, bicycles, or on foot, they perform a wide variety of services. These services include, but are not limited to, responding to calls for service, writing reports, conducting preliminary investigations, checking the security of university property, and providing traffic enforcement and crowd control during special events. Select UTPD officers also serve in various partnership roles such as the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, and FBI Cybercrimes Task Force.

The Operations Division consists of sixty officers, including five lieutenants and six sergeants. All officers are certified in Tennessee as fully sworn commissioned law enforcement officers. UTPD officers enforce university rules, regulations, and state and local laws. University officers work closely with Knoxville Police Department and with other local, state, and federal agencies.

UTPD is accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. In all, UTPD demonstrates and is assessed on compliance with over 480 national standards for law enforcement. These accreditations demonstrate the department's high standards and commitment to promoting student safety and accountability through programming, information sharing and cooperation.

In 2020, even with the campus posture relative to the pandemic, UTPD responded to over 10,000 calls for service, completed 382 criminal reports, 222 crash (accident) reports, made 244 arrests, made 1,524 traffic stops, and issued 734 tickets. UTPD officers attended 4,292 hours of in-service training, 350 hours of specialized training, and worked a combined 18,528 hours of special events.