

The streets and sidewalks around the University of Rochester campuses are frequently busy with motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Crosswalks are established in the area to help provide safety zones for pedestrians. In recent years, many of the crosswalks have been enhanced with additional visual markings.



It's always dangerous to cross busy streets, although some are more dangerous than others. Crossing the streets and drives surrounding the UR Medical Center can be extremely dangerous.

We were taught as children to look both ways before crossing the street; however, crossing Elmwood, Crittenden or Kendrick can present particular challenges to our safety. Crossers have voiced concerns about these areas.

Pedestrians should be especially careful at intersections and drive exits from parking lots and garages, where drivers may fail to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians while turning onto another street. These are roads with high traffic

volumes, and their speeds are generally greater than on inter campus streets. Drivers are often concentrating on the other vehicles behind or ahead of them, or those turning in front of them. Always look left, right, and left again before crossing a street, and keep watching as you cross. Be aware that drivers have differing levels of eyesight and skill in operating motor vehicles. Sunlight or other window glare can reduce the drivers' ability to see you. Snow or rain will decrease the drivers' vision.

Make sure you are seen; to be safe, make eye contact with any driver whose path will cross yours, and proceed only when certain the car will stop. Wear bright colors or reflective clothing if you are walking or crossing near traffic at night. Carry a flashlight when walking in the dark, taking care not to shine it in a driver's eyes. Day or night, cross streets at intersections. Use and stay in the crosswalk; drivers are not expecting to see you elsewhere. According to the US Department of Transportation seventy percent of pedestrian fatalities occurred away from intersections, compared with 19% at intersections. Be ready for unexpected events. Know what's going on around you and don't allow your vision to be blocked by clothing, hats, or items that you are carrying. Keep alert at all times; don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road.

Be especially mindful of frost, snow or ice. Watch for black ice, which is difficult to distinguish but extremely slippery. Other things, such as spilled materials, can cause you to slip, trip or fall. Slippery conditions can prevent a vehicle from stopping or cause it to slide into you.

Watch the pedestrian signals, not the traffic signal, and follow the "WALK/DON'T WALK" lights (they're set up to help you cross safely). Look for pedestrian push buttons for crossing protection signalized intersections.



The WALKING PERSON symbol signal means that it is the pedestrians' turn to start crossing. However, pedestrians should always be on the lookout for motorists who are turning right or left across their crosswalk, or who may run the red light.

FLASHING ORANGE words or symbols warn that you should not start your crossing. Pedestrians in the street should continue to the other side or to a safety island. Pedestrians still on the curb should not try to cross because there is not enough time.

The STEADY ORANGE “ don’t walk” or upraised hand symbol comes on to warn people not to start across if they are still on the curb. If it comes on while you are crossing, continue walking to the other side of the street. Don’t try and beat the light.

The driver may not see you in time to stop, particularly if you are coming from the right and he is looking left for oncoming cars. On multi-lane roads, do not start across until vehicles in all lanes have stopped. If there is a median, make separate decisions about crossing each direction of traffic.

Remember that you’re not always safe in a cross walk. Painted lines do not protect you from harm, even if you have the legal right of way. Pedestrians have a specific duty to exercise care, caution, and good judgment for their protection. They should not leave a curb or other place of safety unless it is a proper crossing path and there is adequate distance for a motorist to stop and yield.