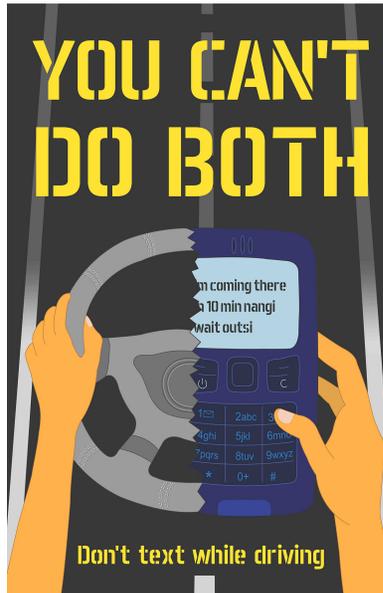




Driver distraction occurs when drivers divert their attention from the driving task to focus on some other activity.

Discussions regarding distracted driving center around cell phone use and texting; however, distracted driving also includes other distraction-related activities such as:

- Using a cell phone or
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Playing Video Games



Embracing hands-free technology promotes safer driving habits and reduces the risk of accidents, ultimately saving lives and making our roads safer for everyone.



For more safety tips visit Albany State University Police Department on the web at:



House Bill 673 also known as the “Hands Free Law” was passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Nathan Deal. The Hands Free Law took effect on July 1, 2018. The Hands-Free law in Georgia prohibits the following:

- Reading, writing or sending text messages or emails
- Taking photos or recording videos
- Using the Internet
- Posting on a social media
- Holding a phone in your hand or another part of your body

The use of cellphones will be allowed only when making emergency calls to report a traffic crash, criminal activity, fire, medical emergency or hazardous road conditions. Drivers will also be allowed to text if they are using technology that converts voice to text messages. Holding a phone at all while driving is prohibited; even when stopped for a traffic signal or stop sign.

Albany State University Police Department  
229-430-4711

# Distracted Driving

# 3,308

Number of People Killed  
by Distracted Driving in  
2022

According to the 2022 Georgia Distracted Driving Observational Survey, 16.8% of all drivers were observed to have some form of distraction while operating a motor vehicle. This suggests that at any point in time or location on Georgia roadways, at least 1 out of 6 drivers may be distracted.

Texting is one of the most alarming distractions while driving. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for an average of 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed. Let's prioritize safety on the road and commit to keeping our focus where it belongs: on safe driving

- 54 percent of all motor vehicle traffic crashes had at least one confirmed or suspected distracted driver.
- 29 percent of all serious injury crashes involved at least one driver confirmed or suspected of distraction.
- According to the 2022 Georgia Distracted Driving Observational Survey, 16.8 percent of all drivers were observed to have some form of distraction (i.e., talking, texting, dialing, or eating).
- 75 percent of all distraction related crashes involved at least one other vehicle besides the distracted driver.
- Since the Hands-Free Law took effect, the number of distracted driving convictions processed by the Department of Driver Services continues to increase.
- Drivers aged 15-to-24 years had the highest proportion of drivers involved in distraction related motor vehicle crashes and received more distracted driving citations after a crash compared to any other age group.



Your safety is our top priority here at Albany State University Police Department. As we navigate our daily routines, it's crucial to remember to prioritize safety, especially while driving.

We urge you to exercise caution and remain vigilant on the roads. Whether you're commuting to campus, running errands, or traveling for leisure, please keep these safety tips in mind:

- Buckle Up
- Stay Alert
- Obey Traffic Laws
- Watch for Pedestrians
- Avoid Impaired Driving
- Embrace Hands-Free Technology

Remember, every decision you make behind the wheel impacts not only your safety but also the safety of those around you. Let's work together to create a culture of safety on our roads and ensure that everyone arrives at their destination safely.

If you ever have concerns about safety or observe any suspicious activity, do not hesitate to contact the Albany State University Police Department by calling 229-430-4711. We're here to serve and protect you.

Play it Safe at Albany State!  
Make safe driving a priority in our campus community.

Albany State University

**POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**

229-430-4711

