

THE
REMOTELOCK
GUIDE TO



Improving Campus Security

for Colleges and Universities

Remote**LOCK**[™]

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Colleges and universities are unique places where adults of all ages can learn, explore subject matter, and collaborate to find answers to interesting problems. Especially for the universities with long, rich histories — modernizing the ways students, staff and faculty access spaces throughout the campus is a daunting task. But as big of an undertaking as it seems, campus administrators, facility managers, and resident services staff have a lot more to gain from modernizing the way people get into buildings and rooms. Even 20 years into this century, most college dorms are still accessed with traditional locks and keys.



Residence Halls

In personal spaces like residence halls, students often lose keys, which presents a liability to housing managers. When security hinges on lost key, students and parents can lose their confidence in safety. Access management platforms paired with smart locks allow housing facilitators to keep residents' room secure at all times through code management and the ability to instantly revoke or admit entry into doors. RAs can know that they won't have to let students in late at night.

Fraternity Buildings

Greek life living spaces are buildings that often have strict rules around visitation. There are times where it's important that only the members of a sorority or fraternity are allowed in their houses. Access control systems can be used to limit access to certain individuals and define rules around times of access, preventing the chance for abuses or incidents.

Streamlining Residence Hall Life with Smart Access Control

Doors are at the front of our minds and buildings when it comes to thinking about security. But there are many more doors in one of the most special types of campus buildings — residence halls. Residence halls can contain hundreds of doors that are accessed several times a day. Security of these doors is critical to protect the property and privacy of on-campus students and residents' security.

Many residence halls are still secured with antiquated technology like traditional locks and keys. A single lost key has safety, time, and cost repercussions. Students, residence managers and facility managers all benefit from employing an access control solution with smart locks.



Problem-Solving Hardware for Campus Residents

The typical residence hall is arranged with at least one main entrance. Within the hall, students live in dorm rooms, with typically two to a room. The average student will have a key that grants them access to their hall and room.

It's easy to imagine the risk of losing a single key. Losing the hall key makes it possible for anyone to access what is essentially the "house" of hundreds of students. Losing a room key leaves the property of two students vulnerable.

In addition to safety issues, losing a key is an inconvenience. If a student loses a key at the wrong time, such as late at night on a weekend, it can be difficult for him or her to get into the room or residence hall. In the case of losing a dorm entrance key, the burden is often left on their classmates to verify that their request for entry is valid.



Smart locks can provide a solution to all of the problems that residents experience. Smart locks can be accessed without keys, and allow for a variety of access methods. Students can use codes, key cards, key fobs or a combination of those to enter their building and room. With the right integration, students could even use an app to request access as needed.



Access Software for Easing the Burden on Housing Facilities Managers, Hall Directors and RAs

Lost keys also carry a hefty cost — both in time and resources. When students report lost keys, RAs are expected to be available to assist residents. Residence directors also have to move quickly to replace their keys. This process often involves rekeying locks, administering new keys to students, and documenting that the process occurred. Facilities workers need to be deployed to carry out the work, and additional staff have to ensure that students pay for losing their keys.

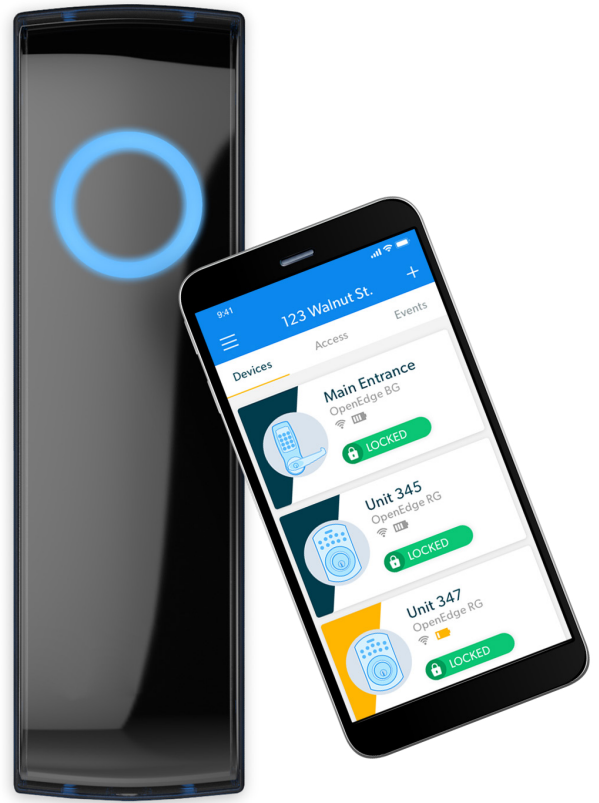
Key loss, then, is costly in a number of ways. There are the direct costs of key and lock replacement, but also the external costs of having housing staff break from their normal work flows to attend to the replacement process. Facilities and housing departments stand to save greatly from employing a system for security that eliminates the need for traditional keys.



Smart locks provide the technology to physically secure rooms and buildings, but software can be used to streamline the execution of securing and allowing access to residence halls. Residence directors or facilities managers can easily manage who has access to any lock, and when they can access it. This eliminates the cost and time of key replacement.

Combining Hardware and Software for a Complete Solution

Campus Life facility managers looking to make security easier for themselves and their residents can find an answer in a combination of smart lock technology and the access control software that can manage it. Smart locks that don't rely on handling keys makes it easier for students to take control of their own security, and access control software gives residence hall staff the ability to preserve resources and reduce costs.



Controlling Student Access During Breaks

When students go on break, there is usually a limited closure of facilities like residence halls and gyms. Depending on the school, the expectation is that students will stay off campus. However, reality doesn't often reflect this. It often happens that a minority of students live on or near campus during breaks. Additionally, campuses are less staffed during breaks. There are less residence advisors to monitor dorms, staff to maintain buildings and security to monitor the campus.

Because of the break in staffing, facilities are vulnerable to being exploited. Regardless of intent, students will attempt to use the resources they're accustomed to having access to. If the proper access control system isn't in place, students are free to potentially roam buildings and facilities not intended for use.



Summer Presents Unique Security Challenges

The potential security issues that shorter breaks present are compounded during the summer. Many colleges and universities repurpose their facilities and dormitories for the non-academic public. Sports camps, conference attendants and symposium guests staying on campus could unwittingly trespass into a building where they're not supposed to be, and outsiders could exploit the reduced security presence on campus. When campuses are equipped with smart locks and access control, a visitor with access to a residence hall will be limited to the dorm. With a smart access control system, campus officials can prevent trespassing.

Balancing Access and Safety

Maintaining a Safe Open Culture

Academic institutions have an inherent culture of being open and sharing; this culture makes them great place to learn. It's important though to realize that there is a sense of security that supports that culture. University leaders are expected to protect a diverse set of important people and property. Academic departments should be able to establish a security system that keeps their doors open when it's time, but also creates clear guidelines for when they're locked. Modern access control platforms provide the means to create a schedule that defines times for access. This allows facility managers to set clear guidelines for usage that benefit students and faculty alike.



Adhering to Research Safety Standards

Ensuring the safety of students, staff and faculty alike is a primary concern for colleges that conduct potentially dangerous research. Where scientific research is a primary function of an institution, hazardous chemicals and equipment are often present in some of the same buildings where students have class. Universities will often have a single building for a research area like chemistry or biology. Classrooms in these settings are adjacent to labs and storage areas, which presents a risk for those who manage the building. The incentive for ensuring that only the most necessary personnel have access to dangerous chemicals and materials. A code-based access system can ensure that only the right people have access to sensitive areas at all times.

Ensuring Campus Security During Emergencies

Lockdowns in the event of active shooter situations are frequent discussion points for campus security. Wired access control systems should offer a single button lock down in the event of a school emergency. This is more viable for common areas where there are large gatherings or the exterior doors of buildings to prevent migration across campus. These doors are typically part of a wired access control systems where the connection is always available to assure immediate response from the lock.

Considerations on these systems should include overrides to normal lock scheduling as no campus would wish for doors to be locked in an emergency at 7:45 a.m. simply to have scheduled door openings at 8:00 a.m. that open secured areas. The policies and practices governing when and by whom a lockdown is executed should be crystal clear to avoid any hesitation for the accountable team members of hitting that button when necessary. As access control systems are being implemented, future-proofing capabilities need to be compatible with technology advancements. They should enable more specific lockdowns or unlocks allowing egress to escaping students.



Sensitive Areas Worth Protecting

The college environment is a hotbed for many controversial issues. From interpersonal violence to property damage, campuses are places where incidents are bound to occur. Campus administration and facilities managers should be able to change the security orientation of their buildings at a moment's notice to keep students, faculty, and staff safe.





Using Access Control to Expand College Facility Hours

Students have easy access to a variety of campus facilities like food halls, labs, libraries and gyms. Many have the comfort of not needing to venture far from campus to get what they need.

The benefits they enjoy come at a great cost to their institution. Leaders and administrators of colleges and universities are constantly grappling with staffing and management concerns associated with keeping resources secure and open for students.

Transitioning to a software-based access management solution can ease the burden campus facilitators and administrators have in making decisions about the future of places and services. Equipped with building usage metrics, they can make justified calls about the availability of certain resources.

Coping with Staffing Challenges

Job placement is a unique problem for college universities. To keep costs low, many college facilities are supported by a regular workforce and bolstered by student labor. Universities have to be creative about getting the right employees to work in the buildings and halls that students occupy, especially ones with long open hours like libraries.

Libraries are a typical example. They are one of the most crucial campus buildings on campus for student development, but they often experience lulls in usage. Those downtimes don't make them any less important to people that use its resources. Universities can save a lot of money over the long term by keeping their libraries open without an attendant. With a smart lock system and software that can manage thousands of users, facilities managers can know that the library is secure, and understand if there's a need to increase hours.

Justifying Resource Expansion with Better Access Measurement

Academic institutions would benefit from measuring the use of their facilities. Departments often report this information upward in their organization for better future decision making. The problem with traditional methods of measuring use is that it usually takes the form of a single attendant who is staffed at all times, manually logging people as they arrive. This can be costly over the course of an academic year. In a library equipped with smart locks, access control software can log late night visitors. If facility managers see high entrances late at night, it could be a sign that they should extend open hours later into the night. With an efficient means of measuring and reporting resource usage, campus leaders can more easily make the case for expanding hours and reducing the need for ever-present attendants.



Smart Lock Tech on College Campuses

Institutions of all sizes are already employing access management solutions on their campuses. There is a wide array of technologies being implemented to secure buildings and facilities across colleges and universities. From key card access utilizing magnetic strips and radio frequency identification to PIN-based security systems, there's a way to integrate an access control solution with any credential type with the same amount of ease.

Smart Locks that Use Pin Codes

Colleges and universities need to be secure given that they are accessed by a variety of people who often don't know each other. A sense of security is often a major factor for students and parents when choosing a college.

Similarly to key cards, there's no stopping students from sharing their access or pin code. There is an extra layer of security since the knowledge can't be stolen, but some could naively write down their pin code on a post-it note and leave it on their desk.



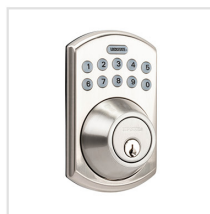
With smart locks connected to a cloud-based access system, doors can be locked and unlocked remotely. Even students or staff who have an access code may not be able to enter if the locks are overridden, giving facility managers more power to regulate when a building can be accessed — no matter which credential type is used.



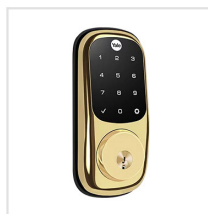
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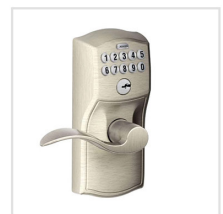
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OpenEdge RG



Yale
Assure



Kwikset
Smartcode



Schlage
Z-Wave Deadbolt

Smart Locks that Use Key Cards

A reliable access system is important — not only to protect physical assets and keep students safe, but to also ensure that they have access when and where they need it.

Key cards systems use a magnetic stripe or RFID (radio frequency identification) to grant access. Cards, which are usually the size of a credit card, can fit inside a wallet or pocket where they can become demagnetized or damaged. Sometimes it will take multiple swipes or tries for the reader to recognize the card. Card readers are also typically wired into a central controller that can lose the ability to manage access during a power outage.



Key cards have to be managed on an individual basis, so there's usually a method for tracking usage. To prevent unauthorized access with lost, borrowed or stolen cards, they can be used in conjunction with a keypad at the entrance.

What is RFID?

RFID communication takes place between a reader and a tag. When used in a security system, they work together to establish credentials for access. While the receiver is usually connected to a power source, the chip is not, and actually receives power through the induction it gets from being near the receiver.

Contactless card access is a proven method for making access easy, it does have its flaws. For those willing to bypass the system, they can do so by “cloning” card credentials of a known user and access managers wouldn't be able to know that security has been compromised. If your system requires RFID authentication and a pin entered into a keypad, it provides much stronger security.



Choose Smarter Smart Locks



Most smart locks are battery-powered, which can be a drawback of these types of access systems, but there are ways to mitigate the risk of dead batteries.

Batteries can typically last over a year with regular usage — often longer if the smart lock uses “heart-beat” technology to put locks into a standby mode until activated by a user.

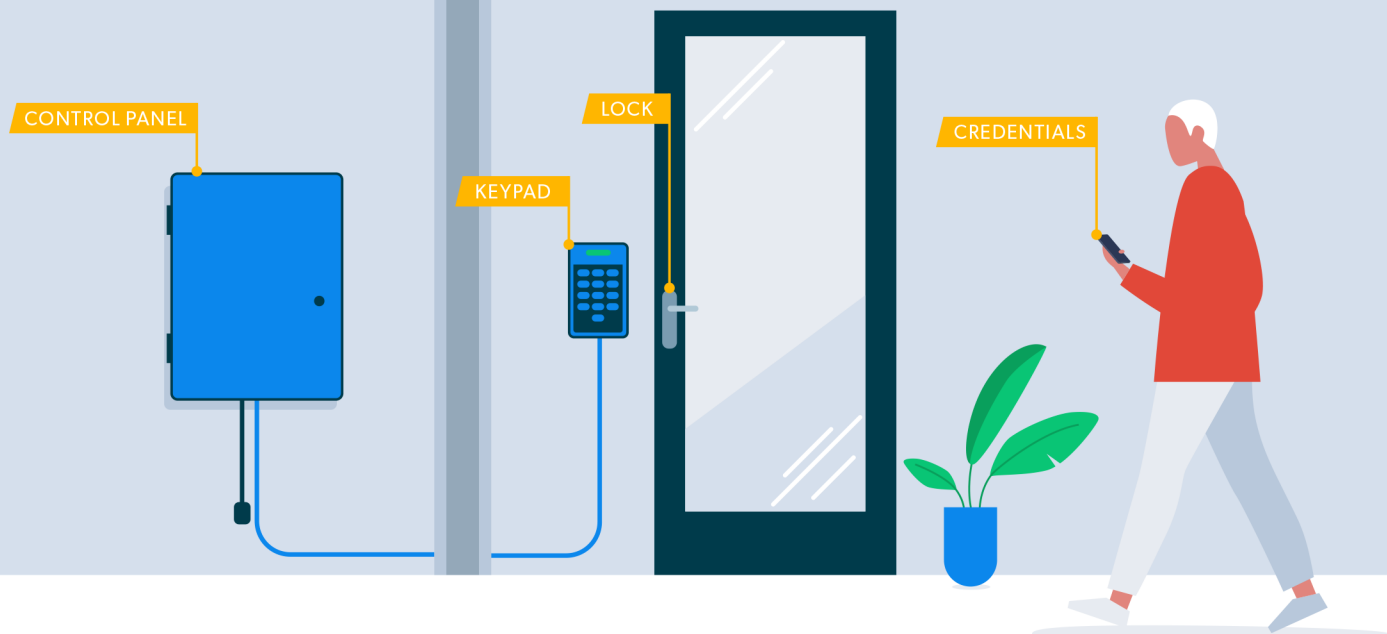


This is especially useful in libraries, which don’t get much traffic after-hours or on weekends. Many smart lock systems also monitor battery levels and can send alerts when batteries become low. The greatest advantage to being battery-powered is that the smart lock maintains security and holds the necessary information to allow appropriate access, even when the power is out.

Have a Backup Method for Unlocking Your Smart Lock

While smart locks are primarily controlled by a cloud-based access control system, most smart locks have a deadbolt that can be manually overridden with a key. While it’s not ideal to have to manage keys for every building or dorm room on campus, having backup keys ensures that resident assistants or facility managers can always gain access to a space in case the batteries have died.

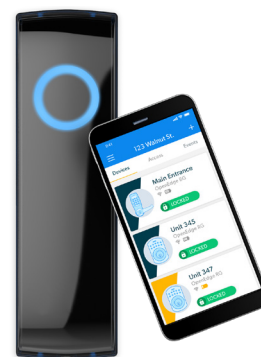




RemoteLock is the leader in Wi-Fi enabled smart locks and access controls systems.

Many colleges and universities still rely on old-fashioned locks. Locks are the clear first defense for protecting people and property, but many facilities managers have yet to tap into the access management and measurement capabilities that modern smart locks and access control systems enable.

Smart locks can empower academic institutions to efficiently secure their students, staff, and property, but access control software is what makes that possible at scale. EdgeState is the cloud-based smart lock software that gives facilities managers complete control over access to buildings and other entryways — from a single, cloud-based dashboard in a browser or in the EdgeState app.



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Contact a RemoteLock representative to see how EdgeState can help your institution remotely control and manage access.

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