Annual Notification from the Dean of Students

Welcome UNI Students,

I hope you have had a successful start to the fall semester and that you are enjoying your experiences at the University of Northern Iowa.

Various state and federal laws require the University of Northern Iowa to provide information and notice to you on a variety of policies and procedures. You should receive this message only once each semester. Please review and retain this message for future reference. Consumer information that is required by law to be made available may be found here.

It is your responsibility to know and follow current requirements and procedures at all levels of the university. Information about key resources, student conduct policies, student rights, and other matters affecting you are described in detail in the Student Conduct Resources.

EMERGENCY ALERT

The UNI Alert System notifies you of emergencies and threats: tornado, violence, hazardous material incident, cancelled classes, university closure, etc. Notification is by cell phone, landline phone, e-mail and/or text-message. If you want to change your emergency contact information, log in to MyUNIverse and click on “Update My Personal Information/UNI Alert” tab. You are the only person who can update this information. Please review it carefully. You are encouraged to update your UNI Alert notification to text messages, as you are likely to receive these the quickest.

EMAIL

All students are provided with a UNI email account. All official UNI communications, including u-bill notifications, are sent to your UNI email account, so it is important that it is checked often. Email is considered an official form of communication with you. If you want to forward your UNI email to another account, click here.

CRIME AWARENESS & CAMPUS SAFETY
UNI publishes an Annual Security & Fire Report. The report contains information regarding campus safety and security including crime prevention, crime reporting policies, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual assault and student disciplinary procedures. The report also contains the three previous years' crime and fire statistics for on-campus locations and certain off-campus locations owned or controlled by UNI. To obtain a copy of the report, visit the UNI Public Safety, 030 Gilchrist Hall, 273-2712 or click here.

RECORDS AND PRIVACY

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (also referred to as FERPA) guarantees you certain rights with respect to your educational records.

You have four basic rights under FERPA, which include:

• To be notified of your FERPA rights at least annually.
• To inspect and review your records.
• To amend an incorrect record.
• To not have records disclosed without your consent (with exceptions).

A school may disclose, without consent, "directory information," such as your name, address, telephone number, birthday, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. For more information related to FERPA at UNI, click here.

SEXUAL ASSAULT, TITLE IX, & MISCONDUCT CONCERNS

The University of Northern Iowa is committed to providing a safe living and learning environment for you. Maintaining this type of environment requires that any sexual behavior of students be consensual. The university provides comprehensive support and services for students harmed by violence, and works toward creating an environment that is intolerant of violence and supportive of victims. Special emphasis is placed on violence prevention, providing support for those who may have been victimized, and ensuring a vigorous enforcement of institutional policy and law. The following resources are available to you:

Safety Website

• Provides information on the Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy, how to file a report and options for support.

Violence Intervention Services, 104 Wellness Recreation Center, 273-2137

• Provides confidential advocacy for survivors of sexual assault, sexual misconduct, stalking, domestic violence, and other forms of relationship violence.

Riverview Center, (888) 557-0310

• Offers confidential advocacy for sexual assault victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Waypoint Services, (800) 208-0388

• Offers confidential advocacy for relationship violence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
UNI Police, 30 Gilchrist Hall, 273-2712

• Assists students in determining whether a crime was committed and what options are available for a victim to pursue.

Title IX Officer, Office of Compliance and Equity Management, 117 Gilchrist, 273-2846

• UNI encourages those who have experienced any form of sexual harassment or assault to report the incident to the Title IX Officer or any of the Title IX Deputy Coordinators. Separate criminal charges may be pursued by contacting UNI Police at 273-2712.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As a student at the University of Northern Iowa, you are responsible for upholding the values of the Student Conduct Code: honesty, respect, and responsibility. You are ensured due process and fair treatment through an educational conduct process that informs you of your rights as members of the university community and educates you about the responsibilities you have to yourself and the other members of the university community.

The following policies outline the rights and responsibilities for you:

• Academic Ethics
• Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct
• Drugs and Alcohol
• Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination
• Accommodations of Disabilities
• Violations of Digital Copyrights (e.g. music, video, gaming, downloads, etc.)
• Student Rights
• Student Conduct Code
• Records and Privacy
• Use of Computer Resources

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the University, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination by the University. This applies to all aspects of campus activities including employment, education, student programming, and services provided to the community at-large.

If you are pregnant or parenting, you cannot be excluded from participating in any part of UNI’s educational program (academic or extracurricular). You must be treated in the same way that we treat similarly situated students who have temporary medical conditions. Absences related to pregnancy or childbirth must be excused for as long as your physician deems it medically necessary. When you return to school, you must be allowed to return to the same academic or extracurricular status as before you began your medical leave.

In order to arrange accommodations, contact Student Disability Services.
FINANCIAL AID

Penalties for drug law violations. A conviction for any offense, during a period of enrollment for which you are receiving Title IV, HEA program funds, under any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs will result in the loss of eligibility for any Title IV, HEA grant, loan, or work-study assistance (HEA Sec. 484(r)(1); (20 U.S.C. 1091(r) (1)).

Permission for “Federal Aid to Apply to Miscellaneous Charges.” Federal financial aid will automatically be applied to all tuition, mandatory fees, and housing/meal plans that are contracted through the university. If you want to have your federal aid also pay for your miscellaneous charges, you must give your consent online.

Sign-up for Direct Deposit. The University of Northern Iowa requires that all excess financial aid refunds and all other credit balances from your University bill be electronically deposited at the financial institution of your choice. This effort is to provide faster refunds, reduce mailing errors, and lower costs. For prompt processing of your refund, go to MyUNIverse > Finances > Direct Deposit Sign-up. You will need to provide your bank account information to complete the setup of direct deposit.

VETERAN STUDENT SERVICES

The Military and Veteran Student Services Center is available to support military members, veterans, and their families at UNI. You can contact the MVSS Center at 273-3040 or stop by 111 Maucker Union to visit.

LGBT* CENTER

The LGBT* Center supports LGBT students and allies. The LGBT* Center provides a safe space, resources, and educational opportunities to advocate for an inclusive community. You can contact the LGBT* Center at 273-5428 or stop by 111 Maucker Union to visit.

STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES

Learning new ways to lead a healthy, balanced life as a UNI student is as easy as reading Student Health 101 (SH101), a free monthly e-magazine offered by Student Wellness Services. Each interactive issue covers topics that impact student success, such as sleep habits, working out, body image, mental health, stress, and money management. By reading SH101, you can become more connected to UNI and stay updated on upcoming wellness events on campus. View the magazine and click on the SH101 logo.

GRIEVANCES

You have the right to seek resolution of academic and student employment grievances, disagreements, and complaints according to the policies outlined below:

• Academic Grievances
• Graduate Assistant Grievances
• Student Employee Grievances

RESOURCES FOR ALCOHOL & DRUG USE CONCERNS

There are many preventative and supportive services for you concerning alcohol and other drug use. All of these services are confidential. You may seek consultation when you are concerned about your own substance use or that of a partner, family member or friend, or about a recent incident/arrest.
Substance Abuse Services, 104 Wellness Recreation Center, 273-3423
• For consultation and referrals, substance abuse evaluations, and educational interventions.

Counseling Center, 103 Student Health Center, 273-2676
• Provides individual and group counseling, consultations, and referrals.

Student Health Clinic, 016 Student Health Center, 273-2009
• Offers evaluation of injuries, general medical care, urgent care, and pharmacological therapies.

ALCOHOL & DRUG POLICY

It is the policy of the University of Northern Iowa and the Board of Regents to provide a drug-free workplace and learning environment. Alcohol and drug abuse pose a threat to the health and safety of University faculty, staff, students, and visitors. In compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the University of Northern Iowa is committed to the elimination of drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace. Alcohol and drug prevention programs include policy enforcement, education programs, and treatment services. The full policy may be found here.

If you violate this policy you may receive any of a number of sanctions, including an official warning, conduct probation, suspension, expulsion, or referral for prosecution and may be required to pay for any damages you caused. Depending upon the circumstances, participation in an educational program and/or a treatment program may also be required.

IOWA LAWS CONCERNING ALCOHOL

State law prohibits:
• Consuming or possessing an alcoholic beverage in a public place
• Possessing an open or unsealed container in a motor vehicle within the immediate reach of the driver
• Public intoxication or pretending to be intoxicated
• Giving or selling alcohol to someone under age 21 or who is intoxicated
• Lending or permitting someone to use your driver's license so that they can obtain alcohol

Each of the above violations is a simple misdemeanor offense punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment and a fine of at least $50, but not more than $500.

Fake ID:
Anyone under 21 who alters, displays, or possesses a fictitious or fraudulently altered license and uses it to purchase alcohol can lose their driver's license for up to 6 months.

Minor in Possession (MIP):
It is illegal to consume, possess or purchase alcohol if you are under 21.
• First Offense MIP - $200 fine + court costs and surcharge = $330
• Second Offense MIP - $500 fine AND completion of a substance abuse evaluation or driver's license revocation for up to one year

• Third or subsequent Offense MIP - $500 fine and license suspension for up to one year

Operating While Intoxicated (OWI):

• Deferred Judgment is available only to a first offender who was not involved in a personal injury crash, who consented to the test and whose test result was less than .15.

• Jail/Prison and Fine Minimums:
  o 1st offense - 48 hours jail / $1,250 fine (reductions possible)
  o 2nd offense - 7 days jail / $1,850 fine
  o 3rd offense - 30 days jail or commit to prison (5 years maximum) / $3,125 fine

• Driver's License Sanctions:
  o .02 violation (applies to persons under 21) - revocation of 60 days, second or subsequent violation is 90 days, no work permit is provided plus $200 victim reparation fee and $40 reinstatement fee
  o 1st offense (defendant consented to test) - revocation of 180 days
  o Subsequent violations result in harsher sanctions up to losing your vehicle.

HEALTH RISKS OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION:

• Violence: Fights, vandalism, sexual assaults, homicide, and suicide are far more likely when drinking is involved.

• Unprotected sex: Safer sex practices are often abandoned when drinking, which can result in unplanned pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted disease infection

• Serious injury: Most fatal automobile accidents involve alcohol use.

• Death from overdose.

• Addiction: If you have a family history of addiction, you have significantly increased risk for addiction.

• Lowered resistance to disease/illness.

• Increased risk of ulcers, heart disease, and multiple forms of cancer.

• Alcohol consumption during pregnancy can cause a range of physical deformities, brain damage and mental retardation.

HEALTH RISKS OF ILLEGAL DRUGS:

Marijuana: Possible long-term effects include apathy, lung disease, heart disease, stroke cancer and addiction. Marijuana use significantly impairs driving skills.

Stimulants: Possible long-term effects include anxiety, confusion, insomnia and psychotic symptoms, such as paranoia. Stimulants increase wakefulness and physical activity and decrease appetite. An overdose can be lethal.

Hallucinogens: Possible long-term effects include flashbacks & psychosis. The effects of hallucinogens are unpredictable and can vary dramatically based upon setting/environment. During "bad trips", the user generally feels panicked, confused, paranoid, and out of control.
SALES AND SOLICITATION

Sales persons or agents for any product, service, proposition, or cause are prohibited from soliciting employees or students on University property or by campus mail systems. This prohibition applies to employees and students as well as off-campus organizations and individuals. The full policy can be read here.

GENERAL CONCERNS & QUESTIONS

Office of the Dean of Students, 118 Gilchrist Hall, 273-2332

The Office of the Dean of Students is committed to helping you succeed. We value and support the rights of individuals to express views and opinions, to associate freely with others, and to live, work, and assemble peacefully. Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you and have a great semester!

--

The Office of the Dean of Students
University of Northern Iowa
118 Gilchrist Hall
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0010

Tel: 319.273.2332
Fax: 319.273.5832
deanofstudents@uni.edu
www.uni.edu/deanofstudents

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Disclaimer: If you are not the intended recipient of this message, please know it contains privileged and confidential information. Any disclosure or copying of this communication or use of its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me immediately by return email or by calling the above phone number and delete this message from your system. Thank you.