



NIU
NORTHERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

**SPOTLIGHT ON
STUDENT SAFETY**
awareness is the key to preventing crime.



Colleges and universities are safe places. That's good news, but it can often lead to students letting down their guard. While we do all we can to help protect you, there's nothing more vital to your safety than personal vigilance and common sense.

PERSONAL SAFETY:

Program an ICE (In Case of Emergency) number into your cell phone. Under the name "ICE," type in an emergency contact number. If you're injured or unresponsive, anyone can use your phone to contact that person.

WHEN WALKING:

Avoid walking alone after dark. If you absolutely have to walk alone, walk purposefully, know where you're going, and project a confident image.

Be aware of your surroundings — Don't wear headphones or use other electronics that distract you.

- Tell people where you're going and when you expect to return.
- Keep to well-lit, busy routes.
- Avoid shortcuts and areas that are isolated or hidden by dense shrubbery.
- If you feel uneasy, cross the street, locate an emergency phone, or enter a place of business, even if you just left it.
- Don't carry a lot of cash or credit cards.
- Know where emergency phones are located.

IN THE CAR:

- Have your keys ready as you approach your vehicle, and look inside before getting in. Once inside, lock doors and roll up windows.
- While driving, never leave your purse or other valuables on the seat next to you. Always leave your car in gear while stopped, and leave room to maneuver between yourself and other stopped vehicles.
- Never allow another vehicle to follow you home. If you feel you're being followed, drive to the nearest place of business where people are present, and call the police.
- Park in well-lit areas, and always lock your vehicle. Lock valuables in the trunk, or hide them under the seats.

AT YOUR RESIDENCE:

BE PREPARED

- Keep emergency numbers next to the phone and program them into your cell phone.

LOCK YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS

- Many burglaries take place when students leave their doors unlocked, or open, while leaving their rooms unattended. It only takes a few seconds for a thief to get in and out — with your stuff!
- Lock up when you're alone or asleep (first-floor windows, too).
- Don't leave messages on your door announcing that you're gone and when you'll be back.
- Keep your blinds pulled at night and when you're out so thieves can't see what's "available" to them.

KEYS

- Report lost or stolen keys immediately.
- Don't leave keys in hiding places — carry them with you.
- Don't attach your keys to anything that contains your IDs, including your NIU OneCard.

SMART SAMARITAN

Don't pull over to help someone in a stopped or disabled vehicle, especially at night or on a deserted road. Call for help, and keep driving.

This may seem obvious, but — seriously — never pick up hitchhikers!




Free — no questions asked:
Late Night Ride is available daily from
10 pm to 5:30 am by calling (815) 753-2222.

The Huskie Student Patrol is available for
"Walk Safe" escorts Monday-Friday,
from 6 pm to 2 am.
Just call (815) 753-9658.



RESIDENCE HALLS

- Keep a copy of the NIU Emergency Guide in a place where you can get your hands on it fast.
- Don't endanger yourself and others by propping open outer doors to the building. (If you see this, un-prop it and/or report it immediately to the hall staff.)
- Don't open your door without first checking to see who's there, and don't let a stranger into your room, onto your floor, or into the building.
- Immediately report any security violation or hazard in or around the residence halls. This includes solicitors, anyone who is not a resident or escorted guest, or suspicious-looking individuals.



Use appropriate caution, especially at night or at times of low traffic, when going to remote or dimly lit areas in or around buildings (basements, laundry rooms, parking lots, etc.).

PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES:

- Don't leave money, wallets, checkbooks, jewelry, or other valuables in open view.
- Install a safety lock or tracker on your laptop.
- Huskie Bucks and meal plans on your NIU OneCard are not protected with a PIN.

BIKE THEFT:

- Register your bike with the NIU Police.
- Always lock your bike, even if you're just leaving it for a few minutes.
- Lock your bike to a bike rack, or other immovable object, in a well-lit area.
- Use a good quality lock such as a hardened alloy U-shaped lock.
- Use quick-release tires or bike seats.
- Always remove or secure your components and accessories.

OPERATION IDENTIFICATION



You can register your bike and other valuables with the NIU Police, and use their engraving equipment.
Contact University Police
375 Wirtz Drive (next to the Health Services bldg.)
Phone: (815) 753-1212



INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE:

If you or a friend have experienced any of the following, consider talking with someone at the Counseling & Student Development Center, Health Services, Judicial Affairs, or NIU Police:

- Sexual Assault — forced penetration or penetration without your permission of any orifice of your body by another person.
- Sexual Abuse — intentional sexual touching or fondling by another person without your permission.
- Date/Acquaintance Rape — sexual assault committed by someone you know: It includes forced, manipulated, or coerced sexual contact.
- Domestic Violence — emotional and verbal abuse as well as hitting, throwing things, and other physical aggression: It often occurs between people who have an ongoing relationship.

STALKING:

Stalking is the willful and repeated following or harassing of another person that threatens his or her safety or causes emotional distress. It's important to contact the police at the first sign of harassment so that information can be gathered and documented. Common elements of stalking include:

- Annoying or threatening phone calls and/or e-mails
- Unwanted letters or gifts
- Showing up uninvited at the victim's home, place of work, or class
- Taking photos or spying on the victim, intimidating or threatening the victim



SEXUAL HARRASSMENT:

Any unwelcome sexual advance or request for sexual favor made by an executive, administrative staff or faculty member to a student, or any conduct of a sexual nature that substantially interferes with the student's educational performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

SELF PROTECTION:

- There's strength in numbers. Go to parties or clubs with a friend, and be responsible for each other. Have a pre-planned signal to let your friend know that you want to leave or need help.
- Don't use alcohol or any other substance to that extent that it could hinder your ability to verbally or nonverbally offer consent; according to Illinois state law, consent cannot be given when a person is intoxicated with alcohol, unconscious, or asleep.
- Trust your gut instinct. Guard your personal space. If someone makes you uncomfortable, never hesitate to remove yourself from the situation or ask for help.

DATE RAPE DRUGS

Drugs such as GHB, Rohypnol (roofies), and Ketamine (Special K) are odorless and tasteless, making it easy for someone to slip them into your drink. The impact? A 4-6 hour sedated state that will make you lose inhibitions, succumb to drowsiness, slur your speech, and forget what happens.

Never leave a drink unattended.
Never drink from common sources, such as punch bowls.
Never accept drinks from strangers.



- End the night early if your date becomes drunk or abusive. No one deserves physical or emotional abuse — NO ONE.
- Learn self defense from a licensed professional instructor. If you choose to carry a chemical spray, take necessary classes.

GUNS ON CAMPUS:

FIREARMS OF ANY KIND ARE BANNED from all campus property. This includes BB guns, shotguns, rifles, handguns, and pellet guns. Only individuals with written permission from NIU Police may carry a weapon. **If you see a gun, report it to NIU Police immediately. Your vigilance contributes to the safety of our entire campus community.**

CRIME IN PROGRESS:

Your response to a violent person, to someone with a weapon, or to an active shooter will depend upon circumstances at the time. The following tips are easy to remember in such a situation, but remember that improvisation is critical when dealing with dangerous circumstances. Most important — *always do whatever is necessary to survive.*

- Escape if you can. **RUN** away if possible, and call 911 once you're safe.
- If you can't escape, then **HIDE** if you can do so safely — preferably where you'll have protection from the firing of a weapon. Call 911 only if you will not reveal your position.
- If you can't run or hide, then you should **FIGHT** with everything you have until you have an opening to escape, help arrives, or your attacker is defeated.
- Notify the police as soon as it's safe to do so, and provide as much information as possible (see next page). If you're in a group, only one of you should call 911.
- Once you're safe, remain where you are until you receive the "All Clear" from a trusted source — preferably the police or an emergency service provider.



The following statistics were compiled by NIU University Legal Services in cooperation with the NIU Department of Police and Public Safety, campus officials having responsibility for oversight of student activities, and relevant local and state police agencies.

	Northern Illinois University DeKalb			University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign			University of Illinois Chicago			Southern Illinois University Carbondale			Illinois State University		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	Aggravated Assault	7	7	10	0	25	8	14	21	43	15	13	11	25	3
Arson	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	4	0
Burglary /Thefts	67	66	46	121	83	85	19	28	16	163	135	84	31/ 212*	39/ 179*	29/ 167*
Drug Law Violations	36	44	44	104	104	103	N/A	N/A	N/A	118	100	126	77	59	51
Liquor Law Violations	123	50	47	371	371	292	N/A	N/A	N/A	84	46	48	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Northern Illinois University DeKalb			University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign			University of Illinois Chicago			Southern Illinois University Carbondale			Illinois State University		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	Motor Vehicle Theft	4	0	2	10	12	15	20	9	12	0	4	6	1	0
Murder	0	0	5**	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	4	3	2	11	12	15	27	26	19	11	8	10	3	1	1
Sex Offenses	10	19	12	16	24	21	5	1	9	15	18	12	11	2	0
Weapons Charges	1	0	3	7	8	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	21	12	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

All data obtained from Clery Act federal reporting on university websites. Statistics reflect offenses committed on campus, including on-campus residence halls. Illinois State University's data includes a total of offenses reported to police.

*includes crimes listed as thefts

** Five students died in a single act of violence on February 14, 2008.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

1. Gender
2. Ethnicity
3. Age
4. Height
5. Weight
6. Build

CLOTHING DESCRIPTION

1. Hat
2. Coat
3. Shirt
4. Pants
5. Socks & Shoes
6. Jewelry & Accessories

FACIAL DESCRIPTION

1. Shape
2. Forehead
3. Eyes & Brow
4. Cheeks & Jaw
5. Complexion
6. Distinguishing Marks

TIPLINE:

You can call Tipline at (815) 753-TIPS to report information about illegal activities and/or violations of the NIU Student Code of Conduct, without revealing your name. If your tip leads to an arrest or a finding of a violation of the NIU Student Code of Conduct, you'll get a cash reward.

BE A RELIABLE WITNESS:

If you should become a victim of a crime, or you observe a crime being committed, an accurate description will help the police identify the perpetrator. Remember the following pointers:

- Pay attention to distinguishing features such as birthmarks, tattoos, scars, moles, or facial characteristics. Start from the head and work downward.
- Write down what you saw as soon as possible after the incident, and do not discuss your description or other details with other witnesses.
- Do not hesitate to tell the police everything you saw, no matter how insignificant it seems.
- Use all of your senses — sight, sound, touch, smell and taste — whatever is appropriate for the situation.
- Pay attention to language — words (especially peculiar terms), accent, tone of voice.



ONLINE SAFETY:

ONLINE SCAMS:

Be aware of some of these common scams:

- Auction site postings that feature non-existent or falsely represented merchandise
- E-mails from foreign countries promising large sums of cash in exchange for assistance with bank account transfers
- Financial scams targeting consumers with poor credit who are tricked into paying upfront fees in hopes of receiving credit cards or personal loans
- Phony sweepstakes offers asking for payment to claim a prize that doesn't really exist

CYBERSTALKING:

If you participate in chat rooms, maintain a blog, or post photos of yourself on a personal web page, you may be vulnerable to cyberstalking. Cyberstalking is a form of harassment that often includes the following behaviors:

- Sending threatening e-mails
- Posting malicious information about you on various websites
- Posing as you online in order to defame your character

ONLINE DATING:

It's wise to be wary of anyone you meet on the internet. Since websites feel like anonymous places, people can easily misrepresent themselves. Your date could be lying about more than their appearance — they could be concealing a criminal past.

If you decide to arrange a personal meeting with someone you met online, always request that your first date be in a public place. It's also a good idea to tell a friend where you're going and ask them to check up on you later in the evening.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT:

- Keep items containing personal information in a safe place. Better yet, destroy personal information on receipts, credit card offers, insurance forms, and bank statements.
- **Don't give out any personally identifying numbers, such as your Social Security Number or driver's license number, to anyone unless you are absolutely sure it is required by law and the recipient is reputable.** (Only employers and financial institutions are required by law to collect SSNs.)
- Put outgoing mail (especially bill payments) in US Post Office boxes instead of leaving it in your mailbox. Remove mail from your mailbox promptly.
- Pay attention to your billing cycles and statements. Follow up with companies if your bills or checks don't arrive on time. A thief may have changed your billing address to cover his or her tracks.
- Keep credit cards and ATM cards in a safe place, and keep your PIN number secret. Report stolen cards immediately.

PROTECT YOURSELF BY USING THE FOLLOWING TIPS:

- **Use caution with e-mails that request information. Never provide your personal, financial, or account information in response to an e-mail request.** If you're unsure, don't click on the links. Instead, type the web address into the browser address bar.
- Don't open e-mail attachments from people you don't know.
- Avoid downloading free software unless it's from a reputable company. Many free programs are just a device for delivering adware and spyware.
- Install virus protection software and a firewall, and check for updates regularly. **You can download virus protection software from the ITS Safe Computing web page:** http://www.its.niu.edu/its/security/safe_computing.shtml



SAFETY OF OTHERS:

RECOGNIZING SIGNS OF DISTRESS:

Sometimes you may notice others who seem stressed or struggling. Some common signs of distress which might warrant consultation include:

EMOTIONAL SIGNS

- Mood shifts
- Hyper-activity, restlessness, confusion
- Reports of depressed mood (e.g., sadness, hopelessness) or references to suicide
- Crying or angry outbursts at unexpected times
- Expressed feelings of worthlessness or lack of control
- Agitated or irrational behavior

BEHAVIORAL SIGNS

- Changes in eating, sleeping, spending habits, personal hygiene
- Social withdrawal or excessive dependency
- Indications of alcohol or drug abuse
- Sudden changes in behavior patterns or routines

ACADEMIC/WORK-RELATED SIGNS

- Noticeable blocks to learning (e.g., perfectionism, missed classes or assignments)
- Unexplained absences from school or work
- Expressing excessive concerns about failure
- Significant shifts in involvement with activities
- Incapacitating test or performance anxiety
- Difficulty concentrating or decreased motivation/lack of motivation

RELATIONSHIP ISSUES

- Significant life changes or crises (e.g., death of a parent, family divorce)
- Problems in relationships or other social interactions

STEPS TO TAKE:

If you already have a relationship with the person of concern, you might be in a good position to talk with them and determine if they need further assistance. ALL references to suicide must be taken seriously, rather than discounted or ignored. Consult with Counseling & Student Development Center (815-753-1206) immediately, or call 911 if immediate harm is evident.

If the person identifies a specific suicide plan, an immediate referral for help is essential.

IF YOU FEEL UNSAFE OR UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE INDIVIDUAL:

Call 911 or involve NIU Police, (815) 753-1212. Do not meet with the person alone. Document — note the date, time, location, description of event, others present.



WHO TO CALL:

Police

Emergency 911

NIU (non-emergency) (815) 753-1212

DeKalb (non-emergency) (815) 748-8400

Counseling & Student
Development Center (815) 753-1206

University Health Services (815) 753-1311

Huskie Student Patrol
(6 pm to 2 am) (815) 753-9658

Late Night Ride (10 pm to 5:30 am) (815) 753-2222

NIU TipLine (815) 753-TIPS (753-8477)

Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

NIU NORTHERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
& ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY