

## STUDY ABROAD CRISIS PLAN 2012

Niagara University follows the health and safety guidelines of NAFSA, National Association of Foreign Student Advisors, found on their website at [http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/responsible\\_study\\_abroad.pdf](http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/responsible_study_abroad.pdf).

We issue each student a study abroad handbook with health and safety information and contact numbers and also provide an orientation that discusses issues including health and safety. The program hosts also provide a follow-up orientation on site. When the situation merits, we send a university chaperone to accompany groups of students. We require that all students obtain CISI Insurance with a rider covering evacuation due to political unrest and natural disasters and we offer the option of purchasing an International Student Identity Card (ISIC) which gives them supplemental health and travel accident insurance including emergency medical evacuation and repatriation coverage. All students are required to carry health insurance that covers them overseas.

Since Niagara University sends students abroad through outside programs, we send a representative to review each site, including the program's information on safety and security. In the event of a problem, the on-site program coordinator contacts the appropriate local authorities, i.e. U.S. Embassy, police or medical personnel, to handle the situation.

The program host then contacts the Study Abroad Coordinator from Niagara University, 716-286-8331 or 716-219-4059 (home) or 716-319-0195 (cell) or 716-628-5553. In the event that the Study Abroad Coordinator is not available or cannot be reached directly or through Campus Safety, 716-286-8111, the following is the list of emergency contacts in the following order:

- a. Vice President for Academic Affairs – 716-286-8360 (cell: 716-345-0056)  
**Dr. Tim Downs**
- b. Vice President for Student Life – 716-286-8405 (cell: 716-799-5191)  
**Dr. Kevin Hearn**
- c. Dean of Student Affairs – 716-286-8405 (cell: 315-727-5735)  
**Ms. Carrie McLaughlin**
- d. Director of Campus Safety – 716-286-8220 (cell: 716-861-2214)  
**Mr. John Barker**

Niagara University only evacuates program participants based on the recommendation of either the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Embassy in the region for situations of political unrest, natural disaster or outbreak of infectious disease. If the U.S. Embassy arranges to evacuate U.S. citizens and remove personnel from the country, then Niagara University issues a plan to join the evacuation via the office of the host program overseas.

If evacuation is necessary for groups booked through Niagara University, the Study Abroad Coordinator contacts Cataract Travel, who offers 24 hour emergency service. Contact numbers are as follows:

Don Massaco (home) – 716-282-4459  
Mary Faieta (cell) - 716-297-4560  
24hr. service anywhere in US, CA, or  
Mexico - 1-800-243-7886

The Study Abroad Coordinator will assist in individually booked arrangements if the student desires. During turbulent political times, Niagara University will book with commercial carriers rather than charters, since commercial carriers allow greater flexibility and have a working relationship between carriers.

#### Additional Contacts

State Department Switchboard:	202-647-4000	Call this number and ask for the country desk
Overseas Emergency	202-647-5225	
Consular Affairs	202-647-3600	
After hours Duty Officer	202-647-1512	

The Niagara University Public Relations Office has a crisis communication plan. In all media relations, they are “honest, efficient and candid during a crisis.” At the same time, “the office speaks for and protects legitimate interests of the university’s students, faculty and staff.” All public information will be handled by the Public Relations Office.

## **CRISIS MANAGEMENT GUIDE STUDY ABROAD OFFICE**

### **Step 1: Student Issue**

Identify and document student needs

Identify provider for student needs

How and when will the assistance be provided?

Identify reporting needs – who should be contacted? Document all measures taken.

### **Step 2: Student's family and friends**

What information and/or assistance do family/friends need?

Who should provide the information and assistance to them?

How and when should this information and/or assistance be provided?

**Step 3: The Campus Community** - (Assoc.VP for PR, Communications and Marketing makes the determination for Step 3 and Step 4:)

What information should be released to the campus community?

Who should provide this information?

How and when should this information be released?

### **Step 4: The Media/External Constituents**

What information should be released to the media/external constituents?

Who should provide this information?

How and when should this information be released?

### **Step 5: Implications for the University**

What changes should be implemented at the university?

## STUDY ABROAD EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

This protocol has been composed to address the security of study abroad programs at Niagara University. Emergencies may include the following:

- Acts of terrorism or war
- Natural disasters
- Serious personal illness, injury or death
- Criminal assaults against program participants or staff
- Arrest, incarceration, or deportation
- Missing persons

All staff members are expected to adhere to the following protocol:

1. Niagara University staff must ensure that all participants have signed and returned the Request for Study Abroad, Waiver of Liabilities, and the Course Advisement Form. These forms should be collected and kept on file in the Study Abroad Coordinator's Office following the participant's official acceptance to a program.
2. Niagara University staff must ensure that all participants provide evidence of CISI medical insurance, as this is required for every NU group-program participant. Students may also purchase the International Student Identity Card (ISIC), which offers supplementary medical, emergency evacuation, and repatriation coverage.
3. Attendance at overseas orientation sessions is mandatory for all participants. At such meetings, the need for participants to exercise reasonable caution, prudence and vigilance will be addressed. Niagara University's procedures for handling emergencies will be explained.
4. A list with names, local addresses, and telephone numbers of all participants and the Resident Director will be provided to the U.S. embassy or consulate of the host country or countries. Where it is appropriate, this information will also be provided to the local authorities at the program site.
5. Resident Directors will inform participants of the local authorities' emergency telephone numbers and procedures to use in case of any problems. Information will include both regular and emergency telephone numbers of key staff.
6. Niagara University reviews the U.S. Department of State Consular Information Sheets, Travel Advisories, and Worldwide Notices regarding matters which may affect the security of our participants. Resident Directors will be notified immediately. They will post the notices for the students, faculty and staff information.

7. Prior to departure for all program-sponsored travel, Faculty coordinators will leave a detailed written program itinerary with Niagara University's Study Abroad Coordinator with written instructions on how they can be contacted in any emergency via the Travel Itinerary on myNU. Cell phones should be in use on all program-sponsored excursions.
8. Faculty Coordinators will regularly review the Study Abroad Handbook, which details safety guidelines, codes of conduct, and other key information. Faculty will use this information to be aware of student responsibilities and rights, should a participant endanger the program or group members through irresponsibility or other acts. Directors will establish procedures for sharing this information with all resident staff as appropriate.
9. In the event of an emergency, the Faculty Coordinator will immediately contact the Study Abroad Coordinator to alert them of the problems. The Study Abroad Coordinator will notify appropriate Niagara University officials.
10. In an emergency, the Faculty Coordinator will urge participants to contact parents as soon as possible to advise them of their personal situation. Wherever necessary, the Resident Director will facilitate such contact.
11. At each Niagara University site, the Resident Director will act as backup to handle emergencies in the absence of the Faculty Coordinator. Where there is no Faculty Coordinator, the Resident Director should designate an appropriate staff member or other individual. The backup will perform all emergency tasks normally handled by the Faculty Coordinator until the Faculty Coordinator is able to handle these functions.
12. The Niagara University Study Abroad Office will maintain and regularly update and distribute a list of office, home and emergency telephone numbers for the following individuals:
  - Faculty Coordinators
  - Resident Directors
  - Niagara University Study Abroad Office
  - Niagara University Crisis Team
  - Campus Safety

**The Forum on Education Abroad**  
**2nd Annual Health & Safety Institute - June 2011**  
**Resources for Travel Warning Policy Development**

Government and Organizational Resources:

***U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Current Travel Information***

**Travel Warnings** [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)

**Travel Alerts** [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_1766.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html)

**iPhone Smart Traveler Ap** <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8>

*Definitions:* **Warden Messages** are produced by embassies and consulates and approved by the U.S. DOS. Warden Messages are low-level advisories most often relevant to expatriates living in the area, although they can be useful for travelers, too, since they remind residents of public holidays or transportation issues such as train strikes, roadblocks, or planned public demonstrations. **Travel Alerts and Travel Warnings**, on the other hand, are a collaborative effort between an embassy and the U.S. DOS. Travel Alerts describe temporary threats, including potential risks related to elections, major sporting events, civil unrest related to political or economic issues facing the country, outbreaks of widespread disease, such as H1N1, or a break-down of infrastructure following a natural disaster. **Travel Warnings** are the highest level of advisory, noting long-term, systemic, dangerous conditions tied to political, social, economic, or environmental conditions. Also, in some locations, the U.S. government's ability to assist travelers in distress may be severely limited due to internal or external travel restrictions.

***Overseas Security Advisory Council: Diplomatic Security/U.S. Department of State***  
<https://www.osac.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>

The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) was created by the Secretary of State to promote an open dialogue between the U.S. Government and the American private sector on security issues abroad.

***The Forum on Education Abroad: Standards of Good Practice***  
<http://forumea.org/standards-index.cfm>

In April, 2011 the Forum released the fourth edition of its *Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad*. The specific *Standards of Good Practice for Short-Term Education Abroad Programs* are not a substitute for the broader Standards, but are intended to act as a companion to provide the most comprehensive guidance for short-term program development and management. Also in April, the Forum released the second edition of its *Code of Ethics* for Education Abroad. The "Code" provides direction to institutions and organizations involved in education abroad and helps ensure that students achieve the maximum benefit from their education abroad experiences.

***Responsible Study Abroad: Good Practices for Health & Safety by the Interorganizational Task Force on Safety and Responsibility in Study Abroad***

[http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge\\_community\\_network.sec/education\\_abroad\\_1/developing\\_and\\_managing/practice\\_resources\\_36/policies/guidelines\\_for\\_health/](http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge_community_network.sec/education_abroad_1/developing_and_managing/practice_resources_36/policies/guidelines_for_health/)

These statements of good practice have been developed to provide guidance to institutions, participants (including faculty and staff), and parents/guardians/families. These statements are intended to be aspirational in nature. They address issues that merit attention and thoughtful consideration by everyone involved with study abroad. They are intentionally general; they are not intended to account for all the many variations in study abroad programs and actual health, safety, and security cases that will inevitably occur. Julie Anne Friend – Michigan State University – friendju@msu.edu

***The Center for Global Education - The SAFETI (Safety Abroad First - Educational Travel Information)***

<http://globaled.us/safeti/aboutsafeti.html>

Resources to support study abroad program development and implementation, emphasizing health and safety issues and resources for U.S. colleges and universities supporting study abroad.

***Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Travelers' Health***

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

The *Travelers' Health* site offers a health information sheet for each country in the world as well as descriptions of various illnesses and diseases that may impact travelers.

***The World Health Organization (WHO)***

<http://www.who.int/en/>

The *WHO* is the best source for tracking the outbreak of diseases, especially those impacting travel.

Institutional, Associational and Commercial Resources

***Campus Experts***

- General Counsel
- Risk Management
- Student Affairs
- Residential Life
- University Physician/Clinic
- Police/Security
- Disability Services
- Human Resources
- Registrar
- Counseling Center
- Int'l Student/Scholar Services
- Area Studies Centers

## **Crisis Awareness**

**Keeping Informed About A Crisis:** When a crisis occurs abroad involving large numbers of U.S. citizens, such as a natural disaster, transportation accident, civil or political unrest or a terrorist incident, the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy abroad utilize a variety of means of communicating with the American public, including the Internet.

**Monitoring the Consular Updates on the Internet:** Monitor the Department of State, [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs home page for up-to-date information about the crisis.

**Letting Family Know You Are Okay:** If a crisis occurs in a country you are visiting, contact family members in the United States to reassure them regarding your safety.

### **If You Are in a Foreign Country Involved in a Crisis:**

- Contact the U.S. Embassy or Consulate if you need help.
- Be sure to register with the U.S. Embassy or Consulate by phone, fax or in person.
- Monitor the [U.S. Embassy](#) and [State Department](#) home pages.
- Monitor Voice of America and BBC broadcasts for announcements.

## **Safety/Security**

- [A Safe Trip Abroad](#)

## **U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security Diplomatic Security Publications**

- [Keeping Safe](#)
- [Personal Security - At Home, On the Street, While Traveling](#)
- [Overseas Security Advisory Council \(OSAC\)](#)
- [OSAC Crime and Safety Reports](#)
- [OSAC Safety and Security Reports](#)
- [OSAC Country Council Locations](#)
- [OSAC Country Council Reports](#)

## **OSAC Publications**

- [Security Guidelines for American Families Living Abroad](#)
- [Security Awareness Overseas - An Overview](#)
- [Security Guidelines for Children Living Abroad](#)
- [Sexual Assault: Reducing the Risk and Coping With an Attack](#)
- [Emergency Planning Guidelines for American Business Abroad](#)
- [Personal Security Guidelines for the American Business Traveler Overseas](#)



- [Guidelines for Protecting U.S. Business Information Overseas](#)
- [Security Guidelines for American Enterprises Abroad](#)

## **Evacuations**

U.S. State Department, (Official State Department Personnel) Family Liaison Office  
(These documents were prepared for U.S. Department of State employees. Not all of the guidance will apply to private citizens, but the information may still be helpful for planning purposes.)

- [Evacuation Plan](#)
- [List of Papers and Computer Disks to Hand Carry](#)

U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security, Overseas Security Advisory Council

- [Emergency Planning Guidelines for American Businesses Abroad](#)
- [OSAC Publications](#)
- [U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security, Keeping Safe](#)
- [Red Cross - Your Evacuation Plan](#)
- [USC Center for Global Education: Crisis and Risk Management: Evacuation, Repatriation and Closing a Program](#)

## **Terrorism**

*U.S. Department of State, Office of Counterterrorism*

- [Office of Counterterrorism Home Page](#)
- [Countering Terrorism](#)
- [Terrorism Press Releases](#)
- [Patterns in Global Terrorism](#)
- [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#)
- [Terrorism Fact Sheets](#)
- [Terrorism Remarks](#)

*U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security*

- [Countering Terrorism](#)
- [Publications About Terrorism](#)
- [Significant Incidents of Political Violence Against Americans](#)
- [Countering Terrorism - Security Suggestions for U.S. Business Representatives Abroad](#)

*U.S. Department of State, Press Statement:*

- [International Terrorism - American Hostages - Press Release February 20, 2002](#)

## Natural Disasters

### General

- [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\) - Center for Integration of Natural Disaster Information](#)
- [Natural Disaster Reference Database](#)

### Earthquakes

- [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\)](#)
- [FEMA Fact Sheet](#)
- [Earthquake Safety - Red Cross Web Site](#)
- [A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety Before, During and After an Emergency or Disaster: Earthquakes - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet](#)
- [U.S. Geological Survey Background](#)
- [Earthquakes Hazards Center - New Zealand](#)

### Fires

- [FEMA Fact Sheet on Wildland Fires](#)
- [FEMA Fact Sheet](#)
- [U.S. Fire Administration - Home Fire Safety](#)
- [U.S. Fire Administration - Counter Terrorism](#)
- [U.S. Fire Administration/Motel Fire Safety Tips](#)

### Floods and Flash Floods

- [FEMA Fact Sheet](#)
- [FEMA Backgrounder](#)
- [Floods/Flash Floods Safety - Red Cross Web Site](#)
- [Landslides and Mudslides - Red Cross Web Site](#)
- [A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety - Before, During and After an Emergency or Disaster: Floods - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

### Hurricanes

- [FEMA Fact Sheet](#)
- [FEMA Backgrounder](#)
- [National Hurricane Center](#)
- [Hurricanes - The Greatest Storms on Earth from NOAA](#)
- [American Red Cross: Are You Ready for a Hurricane?](#)
- [Hurricanes and Water Safety - Red Cross Web Site](#)

- [\*A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety: Hurricanes - CDC\*](#)

## **Typhoons**

A typhoon is a hurricane that occurs in the Pacific region generally near the Philippines or the China Sea. See the information on Hurricanes above for additional information.

- [Joint Typhoon Warning Center](#)
- [Typhoons and Hurricanes: The Effects of Cyclonic Winds on U.S. Naval Operations](#)
- [Navy Pacific Meteorological and Oceanography Center](#)
- [U.S. Naval Hospital, Yokohama - Typhoon Information: What to Do](#)
- [U.S. Coast Guard: Storm Preparedness Information](#)
- [U.S. Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanology Detachment - Atsugi, Japan: Typhoon Safety Tips](#)

## **Tsunamis**

- [FEMA Fact Sheet](#)
- [FEMA Backgrounder](#)
- [Tsunami Safety Guide - Red Cross Web Site](#)
- [U.S. Geological Society - Tsunami Links](#)
- [International Journal of Tsunamis](#)

## **Thunder Storms**

- [FEMA - Severe Thunderstorms](#)
- [FEMA Backgrounder - Thunderstorms and Lightning](#)
- [FEMA for Kids - Thunder](#)

## **Tornadoes**

- [FEMA - Talking About Disasters - Tornadoes](#)
- [FEMA Backgrounder - Tornadoes](#)
- [FEMA Tornado Safety Tips](#)
- [CDC - National Center for Environmental Health - Tornadoes](#)
- [National Ag Safety Database - Slaving After a Tornado](#)
- [National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center - Frequently Asked Questions About Tornadoes](#)
- [FEMA for Kids - Tornadoes](#)

## **Heat Waves**

- [FEMA Extreme Heat Fact Sheet](#)
- [FEMA Extreme Heat Backgrounder](#)

- [Heat Wave Safety - Red Cross Web Site](#)
- [A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety: Extreme Heat - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [NOAA, National Weather Service - All About Heat Waves](#)

## **Volcanoes**

- [FEMA Fact Sheet](#)
- [FEMA Backgrounder](#)
- [Volcano Safety Guide - Red Cross Web Site](#)
- [U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet](#)
- [Learn About Volcanoes - U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\)](#)
- [Types and Effects of Volcano Hazards - USGS](#)
- [Information on Volcanoes - USGS](#)
- [Volcano FAQs - USGS](#)
- [U.S. Geological Survey: Developing a Volcano Emergency Plan:](#)

## **Winter Storms/Cold Weather Safety Tips**

- [FEMA Fact Sheet: Winter Preparedness Safety Tips](#)
- [FEMA Fact Sheet: Winter Storms](#)
- [Surviving the Storm - winter storm information in .pdf format from FEMA](#)
- [FEMA Fact Sheet: Winter Driving Tips](#)
- [Winter Storms: A Guide to Survival from NOAA, Department of Commerce](#)
- [Preparing for Winter Storms - University of Illinois](#)
- [Winter Storms Safety - Red Cross Web Site](#)
- [Cold Weather Safety Tips - Red Cross Web Site](#)
- [A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety: Extreme Cold - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Winter Storm Fire Safety - U.S. Fire Administration](#)

## **Health Concerns**

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\): Traveler's Health](#)
- [CDC Prevention Guides to Promote Personal Health and Safety - Before, During and After Emergencies and Disasters](#)
- [CDC Information on Cruise Ship Sanitation](#)
- [FEMA, Emergency Sanitation](#)
- [Center for International Health Information](#)
- [World Health Organization: International Travel and Health](#)
- [U.S. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology](#)
- [Health and Human Services \(HHS\) - National Disaster Medical System \(NDMS\)](#)

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- [Significant Incidents of Political Violence Against Americans](#)
- [Countering Terrorism - Security Suggestions for U.S. Business Representatives Abroad](#)

## **Disaster Victims**

Grief and Bereavement

- [FEMA: Grieving and Bereavement Counseling](#)
- [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry \(AACAP\): Children and Grief](#)
- [University of South Dakota, Disaster Mental Health Institute: Helping Children and Adolescents Deal With Grief](#)
- [National Organization for Victims \(NOVA\): Grief and Loss](#)

Children and Families

- [Talking to Children About Tragic News:](#)
- [Children's Psychological Health Center, Disaster Relief:](#)
- [HHS, Center for Mental Health Services: Psychosocial Issues for Children and Adolescents in Disasters:](#)
- [FEMA: Helping Children Cope With Disaster:](#)
- [FEMA for Kids: Resources for Teachers After a Disaster, How to Help Child Victims:](#)
- [National Institute of Mental Health: Helping Children and Adolescents Cope With Violence and Disasters](#)
- [HHS, Center for Mental Health Services, Emergency Services and Disaster Relief Branch: Psychosocial Issues for Children and Families in Disasters](#)
- [University of Illinois Extension Disaster Resources: Emotional Reactions to Disasters](#)
- [University of Illinois Extension Disaster Resources: Helping Children Cope With a Disaster](#)
- [University of Illinois Extension, Disaster Resources for Educators: Children, Stress and Natural Disasters](#)
- [AACAP: Helping Children After a Disaster](#)

- [National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorders: PTSD in Children](#)
- [U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime \(OVC\), \*Working With Children in the Aftermath of Violent Death\*](#)
- [University of South Dakota, Disaster Mental Health Institute: Helping Children Cope With a Traumatic Event](#)
- [University of South Dakota, Disaster Mental Health Institute: Children and Disaster - A School Counselor's Handbook on How to Help](#)
- [University of Illinois Extension Disaster Resources: Helping Families in Distress](#)
- [National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorders: PTSD and the Family](#)

#### Stress, Mental and Emotional Health

- [FEMA: Returning Home After a Disaster](#)
- [American Psychological Association\(APA\): Coping With the Aftermath of a Disaster](#)
- [APA: Warning Signs of Trauma-Related Stress](#)
- [Red Cross: Emotional Health Issues for Disaster Victims](#)
- [HHS, Center for Mental Health Services: Disaster Counseling Programs](#)
- [HHS, Center for Mental Health Services: Glossary of Terms - Disaster Counseling](#)
- [HHS, Center for Mental Health Services, Emergency Services and Disaster Relief Branch: Psychosocial Issues for Older Adults in Disasters](#)
- [National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorders: Survivors of Natural Disasters](#)
- [National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorders: Treatment of PTSD](#)
- [National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorders: The August 1999 Earthquake in Turkey and Post Traumatic Stress](#)
- [National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorders: Helping Survivors in the Wake of a Disaster](#)
- [National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorders: Disaster Mental Health Services - A Guidebook for Clinicians and Administrators](#)
- [HHS, Center for Mental Health Services: Disaster Crisis Counseling Programs for the Rural Community](#)
- [HHS, Center for Mental Health Services: Responding to the Needs of People with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness in Times of Major Disaster](#)
- [International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies](#)
- [International Critical Incident Stress Foundation](#)
- [American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress](#)
- [University of South Dakota, Disaster Mental Health Institute: Coping With the Aftermath of a Disaster](#)
- [University of South Dakota, Disaster Mental Health Institute: Coping With the Aftermath of Witnessing a Major Disaster](#)
- [University of South Dakota, Disaster Mental Health Institute: Coping With the Aftermath of an Aviation Disaster](#)

#### Disaster Workers

- [Red Cross: Emotional Health Issues for Families of Disaster Workers](#)
- [Red Cross: Emotional Health Issues for Disaster Workers](#)
- [National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorders: Disaster Rescue and Response Workers](#)

#### International Issues

- [OVC, International/Global Victims](#)
- [International Victimology Web Site](#)
- [World Society of Victimology](#)

#### Crime Victims

- [U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime \(OVC\), National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards](#)
- [U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime \(OVC\), International Directory of Compensation Programs](#)
- [OVC, Victims of Crime, Victim Assistance, Information Resources](#)
- [OVC, Initiatives for Improving the Mental Health of Traumatized Crime Victims](#)
- [OVC, \*What You Can Do If You Are a Victim of Crime\*](#)
- [OVC, Help for Victims](#)
- [OVC Bulletin, New Directions from the Field: Victims' Rights and Services for the 21st Century, Mental Health Community](#)
- [National Organization for Victim Assistance \(NOVA\): \*The Crisis Reaction\*](#)
- [NOVA: \*The Psychological Aftermath\*](#)
- [NOVA: Directory of International Programs for Survivors of Crime, Crisis and Trauma](#)
- [NOVA: Victims of Crime with Disabilities](#)
- [National Center for Victims of Crime: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder](#)
- [Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime - Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance 2000](#)



# Student Conduct System

## Statement of Purpose

The Student Code of Conduct forms the foundation for behavioral expectations in the Niagara University community. Working within the educational mission and Vincentian values of the university, the Student Code of Conduct strives to instill moral and ethical values, integrity and respect for the human dignity of community members. The enforcement of the Student Code of Conduct protects the rights, health and safety of all members so that they may pursue their educational goals without unwarranted interference. Students, along with members of the faculty, administration and staff, share the responsibility for the building and maintaining of an environment conducive to learning and development.

By their voluntary attendance at Niagara University, students agree to comply with the regulations and procedures set forth by the Student Code of Conduct. It is an expectation that all students read and understand the code. Students should expect to be held accountable for their actions and behavior both on and off campus and will be afforded the opportunity to contribute to the review of their actions.

## Guiding Principles

Studying at Niagara University is a privilege best safeguarded by each student's contributed use of good judgment and consideration for the rights and property of others. The Student Code of Conduct and procedures is aimed to support the educational mission and Vincentian values of the university and to encourage the mutual respect for all community members and their surroundings.

### Integrity

Consistent, continuing truthfulness to oneself and to others. Community members are expected to act in a positively honest and ethical manner in all aspects of the college environment, both in and outside the classroom.

### Respect for Others

Community members are expected to respect the God-given dignity of every person regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, political view, physical abilities, age or intelligence.

## Respect for Surroundings

It is a shared responsibility to respect both university property and the private property of all community members.

## Citizenship & Service

Encouraging civility, care and respect for individuals and responsibility to the broader community.

## Educational

The Student Conduct process is educational in that sanctions will be assigned in an effort to encourage behaviors that contribute to the well being of campus. Sanctions will be used to promote the expectations put forth by the Student Code of Conduct.

Students are not immune from local, state or federal laws because of their affiliation with Niagara University. The university reserves the right to take disciplinary action, independent of local authorities, for violations that take place off campus that may reflect negatively on the university. When appropriate, the university will advise appropriate officials when violations of civil or criminal law have been committed on campus. In instances where conduct violations could be actionable in court, the university's student conduct procedures will proceed normally and will not be subject to challenge on the ground that criminal charges regarding the same incident have been dismissed or reduced.

# Student Code of Conduct

Behavior that violates university standards of conduct listed here and elsewhere will be subject to educative action through the appropriate student conduct process. If it is determined that a group is responsible for a violation, either by direct involvement or by condoning, encouraging or covering up the violation, appropriate action will be taken with respect to the group as well as to the individuals involved.

Students will be expected to abide by the Student Code of Conduct, university rules and procedures, and all federal, state and local laws. With that in mind, students are advised:

- these expectations apply to behavior both on campus and off campus;
- these expectations are based on the university's commitment to educating students that they are responsible for, promoting the common good, through their own personal integrity, and respect for the dignity of all;
- while the goal of these expectations is to educate students about those responsibilities, ignorance of the rules, procedures and laws shall not diminish responsibility when that behavior falls short of the goal;
- the remedial action taken to foster this expectation may apply to various aspects of the student's life on- and off-campus, including housing privileges, campus activities and, upon the input of Academic Affairs, academic arrangement.

The following conduct by a student or student organization is prohibited on and off campus:

1. Abusive, threatening or dangerous behavior, including, but not limited to, fighting, physical abuse, verbal abuse, threatening statements or behavior, coercion and/or conduct which threatens or endangers the mental or physical health, safety or well-being of any person, or any aspect of the university community. This includes, but is not limited to, fighting or deliberate behavior that could instigate violence or abuse, intimidation and harassment.
2. Sexual Misconduct. Violations of Niagara University's [Sexual Abuse Policy](#) and/or the [Discrimination or Harassment Policy](#), include, but are not limited to, sexual assault, abuse or harassment.
3. Theft or misappropriation of property or services and/or possession of stolen property.
4. Destruction, damage or defacing of personal and/or university, public or private property, including, but not limited to, physical damage, improper disposal of trash and littering on university grounds.
5. Disorderly conduct, including, but not limited to, acts that are lewd, indecent or obscene, disruptive, those which breach the peace, and/or an obstruction to teaching, research, administration, other university activities or activities authorized which take place on university property.

6. Violation of Niagara University's [Alcohol Policy](#)
7. Violation of Niagara University's [Drug/Illegal Substances Policy](#)
8. Failure to abide by fire safety procedures including, but not limited to, tampering with fire safety equipment and/or activating a false or avoidable fire alarm, failure to exit during a fire alarm or maintaining an open flame. As required by law, the university's fire records are available at Campus Safety.
9. Illegal or unauthorized possession of firearms, weapon replicas, explosives, illegal fireworks or other items used to threaten, intimidate or harm another and/or violation of Niagara University's [Weapons Policy](#).
10. Hazing, as both defined in Niagara University's [Hazing Policy](#) and New York Penal Law.
11. Abuse of the Student Conduct Process, including, but not limited to, attempts to influence, harass and/or intimidate a member of a student conduct body/officer or any participant prior to, during and/or after a conduct proceeding; perjury or obstruction of an investigation; falsification, misrepresentation or distortion of information before a student conduct body/officer; failure to comply with the condition(s) imposed through the student conduct process.
12. Tampering, falsification, misuse of any university document, password, key, swipe card, or any other instruments of access or identification.
13. Failure to comply with the directions of or interfering with university, local, state or federal officials acting in performance of their duties. This shall include, but is not limited to, failure to produce proper identification and/or providing false identification when directed to do so.
14. Computer abuse as defined in the Niagara University's Policy on Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources, including, but not limited to, sending, receiving, downloading, printing, or displaying pornographic, obscene, lewd, or sexually harassing, or otherwise offensive images or text. Sending email, instant messaging, and texting, making phone calls or sending or facilitating the sending of any communication which is of a harassing, threatening, defamatory, intimidating, or obscene in manner.
15. Violation of rules or policies governing the university or any aspect of its facilities resources or services listed on this website and elsewhere.

16. Violation of the Residence Hall Agreement, the Apartment Agreement or other [Residence Life policies](#) including, but not limited to, violations of residence halls community standards.
17. Violation of any federal, state, local or foreign law and/or behavior off-campus that has a negative impact on the university or members of the university community.