

## NIU Forensics Code of Conduct

You have made a commitment to be a member of the NIU Forensics program. You now are part of a rich and long-standing tradition dating back to 1928. This co-curricular activity will have a profound effect on you academically, professionally and personally. You will find it enriches your academic experience, enhances your professional networking and provides you with life-long relationships. Along with the numerous benefits you will experience, your participation also brings new responsibilities and expectations.

The NIU Forensics Code of Conduct was developed in conjunction with the University's "Northern Pact" and the existing code of conduct.

Here is the NIU Forensics Code of Conduct – We expect you to follow the code of conduct at team meetings, coaching sessions, social functions and most certainly at tournaments. Failure to adhere to these rules could result in your removal from the team and in some cases your dismissal from a tournament.

1. **Treat All Others with Respect:** This pertains to coaches, teammates, competitors and audience members. You represent not only yourself, but the team and the University. This not only includes all face to face interactions but your communication via social media as well.
2. **Drugs and Alcohol-** No drugs or alcohol are permitted at tournaments. If you violate this policy, you will be dismissed from the tournament and forfeit your membership on the team. You will also be expected to cover any tournament associated costs, including entry fees and food allowance.
3. **Academic Policies:**
  - All students need to be in at least 12 hours of course work to travel with the team.
  - Students must be in good academic standing
  - You are expected to attend class – check your syllabi regarding the attendance in your classes. While we can provide you with verification regarding your attendance at a tournament- This is not a free pass to miss class- IT IS UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTOR AS TO HOW THEY VIEW YOUR ABSENCE.
  - Students should be making progress toward their degrees.
  - We expect you to make and keep regular academic advising appointments
4. **Discrimination/ Harassment:** NIU and our Forensics program strictly prohibits any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, religion, religious creed, ancestry, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation.
  - Watson 237 is a safe space, meaning we have a zero-tolerance policy for any conduct that can be construed as threatening another student's autonomy or comfort. We expect you to maintain this civility at tournaments and other team sponsored events.
5. **Ethical Standards in Research-** Just as in the classroom, you are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards with regard to your research. The national organizations have developed specific rules with regard to plagiarism, research and source citation, along with editing and citing literature.

6. Keeping commitments – Students are expected to sign up for coaching at least 24 hours in advance or check with a coach before signing up. Further, punctuality is paramount for coaching sessions, meetings, and departures for tournaments. Your time, your coaches' time, and your judges' time is valuable, do not waste it.

Additional Regulations for NIU Forensics Students

1. The travel schedule is determined by the coaching staff. Your events should be tournament ready as determined by a coach the Friday of the week prior to the tournament. Staff determines the tournament entry the Monday before a tournament. If a student misses coaching that week, we reserve the right to drop you from a tournament.
2. If you "no show" us on the day of the tournament you will be charged the drop fee.
3. Watson 237 is our team room – it is each member's responsibility to keep the room clean.
4. Computers are for forensics use only do not print school work or store assignments on those computers.
5. Never leave the door in Watson 237 open or propped.
6. Please obey the signs that might be outside of the room. If someone is coaching do not enter until they have completed their speech.

PRINTED NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_