

Dear Students,

By now all of you are aware of the great tragedy that took place on the NIU campus this past Thursday. Know that the Faculty and Staff of the Division deeply share in the sorrow and pain felt by the families and students caused by this terrible event. We also feel that the NIU police and Administration did a remarkable job responding to this tragedy and are still working through how best to proceed. We ask all MPA students to keep an eye on the [NIU website](#), your email, and blackboard communications in order to have the most recent update on the status of NIU's response.

As per MPA courses and requirements: The faculty of the Division convened on Friday, February 15, 2008 to review the situation. We take all of this very seriously, and will respond in a way that we feel protects your interest as a student, especially from the standpoint of safety and fairness. At present, NIU is closed for classes on all campuses until further notice. You will need to refer to the [NIU website](#) to see when NIU will reopen for classes.

As per MPA students with internships and for their supervisors, assume all internship assignments and duties will proceed as normal. Do report to your internship sites as usual. This event has not effected your internship obligation.

Also, the faculty decided on several important policy issues: First, students are strongly encouraged to continue with readings and assignments as best as possible, referring to course syllabi or blackboard communications as the guide. Second, each faculty member will communicate with their students through email or blackboard about changes in the scheduling of course material coverage, exams, papers due and other assignments effected by this event. If you do not hear from your professor for a course you are taking next week, please email or contact that professor for guidance. Third, if you have any general questions about procedures you can contact the office - but keep in mind that presently, the MPA Office is officially closed.

At present, important activities such as the comprehensive exams are still planned to be held Saturday, March 8th, unless otherwise notified. We also strongly encourage students working on their capstone papers to continue doing so, conferring with their capstone paper directors. Much of this work can be handled through email or phone calls.

We also are still planning to hold the next professional development activity that will have Dr. James Svava address our students on Friday, February 29th.

It is difficult to answer all of your questions and concerns in a simple email. So, we ask your cooperation, understanding, and patience in working through this tragic event. I know that the Division will rise to meeting the adversity and difficulties generated by this terrible event, because of our moral character, inner strength, and high professional standards. We will prevail, we will go on.

NIU remains a great university and the MPA program one of its crown jewels. It is in these trying times that good programs become even better. Keep the NIU family in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gerald T. Gabris, Director
Division of Public Administration
Northern Illinois University

February 15, 2008