

# University Policies

<b>Policy Name:</b> Minors on Campus	<b>Effective Date:</b> July 1, 2010
<b>Custodian of Policy:</b> Dean of Students	<b>Last Review:</b> New Policy
	<b>Next Review:</b> September, 2016

## Policy:

This policy outlines the circumstances under which it is appropriate to bring non-student minors to the Minnesota State University, Mankato campus. The policy is intended to foster respect for the needs of all parties impacted by the presence of non-students and/or minors on the campus, in the classroom or in the workplace.

## Procedures:

## Definitions

Minor: anyone under the age of 18 and not enrolled to Minnesota State Mankato.

Parent/Guardian: any adult who is responsible for a minor while on campus regardless of the employee's or student's relationship to the minor.

Open Access Area: areas on campus that are open to the public and do not require a MavCard for access or use.

Behavioral expectations: knowing and adhering to Minnesota State Mankato and MnSCU policies, federal, state and local laws and the goals and expectations of the Statement of Student Responsibilities. Such expectations can be found at [www.mnsu.edu/conduct](http://www.mnsu.edu/conduct).

## Open Access Areas

Use of open areas on the University campus by minors is encouraged as long as they meet the defined behavior expectations.

## Events

Minors are encouraged to attend university-sponsored events intended for children and/or families, or intended for community participation as long as they meet the defined behavioral expectations.

Departments, organizations or third parties that plan events on the University campus are to ensure appropriate supervision for the audience they are inviting, especially for minors. Determination for appropriate supervision standards can be obtained through the University Scheduling office.

General guidelines include:

- One parent/guardian for every eight participants under the age of 13
- One parent/guardian for every sixteen participants between the ages of 13 and 18
- Appropriate supervision includes parent/guardian having both presence and the ability to intervene.

## Classrooms

Both the instructor and the student should refrain from bringing minors to class. The minor's presence has the potential to disrupt the proceedings either directly (due to behavior) or indirectly (class material is often not appropriate for a minor and the instructor might feel obligated to adjust accordingly). Minors, even well behaved, can pose a significant distraction to the task at hand. The following guidelines should apply.

Minors are permitted in the classroom if:

- The instructor grants the student prior permission.
- The Chair/Dean grants the faculty member prior permission.
- There is a child-care emergency situation.
- Minors are the focus of the academic work.
- They are under direct and constant supervision of their guardian.

Minors are not permitted in the classroom:

- On a regular basis
- When the minor exhibits any possibly contagious disease
- When the classroom environment is not safe (e.g., a laboratory)
- When the material covered is inappropriate for a minor to witness
- Without direct supervision of a guardian
- If the instructor is the guardian (the instructor should never ask a student to supervise the instructor's child)

The instructor may ask a student to remove any minors from any class at any time.

## Workplace

Minors related to employees are welcome to visit the workplace on an occasional basis for brief visits under the following criteria:

- Visits should not be used in lieu of childcare.
- The employee's supervisor grants prior permission.
- Minors need to be under the employee's direct supervision and are the sole responsibility of the employee while on campus.
- Employees should be aware that requesting other employees to provide childcare is an unacceptable practice.
- Minors exhibiting symptoms of potentially contagious illnesses should not be brought to campus.
- Minors are expressly prohibited from entering hazardous areas such as laboratories, kitchens, and workshops.
- The parent/guardian bringing a minor to campus is responsible for all aspects of the minor's behavior including the minor's safety and is financially responsible for any damages caused by the child.
- The presence of the minor cannot disrupt the work environment or negatively impact the productivity of any employee within the workplace.

## Enforcement

Minors found unattended and in violation of this policy will be reported to University Security. University Security will follow their response procedures to return the minor to appropriate adult supervision.

Violations by parents/guardians will be referred to University Security to document the violation. Follow up action will be determined by the appropriate supervisor or the Office of Student Conduct resulting from information collected while investigating the initial complaint. Any disciplinary action must conform to the procedures included in the appropriate collective bargaining agreement, personnel plan or the Statement of Student Responsibilities.

University Security response procedures may also include contacting the Mankato Department of Public Safety or child protective services, if deemed necessary for the health and welfare of the minor.

## **Rationale:**

Minnesota State University, Mankato is a diverse environment of classrooms, offices, laboratories, recreational facilities and other common areas. Visitors to campus are welcomed and encouraged. However, appropriate precautions and limitations on visitation are necessary to protect health and safety and to maintain productivity and regulatory compliance.

The University values family members, minors, and dependents attending cultural or sporting events and making authorized use of gymnasium, library or pool facilities. However, the University must consider issues of safety, confidentiality, disruption of operations and liability posed by the presence of minors on campus.