



Northern Illinois  
University

# **NIU-Winter Weather Model for School Closures at Northern Illinois University**

**NIU-Severe Weather Model for School Closures at Northern Illinois University**  
**INSTRUCTIONS**

**INTRODUCTION:** The objective of this model is to evaluate potential winter weather conditions as a means to assist in the University closure decision making process.

## **WARNING**

## **WARNING**

## **WARNING**

**This model is a guide, and will be completely wrong if forecast data is not used for DeKalb. National Weather Service areal averaged forecasts will yield wrong or subpar results. Consult with the NIU Staff Meteorologist for localized forecasts to place proper values into this model.**

To use this model, obtain the forecast temperatures, wind, precipitation, and any fog expected.

National Weather Service area-averaged forecasts if the meteorologist is unavailable. Add up any and all conditions which may or will apply for that particular business/academic day.

Score totals above 50 but below 100 mean that a closure should be discussed by University Administration.

A score at or above 100 means that a complete closure of the University during the forecast time frame should be recommended by the Operational team to University leadership.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Reference the table that lists inclement weather conditions that would automatically prompt a school closure.
2. Put an "X" in the Actual Value column next to the automatic 100 points, temperature, wind, SnowSleet, Freezing Rain/Ice, or Fog/reduced visibility that applies.
3. The values from each sheet will automatically be inserted into the "Total Value" cell at the bottom of the sheet, and also on the summary sheet.
4. If you accidentally inserted the wrong value, simply click to highlight and delete. Re-insert the correct value accordingly.
5. You cannot change any of the values by trying to delete the number from the "Total Value" cell as it is locked.

**NIU-Severe Weather Model for School Closures at Northern Illinois University**  
**SUMMARY**

Automatic 100 Points:	0
Temperature:	0
Winds	0
Snow/ Sleet	0
Freezing Rain/Ice Accumulations	0
Other Issues	0
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>0</b>

**NIU-Severe Weather Model for School Closures at Northern Illinois University  
Automatic 100 Points**

There are certain incimate weather conditions which are automatically assigned a value of 100 points. Should any of these conditions exist, closure of the university is strongly recommended. These conditions are described below.

<b>Actual Value</b>	<b>Reference Value</b>	
[ ]	<b>100</b>	1. A low temperature of -22 degrees Fahrenheit or colder (without windchill)
[ ]	<b>100</b>	2. If any of the following roads are closed in DeKalb for ANY weather-related reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Route 38/Lincoln Highway</li> <li>b) Route 23/4th St.</li> <li>c) I-88/Reagan Toll-way</li> <li>d) Other major roads are closed leading in and out of the city (e.g., First Street, Fairview Drive/Malta Road)</li> <li>e) Side streets are impassable throughout the city</li> <li>f) Annie Glidden Road</li> </ul>
[ ]	<b>100</b>	3. A blizzard warning issued by the National weather Service
[ ]	<b>100</b>	4. An ice storm warning issued by the National Weather Service
[ ]	<b>100</b>	5. A state of emergency declared by the govenor of Illinois, or other local, state, or federal governmental officials
[ ]	<b>100</b>	6. Due to weather conditions the NIU Facilities department is unable to open roads, sidewalks, parking or facili or spaces open for staff and students.
[ ]	<b>100</b>	7. The busses are inoperable due to being unable to start, stop properly, or are stuck.

**Total points:                    0**

**NIU-Severe Weather Model for School Closures at Northern Illinois University  
Automatic 100 Points**

ties for safe campus operations.

NIU-Severe Weather Model for School Closures at Northern Illinois University  
TEMPERATURE

---

Actual Value	Reference Value
--------------	-----------------

---

---


25 Temperatures between -10 and -14  
50 Temperatures between -15 and -19  
75 Temperatures between -20 to -21  
100 Temperature of -22 to -26

Total Value:           0

NIU-Severe Weather Model for School Closures at Northern Illinois University  
WIND SPEED

---

Actual Value	Reference Value
	15 10 MPH to 15 MPH in gusts
	20 15 MPH to 20 MPH in gusts
	25 20 MPH to 25 MPH in gusts
	30 26 MPH to 30 MPH in gusts
	40 31 MPH to 40 MPH in gusts
	60 41 MPH to 50 MPH in gusts
	70 51 MPH to 60 MPH in gusts
	80 61 MPH to 70 MPH in gusts
	100 71 MPH to 80 MPH in gusts

Total Value: 0

NIU-Severe Weather Model for School Closures at Northern Illinois University  
SNOW/SLEET

Snow, or snow mixed with sleet, in process or accumulating, snow/sleet just ended as of 8 AM on a business day.

---

Actual Value	Reference Value
--------------	-----------------

---

<input type="checkbox"/>	25 2" to 4"
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 5"
<input type="checkbox"/>	40 6"
<input type="checkbox"/>	50 7"
<input type="checkbox"/>	60 8"
<input type="checkbox"/>	75 9"
<input type="checkbox"/>	80 10"
<input type="checkbox"/>	85 11"
<input type="checkbox"/>	100 12" or more

Total Value 0



NIU-Severe Weather Model for School Closures at Northern Illinois University  
FREEZING RAIN/ICE ACCUMULATIONS

---

Actual Value	Reference Value	
<input type="checkbox"/>	50	A trace to .10"
<input type="checkbox"/>	70	.10" - .25"
<input type="checkbox"/>	100	Over .25"

---

---

Total Value 0

NIU-Severe Weather Model for School Closures at Northern Illinois University  
OTHER ISSUES

---

Actual Value	Reference Value	
	15	Dense fog or low visibility is expected during the majority of time precipitation is falling

---

Total Value 0