



## History of CTA U-Pass at NEIU

“You Asked for It, You Got It!” The NEIU Student Government Association listened to students who voted in a referendum last spring and was instrumental in bringing the CTA U-PASS to NEIU students beginning in the Fall 2011 semester. All full-time students will be eligible to get a U-PASS card good for unlimited rides aboard CTA buses and trains.

### SGA Referendum Fall 2010

#### QUESTION #1 - U-PASS- Should U-PASS be made available to NEIU students?

(Total 1427 responses)

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Upon review of comparable universities in the Chicago area which currently have U-Pass, the cost of having U-PASS at NEIU is estimated between \$85 and \$105 for a full-time student per semester. At other Illinois Universities that have this program only full-time students are eligible. Whether or not a full-time student requires a U-PASS, this fee will be placed on every full-time student. The cost of public transportation without a U-PASS is estimated at approximately \$330 per semester for those that take public transportation to and from school on a regular basis.

Yes	92.43% - (1319 votes)
No	7.57% - (108 votes)

# CTA U-Pass Frequently Asked Questions

## What is it?

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The CTA U-Pass is your ticket to UNLIMITED rides aboard CTA buses and trains.

Use your U-Pass on CTA bus/rail system anytime, anywhere.

It is your connection to shopping, sports events, social activities, art and entertainment centers and all the Chicago hot spots.

## Who is Eligible?

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For Summer 2012, a student MUST be registered as full-time by 5/31/2012 in order to be eligible for the U-Pass. Even if a student becomes full-time after that date, they will not be eligible for the U-Pass.

Full-time undergraduate and graduate students at NEIU's main, CCICS and El Centro campuses are eligible for the program. The only exceptions are for students who exclusively take courses online or at the University Center of Lake County, students with an Active Military CTA pass, students away for Study Abroad programs or paratransit dependent students.

Full-time is defined as 12 credit hours for undergraduate students and 9 credit hours for graduate students.

Paratransit dependent students need to contact the Accessibility Center 773-442-5495 and report their transportation requirements so they are not assessed the U-Pass fee. Students who have an Active Military CTA pass should contact Michael Groth at 773-442-6099.

Part-time students and students who become full-time after 5/31/2012 are not eligible for the program under the terms of the contract, and they may not purchase or receive a U-Pass.

## How much is it?

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The U-Pass fee is \$102 per semester for eligible full-time students. All eligible students will be assessed this fee.

For Summer 2012, the fee is \$82.00, since the semester is shorter than Fall and Spring.

## Is payment for the CTA U-Pass covered by Financial Aid and/or the G.I. Bill?

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Yes. The U-PASS is a mandatory fee for full time students and is covered by both federal and state assistance as a component of your cost of attendance.

## When and where can I use the CTA U-Pass?

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CTA U-Passes for NEIU students can be used during the Summer semester from May 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 through August 15<sup>th</sup> 2012.

The CTA U-Pass can be used on the CTA bus and rail system. It can not be used on Pace, Metra or paratransit vehicles.

## How often can I use my U-Pass per day?

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As often as you want (you can not reuse your card at the same station or on the same bus line for 10-15 minutes). The U-Pass allows you unlimited rides on the CTA, anytime, anywhere, any reason.

## When and how do I obtain my U-Pass?

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On site distribution dates:

Location	Date	Time
NEIU Main Campus – Alumni Hall	Thursday, 5/17/12	12pm – 6pm
NEIU Main Campus – Alumni Hall	Friday, 5/18/12	10am – 6pm
NEIU Main Campus – Alumni Hall	Monday, 5/21/12	10am – 6pm

If you miss one of the above distribution dates, you will be able to pick up your U-Pass from the Student Union Information Center.

### **I fit in one of the exempt categories, but was assessed the U-Pass Fee. When will the fee be removed from my tuition and fee account?**

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Removal of the U-Pass Fee for exempt students (students who exclusively take courses online or at the University Center of Lake County, students away for Study Abroad programs and paratransit dependent students) will be completed after the May 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 change of registration deadline.

Students that have a valid Military Service Pass from CTA should contact Michael Groth, Campus Information Services Coordinator or Felicia Keelen, Director of the Student Union at 773-442-6099 or e-mail U-Pass@neiu.edu

### **I do not plan to use my U-Pass. Can I opt out of the program?**

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Sorry, per CTA guidelines, all eligible full-time students are required to be assessed the U-Pass fee.

If you drive to campus, some of the benefits of switching to public transportation include saving money on gas and parking.

The CTA replaces the equivalent of about 400,000 vehicles on regional roads each weekday. A full eight-car CTA train replaces more than 600 cars, and a full 60-foot articulated CTA bus replaces more than 70 cars. Switching from driving to public transit can reduce an individual's carbon emissions by about 4,800 pounds per year. Household savings can be estimated using the American Public Transit Association's Carbon Savings Calculator.

[www.transitchicago.com/goinggreen/lowemissions.aspx](http://www.transitchicago.com/goinggreen/lowemissions.aspx)

Using the CTA U-Pass also provides more opportunities to “Learn in the City, Lead in the World”.

Can I share my U-Pass with my friends or sell it to someone else?

U-Pass is limited to exclusive use by the full-time student whose name and photo appear on the card. Any U-Pass presented by a person other than the student whose name and photo appears on it will be confiscated and the person may be subject to arrest.

My friend attends another school and his/her U-Pass is free.

Why do NEIU students have to pay?

Per CTA guidelines, all eligible full-time students are required to be assessed a U-Pass fee. Some participating schools, like NEIU, list a separate U-Pass Fee on each student's tuition and fee account. Some of the other schools include the cost of the CTA U-Pass in other general fees, such as a Student Activities Fee. Either way, all eligible full-time students at participating schools are assessed a fee that covers the cost of the CTA U-Pass.

### **What if my U-Pass is lost or stolen?**

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Bring a completed replacement form, valid school ID and \$50.00 (cash, credit or money order) non-refundable replacement fee to the CTA Customer Service Center (at 567 W. Lake Street, 2nd floor, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

CTA will replace lost or stolen passes only once per academic term.

If U-Pass is put into the cash slot on a bus, it is treated as lost/stolen and you will need to pay \$50.00 for a replacement.

What if my U-Pass is captured in CTA fare equipment?

On CTA buses:

The card will be collected. You will be asked to complete a Report of Captured Farecard (form 3027). You will be allowed to ride free and given a copy of the report.

Bring your copy of the Report of Captured Farecard (form 3027), a completed replacement form, your student ID and the filled out U-Pass Card replacement Form to CTA's Customer Service Center at 567 W. Lake Street 2nd floor, Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 4:30PM, to request a replacement U-Pass. The replacement U-Pass will be sent to your school in 5-7 business days.

If U-Pass is put into the cash bill slot on a bus, it is treated as lost/stolen and you'll need to pay \$50.00 for a replacement. You will not be issued any temporary fare.

On CTA trains:

The card will be collected. You will be asked to complete a Fare Discrepancy Report (Form 3024), and you will be issued a \$5.00 transit card and a copy of the report.

Bring the Fare Discrepancy Report (Form 3024), a completed replacement form and your student ID to CTA's Customer Service Center at 567 W. Lake Street 2nd floor, Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 4:30PM, to request a replacement U-Pass. When you present the form to the customer service agent, you will be issued an unlimited 5-day transit pass. The replacement U-Pass will be sent to your school in 5-7 business days.

### **What if my U-Pass is damaged or defective?**

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Bring the damaged card, a completed replacement form and your student ID to CTA's Customer Service Center at 567 W. Lake Street 2nd floor, Monday through Friday 8:00AM to 4:30PM, to request a replacement U-Pass. Your damaged card will be collected and you will be issued an unlimited-ride 7-day pass. The replacement U-Pass will be sent NEIU in 5-7 business days.

### **What if my U-Pass becomes deactivated ("hotlisted")?**

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Hotlisted passes will be confiscated. Please visit the NEIU Information Center to ascertain problem. After NEIU has notified CTA, you can go to the CTA Customer Service Center (at 567 W. Lake Street, 2nd floor, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 a.m.) with your student ID and \$50.00 to request a replacement card.

### **Additional Questions, Comments or Concerns?**

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Contact us at [U-pass@neiu.edu](mailto:U-pass@neiu.edu) or 773-442-6099 or visit the following webpages:

<http://www.facebook.com/NEIUStudentUnion>

[http://www.transitchicago.com/travel\\_information/fares/upass.aspx](http://www.transitchicago.com/travel_information/fares/upass.aspx)