

---

# The Integration Path of Safety Education and National Security Education for College Students in the New Era

**Wei Zhao\***

Hainan Vocational University of Science and Technology, Haikou 571126, Hainan, China

*\*Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.*

**Copyright:** © 2025 Author(s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0), permitting distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is cited.

---

**Abstract:** As the complexity and severity of national security challenges in the new era continue to escalate, universities—serving as vital platforms for talent cultivation—face new challenges and opportunities in integrating safety education with national security education for their students. As future builders and successors of the nation, college students' ideological awareness, legal consciousness, and public safety awareness directly impact the overall stability of national security. Effectively combining safety education with national security education has become a critical focus in contemporary ideological and political education at universities. This paper analyzes the necessity and practical approaches for integrating safety education with national security education in the new era, explores major issues and challenges during the integration process, and proposes strategies to establish a systematic and secure educational model. Research indicates that effective integration can enhance students' comprehensive qualities, strengthen their national security awareness and sense of social responsibility, and provide solid ideological support for the nation's security development in the new era.

**Keywords:** New Era; Universities; College Students' Safety Education; National Security Education; Integration Path; Educational Reform

---

**Online publication:** November 26, 2025

## 1. Introduction

In the context of the new era, profound transformations have occurred in both global and domestic security landscapes. National security now extends beyond traditional military domains to encompass political, economic, cultural, social, informational, and ecological dimensions. As the primary institutions for talent cultivation, knowledge dissemination, and ideological guidance, universities bear the critical responsibility of nurturing students with global perspectives, national security awareness, and social responsibility. Therefore, university safety education should not only cover fundamental personal safety, legal awareness, and public safety knowledge, but also emphasize national security education to foster students' national consciousness and collectivist spirit<sup>[1]</sup>.

How to realize the effective integration of safety education and national security education in colleges and universities is an important task of ideological and political education in colleges and universities.

---

## **2. The necessity of integrating safety education with national security education for college students**

### **2.1. Requirements of the times background on safety education for college students**

The national security landscape in the new era is not only complex but also multifaceted, extending far beyond traditional military defense. With rapid technological progress and digital transformation, cybersecurity, information security, and economic security have become integral components of national security. As a vital force in social development, college students' cognitive patterns, value systems, and sense of social responsibility will profoundly shape the nation's future. In this context, students must not only master fundamental safety knowledge but also cultivate a strong sense of national security awareness and develop comprehensive capabilities to address complex security challenges. Thus, integrating safety education with national security education for college students has become an urgent priority<sup>[2]</sup>.

### **2.2. The intrinsic connection between safety education and national security education for college students**

Both college students' safety education and national security education fundamentally aim to cultivate students' safety awareness, with the shared goal of enhancing their sense of social responsibility and national identity, as well as improving their ability to handle emergencies and complex situations. While receiving basic education in personal safety, mental health, and legal awareness, national security education helps students better understand the close connection between individual safety and the nation's overall security, fostering a holistic safety mindset.

### **2.3. The special role of universities in national security education**

Universities serve as the primary arena for ideological and political education, playing a pivotal role in shaping students' worldviews, life perspectives, and values. Beyond mere knowledge transmission, the essence of education lies in inspiring critical thinking and guiding moral values. Through such education, universities can subtly cultivate students' correct understanding of national security and social responsibility. Therefore, the effective integration of safety education with national security education equips students with comprehensive safety knowledge and skills, thereby enhancing their commitment to national security and sense of responsibility<sup>[3]</sup>.

## **3. Integration path of safety education and national security education for college students**

### **3.1. Integration of curriculum design and teaching content**

Higher education institutions should integrate national security education into ideological and political curricula through curriculum consolidation. For instance, by incorporating current social issues and news into ideological and political courses, students can receive national security education while studying other subjects. Offering elective courses on national security, such as cybersecurity, counter-terrorism, and economic security, can enhance students' comprehensive understanding of national security.

### **3.2. The integration of online and offline education models**

By leveraging internet platforms and universities' own educational resources, we implement an integrated online-offline education model. Online platforms deliver national security education courses, thematic lectures, and simulated drills, enabling students to learn anytime, anywhere and enhancing the timeliness and engagement of education. Offline, we organize specialized safety education activities, simulated drills, and national security lectures to strengthen students' awareness of national security, while interactive sessions further stimulate their interest in learning<sup>[4]</sup>.

### **3.3. Integration of practical activities and social services**

Colleges and universities can enhance students' understanding of national security education by organizing safety-related practical activities and social service programs. For instance, initiatives like national security knowledge contests, awareness campaigns, and volunteer services allow students to acquire relevant knowledge through hands-on experience, while developing their practical skills and organizational abilities. Moreover, such social engagement helps cultivate a sense of social responsibility and collectivism, thereby reinforcing their awareness of national security.

### **3.4. Innovative educational formats and methods**

By leveraging cutting-edge technologies like digitalization, virtual reality (VR), and augmented reality (AR), we develop immersive national security education programs and scenario-based simulations. This innovative approach enables students to gain a multidimensional understanding of national security challenges through immersive experiences, while simulating complex security scenarios in virtual environments to enhance their emergency response and problem-solving skills.

### **3.5. Strengthening the development of counselors and faculty**

Higher education institutions should prioritize the development of counselors and ideological and political educators, enhancing their professional competencies in national security education and psychological safety education. Through specialized training programs and case study sessions, teachers can deepen their understanding and practical application of national security education. This ensures they seamlessly integrate relevant content into daily educational management, ultimately becoming both ideological guides and effective disseminators of national security education for students.

## **4. Challenges in integrating safety education with national security education for college students**

### **4.1. The issue of uneven distribution of educational resources**

In the process of integrating safety education with national security education, universities may encounter issues of uneven resource distribution. Some institutions, particularly smaller ones, struggle to provide adequate national security education resources due to funding and equipment constraints, significantly compromising educational outcomes.

### **4.2. Insufficient student engagement and cognition**

Although the significance of national security education is great, some students do not attach much importance to it, thinking that it is not related to them, and lack the initiative to learn. This makes the effect of national security education limited to some extent.

### **4.3. The lag in teacher team development**

The overall quality of teachers in ideological and political education and safety education at universities varies significantly, with some lacking systematic national security training, resulting in a lack of relevance and innovation in teaching. How to enhance teachers' professional competence has become a critical factor for the success of inclusive education.

## **5. Optimization strategies and recommendations**

### **5.1. Increase resource investment to enhance educational quality**

The university should increase the investment in the courses and activities related to safety education and national security

education, build more educational platforms that meet the needs of students, provide more abundant teaching resources and more perfect hardware facilities.

### **5.2. Enhance students' awareness of national security and stimulate their learning motivation**

Colleges and universities can collaborate with society and enterprises to organize more national security-related practical activities, enhancing students' hands-on experience and fostering their sense of identity with national security education. Meanwhile, engaging educational formats such as simulation exercises and competitions can stimulate students' interest and participation in learning.

### **5.3. Enhancing teacher training to ensure educational outcomes**

The university should strengthen the national security education and training for the ideological and political teachers and counselors, improve their professional understanding and teaching ability of the national security education content, and ensure the accurate transmission of the teaching content.

## **6. Conclusion**

The integration of safety education and national security education for college students represents a crucial mission in ideological and political education in the new era. By effectively combining educational content, teaching methods, and practical activities, universities can enhance students' awareness of national security and help them develop correct values and social responsibility. Despite challenges such as uneven resource distribution, low student participation, and uneven faculty quality, policy support, resource investment, and educational innovation can fully achieve the organic combination of safety education and national security education, laying the foundation for cultivating high-quality talents with global vision, social responsibility, and national identity.

## **Disclosure statement**

The author declares no conflict of interest.

## **References**

- [1] Chen N, Wang WJ, Mao Y, 2013, Ergonomic optimization design of multifunctional furniture in student dormitories: A case study of Zhengzhou University. *Furniture & Interior Design*, (07): 42-43.
- [2] Dang TT, Du WX, Niu MH, et al., 2025, The effects of personality traits on learning engagement among college students: the mediating role of emotion regulation. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 15: 1476437.
- [3] Mo Y, 2025, Exploring the Innovation of Integrity Culture Education Mechanisms for College Students in the Era of Artificial Intelligence. *Research on Ideological Education*, (11): 103-108.
- [4] Li L, Shen WJ, 2025, Exploring the Pathways of Ideological Security Construction in Chinese Universities from the Perspective of the Overall National Security Concept. *Research on Ideological and Educational Development*, (11): 116-123.

### **Publisher's note**

*Whoice Publishing remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.*