

DISTRACTED DRIVER POLICY

In order to increase employee safety and eliminate unnecessary risks while driving, the College has enacted a Distracted Driving Policy for those driving while performing College business. Disregarding the state requirements and guidelines of this policy could jeopardize your ability to use College owned vehicles or involve disciplinary action. We are committed to avoiding the perils of distracted driving and have created the following policy which applies to any employee operating a Hope College vehicle or driving on college business:

As of June 30, 2023, Michigan is a "Hands Free" state regarding mobile devices. Michigan law prohibits holding or using a cellphone while driving.

Hope College employees may not manually dial a hand-held cell phone while operating a college vehicle while the vehicle is in motion. Additionally, for college vehicles equipped with mobile computers, employees may not make keystrokes on those computers while driving. The college encourages employees to avoid cell phone conversations while the vehicle is in motion, even if hands free, as this can distract a driver from his/her full attention to the road and the surrounding elements.

If a Hope College employee needs to use their hands to take/make a call or to review GPS directions, they should pull over safely to the side of the road or another safe location.

Additional information about the MI law, including exceptions for first responders and emergency calls, can be found on the [Distracted Driving page](#) of the Michigan State Police website.