

UNIVERSITY WEATHER POLICY / Class cancellation, delays

It is the policy of Slippery Rock University that only the President or his/her designee has the authority to temporarily modify class and/or work schedules in the event of extreme weather conditions including but not limited to snow, freezing rain, floods and hazardous winds. This decision may include the temporary cancellation of all or part of scheduled academic programs.

UNIVERSITY PROCEDURE

University practices for implementing this policy include:

- Slippery Rock University is committed to fulfilling its instructional obligations. Nearly 2,000 students live on campus, and approximately 5,000 live within a two-mile radius of campus. It is the University's intent to conduct classes as long as it can maintain reasonable conditions on campus and the roads in the immediate areas are reasonably passable. The University and its off-campus locations will remain open in all but the most extreme circumstances.
- Should severe weather threaten the University, the campus Emergency Team (E-Team) will advise the president/designee as to whether or not classes should be canceled, if a two-hour delay should be implemented or if the University should open or remain open.
- The E-Team is comprised of representatives from communication and public affairs, facilities and campus police. During an alert, the Team monitors campus and regional conditions and receives frequent updates regarding weather conditions and road advisories. The Team will report its findings and recommendations to the president/designee for a final determination on the status of classes.
- In recommending a decision, the E-Team considers: the condition of campus parking lots; the condition of campus roads and sidewalks; the availability of uninterrupted utility services; the condition of local and state roads as indicated by road and storm advisories; weather forecasts; and ice, wind and

severe cold temperatures.

- If possible, the decision to remain open or to delay or cancel daytime classes (those offered between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) will be made before 6 a.m., in order to provide sufficient time to notify the media.
- If possible, the decision to remain open or to cancel evening classes (those starting at 5 p.m. or later) will be made before 3 p.m. in order to provide sufficient time to notify the media.
- Cancellation of classes does not necessarily mean that the University is closed. Any class cancellations will apply to all University locations unless otherwise specified. Faculty members will be expected to make up time for canceled classes.
- Class cancellation does not imply that there is no class assignment for that day. Students are instructed to check D2L and their University email for readings or assignments that can be completed through electronic means. While faculty may make up lost class time as they choose, they are encouraged to provide alternate online assignments. Such assignments should be posted by 10 a.m. on days when classes are cancelled due to severe weather conditions.
- During hazardous weather conditions, students, faculty and staff are urged to use their discretion in deciding whether they can safely commute to work or classes. Any University employee unable to reach campus is required to report off work and request leave, using established procedures. Faculty should not penalize students who miss class because of severe weather conditions. Students should discuss their absence with their professors.
- During an unscheduled cancellation, essential functions must be maintained and certain personnel may be required to report to work. Provisions will be made to keep the following operations open to provide services for students:

Dining Halls

Residence Halls

Health Services

Switchboard

- In the event the University is closed for severe weather, all extracurricular activities are canceled. This includes, but is not limited to: athletic events, plays, performances, guest lectures and campus venue rentals.
- If a decision is made to cancel classes, implement a two-hour delay or close the University, the president or his or her designee will notify Cabinet members who in turn will notify administrators within their respective divisions.
- If the decision is made to cancel classes or close the University, University Communication and Public Affairs will:
 - Notify the switchboard (724.738.9000),
 - Post the information to the SRU Web site (www.sru.edu), Facebook and Twitter
 - Send e-mail alerts to all sru.edu addresses (faculty, staff and students)
 - Notify e2Campus subscribers
 - Notify the media
- For clarity, the following statements may be provided to the media:

"Classes are canceled. Students should check D2L and their University email for alternate online assignments. All offices are open. Staff is expected to report as scheduled."

"The University is closed. Students should check D2L and their University email for alternate online assignment. All offices are closed except for essential services. Essential personnel should report as scheduled."

The University is on a two-hour delay. All students, staff, faculty and offices (except for essential services) should follow the delay-opening schedule at:

<https://www.sru.edu/Documents/web/compressed-class-schedule.pdf>

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