

Suspended Operations / Temporary Closure

In the event of an emergency situation adversely affecting University operations, public health, or the well-being and safety of students, faculty, or staff employees, the President or his designee may declare a temporary suspension of any or all operations of the institution. Emergency situations that might affect such a suspension include, but are not limited to, severe weather conditions, natural disaster, fire or related hazard, and mechanical or equipment failure. The University's normal policy is to remain open during inclement weather.

Even when the University suspends its academic and administrative operations because of severe weather conditions or other emergencies, many units such as Harborview and University of Washington Medical Centers, the University Police, Facilities Services, and Housing and Food Services provide essential services that must continue even when the University is closed.

For example, in the event of severe inclement weather that closes the University, the Power Plant must continue to operate, roads must be cleared to allow access for fuel deliveries and emergency vehicles, solid waste must be disposed of, and support systems for patients and research animals must be maintained. Depending on the extent and duration of the emergency, other support personnel, including administrative staff, may be needed.

Many Facilities Services units provide "essential services" and necessary staff must report to work even if it is announced that the University is "closed". In units that provide "essential services" employees will be informed by their supervisors of their responsibilities should severe weather or other emergencies require that the University's academic and administrative units suspend operations. Supervisors should periodically review with their staff the specific unit's responsibilities in case of inclement weather, natural disasters, or other emergencies. Employees required to work when University operations have been suspended shall receive their regular rate of pay for work performed including overtime as appropriate during the suspended operation.

For more information about the University's policies and procedures on Temporary Closure/ Suspended Operations and Inclement Weather, including provisions regarding leave use for employees not directly involved in "essential services", click the links below:

[UW Suspended Operations Policy](#)
[UW Inclement Weather Policy](#)

For up to the minute information about the three University of Washington Seattle campus operations during emergency situations or severe weather conditions, call

206-UWS-INFO (206-897-4636)
OR
1-866-897-4636 (toll free)