



POLICY STATEMENT

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SUBJECT: INCLEMENT WEATHER

I. PURPOSE

This policy establishes the framework for decisions and actions related to inclement weather at Louisiana State University in Shreveport (LSUS). It applies to all university personnel, students, and operations affected by weather-related events that may disrupt normal activities or threaten the safety of individuals or property.

LSUS is committed to maintaining full operations in accordance with the approved academic calendars unless a specific decision to close or alter operations is announced. The Chancellor or designee holds authority to close the university, delay openings, or modify operations when weather conditions pose a risk to the health and safety of students, employees, or visitors.

Decisions to alter the operating schedule will be made only in response to weather conditions that significantly impact campus safety, accessibility, or essential infrastructure. Such determinations will be informed by local and regional weather reports, campus conditions, and input from appropriate university officials.

When operational changes are necessary, LSUS will communicate decisions promptly and clearly through official university channels, including emergency notification systems, email, and media announcements. All faculty, staff, and students are expected to exercise sound judgment regarding their personal safety, travel, and work or academic responsibilities in accordance with university announcements.

II. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- A. **Inclement Weather** refers to adverse atmospheric conditions such as snow, ice, extreme cold, severe heat, flooding, or tornado activity that may endanger individuals or disrupt normal university operations.
- B. **Weather-Related Emergency** refers to any anticipated or unanticipated weather event that creates an immediate or developing threat to the safety of individuals, university property, or the continuity of operations. This includes events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, flash flooding, or winter storms that may require protective actions, closure, or operational modifications. It also encompasses periods of extreme heat or cold that present health risks or require limitations on outdoor activity.
- C. **Emergency Conditions** are events or circumstances directly related to weather that significantly affect the safety of the campus community or the continuity of university functions, including power outages, infrastructure failures, or transportation hazards.
- D. **Modified Operating Schedule** describes a temporary adjustment to normal university operations that may include delayed openings, early dismissals, cancellations, or remote instruction and work arrangements.
- E. **Full Closure** indicates the suspension of all nonessential university activities and operations to ensure the protection of people and property during hazardous weather conditions.
- F. **Essential Personnel** are individuals designated by their departments as necessary to maintain university operations and provide critical services during inclement weather or emergency conditions ([PS 1.03.04](#)). These employees may be expected to report to work unless travel is deemed unsafe.
- G. **Emergency Closure Time Off** refers to authorized paid leave granted to eligible employees during official university closures caused by inclement weather or related emergency conditions.

- H. **Alternative Work Locations** are approved sites, including remote or off-campus locations, where employees may continue their work responsibilities when the main campus is closed or operating under modified conditions.

III. POLICY

A. Authority and Decision-Making

1. The Chancellor or designee has the sole authority to determine when the university will close, delay opening, or otherwise modify operations due to inclement weather or a weather-related emergency.
2. Decisions will be based on local and regional weather reports, campus conditions, and consultation with appropriate university officials and public safety authorities.
3. When time permits, the Chancellor may convene or consult members of the [Emergency Response Team](#) to assess conditions and provide recommendations.

B. Communication of Operational Changes

1. All changes to university operations will be communicated promptly through official LSUS communication channels.
2. Communication methods include the university homepage, campus email, text alerts, official university social media accounts, and local or regional media outlets.
3. Only communications issued through these official sources represent the university's operational status.

C. Employee and Student Responsibilities

1. Faculty, staff, and students must follow official announcements regarding university closures or modified operations.
2. Individuals are responsible for evaluating their personal safety and travel conditions before coming to campus.
3. Faculty are expected to maintain continuity of instruction when feasible through alternative means such as remote delivery or adjusted schedules.

4. Students are expected to monitor official communication channels for updates and to complete course requirements as directed by instructors.

D. Compensation and Work Expectations

1. Eligible employees who are not required to report to work during an official closure will receive Emergency Closure Time Off for their regularly scheduled work hours.
2. Essential employees are required to report to or remain available for work to maintain critical university functions and services.
3. Employees working from approved alternative locations not affected by the weather event are expected to maintain normal work schedules.
4. Part-time and student employees will not be compensated for hours not worked during closures unless otherwise authorized by their supervisors.

E. Academic Considerations

1. Faculty members should review the university's inclement weather policy with students at the beginning of each term and explain how class communication will occur during closures or delays.
2. Students will be permitted to make up missed academic work resulting from class cancellations or closures.
3. Faculty are expected to make reasonable accommodations to ensure students are not penalized for absences resulting from hazardous travel conditions.
4. Online coursework may continue independent of the operational status of the physical campus. Faculty teaching online courses are expected to maintain instruction and communication with students unless otherwise directed by the university.
5. Students enrolled in online courses are expected to remain engaged in coursework and meet academic requirements as outlined in the course syllabus.

6. If a weather-related closure or delay occurs during the scheduled final examination period, faculty will make appropriate adjustments in coordination with their department chair or academic leadership.
7. The university may alter academic schedules as necessary in response to weather-related disruptions to ensure appropriate instructional time and academic continuity.
8. Students, both online and in-person, may experience weather-related situations that differ from those affecting the LSUS campus. In such cases, students should contact their faculty directly to discuss potential academic accommodations or alternative arrangements.

F. Sheltering in Place

1. When it is unsafe for individuals to leave campus due to a weather-related emergency, employees and students may be directed to remain in designated facilities until conditions improve.
2. Individuals who remain on campus may be asked to assist with safety or communication efforts as appropriate to their abilities and training.

G. LSUS-Sponsored or Hosted Events and Activities

1. When the university is closed due to inclement weather, all LSUS-sponsored or hosted events and activities are automatically canceled or postponed.
2. Only by explicit approval from the Chancellor or designee may an LSUS-sponsored or hosted event proceed during a university closure.
3. Requests for exceptions must consider factors including road conditions, campus accessibility, safety of participants and staff, and the availability of required university services such as police, facilities, and catering.
4. When an exception is granted, the sponsoring department or organization assumes responsibility for coordination with relevant university offices to ensure safety, security, and operational readiness.
5. Tenant organizations and private event coordinators using university facilities must comply with the university's operational status and coordinate any adjustments with their designated university contact.

H. Restoration of Normal Operations

1. Unless otherwise announced, LSUS will resume normal operations at the beginning of the next business day following a closure or delay.
2. Resumption of operations will be communicated through the same official channels used for closure announcements.

IV. Responsible Office and Policy Review

A. Responsible Office

The Office of the Chancellor is responsible for the administration and oversight of this policy.

B. Coordinating Department

Coordination of this policy is managed by the Office of the Chief of Staff, which will ensure alignment with emergency management procedures, campus communication protocols, and human resources policies related to leave and compensation.

C. Implementation Support

Implementation support will be provided collaboratively by:

1. The University Police Department, for matters of campus safety and emergency response.
2. The Division of Finance and Administration, for employee compensation and payroll continuity.
3. The Division of Academic Affairs, for academic schedule management and instructional continuity.
4. The Division of Student Affairs, for student support, communication, and service continuity.

AUTHORIZED AND APPROVED BY:



Dr. Robert T. Smith, Chancellor

2/16/2026

Date

This policy was written, approved and published in accordance with LSU Shreveport General Policy **1.01.03 Policy Manual** published at <https://www.lsus.edu/faculty-and-staff/human-resources/policy-statements>.