**A Student Guide to Accessibility and Inclement Weather**

The geography of the UW Whitewater campus includes 400-acre campus including 41 major buildings, a nature preserve and arboretum. Altogether, the campus is both long and wide and includes paved paths, several roads, and sidewalks connecting buildings to parking lots.

During the winter months, snow and ice can make getting around campus challenging for everyone but particularly so for individuals with mobility or visual disabilities. Rainy days may also pose as a challenge. This guide has been created to assist you in planning your travels with suggestions and resources to assist in safely navigating campus.

# Before Registering For Classes

1. Develop your class schedule with transportation in mind. Allow sufficient time between classes to use Adaptive Transportation services to get to classes that are far apart. When possible, select classes held in buildings that are close to each other to minimize travel time
2. Locate building assignments and imagine the path of travel with 6-10 inches of snow and ice on it or during rainstorms. What may be navigable in dry weather may not be navigable in other conditions. Look for alternative routes and estimate the time of travel from one location to another. Factor that into your class schedule. Use the [campus map](http://www.uww.edu/Campus/) to help you plan.
3. Consider the location of parking lots, residence halls and other important campus locations that impact your path of travel including places of coverage to wait for a ride.
4. Talk with your advisor about classes that have strict attendance requirements (e.g. lab, foreign language, etc.) and take those requirements into consideration when choosing classes. Expect that there will be days when you will be unable to get to class or are late to due to weather. While faculty will generally be sympathetic to absences that are beyond your control, some classes simply cannot be missed more than a few times, if at all.
5. Submit your schedule to your Disability Service Coordinator at the Center for Students with Disabilities as soon as you register. We can work with departments to sometimes relocate classes to improve access for students with disabilities.

# Once the Semester is Underway

1. Make your own personal safety your first priority. If it would be dangerous for you to attempt to come to campus, don’t come. Contact your faculty via email or phone.
2. Talk with your faculty during the first week of class about the potential to miss or be late to a class and see what options you have to get notes or otherwise make up the absence. Develop a plan during that first week rather than waiting for a storm to hit and have a plan proactively
3. If your route is blocked by snow or ice contact Facilities Planning and Management at 262-472-1320 to request getting a path cleared.
4. Consider a phone appointment with your Disabilities Service Coordinator if you are uncertain about coming to a meeting at the Center for Students with Disabilities. This is an option for all students when any weather is a factor in travel to campus.
5. Check the campus website and local news and weather sources regularly for weather updates and forecasts.

# Helpful Websites

* [UW-Whitewater Campus Map](http://www.uww.edu/Campus/)
* [City of Whitewater Website](http://www.whitewater-wi.gov/)

# For Up-to-Date Weather Information

* [Weather Underground](http://www.wunderground.com/)
* Sign up for web-based severe weather alerts through the local TV stations:
	+ [WKOW TV](http://www.wkowtv.com/)
	+ [NBC 15](http://www.nbc15.com/weather)