

Washington University Class Cancellation Process and Policy

Consistent with the Emergency Conditions Policy, the University is considered “always open.” Class time is precious for students and faculty. While canceling classes is extremely disruptive to the academic mission, it will be considered for safety reasons during severe weather-related or emergency situations. On some occasions, it may be necessary to notify the campus community of normal operations despite inclement weather or other situations.

When the consideration of canceling classes warrants, Emergency Management and WUPD will provide campus conditions update to the Provost. If conditions are unsafe or likely to deteriorate rapidly, the Provost has the authority to cancel classes for Washington University. In making this decision, the Provost will consult with the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, and Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration. Canceling classes may or may not align with an “Alternate Operations” status under the Emergency Conditions Policy. Should classes be canceled or suspended, in addition to the individuals listed above, the Provost’s office would inform the Deans and Public Affairs. Public Affairs will notify news media and coordinate sending a campus message.

If a threat to safety has been declared that requires immediate lockdown or shelter in place status by WUPD and Emergency Management, then all academic activities are paused until the situation is lifted. If this status occurs over a class time change then faculty and students are instructed to follow the directions in the emergency alert, even if that means staying in the classroom after the designated end. Classes would resume on the normal schedule once the threat has been lifted.