

SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES

Frequently Asked Questions

Determining Campus Closure

How does COS determine when closure occurs to severe weather?

The District uses a variety of sources including local police departments, California Highway Patrol, CalTrans, and weather services to determine severe weather conditions. The campus has regular communications with county, safety resources and law enforcement agencies. Questions we ask include:

- Is Interstate 5 open?
- Can the campus roads and parking lots be cleared?
- Is it safe for our students, staff, and faculty?

Who determines when the campus/campuses will be closed?

The Superintendent/President will make the final decision in consultation with a variety of resources. The District considers the safety of our students, faculty and staff to be of the utmost importance. When the Superintendent/President makes the decision to close the college campus(es), this will impact the entire campus(es). During severe weather closure no classes will be held and athletic practices are canceled until the decision is made to reopen the college campus(es). Essential staff may be needed during a closure for safety reasons; these services are determined by the Superintendent/President on a case-by-case basis.

When will campus/campuses closures be determined?

Weather patterns that present risks for severe weather will be identified and rated for the likelihood of creating a decision for campus/campuses closure. If risk levels are identified during the day for that evening, the Superintendent/President will target a "go/no-go" decision for evening classes at least 90 minutes before the majority of evening classes commence (at present evening classes start at 7:00 p.m.; therefore the decision target deadline will be before 5:30 p.m.).

If the District identifies risk levels before the start of the day's classes, the Superintendent/President will target a "go/no-go" decision at least 90 minutes before the first day classes commence (at present daytime classes start at 7:00 a.m.; therefore the decision target deadline will be before 5:30 a.m.).

If you need to start commuting to campus prior to 90 minutes before a class starts, please make your own decisions about safety before traveling.

Will closures always be for the entire day?

For day classes, the District will either declare a closure for the entire day (day and evening classes), a delayed start (usually a 2-hour delay, making the first day classes to be held starting at 9 a.m.), or day-only cancellation, with a delay in determining whether evening classes will be held (which will follow the evening class timeline described above). During a delayed start, any classes that start BEFORE the delayed start commences (e.g., a class that starts at 7:20 a.m. and ends at 9:50 a.m.) will NOT meet.

Notification of Campus Closure and Reopening

How do I find out if the college has been closed and classes are canceled?

We rely on several methods to notify students if the campus is closed. The key methods used include:

- Radio/TV Station Announcements – Tune to the following stations:
 - KSYC 103.9 FM/1490 AM
 - KSIZ 102.3 FM/101.7FM/99.3FM
 - Z100 100.1 FM
 - KRCR – Channel 7 Redding
 - KDRV – Channel 12 Medford
 - KOBI – Channel 5 Medford (Fox 26 is an affiliate of KOBI (Medford))
 - KTVL – Channel 10 Medford
- Social Media Postings:
 - Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CollegeoftheSiskiyous/>
 - Twitter - https://twitter.com/COS_InfoNow
 - Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/siskiyous_eagles/
- Flyers are posted on campus exterior doors of the buildings.
- Message on 530-938-5555 which is the main switchboard number
- Message on the opening page of our website: www.siskiyous.edu
- COS Connect (Everbridge) - The College highly recommends you subscribe to this messaging service in order to receive instant notification on important matters such as campus closure. Go to the College of the Siskiyous webpage: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085611736#/login> or contact the Public Relations Office at 530-938-53 for information on how to sign up for this service.

What do Lodge students do when the District closes the Weed Campus?

During severe weather, students will likely be told to “shelter-in-place,” meaning students should stay in the Lodges. Food and other necessities will be communicated to Lodge student by Lodge staff depending on each severe weather closure situation. The key here is that the District will not forget that during a Weed campus closure there are

students sheltering on the grounds of the closed campus. If evacuation becomes necessary, the District staff will take care of finding shelter and other necessary services.

How do I know when the campus(es) are reopened?

The Superintendent/President will continue to monitor the weather for changes that will allow the campus to reopen. When the decision is made to reopen, it will be communicated through the same methods used for closure, noted above.

Special Circumstances

What if I can't attend class due to severe weather, but the college is still open?

Each student must decide when it is safe to travel. If campus is not closed and you believe you cannot make it there safely, notify your instructor(s). Work with your instructor(s) on the work you miss.

If I am on campus when the decision is made to implement a severe weather closure: what do I do if I either ride the STAGE to and from campus, and it is not operating due to road closures; or my "ride" cannot make it to campus due to the severe weather?

Students who do not have a ride home should meet in the Student Center. Depending upon weather conditions, there may be individuals on campus who can drive you home or you may need to remain on campus. Please remember that your safety is the College's highest priority. The College has worked with the Red Cross to become a "shelter" and in severe weather we may receive that designation.