School Closing or Delay Due to Weather

School Closing or Delay Policy

There are several possible options for altering the college’s normal operation due to weather:

1. Cancellation of all in person classes; staff expected to report
2. Closing the college; only essential operating personnel should report
3. Delay of opening; essential operating personnel should report at normal time and other personnel should report once the college is open
4. Early closing of the college

Decisions about changes to the college’s operations are based on evaluating the effects of current and forecasted conditions on the safety of students, faculty, and staff. There are generally two decision points each day – one in the early morning and a second in the afternoon.

Early Morning Decisions

The decision to close or delay the opening of the college will be made by a group that represents Facilities, Public Safety, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Business and Finance. This group will assess the current conditions, the weather forecast, and the likely effects on college operation and safety. Any decision to alter the normal operations of the college will be communicated to the Canisius community by 6:00 am through the following methods/outlets:

- Canisius Website: www.canisius.edu
- Canisius Portal: https://my.canisius.edu/
- Canisius Alert System
- School Closing Information Line (888-3131)
- TV Stations (Channel 2, WGRZ; Channel 4, WIVB; Channel 7, WKBW; Time Warner Cable, YNN)

Afternoon Decisions

Daytime decisions for early dismissal or cancellation of remaining classes will be made no later than 2:30 pm. If a decision is made to cancel evening classes (classes beginning after 4:00 pm), it will be communicated no later than 2:45 pm via the methods/outlets listed above.

Additional Considerations

Individual Class Cancellations

Individual course instructors may cancel or choose to hold specific courses remotely when the college is operating normally. Full-time faculty should communicate such changes directly to students via the D2L email feature and/or the class listproc. Department chairs may request notification of any unplanned individual class changes. Adjunct faculty should communicate such changes directly to students via the D2L email feature and/or class listproc as well as inform their department chair. Faculty should specify their planned cancellation procedure in their syllabus. Students have a duty to regularly check their D2L email feature and any communication from their instructors.

Campus Events and Other Offices

For campus events during evening hours, weekends and holidays, please see the attached Severe Weather Cancellation Procedures for Campus Events from the office of Events Services for directions. Except under special circumstances, The Women’s Business Center and the Center for Professional Development will follow the decision made by the main campus. Admissions (888-2200) and Alumni Relations will control any scheduled weekend events. The library may still be open even if the college is closed. Please check the library’s website for library hours at https://library.canisius.edu/.

Academic Preparedness

Faculty are encouraged to consult the Academic Preparedness Guide, which presents ways that professors can use online resources to replace classroom class sessions, rather than lose time and force adjustments to course schedules.

Important Numbers

Main Switchboard: 716-883-7000
Public Safety (Watch Commander): 716-888-2330
NYS Thruway (Radio 1610 AM) 1-800-847-8929
School Closing Information Line: 716-888-3131

Canisius Alert System

If you have not signed up for the Canisius Alert System, please sign up at myCanisius.edu under the Campus Services quick links. You may choose to receive notifications by text, phone call, and/or email.