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. This guide has been created to assist you in planning your winter travels with suggestions and resources to assist in safely navigating campus in the winter.

Before Registering For Classes

1. Develop your class schedule with winter 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. What may be navigable in dry weather may not be navigable in snowy 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 to help you plan.

3. Consider the location of parking lots, residence halls and other important campus locations that impact your path of travel

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 for Spring semester. 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 imply cannot be missed more than a few times, if at all. Your advisor may be able to help you develop a class plan that schedules enrollment in these classes in the summer or fall as a simple solution to this unpredictable dilemma.

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 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 the blizzard to hit and have a plan proactively

3. Call in your route to the Center for Students with Disabilities (262.472.4711). The Center for Students with Disabilities will contact the appropriate individuals that are responsible for clearing snow and ice from campus pathways. They will include the path of travel for campus individuals with disabilities as part of their route priorities. Provide sufficient information about your access needs so facilities can provide reasonable access (e.g. wheelchair width, handrail use, parking location, ect.).

4. Consider a phone appointment with your key contact if you are uncertain about coming to a meeting at the Center for Students with Disabilities. This is an option for all students when 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. The UW-W College of Letters and Science Web page provides text and radar information about current weather conditions and local and regional forecasts.

Helpful Websites

- UW-Whitewater Campus Map
- UW-Whitewater Snow Removal Policy
- City of Whitewater Website

For Up-to-Date Weather Information

- UW-Whitewater College of Letters and Sciences
- Weather Underground
- Sign up for web-based severe weather alerts through the local TV stations:
    - Channel 3000
    - WKOW TV
    - NBC 15
    - HeadlineSpot