

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. How do we know if SWOCC (Coos Bay) is closed due to weather?

- A. When a decision is made to close Southwestern Oregon Community College (Coos Campus) or delay classes due to severe weather, the College posts communications with news media, on socc.edu, and sends a RAVE emergency message. Students and employees should go to myLakerLink to sign up to receive RAVE text messages. They should also use myLakerLink to make changes and update their contact information. Calling 541-888-1503 will provide campus closure information.

Q. When will we know that SWOCC Coos Bay is closed?

- A. Closures or delays can be announced at any time as conditions change; however, every effort will be made to announce morning closures or delays by 6:30 a.m. and evening closures by 4:00 p.m.

Q. What do delays mean?

- A. If the opening of classes is delayed, report to class at the new starting time if at least 50 minutes of class/lab time remains. For example, if opening is delayed to 10:00 a.m., classes and labs that normally begin at 10:00 a.m. or are already in session at 10:00 a.m. would meet, but only if the normal ending time for that class or lab is 10:50 a.m. or later. The remainder of the day would continue on the regular schedule.

Q. What about snow and ice removal on main campus?

- A. When snow and ice accumulate on the Coos Bay Campus, gates are closed at the east and main entrances and work crews spread ice melter in pellet and spray form on sidewalks and traffic lanes. Since the Coos Bay area is fairly temperate and does not get exposed to extreme reoccurring heavy snow or icy winter conditions, the SWOCC Coos Bay Facilities Department has limited equipment and treatment resources to react to sudden accumulating snow or widespread icy conditions. It is very important that everyone use appropriate footwear, wear gloves, use handrails, take extra precautions in wintry conditions, and expect slick spots on cold mornings. Call Facilities at 541-888-7250 to report unsafe conditions or concerns.

Q. If SWOCC Coos Bay is closed, should staff report for work?

- A. When the SWOCC Coos Bay campus is closed, all College classes and activities at all Coos Bay area locations are canceled and staff who work there **should not** report for work or come to the work site unless they receive specific instructions otherwise from their supervisor or hear such instructions in news announcements. If it is announced that sections of the Coos Bay campus are closed and others are open, staff who work at the open facilities should report to work as usual.

Q. Will staff get paid?

- A. Per contractual agreement, SWOCC employees are paid when inclement weather requires a campus closure.

Q. How are weather closure decisions made?

- A. SWOCC Coos Bay administrators, safety and facilities staff work as a team and collaborate with public agencies including cities, the county, and ODOT in making weather closure decisions. SWOCC Coos Bay conducts real-time monitoring of developing weather, road, and campus conditions.

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The factors noted as well as other factors are taken into consideration when making a closure or delayed start decision:

- What are conditions on campus?
- What are road conditions like?
- What is the weather forecast?
- Are temperatures expected to fall or rise?
- How will this affect student-parents with kids in school?
- How will this affect students who commute from a significant distance?

Closures may be announced at any time as conditions change, but every effort is made to announce morning closures by 6:30 a.m., and evening closures by 4:00 p.m. Updates are posted as soon as possible.

Closures are announced on myLakerLink, RAVE, the College homepage, Facebook and Twitter pages, local media outlets, and on the switchboard. Closure information is also available by dialing 541-888-1503. Rave Alert is the fastest way to get information. Students and employees should go to [myLakerLink](#) to sign up to receive RAVE text messages.

Each decision is likely to inconvenience someone. SWOCC Coos Bay does its best to ensure safety and accessibility for as many students as possible and encourages individuals to use caution and make the best decisions they can for themselves, whether confronting bad weather or other challenges.

Public agencies such as colleges have found that delays often create more confusion than closing for the day or remaining open for the day. Individual school districts may still delay depending on changing conditions in their vicinities.

If you miss class due to the weather or for any reason beyond your control, talk to your instructor or department head.