



Policy Title:
Inclement Weather Policy

Policy Identifier:
USCSOMC – UME – 1.24

Prepared by: Office of Undergraduate Medical Education	Creation Date: 3-5-24
Reviewed by: Curriculum Committee and Student Affairs Committee	Review Date: 10-15-24
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Category: Undergraduate Medical Education	

LCME Standard

5.7 - Security, Student Safety and Disaster Preparedness

Scope

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Columbia students in the undergraduate medical program and faculty involved in instruction in this program.

Policy Statement

Inclement Weather Policies for M-I and M-II Students. USCSOMC M-I and M-II classes follow USC Columbia classes in instances of cancellations or delays. Makeup work format and timing is at the discretion of the course or block director.

Inclement Weather Policies for M-III and M-IV Students. The inclement weather policies that have been developed and approved for M-III/M-IV medical students are discussed in the Student Handbook to Clinical Rotations and the Clerkship Directors Handbook and are listed below.

Reason for Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarity on institutional expectations. The LCME expects that a medical school ensures that adequate security systems are in place at all locations and publishes policies and procedures to ensure student safety and to address emergency and disaster preparedness.

Procedures

Inclement Weather Schedules for M-III/M-IV students: In contrast to the M-I and M-II years, M-III and M-IV medical students' responsibilities to their patients and to their clinical teams require, as consistently as possible, their presence in the inpatient and outpatient environments. Thus, the policy of following closure of the University is not applicable. Nevertheless, clinical responsibilities must be balanced by concerns for safety. Clinical experiences will be made up at the discretion of the clerkship or site director.

Outpatient Responsibilities: During times of inclement weather, students should make every effort to determine the operating schedule of the outpatient clinic/community medical practice to which they have



been assigned and be present to carry out their clinical responsibilities. However, the final decision about travel to these facilities during times of inclement weather should be made by students based upon their assessment of current travel conditions. When a student determines that safety concerns preclude their travel to the outpatient facility to which they have been assigned, the student should so inform the clerkship director AND an appropriate person in authority at the facility.

Inpatient Responsibilities: During times of inclement weather, students should be present to carry out their clinical responsibilities in inpatient facilities to which they have been assigned. However, the final decision about travel to these facilities during times of inclement weather should be made by students based upon their assessment of current travel conditions. When a student determines that safety concerns preclude their travel to the inpatient facility to which they have been assigned, the student should so inform the clerkship director AND their team leader at that facility.

Contacts

Office of Undergraduate Medical Education
Office of Student Affairs and Career Advising

History

Date of Change	Change
3-5-24	Policy moved to current template