

SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Remote Learning during Inclement Weather

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Inclement weather can impact the ability of South Dakota Mines faculty to deliver lectures, labs, and other teaching and learning under normal in-person conditions. When conditions dictate that campus be closed because of inclement weather, remote learning may still take place under the conditions outlined in this policy.

1. Definition of operational states during inclement weather

When an inclement weather event is either occurring or predicted to occur, South Dakota Mines may close campus and will issue a notification through the Campus Alert System. In the case of a campus closure, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will declare one of two instructional states for the campus:

1. Remote Learning Day (Condition “Yellow”): Under this state, inclement weather conditions are present such that campus is closed, and only essential personnel are required to be on-campus. However, remote instruction is possible. Faculty therefore have the option to assign class work or provide a recorded (i.e., asynchronous) lecture that students will be expected to watch before the next class period. Note that this condition may also apply to a delayed start. Further guidance on allowable instructional activities is provided in Section 2
2. No Remote Learning Day (Condition “Red”): Under this state, inclement weather conditions are extreme and therefore no remote instruction should commence. Faculty are prohibited from assigning any instructional content beyond what has already been assigned in their course.

2. Guidance regarding remote learning activities under Condition “Yellow”

1. Faculty may elect not to require students to participate in a remote learning activity. Regardless, faculty must notify students of their intent for remote instruction either during an in-person class time before the potential weather event occurs or after the campus closure is announced. This communication must be provided to students before 10:00 am or by the end of the scheduled class time, whichever occurs first. A lack of communication from the faculty member will be deemed as an indication that no work has been assigned for the course.

2. Types of remote learning activities that can be assigned include asynchronous lectures, reviewing lecture notes, directed readings, homework problems, or online quizzes. It is strongly advised to not require activities such as final project presentations, exams, or synchronous lectures as inclement weather may result in a loss of power during the planned activity.
3. If the faculty member wishes to provide an asynchronous lecture, the lecture should be posted to D2L within two hours of the end of the regularly scheduled class time, so students have adequate time to review it. The posting of a lecture does not absolve the faculty member of the notification requirements outlined in this policy.

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