



POLICY:	Unanticipated University Closures and Class Cancellations
Effective Date:	April 2023
Review Date:	April 2028
Approving Body:	Senate
Authority:	Vice-President Academic and Research
Contact:	vpacademic@stu.ca
Applies to:	Students, Faculty and Staff of St. Thomas University

1.0 PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

1.1 Application or Purpose

This policy establishes the procedures for class cancellations and online delivery options in cases of unanticipated closures of the University due to inclement weather or other unexpected reasons.

1.2 Responsibilities and Authority

Authority for closure of the University for unanticipated reasons rests with the Vice-President (Academic and Research).

2.0 UNANTICIPATED CLOSURES OF THE UNIVERSITY AND CLASS CANCELLATIONS

- 2.1 In the case of unanticipated University closure, all classes are cancelled and may not be delivered in-person or online *synchronously* (this includes courses formally scheduled to be delivered online).

Rationale: Potential issues associated with unexpected closures (due to inclement weather, evacuations, power outages, etc.) include unequal and intermittent access to the internet, short notice, competing responsibilities, communication issues, and general confusion. Thus, requiring students to participate in an online class during the normally scheduled timeslot may be problematic.

- 2.2 In the case of unanticipated University closure, individual faculty members may opt to post course content online for students to access *asynchronously* within a reasonable time frame, to mitigate the effects of lost class time. However, faculty members are not required or expected to deliver material online *asynchronously*.

- 2.3** Faculty members are encouraged to include in their syllabi their preferred practice in the case of unanticipated University closures and class cancellations, as long as their chosen approach respects the Policy (i.e., faculty members may not unilaterally choose to deliver classes online *synchronously* when the University is closed).

Approved by Senate on *April 20, 2023*.