



**Policy Title:**  
Severe Weather Policy

**Policy Identifier:**  
PA104

<b>Prepared by:</b> PA Program Faculty	Creation Date: 01/01/2026
<b>Reviewed by:</b> PA Executive Committee	Review Date: 01/01/2026
<b>Approved by:</b> PA Executive Committee	Effective Date: 01/01/2026
<b>Category:</b> Health and Safety Policies	

**Scope**

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Columbia PA students.

**Policy Statement**

During the academic year, the Physician Assistant Program follows all University of South Carolina guidelines regarding campus closures and schedule changes due to severe weather conditions. These procedures apply to PA students enrolled in the didactic phase of the curriculum.

PA students in the clinical phase have ongoing responsibilities to their patients and clinical teams; therefore, university closure policies do **not** automatically apply to students in supervised clinical practice experiences (SCPEs). Clinical students must balance their professional obligations with personal safety considerations.

**Reason for Policy**

To communicate how university weather-related closures impact PA students in both the didactic and clinical phases and to ensure safety while maintaining essential patient care responsibilities.

**Definitions**

- **Didactic Phase:** Classroom-based portion of the curriculum in which students follow the university's closure decisions.
- **Clinical Phase (SCPEs):** Rotations in clinical settings where students participate as part of a patient care team and may be expected to report despite university closures.

**Procedures**

**Didactic Students**

- Must follow all university announcements regarding closures or delays caused by severe weather.
- Classes, labs, and scheduled activities will proceed or be canceled in alignment with



university decisions.

### **Clinical Students**

- University closure policies do not apply automatically.
- Students should assess conditions and communicate promptly with their preceptor or clinical site if safety concerns arise.
- Students are responsible for balancing their safety with the expectation to support their clinical team and patient care responsibilities.

### **Contacts**

Program Director  
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### **History**

<b>Date of Change</b>	<b>Change</b>
01/01/2026	Policy drafted into new template