

## Campus closures: Common student questions

Winter is in full swing and with it comes the possibility of poor road and weather conditions. Here are the most common questions students ask...answered.

### How do I find out if my campus is closed?

Please monitor more than one communication channel:

- [Georgian website](#) (homepage)
- [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Student or employee portal
- Georgian email account
- Safe@Georgian app; download it in the app store on your personal device and activate push notifications
- Recorded message when you call your campus (the Barrie number always includes closure announcements regardless of campus or location, so try 705.728.1968)

You may also hear about closures on local radio.

### How does Georgian determine if a campus should close?

Given weather inconsistencies in our region, it can be challenging to decide when a campus or location stays open and when it closes.

The college considers many aspects, including:

- Safety of staff, students, clients and visitors
- Types of activities planned for the day
- Accessibility of the campus or location (e.g., it may be necessary to close or temporary close due to snow removal or unsafe conditions on campus)
- Operations status of public transit
- Road condition or weather reports
- Status of closure decisions at other nearby campuses, schools, businesses, etc.
- Highway closures

For a closure during the business day, Georgian also considers the safety of those leaving the campus or site and whether forecast changes may allow for safer departure later.

### When is a decision to close a campus made?

Every effort is undertaken to make a decision by 6 a.m. and to communicate it by 6:30 a.m. Decisions about evening closures are typically made by 2:30 p.m. to enable communication by 3 p.m.

A campus or location may close, however, at any time during regular business hours should conditions warrant it.

### When will I know if my campus is re-opening?

If Georgian may re-open during the day or for evening classes, you'll be informed during morning communications:

- Decisions to re-open (or not) a campus by noon are made by 9:30 a.m. and communicated by 10 a.m.
- Decisions to re-open (or not) for evening classes that start at 5 p.m. or later are made by 2:30 p.m. and communicated by 3 p.m.
- Only those events, classes or activities scheduled to commence after the re-opening time will proceed as normal.

### If my campus is closed, are classes cancelled?

Yes. All classes – including full- and part-time studies – are cancelled.

### If my campus is closed, is my exam cancelled?

Yes. The Registrar's Office and your academic area will re-schedule the exam to a suitable date and time.

### If my campus is closed, is my work cancelled?

Yes. If you work on campus, your shift is cancelled.

### If my campus is closed, is the Athletic Centre closed too?

Yes. Same with the library and all other student services.

### I'm supposed to go to an event but my campus is closed. Is the event still on?

Check with the event organizers to be sure.

### I'm supposed to hand in an assignment or project today but the campus is closed. What should I do?

It's likely you'll need to hand it in the following day, however, check Blackboard to see if your instructor has posted a new deadline or expects you to submit it online.

### Why are some campuses open and others closed?

Students and staff live across a broad geographic area and encounter a wide range of travelling conditions that can vary dramatically. There are often situations where one area is hit hard while other areas of the region remain unaffected. For example, the Barrie Campus could be closed and the Orillia Campus open (or vice versa), despite the fact they're less than a 30-minute drive apart.

The college is committed to keeping its campuses and locations open, except in extreme circumstances. People depend on Georgian having its doors open for many reasons. It's important to be prepared, plan ahead and to make decisions about your own safety.

### The announcement says the Orillia Campus is closed, but what about Barrie?

If your campus is closed, it will be in the closure notice. If it's not in the notice, your campus is open.

### The Barrie Campus rarely closes but other campuses do. Why?

Decisions to close a campus or location are made locally and on a case-by-case basis. Barrie has very different weather than other more northern and rural campuses and has different snow clearing operations. Staff make every effort to ensure the Barrie Campus is open.

### If the Barrie Campus is closed, is the downtown Barrie location closed too?

Yes, unless otherwise stated in the closure notice.

### If the campus in my community is closed, is Georgian's employment centre location closed too?

It depends; call to check.

### I hear the South Georgian Bay Campus (Collingwood) is closed but I take academic upgrading off site in Wasaga Beach. Is my class cancelled?

Yes, unless otherwise stated in the closure notice.

### My campus is closed but I'm on co-op, clinical, or field/work placement. What should I do?

If the location where you work or are doing your co-op or placement is open, then you're expected to be there. If you feel it's unsafe to go, take responsibility for your personal safety and make the decision that's best for you.

Immediately notify your co-op employer or supervisor and work with them to achieve any missed hours and learning outcomes.

## My campus is closed but it looks fine outside. Why is it closed?

There are many potential reasons, including:

- Accessibility of the campus or location (e.g., it may be necessary to close or temporary close due to snow removal or unsafe conditions on campus)
- Operations status of public transit
- Road condition or weather reports
- Status of closure decisions at other nearby campuses, schools, business, etc.
- Highway closures

## I just drove an hour to get to my campus to find out it's closed. Why didn't I know?

We recognize some of our students may have a long commute. Please monitor more than one communication channel as listed above before heading out. If you're on the road earlier than when we typically announce a morning closure, tune in to a radio station in your campus community.

## I just drove an hour to get to my campus to find my class is cancelled but the campus is open. Why didn't I know?

Some faculty members travel far to get to campus too. Sometimes they'll cancel their classes, even though the campus is open, to avoid putting their own safety at risk. In the winter, it's always a good idea to check BlackBoard before coming to campus to make sure your class is still scheduled to take place.

## Bad weather is in the forecast for tomorrow. Why can't you close a campus now and let us know?

Weather predictions don't always come true. Sometimes a storm changes course or tapers off. Before heading out to your campus, check our Georgian communication channels to see if it's open and as always, make the decision that's best for your personal safety.

## The weather is bad and I feel unsafe coming to school. What should I do?

Given the unpredictable nature of weather in our region, you must exercise your own discretion and caution depending on the conditions in your area. If the risk is too great to travel, take responsibility for your personal safety and make a sound decision based on your particular circumstance.

Immediately notify your instructor and work with them to achieve any missed course or learning outcomes. If you work on campus, notify your supervisor.

## It's stressful deciding whether to come to campus. Why can't you decide for us?

Your comfort level with winter weather may be different from someone else's. Consider this good practise for when you graduate and need to make a decision about whether or not to go to work. Your employer is unlikely to make that decision for you.

I have a major assignment due but I feel unsafe coming to campus. What should I do?  
Immediately notify your instructor and ask what your options are.

I'm supposed to do a presentation in class today but I feel unsafe coming to campus.  
What should I do?

Immediately notify your instructor and ask what your options are.

I didn't come to class because it was bad out and now my prof won't let me make up a test/assignment/project/presentation. What should I do?

Did you notify your instructor right away about your personal circumstances on the day of the campus closure? If yes, you shouldn't be penalized if you made a reasonable decision based on personal safety and are able to meet course requirements.

If you feel you've been treated unfairly, [book an appointment with your student advisor](#). They can talk you through next steps and share with you Georgian's formal appeals process.

My prof told me I'll get a zero on my assignment if I don't come in, regardless of weather. What should I do?

If you feel it's unsafe to come in, notify your instructor immediately and explain the circumstances. You shouldn't be penalized if you made a reasonable decision based on personal safety.

If you feel you've been treated unfairly, [book an appointment with your student advisor](#). They can talk you through next steps and share with you Georgian's formal appeals process.

I have to drive through an area with poor weather to get to my campus. What should I do?

If the risk is too great to travel, take responsibility for your personal safety and make a sound decision based on your circumstance. Weather varies in our region and while you may have a commute with poor driving conditions, it could be sunny and safe at your campus.

I experience high anxiety when driving to campus in the winter. What should I do?

Your mental health and well-being is important. [Book a free and confidential appointment](#) with a Georgian counsellor. They can help you with individual strategies.

My campus is closing but my ride doesn't come until later. What should I do?

When a campus closes, you'll always be told to leave when it's safe to do so. If you require special assistance or advice about transportation or accommodation during a campus closure, [contact Campus Safety Services](#) or chat with your local campus manager or campus principal.

[View Georgian's unscheduled closure procedure.](#)