

# Physical Plant Employee Expectations

Effective January 1, 2024

Physical Plant

Division of Facilities Planning & Management

University of Wisconsin – Madison

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https://physicalplant.wisc.edu/

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# INTRODUCTION

Physical plant employee expectations are a tool to promote individual and organizational success in alignment with the mission, vision and values of Facilities Planning and Management (FP&M.) These expectations are used in partnership with FP&M's Performance Management and Performance Development (PMDP) process and FP&M Criteria for success, as well as <a href="Chapter 18 Appendix: University of Wisconsin System Classified Work Rules">Chapter 18 Appendix: University of Wisconsin System Classified Work Rules</a> and other applicable policies and procedures. Department management may make additional procedures and directives to support operations.

In the event of any violation of expectations, work directives, Classified Employee Work Rules or other policies and procedures, the appropriate disciplinary process may be initiated:

- > For University Staff: Corrective Progressive Discipline Policy for University Staff
- For Academic Staff: <u>Discipline</u>, <u>Dismissal</u>, and <u>Nonrenewal for Academic Staff</u>
  policy

These expectations apply to all Physical Plant employees. Sections will be noted if they pertain to a specific employee classification or FLSA designation (exempt, non-exempt). Successful job performance depends on a clear and full understanding of and commitment to workplace expectations. These expectations are not intended to restrict the rights of employees, but rather to promote consistency across the unit and position all staff and supervisors for success in their roles.

# **EMPLOYEE RESOURCES**

Health and well-being of our employees is a priority. If an employee is struggling with personal issues and/or difficulties that may impact their ability to understand and/or meet expectations, they are encouraged to consider the following resources:

## **Employee Assistance Office (EAO)**

The UW-Madison Employee - Assistance Office can be reached at (608) 263-2987 or at <a href="http://eao.wisc.edu">http://eao.wisc.edu</a>. The services of the Employee Assistance Office are confidential; no records are kept. Anything discussed will be kept confidential, and will not be released without the employee's authorization, except under special circumstances as governed by federal and state regulations.

#### **Life Matters**

LifeMatters offers assistance to employees when they are experiencing issues that could be affecting their work. LifeMatters serves UW-Madison employees and household dependents throughout Wisconsin and nationally, and has staff available by phone 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. LifeMatters can be reached at 1-800-634-6433, or via text (text "Hello" to 61295).

# **University Ombuds Office**

Ombuds provide employees with a confidential place to collaboratively explore complaints, clarify issues, and consider options and resources to address their concerns. Ombuds are impartial and non-aligned, working to promote fairness in the workplace. Their phone number is (608) 265-9992, and their website is <a href="http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/">http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/</a>. Anything discussed will be kept confidential, and will not be released without your authorization, except under special circumstances as governed by federal and state regulations.

## **Divisional Disability Representative (DDR)**

If at any time you are experiencing workplace difficulties that may be related to a medical condition or disability, please contact your DDR to discuss your concerns, as leave time and/or accommodations may be available to you pursuant to University policy and workplace laws.

The FP&M DDR is housed in human resources: fpmhr@fpm.wisc.edu

#### Governance

Office of the Secretary of the Academic Staff – 608-263-2985; soas@soas.wisc.edu; https://acstaff.wisc.edu/

Secretary of University Staff -608-263-2995; john.lease@wisc.edu; https://ous.wisc.edu/

# ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Physical Plant understands the importance of employees taking a break from work to have an enriching personal life. We value our staff taking time to refresh and care for their health. Historically, Physical Plant has had challenges regarding attendance and punctuality which has impacted our operations. These expectations are intended to allow employees to utilize university paid leave offerings afforded to them as part of their employment while also giving management the authority to take staffing into account when executing business operations.

## 1. Definitions

**Tardy:** any period of time within the first hour of a scheduled shift in which staff are not at their designated workstations, are not prepared to work or return late from breaks. For time missed beyond an hour, see absence definition. Or taking unexcused extended rest or meal breaks.

**Early Departure:** leaving work prior to end of shift

**Planned absence:** approved absence which meets notice requirements

**Unplanned absence**: absences that do not meet notice requirements

**No call/no show:** unexcused absence where the employee does not contact their supervisor within one hour of the beginning of a shift.

**Excessive absenteeism:** Frequent unplanned time away from work, regardless of whether the employee has leave time remaining to cover the absence.

**Leave without Pay (LWOP)**: unpaid leave of absence from work of any duration. Refer to FP&M Leave Without Pay Policy.

**Health Care Provider/Treating Specialist:** doctor, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or other health care services provider as defined by 29 C.F.R. §825.125.

**Bereavement:** utilize leave options (including sick leave) which may be used upon the death of a family member. For full detail refer to campus bereavement leave policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-5057.

# 2. Accrued leave usage

Refer to the following policies for information on leave usage:

• Personal and Legal Holidays UW-5050 https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-5050

- Sick UW-5051 https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-5051
- Vacation UW-5052 <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-5052">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-5052</a>
- Leave without pay (LWOP) is not routinely approved to cover absences in excess of available leave time or in lieu of using leave time. Refer to the <u>FP&M Leave Without Pay</u> (LWOP) Policy.

# 3. Unplanned absences

Most employees will have unplanned absences (sick leave, emergent issue, etc.) If an employee suspects they may be unexpectedly tardy or absent, it is Physical Plant's expectation that the employee notifies their supervisor (or designee) immediately. It is important to do this as soon as possible, but no later than the start of the employee's shift, to provide the supervisor time to readjust their work plan for the day/shift. Unplanned absences would only trigger further action if they become excessive.

# 4. Early Departure

Unexpected needs may arise during a work shift requiring employees to leave work. Employees must notify their supervisor, prior to their departure, if they intend to leave work for any reason(s) during the work shift, even if they intend to return. Note that unpaid meal breaks are not considered your work shift.

# 5. No call/no show

- If an employee does not contact their supervisor within one hour of the beginning of a shift, it is considered a no call/no show.
- If an employee's absence request is denied and they still fail to arrive for their shift, this is considered a no call/no show.
- If an employee is scheduled for on-call or stand by shift and fails to respond to communications or report into work at designated time, this is also a no call/no show.
- No call/no shows are considered egregious and may result in termination, especially if the
  no call/no shows are for sequential shifts. If an employee intends to quit employment
  they should follow proper resignation process rather than abandon their job through no
  call/no shows.

# 6. Emergency Contact

Employee safety is a primary concern. When an employee does not call in to work, does not answer management attempts to reach them, FP&M HR may reach out to the

employee's listed emergency contact and/or work with the police department to conduct a wellness check to ensure the safety of the employee. If this is needed, HR would disclose to the emergency contact or police department the employee's attendance and any other concerning behaviors that may be present. It is important that employees keep their emergency contact information up to date.

# 7. Severe Weather and Emergency Conditions- Essential work

Physical Plant must maintain essential services and operations during severe weather and emergency conditions. Essential services include, but not limited to, maintaining campus operations, supporting research facilities, and providing necessary support and administrative services. It is imperative that all Physical Plant Staff understand the essential nature of their work and are committed to supporting the needs of our campus community. It is expected that staff make efforts to limit the need for unplanned absences during weather events.

## 8. Healthcare Provider Statement.

A health care provider's note does not always excuse an absence, especially an unplanned absence which is not protected leave (ex. FMLA.) A note supplied after an absence or tardy has occurred may not excuse a lack of timely communication by the employee. A healthcare provider's note will be taken into consideration when initially deciding if an absence is excused or unexcused, or if excessive absenteeism may be occurring.

A Divisional Disability Representative (DDR) will need a healthcare provider's statement when:

- There are alleged cases of suspected leave abuse, refer to the <u>UW-Madison Sick Leave</u>
   <u>Policy.</u>
- An employee is returning from an absence of five or more consecutive days due to employee's own illness.
- An employee is returning from an absence as a result of an injury, either work or nonwork related, where they may have sustained an injury that will impact their ability to perform the day-to-day responsibilities of their position.
- An employee is requesting an accommodation for a disability.
- An employee is requesting a leave of absence for medical purposes.

If an employee is submitting a healthcare provider's statement as a result of one of the noted requirements, the healthcare provider's statement must be presented to the FP&M Human

Resources Division Disability Representative (DDR) upon or prior to the employee's return to work. The list of DDRs can be found <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>. The healthcare provider's statement must contain: 1) the time period when the employee was unable to perform their job and 2) the date the employee was released to return to work and perform their normal job activities.

If an employee is returning from an illness or medical leave of absence of at least 5 days, or injury and has restrictions or requires an accommodation the medical documentation must be presented to the DDR and the statement must contain: 1) verification that illness or injury prohibits employee from performing normal duties and 2) identification of the duration of restriction or accommodation, the nature of the restriction or accommodation requested and a detailed description of the duties the employee is unable to perform.

#### 9. Planned absences

Requests for use of vacation, banked leave, personal holiday, and floating legal holiday must be made as far in advance as possible, or in the timeframe communicated to you by your supervisor. Planned time off requests must be made for any amount of time missed from work, even if the employee will only be tardy rather than absent an entire shift. Requests must be approved in advance by the employee's immediate supervisor (or designee.) Supervisors will inform their staff directly on how to request time off.

A time off request may be denied by the supervisor due to operational necessity. An employee's supervisor has the responsibility to ensure that an adequate number of employees are available to complete the required work and may limit the number of employees that are off at any time. It is expected that as much advance notice as possible is provided to allow supervisors time to consider a request.

## 10. Excessive Absenteeism

Excessive absenteeism is not permissible, even if paid leave time is available, as it impacts department operations and puts extra strain on colleagues. If excessive absenteeism is suspected, a full review of employee attendance and leave usage may be prompted. This may result in the scheduling of an investigatory meeting to discuss the employee's attendance record and leave usage to decide if corrective action (discipline) is warranted. It is important that

employees speak with a DDR promptly if they have a medical condition that may be impacting their attendance. Examples of issues that may prompt a review of attendance and leave usage:

- Multiple unplanned absences in a short period of time, including those reported as sick or vacation time.
- Pattern of unplanned absences on Fridays or days bookending a weekend or planned vacation time.
- Regular unplanned tardies or early departures.
- Regularly calling in during weather emergencies, or other special events

## MEAL AND REST BREAKS

Rest and meal breaks *may not* be combined to create a longer break, or to modify the start and end times of a shift. Games such as cards, dominoes, etc., are allowed during the rest break periods and unpaid meal breaks; however, gambling or betting is restricted. Employees should use good judgement and be mindful of others in the building as to not be disruptive.

Rest Breaks for nonexempt University staff and nonexempt Academic Staff Supervisors will determine, based on operational needs, breaktimes and designate the area where rest breaks will be taken.

Employees working more than 4 hours but less than 6 consecutive hours in a single shift are expected to take a 15-minute paid rest break.

Employees working a shift longer than 6 hours should take a 15-minute rest break in the first half of their shift and another 15-minute rest break in the second half of their shift.

Employees may be permitted to leave their assigned area(s) during their 15-minute break, but any travel from one location to another must fall within the 15-minute break. Employees should not leave campus and should remain in a reasonable distance from their work location during their 15-minute breaks.

# Unpaid Meal Breaks for nonexempt university staff

Employees working more than 6 consecutive hours in a single shift must take a minimum of a 30-minute unpaid meal break during their shift, in addition to their rest breaks.

Meal breaks are unpaid 30+ minute breaks where employees are relieved of duties. Employees are permitted to leave their assigned area(s) or campus during their unpaid lunch break; however, any travel from one location to another must fall within the 30+ minute unpaid meal period. In certain circumstances supervisors may limit where meal breaks can and cannot be taken. These decisions are not made to limit the employee's freedom during meal breaks, but to ensure we are considering the broader campus community's needs. Some supervisors may require employees to notify them if they are leaving the work area for their meal break, this is to ensure they return safely and or to coordinate key drop off, if applicable.

# Paid Rest Breaks for nonexempt Academic Staff

It is recommended that nonexempt Academic Staff take a similar break but this is not required unless specified by a supervisor.

# Equipment during break times

Supervisors may require employees to turn in UW property (e.g., keys, tools) if they are leaving the campus or designated work area(s) for their meal break.

# **USE OF PROPERTY**

# Cellphone usage

Any employee issued a UW-Madison cell phone will be required to read and abide by the terms of the UW-Madison University-Funded Cellular Service policy, UW-522.

For safety reasons, employees are encouraged to bring their personal cell phones to work and to carry them while on work time. There may be situations when a WISC Alert notification is issued to employees and it's beneficial for all employees to be made aware of these notifications as quickly as possible. Cell phone use for personal reasons such as playing games, talking to friends or social media use should be reserved for break periods.

We have high pedestrian traffic on our campus and we must do our part to ensure everyone arrives at their destination safely. The use of personal or work-issued cellular phones while driving University-owned vehicles is strongly discouraged unless a voice call needs to be made in an emergency. If operating a vehicle which requires a CDL, cell phone use of any kind is prohibited. Texting while operating a vehicle is always prohibited, even in urgent situations.

## Materials and equipment

The removal or use of university property for personal use is prohibited. This includes material in waste receptacles and recycle receptacles. Equipment and materials owned by Physical Plant will not be loaned out for personal use. Private property of another person may not be used without the other person's permission.

If, during the course of work, employees find items or materials that may belong to others and appear to be lost, a supervisor should be informed promptly.

## Bulletin boards

Physical Plant bulletin boards are for notices and posters related to the UW. All postings should include the date of posting and, if applicable, the date of removal. Notices and posters should not be removed from designated bulletin areas except by those with authorization to manage bulletin areas. Management reserves the right to remove old items. If an employee wishes to post a non-UW related notice or posting, they must first gain approval from the building manager, their supervisor, or designee prior to doing so.

# Keys and building access

Responsible key usage is imperative to protect safety and security of the university community, to secure the physical and data assets of the university, and to comply with the Homeland Security Act. Employees accessing an area via key or Wiscard access should ensure the door is secure after they pass through. Access to campus buildings is granted to staff who have a business need within a certain UW building(s). Employees should speak to their supervisor if they need access to a building or area on campus.

Entry into any locked campus building outside of normal work hours is prohibited unless specifically authorized by your supervisor and or a building manager or when responding to an emergency work request.

Employees are responsible for work keys issued to them by the Physical Plant Locksmith Shop or obtained through a Keywatcher. Loss of keys must be reported to your supervisor immediately. If an employee receives property access via their Wiscard, they are required to report any lost or stolen Wiscard immediately.

Employees may not transfer any University key from an individual entrusted with its possession to another person, or have unauthorized possession of a University key.

No person may duplicate a University key or request the unauthorized duplication of a University key. Negligence in key responsibility could result in the scheduling of an investigatory/predisciplinary meeting.

## PERSONAL ACTIONS AND APPEARANCE

## **Behavior**

When staff are not meeting workplace expectations, supervisors have the responsibility to counsel and coach them. Supervisors are also expected to provide corrective action in such situations and document these corrective action processes. In some instances, a "Performance Improvement Plan (PIP)" may be initiated to assist supervisors and staff in addressing and resolving performance problems. In addition, disruptive behavior and offensive language will not be tolerated at any time especially when in the presence of colleagues, students, and/or visitors. Employees should be aware of and understand the campus Hostile and Intimidating Behavior policy: https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/

#### Theft

Theft of any item and/or the unauthorized use of any item(s) located on university property, including waste and recyclable materials, is prohibited. This includes University waste materials or discarded equipment. Suspicion of theft may result in the scheduling of an investigatory/predisciplinary meeting which may lead to discipline up to and including termination of employment.

## Appropriate Attire

Workplace attire will be neat, clean, and appropriate for the settings and duties being performed. Uniforms may be required for certain positions. Supervisors will communicate their department's workplace attire and appearance expectations to staff. Any questions about the department's expectations for attire should be discussed with a supervisor.

Employees who do not meet the standards set by their department may be directed to use leave time to leave the work site to change clothing to comply with designated workplace attire standards.

A department/unit's workplace attire guideline will not violate Title VII. If attire requirements interfere with a staff member's observance of religious practices, an accommodation may be considered. Physical Plant is committed to accommodating a staff member's religious beliefs unless the accommodation creates an undue hardship. Any questions about Title VII compliance can be reviewed with the FP&M Human Resources Office, the UW-Madison Office of Human Resources and or the UW-Madison Office of Compliance.

## **WISCard**

All employees should carry their WISCard on them. The wearing of a WISCard is especially important so that FP&M staff can be easily identified by building occupants, emergency personnel or campus visitors, especially when working night and early morning hours. Some supervisors, such as those in Custodial Services, may require employees to display a valid and current WISCard. When displayed, WISCards should be affixed to a clip, clasp or break-away lanyard.

## Alcohol and Drug use

Illegal use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcohol or controlled substances by an employee is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action. Reporting for work with indications that an employee may be impaired and/or under the influence of alcohol, illegal, or legal drugs may result in the employee's removal from the work site and possible disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

Employees are subject to the <u>Drug-Free Schools and Communities act (DFCSA)</u>. If an employee is experiencing personal issues with drug or alcohol usage, they are encouraged to consider accessing free University resources: Employee Assistance Office <a href="https://hr.wisc.edu/employee-assistance-office/">https://hr.wisc.edu/employee-assistance-office/</a> and LifeMatters - www.mylifematters.com.

## Smoke-Free

Smoking of any material is prohibited in all buildings, facilities, and vehicles owned, operated, or leased by the University of Wisconsin-Madison except in special circumstances. Smoking includes the burning of any type of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, or any other smoking

equipment or the use of electronic smoking device including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, or pipe.

FP&M recognizes the health problems that commonly arise because of and in relation to smoking and encourages staff to reach out to the <u>Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line</u>. The Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line is a free service to help people quit smoking, vaping, or other tobacco use. The service is free 24/7 to any Wisconsin resident who is at least 13 years old. They can be reached at 1-800-QUIT-NOW or you can Text READY to 200-400.

All other provisions of the UW-Madison Smoke-Free Policy are expected to be adhered to.

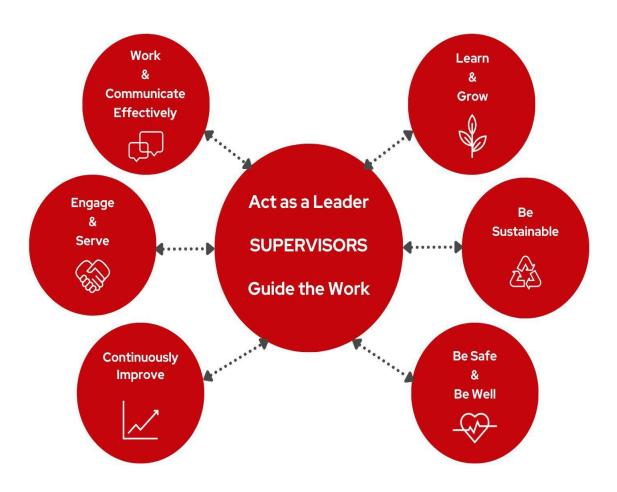
# Carry Of Concealed Weapons

No employee shall carry or go armed with a firearm or other weapon at any time while in the course and scope of employment, unless it is necessary as determined and approved in advance by the chancellor or designees, usually the chief of police.

Violation of this provision, or threats of violation, may subject the employee to severe discipline or dismissal pursuant to applicable policies and procedures. For further information, refer to <a href="UW-Madison's Carry"><u>UW-Madison's Carry of Concealed Weapons policy</u></a>.

# FP&M CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS

Physical Plant staff should be aware of the key skills and values that are expected of them. These are what we call FP&M's 'Criteria for Success.' The criteria for success are listed below. For full detail visit: https://inside.fpm.wisc.edu/documents/criteria-for-success/



# CONCLUSION

Please note, the information described in this interpretation is intended to provide the guidelines and general information necessary to enable FP&M Physical Plant staff and supervisors to work together successfully and effectively in order to accomplish assigned job responsibilities and – perhaps even more importantly – to support FP&M's overarching mission. Except as provided in the applicable grievance procedures, information contained in this document prepared for or relating to non-exempt and exempt staff is for informational purposes only and shall not be construed as a contract.

These expectations guidelines strive to be a wide-ranging information resource, it should not be understood as a full-replacement of UW-Madison and or FP&M's official policies or of its more comprehensive procedures and guidelines. If you find that you have questions that are not answered here, please contact your supervisor or FP&M's Human Resources Department (fpmhr@fpm.wisc.edu).

The provisions of this version of the "Physical Plant Expectations" supersede all previous editions of "Physical Plant/Custodial Interpretation of Work Rules." These expectations may not be amended or added to in any way without the express written approval of designated leadership.

Polices or procedures referenced in these expectations may change. Please refer to UW-Madison Policy Library at <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/">https://policy.wisc.edu/</a> and FP&M Policies at <a href="https://inside.fpm.wisc.edu/policies/">https://inside.fpm.wisc.edu/policies/</a>.

# RELATED REFERENCES

Referenced Site Name	Site Address	
Chapter 18 Appendix: University of	https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-5072	
Wisconsin System Classified Work		
Rules		
Corrective Progressive Discipline	https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-5068	
Policy for University Staff		
Discipline, Dismissal, and	https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-5070	
Nonrenewal for Academic Staff		
policy		
Employee Assistance Office	https://hr.wisc.edu/employee-assistance-office/	
LifeMatters	www.mylifematters.com	
Ombuds Office	https://ombuds.wisc.edu/	
Secretary of Academic Staff	soas@soas.wisc.edu https://acstaff.wisc.edu/	
Secretary of University Staff	john.lease@wisc.edu https://ous.wisc.edu/	
FP&M Leave Without Pay Policy.	https://d29pssm7a84sq8.cloudfront.net/wp-	
	content/uploads/sites/21/2017/03/Leave-Without-Pay-Policy-	
	<u>December-2021-Final.pdf</u>	
29 C.F.R. §825.125	https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-29/subtitle-B/chapter-	
	V/subchapter-C/part-825/subpart-A/section-825.125	
Funeral/Bereavement Leave Policy	https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-5057	
UW-Madison Sick Leave Policy.	https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-5051	
Vacation Policy UW-5052	https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-5052	
Divisional Disability Representative	https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/divisional-disability-	
(DDR) Listing	representatives-ddr/	
UW-Madison's Carry of Concealed	https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-725	
Weapons		
UW-Madison University-Funded	https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-522	
Cellular Service		
Drug-Free Schools and	https://alcoholanddruginfo.students.wisc.edu/dfsac-act/	
Communities act (DFCSA).		
UW-Madison Smoke-Free Policy	https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-6006	
Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line	https://quitline.wisc.edu/	
Hostile and Intimidating Behavior	https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/	
(HIB)		
FP&M Criteria for Success	https://inside.fpm.wisc.edu/hr/performance-management/	
UW-Madison Policy Library	https://policy.wisc.edu/	
FP&M Policies	https://inside.fpm.wisc.edu/policies/	