

## **UMW Outdoor Classroom Guidelines Fall 2020**

Various outdoor spaces on campus have been designated as outdoor meeting places that faculty might want for their courses. See [attached map](#) for designated locations. In an effort to coordinate moves to outdoor meeting places, these guidelines have been developed.

### **Scheduling**

Please contact [Alecia.McDougal@umwestern.edu](mailto:Alecia.McDougal@umwestern.edu) in the Register's Office to reserve an outdoor space. **Outdoor spaces, as indicated on the map, need to be reserved for use during block classes.**

### **First Day of Class**

Faculty are responsible for letting their students know where they will meet the first day of class (outdoor classroom, indoor classroom, Zoom).

### **Acoustics**

Please keep in mind that acoustics may be poor and it may be difficult for students in larger courses to hear. Also, Atlantic Street can be a bit noisy.

### **Signage**

Signs will be posted in these designated outdoor classroom(s) that indicate that the area is a scheduled teaching space.

### **Chairs/Seating, Social Distancing, and Masks**

If your space is located on the grass and seating is required, faculty will need to request that students bring camp chairs or other easy-to-transport chairs or sit on the ground.

We have purchased two tents which will be available for outdoor classes. Each will have tables and chairs and have capacity for 25-30 students. Chairs will be set up at 6-foot distances and left in place. These spaces will be cleaned twice a day before each block class.

Picnic tables are currently located in front of Mathews Hall, these can be used for classroom seating. Additionally, there are 9 red Adirondack chairs located on the north side of the Tundra. These can also be used for classroom seating. (We are working on getting 21.)

Faculty are responsible for ensuring physical distancing, since, with the exception of the tents, chairs will not be pre-set at 6-foot distances as they are in indoor classrooms. Masks are not required outdoors if 6-foot distances can be maintained, but can still be recommended.

**Accessibility**

For outdoor classrooms on the grass, faculty will need to communicate with their students to learn if anyone has an accessibility issue that would prevent them from getting to the grass and using a portable chair. If accessibility questions arise, please consult the Dean of Students: [nicole.hazelbaker@umwestern.edu](mailto:nicole.hazelbaker@umwestern.edu).

**Technology**

Unless there is a nearby power source, there is unlikely to be power available. WiFi may be poor or non-existent. Thus, it is unlikely that outdoor classrooms will work to live Zoom class sessions for students who are attending remotely. Legacy Plaza does have electricity (120V outlets at the ends of the seating area) and WiFi.

**Weather/Air Quality**

Courses with outdoor classrooms will need to move to their indoor classroom during inclement weather or poor air quality due to wildfire smoke. Faculty are responsible for communicating with their students in a timely manner if the course is moving indoors.

**Groundskeeping**

Sprinklers will be turned off where outdoor classrooms are on the grass. Facilities will also limit the use of lawn mowers and other vehicles near these spaces while they are in use.

**Using the Assigned Tent Spaces for Evening Events/Clubs**

Tents may be available for use after normal class hours (i.e., after 5:00 p.m.). Clubs should contact [Keeley.Fitzgerald@umwestern.edu](mailto:Keeley.Fitzgerald@umwestern.edu) and individuals with events should contact [Kathy.Simkins@umwestern.edu](mailto:Kathy.Simkins@umwestern.edu) for more information.