



## UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

### INTERIM CHALKING POLICY

Effective October 1, 2024

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#### 1. Introduction

The University of Wisconsin La Crosse recognizes that chalking of sidewalks is a way to announce programs, promote events, and share messages. This policy is designed to permit sidewalk chalking while also advancing important university interests, including, but not limited to, ensuring campus safety, safeguarding entrances and exits to and from university facilities, protecting university property and facilities, and maintaining the aesthetic appeal of campus. This policy applies to all students, staff, faculty, affiliates, and visitors.

Chalking (an act of writing or drawing messages using chalk) on university property is not permitted and is unlawful pursuant to [UWS Administrative Code 18.08\(9\)\(a\)](#) and [Wisconsin State Statute 943.01](#), unless authorized by the Chancellor (chief administrative officer) or the Chancellor's designee. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines and outline the circumstances in which chalking is permitted.

#### 2. Materials Guidelines

2.1 Chalking may only be done with water soluble materials. No paint, oil-based chalk, indelible marks, or spray chalk may be used.

#### 3. Location Guidelines

3.1 Chalking is prohibited on University buildings, courtyard areas, vertical surfaces, planters, doors, trash receptacles, steps, fountains, benches, tables, signs, poles, columns, bus stops, light posts, trees, arches of bridge walkways, underneath overhangs or any covering, or any location where precipitation cannot wash away the chalk.

#### 4. Messaging Guidelines

4.1 Any University student organization, student, faculty, staff, or department may use chalk to advertise upcoming University sponsored events.

4.2 Chalked messages must indicate which University Department or Student Organization created the chalking if it is not reasonably apparent in the message, otherwise it may be removed.

4.3 Chalked announcements may not be placed more than two (2) days prior to the campus activity, event, or meeting.

## **5. Prohibited Messaging and Removal**

- 5.1 Chalking that violates any federal or state law, or published by UWL policies and regulations is prohibited.
- 5.2 Chalking may not be used to promote organizations or events that are not affiliated with the University.
- 5.3 Chalking may not be used for commercial purposes, including advertising or other promotion. Chalking for Student Association elections is permitted.
- 5.4 Students, faculty, staff, and members of the public must not remove or tamper with chalking done by another person or organization.
- 5.5 The University may remove any chalking after 48 hours. However, the University may remove, without notice, any chalking that does not comply with this policy.
- 5.6 The University may remove chalking and other markings on University Property, including Outdoor Public University Areas that violate University policy, including but not limited to this policy, or state or federal law.
- 5.7 The University is under no obligation to protect chalking messages from alteration and destruction. Exceptions to this policy for academic purposes may be submitted to the Dean of Students for approval in advance of any marking.

## **6. Process for Chalking**

- 6.1 All faculty, staff, students, student organizations, and departments must submit a formal request for approval to chalk on University lands. Requests must be made no less than 24 hours prior to chalking.
- 6.2 All submissions not submitted on time will be denied.
- 6.3 Only approved chalking is permitted. Chalking that has not been approved through the requesting portal will be removed by University personnel.
- 6.4 Formal Request for Chalking Link:  
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofWisconsinLaCrosse&layout\\_id=85](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofWisconsinLaCrosse&layout_id=85)

## **Related Policy Documents and Applicable Laws**

[Universities of Wisconsin Regent Policy Document 4-21](#)

[UWS Chapter 18](#)

## UWL Expressive Activities Policy

### **Review Process**

This document should be reviewed annually by University Police, Dean of Students, and representatives of Shared Governance Groups.

### **Document Approval Process**

This document was approved by Chancellor Beeby on September 24, 2024.

This document was approved by Chancellor's Cabinet on September 24, 2024.

### **Shared Governance**

This document was shared with Student Association on September 27, 2024.

This document was shared with University Staff Council on September 27, 2024,

This document was shared with Academic Staff Council on September 27, 2024.

This document was shared with Faculty Senate on September 27, 2024.

### **Document History**

Created September 18, 2024, by Kara Ostlund

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