

SMU Temperature Set Point Protocol & FAQ's

SMU's Temperature Set Point Protocol, an initiative derived from the Operational Excellence program, seeks to reduce energy usage on the Dallas Main Campus by standardizing the temperatures in areas zoned for academic, administrative, and assembly use. This new energy usage reduction program also aligns SMU's sustainability mission to promote environmental stewardship.

SMU has developed temperature set point ranges for these spaces. The temperature ranges are consistent with those used by our peer institutions and are aligned with research performed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

Temperature Set Point Ranges:

- Heating Season (approximately November 1 to approximately March 1*): 68°F - 72°F
 - Cooling Season (approximately March 1 to approximately November 1*): 72°F - 76°F
- *Typical seasons in the DFW Region. Weather conditions may cause slight variations

Some building spaces, such as certain research, archival, fitness, and computer room applications, require special indoor design environments outside of this Protocol. These spaces are excluded from these temperature set point ranges.

The temperature set point range in residence halls remains 68°F to 74°F year-round. Residents are asked to be aware that during the seasonal changes between winter and spring and between summer and fall, swings in external daytime and nighttime temperatures may at times affect room temperatures. However, room temperatures will adjust to remain in the range of 68°F to 74°F.

Unoccupied Hours

There are periods when most buildings on the Dallas main campus are unoccupied, (i.e., between 10pm and 7am Monday-Friday, and weekends). During these times, temperatures may be adjusted up or down outside of the Temperature Set Point Protocol ranges, depending on the season and occupancy to reduce energy usage. This current practice is not affected by the new Temperature Set Point Protocol.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **What if it is too hot (or cold) when I work late or on the weekend?**
Manual override during unoccupied hours is available - please see the directions for your specific thermostat.
- **What if I need to schedule an event during unoccupied hours?**
Please contact the Facilities Support Center at (214) 768-7000 two weeks prior to your event. This allows us to make sure your event space is the proper temperature before the event begins.
- **What if there is no airflow from the vents?**
Notify the Facilities Support Center at (214) 768-7000.
- **It's very hot outside, and our thermostat has been sitting on 82°F for the last three hours. We are too hot. Can we get some air conditioning?**
If your thermostat has been 2°F above or below the Temperature Set Point Protocol for more than two hours, please call the Facilities Support Center at (214) 768-7000.