



UNIVERSITY POLICY

Date Revised: October 2023

Date Effective: October 2023

Slack Lining and Hammock Activities

Responsible University Official(s): Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services.

Policy Owner: Safety and Risk Management.

Policy Contact: Safety and Risk Management Director.

REASON FOR POLICY

The following policy provides guidelines for the safety of the campus community regarding the use and placement of hammocks and slack lining on campus.

SCOPE

Applies to all UW-Platteville property.

BACKGROUND

To comply with UWS 18 Conduct on University Lands and improve safety on campus in relation to hammock and slacklining activities.

DEFINITIONS

Participant- anyone that is slack lining or utilizing a hammock on campus.

Slack Lining – activity in which participant walks on a span of nylon webbing tensioned between two anchor points above the ground.

Hammock- sling made of fabric, rope or netting suspended between two anchor points. Used for swinging, sleeping, or resting.

PROCEDURES

All rules below must be followed for campus safety and protection of campus property.

At any time upon the direction of UW-Platteville Officials or University Police, for any reason, the activity could be asked to be curtailed and/or all equipment removed immediately. This includes equipment not owned by UW-Platteville.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Participants assume any and all risk associated with personal injuries as a result of these activities on campus. The risks include but are not limited to: minor injuries such as scratches and sprains; major injuries such as fractures and concussions; and catastrophic injuries which include paralysis and/or death.

Participants take full responsibility for any liability/injuries to the public/others caused by their activities of slacklining and hammock use on campus.

Participants are responsible for any damage to campus property resulting from their slacklining or hammock activities on campus.

Participants take full responsibility for following best safety practices.

RULES

Slack lining and hammocks are permitted only during daylight hours (sunrise to sunset).

All slack lines or hammocks may be affixed on a temporary basis while in use by a responsible person and must be removed when not in use.

The owner of the slack lining equipment or hammock is responsible for setting up and taking down the equipment.

Slack lines and hammocks cannot be left unattended at any time. Unattended slack lining equipment or hammocks may be removed without notice by University Police or UW-Platteville Officials.

All equipment associated with the practice of slack lining or use of a hammock shall be maintained in an operable and safe condition. This is the sole responsibility of the participants.

Lines may only be affixed to appropriately sized trees or posts and in the manner set forth below:

- Only trees greater than 1 foot in diameter may be used as anchor posts.
- To comply with Chapter UWS 18.12(8) Vandalism, no branches shall be broken or removed to facilitate location of lines.
- To protect the trees, tree protection is required such as the use of some type of heavy padding, (i.e. carpet squares, corrugated cardboard, foam camping pads, or similar

material). This protection must be placed between the tree and the line that is tied to the tree.

- A clear and soft-landing surface such as grass must be present under the full length of the slack line. Do not place slacklines over rocks, boulders, logs, or other structures.
- Trees and/or landscaped areas showing any damage from slack lining or hammock use activities may be restricted from future use at the discretion of UW-Platteville University Police or Facilities Management personnel. If damage is detected, the participant may be responsible for the replacement value of the tree or other damaged property.
- The slack line or hammock may not be elevated to a height of more than 3 feet at the center of the span.
- Slack lines or hammock ties may not exceed a length of 40 feet.
- Memorial trees or other trees posted by sign may not be used as anchors for these activity.
- University Officials may direct that equipment that appears to be unsafe or improperly set up be removed.
- Participants may not be under the influence of drugs or alcoholic.
- Slack lines or hammocks may not be set up within a Special Event Zone.
- Slack lines or hammocks may not be affixed within 20 feet of sidewalks, buildings, roads, streets, bikeways, water features, sport courts, bike racks, handrails, art objects, fences or light poles.
- Lines may only be attached to approved campus trees as noted above and may not be affixed to any other campus fixture including but not limited to buildings, bike racks, handrails, art objects, fences or light poles.
- Activities such as stunts or tricks involving flips are not permitted.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Position/Office: Safety and Risk Management.

Responsibilities Implementation and review of policy for the campuses.

CONTACTS

Those designated to receive questions and feedback on the policy.

Subject	Contact	Phone	Fax/Email
Safety and Risk Management	Chase Rossner	608-342-1188	Safety@uwplatt.edu

RELATED DOCUMENTS

UWS 18.07(4). Picnicking and Camping

UWS 18.07(7) Structures

UWS 18.12(8) Vandalism

HISTORY

Original Issue Date: September 2012

Revision History: March 2016, October 2023

SCHEDULED REVIEW

October 2026