

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS' COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

ACTION REQUEST: Approval of Academic Calendar for 2015-2016

The attached calendar for the academic year 2015-2016 has been constructed using the established principles noted in previous communications (see attached).

Holiday Issues

There are no conflicts with religious holidays contained in this calendar. However, because Labor Day falls on September 7, final exams are scheduled through December 23, as late as they ever occur. This situation occurred for the first time in 2004, a consequence of instituting a two-day fall study break, and happened most recently in 2010. Exams will go through December 23 again in 2020.

Spring Break

Application of the University's principle of scheduling spring break in the eighth week of the winter term has resulted in the University break running into the first week in March. The break begins February 27, and classes resume on March 7, 2015.

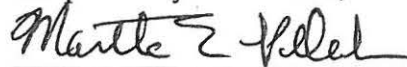
We are in communication with the Ann Arbor Public School District, which in the past tried to schedule a winter break that coincides with the UM academic calendar. UM is unable to accommodate the vacation schedules of all of the schools attended by the children of UM faculty, staff, and students.

Number of Class Days

Fall term has 66 days; winter has 69 class days.

The proposed calendar has been vetted by faculty and administrative groups. I am writing to request your approval of the 2015-2016 academic calendar.

Respectfully submitted,



Martha E. Pollack
Provost and Executive Vice
President for Academic Affairs

May 2013
Attachments

Draft for Regents' Approval
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ACADEMIC CALENDAR
ANN ARBOR CAMPUS

FALL TERM, 2015

Labor Day (Holiday)	Sept 7, Mon
Classes begin	Sept 8, Tues
Fall Study Break	Oct 19-20, Mon-Tues
Thanksgiving recess, 5:00 p.m.	Nov 25, Wed
Classes end	Dec 14, Mon
Study Days	Dec 15, Tues & Dec 19-20, Sat-Sun
Examinations	Dec 16-18, Wed-Fri
.....	Dec 21-23, Mon-Wed
Commencement	Dec 20, Sun

66 class days: M=13, T=13, W=14, Th=13, F=13

**Rosh Hashanah 9/13 - 9/15; Yom Kippur 9/22 - 9/23; Hanukkah 12/6 - 12/14

WINTER TERM, 2016

Classes begin	Jan 6, Wed
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (University Symposia/No Regular Classes)	Jan 18, Mon
Vacation begins 12:00 noon	Feb 27, Sat
Classes resume	Mar 7, Mon
University Honors Convocation	Mar 20, Sun
Classes end	Apr 19, Tues
Study Days	Apr 20, Wed; Apr 23-24, Sat-Sun
Examinations	Apr 21-22, Thurs-Fri &
.....	Apr 25-Apr 28, Mon-Thurs
Commencement Activities	Apr 28-May 1, Thurs-Sun

69 class days: M=13, T=14, W=14, Th=14, F=14

**Passover 4/22 - 4/30

SPRING-SUMMER TERM, 2016

Classes begin	May 3, Tues
Memorial Day (Holiday)	May 30, Mon
Classes end (Spring Half) 5:00 p.m.	June 20, Mon
Study Days	June 21-22, Tues-Wed
Examinations	June 23-24, Thurs-Fri
Spring Half Term ends	June 24, Fri
*Registration (Summer Half)	June 28, Tues
Summer Half Term classes begin	June 29, Wed
Independence Day (Holiday)	July 4, Mon
Classes end, 5:00 p.m.	Aug 16, Tues
Study Day	Aug 17, Wed
Examinations	Aug 18-19, Thurs-Fri
Full Term and Summer Half Term end	Aug 19, Fri

*Students enrolling in Business Administration, Dentistry, Law, Pharmacy, Social Work, and Medicine should check with their respective schools for academic calendar information including registration dates. This calendar is subject to change.

**Jewish holy days begin and end at sundown on the first and last days listed. The University's policy concerning observance of religious holidays can be found at <http://www.umich.edu/~provost/dates/hdaymemo.html>

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Academic Calendar Guidelines

1. Classes cannot begin before Labor Day.
2. There should be a minimum of 67 class meeting days in a regular term. An exception is made when Labor Day falls on September 7. In these years when 67 class days would push exams beyond December 23, a fall term may have 66 class meeting days. (UM academic calendars average 67-69 meeting days per term, although the accrediting body recommends 70 days.)
3. There must be a minimum of 13 class meetings for each day of the week.
4. The number of days for fall and winter terms should be as close to the same as possible.
5. There must be 6 exam days for fall and winter terms and 2 exam days for spring and summer terms.
6. There must be at least one study day before exams start, two if possible, including weekends.
7. Exams should not be scheduled on the first full day of Passover.
8. Spring commencement is scheduled over a four-day period that runs from Thursday through Sunday. Winter term exams must be over by the Friday of commencement weekend, although individual school, college, and department ceremonies can be scheduled to take place before exams are over.
9. Fall commencement must be on a Sunday. Fall commencement can be scheduled to take place before exams are over.
10. Football games are not a factor in setting the fall academic calendar.
11. There is a day off between the end of spring term and the beginning of summer term.
12. Spring term has one registration day and summer term has two registration days.
13. Spring term starts on the Monday following commencement.
14. Honors Convocation should not conflict with Easter or the first two days of Passover.
15. If the academic calendar includes two "study days" in the fall, final exams will run through December 23 every five or six years, sometimes twice in a row.

Since 2005, the Office of the Registrar has applied the following guidelines to make the academic calendar more consistent from year to year:

Fall

Term start date: First Tuesday after the first Monday in September
(ensures starting after Labor Day)
Term end date: Tuesday of the 15th week
Study days: Wednesday of the 15th week, following Saturday and Sunday
Exams: Thursday and Friday of the 15th week, Monday – Thursday of the
16th week

Exception: When the last exam day would be December 24, the last day of classes, the first study day, and all exams are moved one day sooner so that the final exam is on Wednesday, December 23. While some faculty and students may find this inconvenient, there is no business rule or religious conflict to support blocking December 23 from the exam schedule.

Winter

Term start date: First Wednesday after the first Monday in January
(ensures always starting after January 2)
Term end date: Tuesday of the 15th week
Study days: Wednesday of the 15th week, following Saturday and Sunday
Exams: Thursday and Friday of the 15th week, Monday – Thursday of the
16th week