

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS' COMMUNICATION

Approved by the  
Regents  
May 21, 2015

ACTION REQUEST

ACTION REQUEST: Approval of Academic Calendar for 2017-2018

The attached calendar for the academic year 2017-2018 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.

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 24, and classes resume on March 5, 2018.

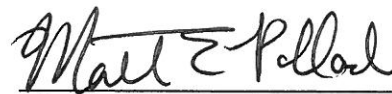
We are in communication with the Ann Arbor Public School District, which in the past tried to schedule a winter break that coincides with the UM academic calendar. UM is unable to accommodate the vacation schedules of all of the schools attended by the children of UM faculty, staff, and students.

Number of Class Days

Fall term has 67 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 2017-2018 academic calendar.

Respectfully submitted,



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

May 2015  
Attachments

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ACADEMIC CALENDAR  
ANN ARBOR CAMPUS  
FALL TERM, 2017**

Labor Day (Holiday) .....	Sept 4, Mon
Classes begin .....	Sept 5, Tues
Fall Study Break .....	Oct 16-17, Mon-Tues
Thanksgiving recess, 5:00 p.m. ....	Nov 22, Wed
Classes end .....	Dec 12, Tues
Study Days .....	Dec 13, Wed & Dec 16-17, Sat-Sun
Examinations .....	Dec 14-15, Thurs-Fri
.....	Dec 18-21, Mon-Thurs
Commencement.....	Dec 17, Sun

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

**WINTER TERM, 2018**

Classes begin .....	Jan 3, Wed
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (University Symposia/No Regular Classes).....	Jan 15, Mon
Vacation begins 12:00 noon .....	Feb 24, Sat
Classes resume .....	Mar 5, Mon
University Honors Convocation .....	Mar 18, Sun
Classes end .....	Apr 17, Tues
Study Days .....	Apr 18, Wed; Apr 21-22, Sat-Sun
Examinations .....	Apr 19-20, Thurs-Fri &
.....	Apr 23-Apr 26, Mon-Thurs
Commencement Activities .....	Apr 26-29, Thurs-Sun

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

**SPRING-SUMMER TERM, 2018**

Classes begin .....	May 1, Tues
Memorial Day (Holiday) .....	May 28, Mon
Classes end (Spring Half) 5:00 p.m. ....	June 18, Mon
Study Days .....	June 19-20, Tues-Wed
Examinations .....	June 21-22, Thurs-Fri
Spring Half Term ends .....	June 22, Fri
Summer Half Term classes begin.....	June 27, Wed
Independence Day (Holiday) .....	July 4, Wed
Classes end, 5:00 p.m. ....	Aug 14, Tues
Study Day .....	Aug 15, Wed
Examinations .....	Aug 16-17, Thurs-Fri
Full Term and Summer Half Term end .....	Aug 17, 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. This calendar is subject to change.

\*\* The University's policy concerning observance of religious holidays can be found at <http://www.umich.edu/~provost/dates/hdaymemo.html>

## Guiding Principles For Creating University of Michigan Academic Calendars

### General Principles

1. Classes cannot begin before Labor Day.
2. There should be a minimum of 67 class meeting days in a regular term. (UM academic calendars average 67-69 meeting days per term, although the accrediting body recommends 70 days.) An exception to this rule is necessary if final exams would otherwise end on December 24.
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 week-ends.
7. Exams should not be scheduled on the first full day of Passover.
8. Spring commencement must be scheduled over a three day period that runs from Friday-Sunday. Winter term exams must be over by the Friday of commencement weekend.
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. The academic calendar will include two "study days" in the fall unless its inclusion results in a final exam date on December 23.
15. Honors Convocation should not conflict with Easter or the first two days of Passover.

16. 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 15<sup>th</sup> week  
Study days: Wednesday of the 15<sup>th</sup> week, following Saturday and Sunday  
Exams: Thursday and Friday of the 15<sup>th</sup> week, Monday - Thursday of the 16<sup>th</sup> week

Exception: When the last exam day would be December 24, the ending date of the term, the first study day, and all exams are moved forward one day 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 15<sup>th</sup> week  
Study days: Wednesday of the 15<sup>th</sup> week, following Saturday and Sunday  
Exams: Thursday and Friday of the 15<sup>th</sup> week, Monday - Thursday of the 16<sup>th</sup> week