

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS' COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents  
June 21, 2007

ACTION REQUEST

ACTION REQUEST: Approval of Academic Calendar for 2009-2010

The attached calendar for the academic year 2009-2010 has been constructed using the established principles noted below. It has 66 meeting days in the Fall Term, one fewer day than the established goal of at least 67 meeting days. The shortened term is necessary to avoid having examinations on December 24, a consequence of incorporating a two-day fall study break into UM academic calendars since 2002. Because of the two-day fall study break, late exam dates are a possibility every five or six years, sometimes twice in a row. It will happen again in 2010.

UM calendar criterion include:

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.)
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 through 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 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 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

The proposed calendar has been vetted by faculty and administrative groups. I am writing to request your approval of the 2009-2010 academic calendar.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa A. Sullivan  
Provost and Executive Vice  
President for Academic Affairs

**DRAFT 3/5/2007**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ACADEMIC CALENDAR**  
**ANN ARBOR CAMPUS**

**FALL TERM, 2009**

*Registration (for students not pre-registered).....	Sep 4, Fri
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 9/8-9/20; Yom Kippur 9/27- 9/28; Hanukkah 12/11-12/19

**WINTER TERM, 2010**

*Registration (for students not pre-registered) .....	Jan 5, Tues
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 8, Mon
University Honors Convocation .....	Mar 21, Sun
Classes end .....	Apr 20, Tues
Study Days .....	Apr 21, Wed; Apr 24-25, Sat-Sun
Examinations.....	Apr 22-23, Thurs-Fri & Apr 26-29, Mon-Thurs
Commencement Activities .....	April 30-May 2, Fri-Sun

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

\*\*Passover 3/29--4/6

**SPRING-SUMMER TERM, 2010**

*Registration (Full Term and Spring Half) .....	May 3, Mon
Classes begin .....	May 4, Tues
Memorial Day (Holiday).....	May 31, Mon
Classes end (Spring Half) 5:00 p.m.....	June 21, Mon
Study Days .....	June 22-23, Tues-Wed
Examinations.....	June 24-25, Thurs-Fri
Spring Half Term ends .....	June 25, Fri
*Registration (Summer Half) .....	June 29, Tues
Summer Half Term classes begin.....	June 30, Wed
Independence Day (Holiday) .....	July 5, Mon
Classes end, 5:00 p.m.....	Aug 17, Tues
Study Day .....	Aug 18, Wed
Examinations.....	Aug 19-20, Thurs-Fri
Full Term and Summer Half Term end.....	Aug 20, 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.

\*\*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>

## Regents Meeting, June 2007

### Background for Academic Calendar 2009-2010

#### Holiday Issues

There are no conflicts with religious holidays in this calendar.

#### Spring Break

Application of the University's principle of scheduling spring break in the eighth week of the term has resulted in the University break occurring Saturday, February 27, through Sunday, March 8.

We have communicated with the Ann Arbor Public School District, which has not yet negotiated a contract for 2009-2010, so that they will have the option of scheduling a winter break that coincides with the UM academic calendar when their calendar is determined.

#### Number of Class Days

Fall term has 66 days; winter has 69 class days. The exception to the standard of 67-69 class days for the fall term is necessary to avoid exams on December 24 (see below).

#### Exams in the Fall Term End December 23

This calendar has shortened the Fall Term by a day in order to avoid having examinations on December 24. The adoption of fall study days results in this situation every five or six years, sometimes twice in a row. It will happen again in 2010. In December 2004, the first time exams ended on December 23 as a result of the adoption of the fall break, some students and faculty objected to the late date. There is, however, no business rule or religious conflict to justify eliminating December 23 from the examination schedule.

The table below displays the ramification of trying to avoid December 23 exams in 2009 and 2010. Administrators and executive officers have determined that none of these alternatives is acceptable.

<b>Policy Decision</b>	<b>Ramification</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
Reduce class days by one or shorten Fall Study Break by a day	Either approach would eliminate a Monday leaving only 12 Monday meetings days. (13 is the minimum)	Exams end before December 23	Complaints from faculty who teach once a week classes such as 3-hour Chemistry labs and 3-hour freshman seminars, about not being able to cover the usual material; students would object to the shorter break

<b>Policy Decision</b>	<b>Ramification</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
Eliminate Fall Study Break	Exams go through December 22	Increase number of meeting days by two	Complaints from students, most of whom believe a fall break is the norm; many other institutions have a fall break
Eliminate Fall Break only if there is a December 23 exam date	No Fall Study Break in 2009, 2010, 2015, 2020, and 2021	Exams end before December 23	Confusion and complaints every 5 years; sometimes two years in a row