

University Senate

Recommendation on a Year-Round Academic Calendar

As Recommended, 8 May 2024

The University Senate recommends that the University adopt an academic calendar with Fall and Spring terms of sixteen (16) calendar weeks and two overlapping summer terms, each of eight (8) weeks.

Moreover, the Fall and Spring Terms should each comprise two, non-overlapping, eight-week (8-week) terms, while the summer should include three (3) non-overlapping four-week (4-week) terms.

One version of the scheme is illustrated below. Variations are possible, including a later or earlier start of the spring term, with concomitant shifts in the other terms.¹

This recommendation is contingent on a due diligence review as delineated in the Recommendation regarding Consideration of Changes to the Academic Calendar and/or Course Grid

Rationale

The scheme included in this Recommendation realizes the goal of the President of the University to provide robust academic opportunities for students on a 'year-round' basis.

The recent standardization of eight-week "partial term" courses makes it possible to offer summer-term courses with a format equivalent to courses offered during the fall and spring terms.

The proposed scheme would allow the completion of a typical bachelor's degree program (120 semester-credit-hours) in three academic years, including two intervening summer terms.

In contrast to other schemes (including the separately proposed three, fourteen-week terms, each comprising two, seven-week partial terms), the scheme included in this Recommendation minimizes the need to reorganize and redevelop existing courses to match an adjusted academic calendar and weekly class-meeting grid (AKA course block or matrix). Among other considerations, the scheme in this recommendation would therefore avoid adverse impact on the ability of the University to recruit and retain adjunct faculty.

Adoption of the scheme proposed in this Recommendation neither prevents nor precludes adjustment and improvement of the class-meeting grid. Indeed, because the eight and sixteen week terms are both (i) consistent with the requirements of the NJ State Administrative Code regarding the course meetings that constitute a Semester Credit Hour², as well as (ii) evenly divisible (as powers of two), these terms increase the flexibility and possibility of improvements in the weekly class-meeting grid.

¹ cf. [Academic Calendar Alternatives](#) (URL)

² NJ Administrative Code § 9A:1-1.2 - Definitions

Scheme Diagram

1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7	Spring 16 W	Spring 8W 1	
8			
9			
10			
11			
12	Spring Break		
13			
14			
15			
16		Spring 8W 2	
17	Spring 16 W		
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			Summer 4W 1
25	Summer 8W 1		
26			
27			
28			Summer 4W 1
29			
30		Summer 8W 2	
31			Summer 4W 3
32			
33			
34			
35			
36			
37			
38			
39		Fall 8W 1	
40			
41			
42			
43	Fall 16 W		
44			
45			
46		Fall 8W 2	
47			
48			
49			
50			
51			
52	Winter Closure		