Recommendations for Changes to the Academic Calendar

Presentation from the Academic Calendar Advisory Committee April and May 2022



Academic Calendar Advisory Committee

Membership

Debbie Knapp, *co-chair*, Associate Professor, Management and Information Systems

Therese Tillett, *co-chair*, Associate Vice President, Curriculum Services

Donna Alexander, Lecturer, Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences

Aaron Bacue, Associate Lecturer, Communication StudiesMia Barnes, Undergraduate Student, Communication StudiesJasmin Beaver, Graduate Student, Psychological Sciences

Brenda Burke, Associate Vice President, Scholarships and Financial Aid

Nicole Corll, Senior Associate Director, Facilities, Planning and Operations

Chris Dorsten, University Registrar, RegistrarPam Grimm, Professor, Marketing and Entrepreneurship

Cynthia Kenyon, Assistant Professor, Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences

Tracy Laux, Senior Lecturer, Mathematical Sciences

Shana Lee, Assistant Dean, Student Affairs

Tracey Motter, Associate Dean, Nursing

Dirk Remley, Professor, English

Renee Romine, Executive Director, Human Resources

Mary Russell, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences

Deb Smith, Professor, Philosophy

Ron Smith, Senior Training and Development Specialist, Human Resources

Kayla Stephens, Undergraduate Student, Early Childhood Education

Molly Wang, Provost Fellow, Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Charge of the Committee

Determine feasibility of the following:

- Start fall semester earlier than a Thursday
- Schedule final exam weeks to be continuous Monday to Sunday
- Move Spring Break earlier in the semester
- Bring Kent State into compliance with the state's requirement for class time for the semester credit hour

Goals of the Committee

- Maintain or increase instructional days in the fall and spring semesters
- Ensure that the faculty contract remains 9 months
- Retain, at minimum, 5 business days between each term for critical student and campus services

Proposed Timeline

March Committee presents initial recommendations2022 to the provost for feedback

April Committee presents initial recommendations to May to the following university-wide advisory bodies for feedback:

- Academic Leadership Group
- Advising Deans Committee
- Chairs and Directors Council
- Educational Policies Council
- Faculty Senate
- Graduate Dean's Advisory Council
- Regional Campuses Administration
- Student and University Service Areas *
- Undergraduate Deans Council

* Service areas include, but are not limited to, the offices of:

Bursar / Finance and Administration Communications and Marketing Continuing and Distance Education Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Events and Protocol

Facilities Planning and Operations

Graduate Student Senate

Health Services

FFEDBACK

SURVEY

Human Resources

Information Technology

Institutional Research

Intercollegiate Athletics

Parking Services

Recreation Services

Residence and Dining Services

Student Affairs

Student Financial Aid

Undergraduate Student Government

Proposed Timeline continued

9 May 2022 Committee presents final recommendations

to the Faculty Senate for a vote

May 2022 Committee presents final recommendations

to the provost for approval

May 2022 Provost presents recommendations to the

president for final approval

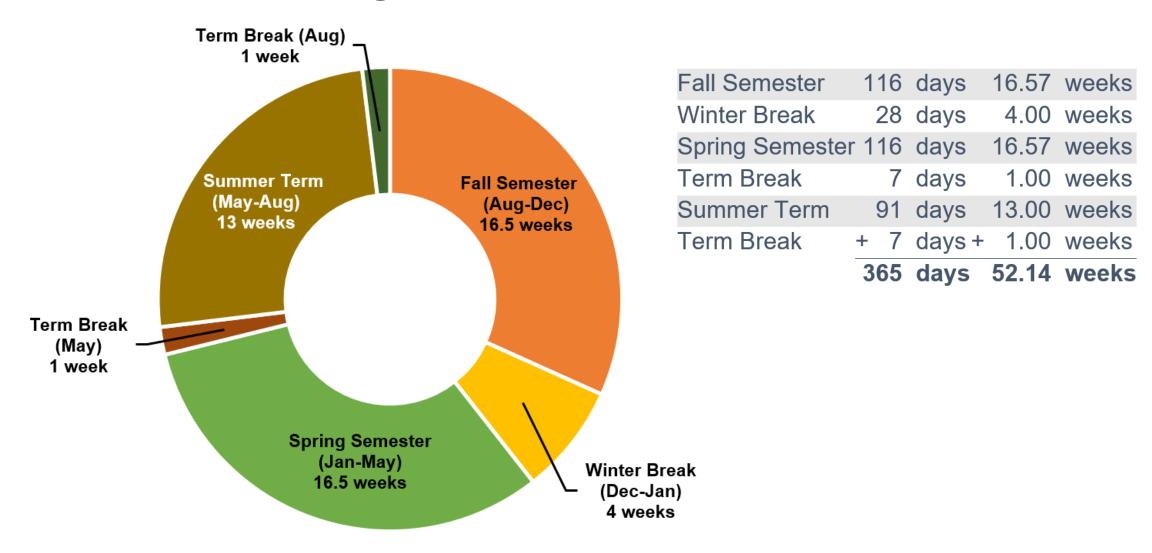
Implementation Calendars for academic years 2023 onward

published on the Kent State website

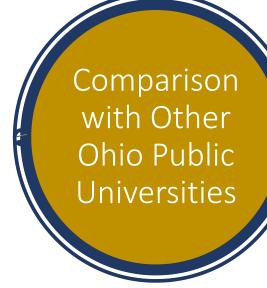
immediately following the president's approval

Background Information

Understanding the KSU Calendar



Instructional Weeks			Class Breaks				Class Time -
Fall ¹	Spring ¹	Summer	Fall ²	Thanksgiving ²	Winter	Spring	1 Credit Hour
17 weeks: 20%	15 weeks: 60%	12 weeks: 40%	0 days: 30%	2 days: 50%	3 weeks: 40%	8 th week: 20%	50 min: 40%
16 weeks: 80%	16 weeks: 40%	13 weeks: 30%	1 day: 20%	3 days: 50%	4 weeks: 40%	9th week: 40%	55 min: 60%
		14 weeks: 20%	2 days: 50%		5 weeks: 10%	10th week: 30%	
		15 weeks: 10%	_		6 weeks: 10%	11 th week: 10%	



	Instructional Weeks				Class B	Class Time -		
	Fall ¹	Spring ¹	Summer	Fall ²	Thanksgiving ²	Winter	Spring	1 Credit Hour
Bowling Green State U.	17	15	15	2 days	3 days	3 weeks	9 th week	50 minutes
Cleveland State U.	16	16	12	2 days	2 days	5 weeks	9 th week	50 minutes
Miami U.	16	15	12	1 day	3 days	6 weeks	9 th week	55 minutes
Ohio State U.	17	15	13	2 days	2 days	3 weeks	10 th week	55 minutes
Ohio U.	16	15	14	1 day	3 days	3 weeks	9 th week	55 minutes
U. Akron	16	16	13	_	2 days	4 weeks	11 th week	50 minutes
U. Cincinnati	16	15	13	2 days	2 days	4 weeks	10 th week	55 minutes
U. Toledo	16	15	12	2 days	3 days	4 weeks	8 th week	55 minutes
Wright State U.	16	16	12		2 days	4 weeks	8 th week	55 minutes
Youngstown State U.	16	16	14	_	3 days	3 weeks	10 th week	50 minutes

- 1. Includes final exam week
- 2. Counts only weekdays

Review of Class Meeting Days in Fall Semester

Top Scheduled Meeting Days	Total Sections
Tue-Thu	28.9%
Mon-Wed	21.7%
Tue	8.8%
Wed	7.7%
Mon-Wed-Fri	7.3%
Mon	6.7%
Thu	5.4%
Fri	3.6%
Mon-Tue-Wed-Thu-Fri	1.9%
Mon-Tue-Wed-Thu	1.6%

Most S Day	Scheduled Sections
Tue	23.9%
Wed	23.2%
Mon	22.4%
Thu	21.8%
Fri	8.1%
Sat	0.5%
Sun	0.1%

Data of three fall semesters (2018, 2019, 2021)



- Challenge: Fall semester starts on Thursday
- Challenge: Spring final exams are Thursday to Wednesday
- Challenge: Summer term starts on Thursday and ends on Wednesday
- Challenge: Must increase class time to be compliant with semester credit hour

FALL: 17 instructional weeks
16 weeks classes + 1 week exams
classes start on Thu in Aug
final exams are Mon-Sun

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
classes	14	15	14	14	14

do not include holiday/breaks except Veteran's

WINTER BREAK: 4 weeks

SPRING: 16 instructional weeks 15 weeks classes + 1 week exams classes start on Mon in Jan final exams are Thu-Wed

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
classes	14	15	14	14	14

do not include holiday/breaks

TERM BREAK: 5 weekdays

SUMMER: 14 instructional weeks classes start on Thu

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
classes	12	13	13	13	13

do not include holidays except Independence Day and Juneteenth

TERM BREAK: 5 weekdays

Calendar Example

2024 - 2025

August 2024

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December 2024

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August 2025

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January 2025

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LEGEND:



Calendar Options



- Start fall semester on 2nd
 last Monday in August
- Decrease winter break,
 from 4 weeks to 3 weeks
- Start summer term on Monday



FALL SEMESTER

2023 - 2024

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2024 - 2025

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2025 - 2026

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2026 - 2027

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2027 - 2028

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SPRING SEMESTER

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May 2024

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2027 - 2028

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LEGEND:

Projected Faculty Contract Start/End
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Class Day

Holiday

Class Break

Final Exams

Term Break

Next term starts

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May 2027

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Start fall on Monday
Shorten winter break
Start summer on Monday

FALL: 17 instructional weeks 16 weeks classes + 1 week exams classes start on 2nd-last Mon in Aug final exams are Mon-Sun

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
classes	15	16	15	14	14

[#] do not include holiday/breaks except Veteran's

WINTER BREAK: 3 weeks

SPRING: 16 instructional weeks 15 weeks classes + 1 week exams classes start on Mon in Jan final exams are Mon-Sun

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
classes	14	15	15	15	15

[#] do not include holiday/breaks

TERM BREAK: 5 weekdays

SUMMER: 13 instructional weeks classes start on Mon

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
classes	12	13	13	13	13

[#] do not include holidays except Independence Day and Juneteenth

TERM BREAK: 5 weekdays

- Benefit: Gain 3 class days in fall (Mon & Tue & Wed)
- Benefit: Gain 3 class days in spring (Wed & Thu & Fri)
- Benefit: Spring final exams are Mon-Sun
- Benefit: Summer term starts on Mon and end Sat
- Benefit: Compliant with class time for the semester credit hour
- Challenge: Lose 1 week
 of winter break for student services
- Challenge: Some years, 1-2 business days between New Year's Day and start of spring semester



- Start fall semester on last Monday in August
- Decrease fall semester by two class days
- Start summer term on Monday



FALL SEMESTER

2023 - 2024

August 2023

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2025 - 2026

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SPRING SEMESTER

2023 - 2024

January 2024

May 2024

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2027 - 2028

January 2028

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LEGEND:

Projected Faculty Contract Start/End

Class Day

Holiday

Class Break

Final Exams

Term Break

Next term starts

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May 2028

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Start fall on Monday Shorten fall semester Start summer on Monday FALL: 16 instructional weeks
15 weeks classes + 1 week exams
classes start on last Mon in Aug
final exams are Mon-Sun

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
classes	14	15	14	13	13

[#] do not include holiday/breaks except Veteran's

WINTER BREAK: 4 weeks

SPRING: 16 instructional weeks 15 weeks classes + 1 week final exams classes start on Mon in Jan final exams are Mon-Sun

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
classes	14	15	15	15	15

[#] do not include holiday/breaks

TERM BREAK: 1 week

SUMMER: 13 instructional weeks classes start on Mon

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
classes	12	13	13	13	13

[#] do not include holidays except Independence Day and Juneteenth

TERM BREAK: 1 week

- Benefit: Gain 3 class days in spring (Wed & Thu & Fri)
- Benefit: Spring final exams are Mon-Sun
- Challenge: Lose 2 class days in fall (Thu & Fri)
- Challenge: Must increase class times to be compliant for the semester credit hour

Total Meeting Class Days

Fall Semester	Current	Option 1	Option 2
Mon-Wed class	28 days	30 days	28 days
Tue-Thu class	29 days	30 days	28 days
Spring Semester	Current	Option 1	Option 2
Spring Semester	Current	Option 1	Option 2
Mon-Wed class	28 days	29 days	29 days

Does not include holiday/class breaks except Veteran's Day.

Class Time Compliance

"Semester credit hour means a minimum of 750 minutes of formalized instruction that typically requires students to work at out-of-class assignments an average of twice the amount of time as the amount of formalized instruction (1,500 minutes)." Source: Ohio Administrative Code 3333-1-02

	Course	Scheduled Classes	Instruc	tional Time
Compliancy:	1 credit hour	50 minutes/week x 15 classes	=	750 minutes
Kent State:	1 credit hour	50 minutes/week x 14 classes	=	700 minutes
Recommendation:	1 credit hour	55 minutes/week x 14 classes	=	770 minutes

CURRENT

of Classes

Blocks	Time Length	50 min	75 min
Block I:	7:45ам — 10:45ам	3	2
Block II:	11:00ам — 2:00рм	3	2
Block III:	2:15рм — 5:15рм	3	2
Evening:	5:30рм — 9:45рм	3	3
Total:	7:45ам — 9:45рм	12	9

Class Time Patterns

EXAME	PLE #1	# of C	lasses
Blocks	Time Length		80 min
Block I:	7:30ам — 10:45ам	3	2
Block II:	11:00ам – 3:30рм	4	3
Block III:	3:45рм — 8:15рм	4	3
Evening:	8:30рм - 9:50рм	1	1
Total:	7:30ам — 9:50рм	12	9

EXAME	PLE #3	# of C	lasses
Blocks	Time Length	55 min	80 min
Block I:	7:30ам — 8:50ам	1	1
Block II:	9:05ам – 12:15рм	3	2
Block III:	12:30рм — 5:00рм	4	3
Evening:	5:15рм – 9:45рм	4	3
Total:	7:30ам — 9:45рм	12	9

EXAMPLE #2		# of Classes	
Blocks	Time Length	55 min	80 min
Block I:	7:45ам — 11:00ам	3	2
Block II:	11:15ам – 2:30рм	3	2
Block III:	2:45рм — 6:00рм	3	2
Evening:	6:15рм — 10:45рм	3	3
Total:	7:45ам — 10:45рм	12	9

EXAMPLE #4		# of C	lasses
Blocks	Time Length	55 min	80 min
Block I:	8:00ам — 11:15ам	3	2
Block II:	11:30ам – 4:00рм	4	3
Block III:	4:15рм – 7:30рм	3	2
Evening:	7:45рм – 10:40рм	2	2
Total:	8:00ам — 10:40рм	12	9

Univ.	Class Times
UA	6:25ам — 9:55рм
CSU	7:00ам — 9:50рм
OU	7:30ам — 8:50рм
YSU	7:30ам — 10:45рм
BGSU	8:00ам — 8:45рм
MU	8:00ам — 9:55рм
OSU	8:00ам — 10:00рм
UT	8:00ам — 10:05рм
UC	8:00ам — 10:30рм
WSU	8:00ам — 10:30рм

Other Calendar Options Considered

- Start fall semester on a Wednesday
 - Issue: Decreases time between faculty contract and semester start
- Start fall and spring semesters on a Wednesday
 - Issue: Decreases time between faculty contract and semester start
- Decrease spring semester
 - Issue: Spring semester is 2 instructional weeks less than fall semester
- Always start fall semester 18 weeks before holiday schedule
 - Issue: Spring semester is 2 instructional weeks less than fall semester
- Decrease summer term to add a week to fall or spring semester
 - Issue: Duration of faculty contract is more than 9 months
- Turn Wednesday before Thanksgiving into a class day
 - Issue: Doesn't make that much of an impact on the calendar



Calendar Questions and Feedback

Spring Break Options

Kent State Spring Semester Scheduling

Spring scheduling for full and parts of term

- Full semester has the most sections offered (88%) with the most enrollment (91%)
- 7-week courses are second in sections (8%) and enrollment (6%) combined
- 5-week courses are low in sections (5%) and lowest in enrollment (1%) combined
- 2nd 5-week schedule averages 11 sections and 110 enrolled in the spring

Average of Spring 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022										
	Sections Offered									
Full Semester	9,328 ((87.5%)	123,509	(91.0%)						
First 7 Weeks	402	(3.8%)	3,882	(2.9%)						
Second 7 Weeks	472	(4.4%)	3,862	(2.8%)						
First 5 Weeks	22	(0.2%)	395	(0.3%)						
Second 5 Weeks	11	(0.1%)	110	(0.1%)						
Third 5 Weeks	48	(0.4%)	471	(0.3%)						
Open Learning *	383	(3.6%)	3,475	(2.6%)						
Average Total	10,666		135,702							

^{*} Open learning class duration ranged from 2 days to 125 days

11th Week

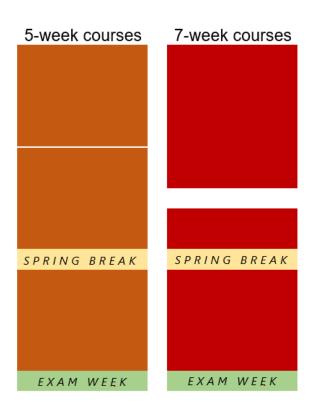
- Benefit: Spring Break falls between 2nd and 3rd
 5-week classes
- Challenge: Spring Break falls two-thirds in the full semester (10 weeks before and 5 weeks after)
- Challenge: Spring Break is in week 3 of 2nd 7-week classes

CALENDAR OPTION 1

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February	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
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	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	
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CALENDAR OPTION 2

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9th Week

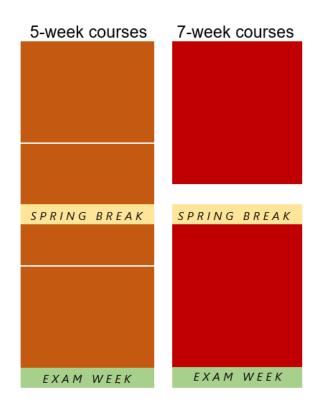
- Benefit: Spring Break falls somewhat in the middle of full semester (8 weeks before and 7 weeks after)
- Benefit: Spring Break falls between the two 7-week classes
- Benefit and Challenge: two weeks between the two 7-week classes
- Challenge: Spring Break is in week 4 of 2nd 5-week classes

CALENDAR OPTION 1

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CALENDAR OPTION 2

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8th Week

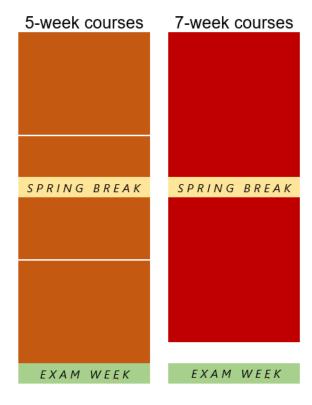
- Benefit: Spring Break falls fully in the middle of full semester (7 weeks before and 8 weeks after)
- Benefit: Spring Break falls between the two 7-week classes
- Challenge: Spring Break is in week 3 of 2nd 5-week classes

CALENDAR OPTION 1

	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
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CALENDAR OPTION 2

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Spring Break Questions and Feedback

https://kent.qualtrics. com/jfe/form/SV_d0d dtlivcqfDDaC

Survey Link



Committee Feedback



Committee Feedback in Favor of Option 1

- Option 1 is the only option that doesn't result in a loss of teaching days.
- We gain a lot of classes and do not have to increase class times.
- Most balanced in number of class weeks between fall and spring; most benefits/least drawbacks/challenges to implement.
- Because of the gained class days each semester, it is unlikely that the schedules a class that I teach on both M/W and T/R will be off schedule with each other (which is one of the problems with the current schedule). When I've talked to students about losing one week of winter break, they have said that they would prefer to get rid of fall break instead--but if that is not an option, they would rather lose a week of winter break than a week of summer break. This seems like the best option for faculty and students in terms of learning. But I understand that administration will have to adjust their schedules to accommodate the various deadlines they have over winter break.
- It does not reduce the contact days in either Fall or Spring semester and in fact increases the contact days in both semesters, which is welcome. If other Universities can make a 3-week winter break work, so can KSU. This is my favorite of the options and there's a large gap between this option and my next, acceptable option. It is the only option that is both consistent with commitment to maximally facilitating student success and has classes starting on a Monday.

Committee Feedback NOT in Favor of Option 1

- In some years, spring semester will start almost immediately after New Year's Day, which does not leave time for faculty, staff and students to prepare for classes, including advisement, registration and tuition payments.
- I truly believe that taking away this week will be a MAJOR disadvantage to the student body. Not only is that week fit for student services such as One Stop, which works to ensure students are registered, have their funding and payments completed, and overall attend Kent State, that week also provides the opportunity for students to prep for the upcoming semester. Students need that month long break to help their mental needs because school is hard and a lot of work as it is. Many students look forward to that long break to rest themselves and re-organize themselves so they can be prepared for the next semester. Four weeks also provides students who work over break to gain more money to support themselves for spring semester and to cover their schooling. Removing that week will not service students at all. I understand a major factor in why this option appealed to others is because it allowed more instructional time as they informed it is not easy to fit in all the course materials. However, I see that more as an issue with how the professor instructs the course rather than a fault of the students.
- Students are very against shortening winter break. This will affect all university programs and could possibly affect the financial aid process for students. We also have to think about our international population and what their needs might be in case they need to stay on campus or come back early.



Committee Feedback in Favor of Option 2

- This is the best option for Nursing. Having equal weeks in Fall and Spring matches the nursing curriculum and clinical experiences best.
- While not ideal, it is a better option than #1. It makes the spring semester more uniform in instructional days (14 Mondays and 15 for the other days). One of the days lost in the fall (Friday) is the least-used weekday for classes.
- Consistency among each semester, both fall and spring are 15 weeks with 1 week of finals. It gains 3 days in Spring semester and importantly 2 out of those 3 are Wednesday and Thursday which is commonly paired with Monday and Tuesday classes, which means those sections gain more instructional time. It matches other school schedules, which can be helpful with determining how the calendar will be affected with unforeseen circumstances such as weather. While the fall semester loses two days, those days are Thursday and Friday which are the days with the lowest percentage of enrollments.
- This is my favorite! It allows us to keep winter break the same for services, programs, and students while being in compliance. It will not cause anymore stress when it comes to registration and billing.

Committee Feedback NOT in Favor of Option 2

- Need to change class times to be compliant
- Loses 2 class days...which will be detrimental to student success in courses with content. Either the University is genuine in its efforts to address DWF rates or it is not. Addressing the lost days will have severe financial and workload implications for students and for academic units.
- detrimental to student learning outcomes. Also, if I teach a M/W or M/W/F SECTION and a T/R section of the same course their schedules will be SIGNIFICANTLY different, given the disparate number of class meetings. Also, if I teach the same T/R class in both fall and spring, I will have to cut an entire week of content for the fall (or add a week of content for the spring), as the fall class would meet 28 times, whereas the spring class would meet 30 times. And as I have noted elsewhere, I despise the idea of having to change course times to be compliant--and students do, as well.
- Fall semester already has fewer contact days (given the holidays) than Spring semester and it is already difficult to cover the required content in many classes within the contact days of the Fall semester. Any option that would reduce contact days in the fall is a non-starter for me. (This option also reduces contact days in Spring.) The reduction of contact days--especially in fall semester--would only increase the DFW rate in high DFW rate courses (such as math and science) and is inconsistent with our commitment to maximally facilitating student success.

Committee Feedback in Favor of 9th week spring break

- I'm actually okay with either the 9th or the 8th week. (The current 11th week is too late in the semester--both students and faculty dislike it.) However, the benefit of the 9th week is that students who take 7-week classes get two weeks between the end of the first session and the start of the second session, rather than just one week with the 8th week spring break. Moreover, those students who take the second 5-week course session (I know this isn't very many) get a break further into their classes, which makes it seem like more of a break, as there are only two weeks of class remaining. The transition from week 11 to week 9 is likely to be more manageable for faculty to modify their course schedules and due dates than moving it to the 8th week. Finally, 9th week maps onto the spring break schedules for more Ohio universities, which is preferred by students with whom I have spoken.
- Even two week break between seven-week courses; closer to midsemester; majority of universities use that week for break which may be a negative for spring break travel plans
- I believe that going to the 8th week would be too early of a break for students. I also think having it in the current week is too late in the semester. Speaking to students before our most recent spring break many were burnt out and looking for a release for classes. It had felt like the semester went on far too long without a break because spring is only provided one major one unlike fall which has many.
- Matches a lot of other universities. It gives faculty more time to space out their assignments later on in the semester instead of cramming them in within two weeks. It will also make it easier on students.
- Close to the mid term and align with the 7-week classes.

Committee Feedback in Favor of 8th week spring break

- I like the way the 9th week feels more, but the 8th week is a logical break between 7-week terms and those are the most likely.
- 8th week will work best as we have many 7-week courses. We can also live with 11th week. Week 9 will be horrible as students would go to clinical for 1 week and complete orientation then not show up again for 2 weeks.
- 11th week is too far into the semester, and 9th week requires us to have two weeks between 1st and 2nd 7-week classes. Therefore, that left 8th week as my choice.
- Earlier makes a nice break in the most populated class schedule (full semester and 7 week). Students seem to struggle after a later spring break to finish the semester strong.

Committee Feedback in Favor of 11th week spring break

- Faculty who teach regular 15-week courses in Spring semester will be able to adapt fairly easily to an earlier Spring Break. However, I worry about programs that offer classes that have non-standard schedules (5 week, 7 week, others?). The Spring Break has been after the 10th week of the semester for as long as anyone can remember, and the non-standard scheduled classes grew up organically around it. I worry that if we move the Break, some programs offering non-standardly scheduled classes will be negatively impacted in a way that undermines our commitment to maximally facilitating student success and that there would be no way to consult with faculty in all such programs before recommendations to President and Provost.
- Least disruptive to the schedule, and I see no benefit to moving it



Thank you!