

*As approved by the Faculty Senate at its meeting on 5 March 2012*  
**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND  
THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2011-2016**

The University Committee has been made aware of concerns expressed by members of the university community that the inclusion of some religious holidays and the omission of many other religious holidays in the academic calendar sends a negative message to those individuals whose religious holidays are not listed. In the spirit of campus inclusiveness and fostering a supportive climate, the UC recommends that all references to specific religious holidays be deleted from the calendar.

The university administration will continue to send to all faculty and instructional staff prior to the beginning of each semester its correspondence about the institution's religious observances policy. That correspondence includes reference to religious holidays that will occur during the particular semester and provides a link to the interfaith calendar, which comprehensively lists religious holidays.

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2011-2016**

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Faculty contract year begin	Aug 29 (M)	Aug 27 (M)	Aug 26 (M)	Aug 25 (M)	Aug 24 (M)
Advising available	Aug 29 (M)	Aug 27 (M)	Aug 26 (M)	Aug 25 (M)	Aug 24 (M)
Instruction begins	Sep 2 (F)	Sep 4 (T)	Sep 3 (T)	Sep 2 (T)	Sep 2 (W)
Labor Day	Sep 5 (M)	Sep 3 (M)	Sep 2 (M)	Sep 1 (M)	Sep 7 (M)
Thanksgiving recess	Nov 24-27	Nov 22-25	Nov 28-Dec 1	Nov 27-30	Nov 26-29
Last class day	Dec 15 (R)	Dec 14 (F)	Dec 13 (F)	Dec 12 (F)	Dec 15 (T)
Study day	Dec 16 (F)	Dec 15 (S)	Dec 14 (S)	Dec 13 (S)	Dec 16 (W)
Exams begin	Dec 17 (S)	Dec 16 (N)	Dec 15 (N)	Dec 14 (N)	Dec 17 (R)
Exams end	Dec 23 (F)	Dec 22 (S)	Dec 21 (S)	Dec 20 (S)	Dec 23 (W)
Commencement	Dec 18 (N)	Dec 16 (N)	Dec 22 (N)	Dec 21 (N)	Dec 20 (N)
Official graduation date	Dec 24 (S)	Dec 23 (N)	Dec 22 (N)	Dec 21 (N)	Dec 24 (R)
Last day grades in	Dec 29 (R)	Dec 28 (F)	Dec 27 (F)	Dec 26 (F)	Dec 29 (T)
MWF days	43	43	43	43	43
TR days	29	29	29	29	29

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES POLICY**

In accordance with regent and faculty policy, faculty are asked not to schedule mandatory exercises on days when religious observances may cause substantial numbers of students to be absent from the university. Some religions mark observances over multiple days, which may begin at sunset on the day preceding the holiday. A listing, though not exhaustive, of religious holidays is available on-line at [www.interfaithcalendar.org](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org). Any student with a conflict between an academic requirement and any religious observance must be given an alternative means of meeting the academic requirement. A student's claim of a religious conflict, which may include travel time, should be accepted at face value.

(continued)

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2011-2016**

<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Advising available	Jan 17 (T)	Jan 14 (M)	Jan 13 (M)	Jan 12 (M)	Jan 11 (M)
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Jan 16 (M)	Jan 21 (M)	Jan 20 (M)	Jan 19 (M)	Jan 18 (M)
Instruction begins	Jan 23 (M)	Jan 22 (T)	Jan 21 (T)	Jan 20 (T)	Jan 19 (T)
Spring recess	Mar 31-Apr 8	Mar 23-31	Mar 15-23	Mar 28-Apr 5	Mar 19-27
Classes resume	Apr 9 (M)	Apr 1 (M)	Mar 24 (M)	Apr 6 (M)	Mar 28 (M)
Last class day	May 11 (F)	May 10 (F)	May 9 (F)	May 8 (F)	May 6 (F)
Study day	May 12 (S)	May 11 (S)	May 10 (S)	May 9 (S)	May 7 (S)
Exams begin	May 13 (N)	May 12 (N)	May 11 (N)	May 10 (N)	May 8 (N)
Exams end	May 19 (S)	May 18 (S)	May 17 (S)	May 16 (S)	May 14 (S)
Commencement weekend	May 18-20	May 17-19	May 16-18	May 15-17	May 13-15
Official graduation date	May 20 (N)	May 19 (N)	May 18 (N)	May 17 (N)	May 15 (N)
Last day grades in	May 25 (F)	May 24 (F)	May 23 (F)	May 22 (F)	May 20 (F)
Faculty contract year end	May 27 (N)	May 26 (N)	May 25 (N)	May 24 (N)	May 22 (N)
MWF days	45	44	44	44	44
TR days	30	30	30	30	30

<b>SUMMER SESSIONS</b>	<b>SS 2012</b>	<b>SS 2013</b>	<b>SS 2014</b>	<b>SS 2015</b>	<b>SS 2016</b>
Memorial Day	May 28 (M)	May 27 (M)	May 26 (M)	May 25 (M)	May 30 (M)
3-week session begins	May 29 (T)	May 28 (T)	May 27 (T)	May 26 (T)	May 23 (M)
8-week session begins	Jun 18 (M)	Jun 17 (M)	Jun 16 (M)	Jun 15 (M)	Jun 13 (M)
Independence Day (observed)	Jul 4 (W)	Jul 4 (R)	Jul 4 (F)	Jul 4 (S)	Jul 4 (M)
8-week session ends	Aug 10 (F)	Aug 9 (F)	Aug 8 (F)	Aug 7 (F)	Aug 5 (F)
Official graduation date	Aug 26 (N)	Aug 25 (N)	Aug 24 (N)	Aug 23 (N)	Aug 28 (N)

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES POLICY**

In accordance with regent and faculty policy, faculty are asked not to schedule mandatory exercises on days when religious observances may cause substantial numbers of students to be absent from the university. Some religions mark observances over multiple days, which may begin at sunset on the day preceding the holiday. A listing, though not exhaustive, of religious holidays is available on-line at [www.interfaithcalendar.org](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org). Any student with a conflict between an academic requirement and any religious observance must be given an alternative means of meeting the academic requirement. A student's claim of a religious conflict, which may include travel time, should be accepted at face value.