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*As adopted by the Faculty Senate at its meeting on 3 December 2012*  
**ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2016-2021**

The academic calendar serves as an information source and planning document for faculty, staff, departments, and students as well as for many of the administrative offices of the university. Its development requires adherence to a number of institutional policies that act as the framework for the calendar.

1. UW System policy on the definition of the academic year provides that the contractual academic year is defined as 39 weeks of continuous faculty employment, including not fewer than 34 weeks (170 days) of organized services for students including advising and registration, classroom instruction, and examinations.
2. State of Wisconsin legislation requires that classes commence after 1 September.
3. Faculty document 488a sets forth rules governing the timing of the spring break:
  - (a) If the first day of Passover and Good Friday occur in the same week, and that is the 8th to 11th week of the second semester, that week should be spring break.
  - (b) If either the first day of Passover or Good Friday occurs during the 8th to 11th week, that week would be the spring break.
  - (c) If both the first day of Passover and Good Friday occur in the 8th to 11th week, but they do not occur in the same week, the week of Passover should be the spring break.
  - (d) If none of the above, the break should be the 9th week.
4. The eight-day summary period policy adopted by the Faculty Senate in 1977 requires that the first day be for individual study and review, with no classes or exams. The remaining seven days must accommodate 38 two-hour exam blocks with a maximum of six blocks in a single day: 7:45 a.m., 10:05 a.m., 12:25 p.m., 2:45 p.m., 5:05 p.m., and 7:25 p.m.
5. Faculty legislation requires that course grades be completed by each instructor and submitted to the Office of the Registrar within six calendar days (144 hours) from the date and hour of each two-hour block scheduled during the summary period.

The University Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt the following academic calendar for 2016-2021.

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2016-2021**

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Faculty contract year begins	Aug 29 (M)	Aug 28 (M)	Aug 27 (M)	Aug 26 (M)	Aug 24 (M)
Advising available	Aug 29 (M)	Aug 28 (M)	Aug 27 (M)	Aug 26 (M)	Aug 24 (M)
Instruction begins	Sep 2 (F)	Sep 5 (T)	Sep 4 (T)	Sep 3 (T)	Sep 2 (W)
Labor Day	Sep 5 (M)	Sep 4 (M)	Sep 3 (M)	Sep 2 (M)	Sep 7 (M)
Thanksgiving recess	Nov 24-27	Nov 23-26	Nov 22-25	Nov 28-Dec 1	Nov 26-29
Last class day	Dec 15 (R)	Dec 15 (F)	Dec 14 (F)	Dec 13 (F)	Dec 15 (T)
Study day	Dec 16 (F)	Dec 16 (S)	Dec 15 (S)	Dec 14 (S)	Dec 16 (W)
Exams begin	Dec 17 (S)	Dec 17 (N)	Dec 16 (N)	Dec 15 (N)	Dec 17 (R)
Exams end	Dec 23 (F)	Dec 23 (S)	Dec 22 (S)	Dec 21 (S)	Dec 23 (W)
Commencement	Dec 18 (N)	Dec 17 (N)	Dec 16 (N)	Dec 22 (N)	Dec 20 (N)
Official graduation date	Dec 24 (S)	Dec 24 (N)	Dec 23 (N)	Dec 22 (N)	Dec 24 (R)
Last day grades in	Dec 29 (R)	Dec 29 (F)	Dec 28 (F)	Dec 27 (F)	Dec 29 (T)
MWF days	43	43	43	43	43
TR days	29	29	29	29	29

<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Advising available	Jan 17 (T)	Jan 16 (T)	Jan 14 (M)	Jan 13 (M)	Jan 11 (M)
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Jan 16 (M)	Jan 15 (M)	Jan 21 (M)	Jan 20 (M)	Jan 18 (M)
Instruction begins	Jan 23 (M)	Jan 22 (M)	Jan 22 (T)	Jan 21 (T)	Jan 19 (T)
Spring recess	Mar 18-26	Mar 24-Apr 1	Mar 16-24	Mar 14-22	Mar 27-Apr 4
Classes resume	Mar 27 (M)	Apr 2 (M)	Mar 25 (M)	Mar 23 (M)	Apr 5 (M)
Last class day	May 11 (R)	May 10 (R)	May 10 (F)	May 8 (F)	May 7 (F)
Study day	May 12 (F)	May 11 (F)	May 11 (S)	May 9 (S)	May 8 (S)
Exams begin	May 13 (S)	May 12 (S)	May 12 (N)	May 10 (N)	May 9 (N)
Exams end	May 19 (F)	May 18 (F)	May 18 (S)	May 16 (S)	May 15 (S)
Commencement weekend	May 19-21	May 18-20	May 17-19	May 15-17	May 14-16
Official graduation date	May 20 (S)	May 19 (S)	May 19 (N)	May 17 (N)	May 16 (N)
Last day grades in	May 25 (R)	May 24 (R)	May 24 (F)	May 22 (F)	May 21 (F)
Faculty contract year ends	May 28 (N)	May 27 (N)	May 26 (N)	May 24 (N)	May 23 (N)
MWF days	44	44	44	44	44
TR days	30	30	30	30	30

<b>SUMMER SESSIONS</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Memorial Day (observed)	May 29 (M)	May 28 (M)	May 27 (M)	May 25 (M)	May 31 (M)
3-week session begins	May 30 (T)	May 29 (T)	May 28 (T)	May 26 (T)	May 24 (M)
3-week session ends	Jun 16 (F)	Jun 15 (F)	Jun 14 (F)	Jun 12 (F)	Jun 11 (F)
8-week session begins	Jun 19 (M)	Jun 18 (M)	Jun 17 (M)	Jun 15 (M)	Jun 14 (M)
Independence Day (observed)	Jul 4 (T)	Jul 4 (W)	Jul 4 (R)	Jul 4 (S)	Jul 5 (M)
8-week session ends	Aug 11 (F)	Aug 10 (F)	Aug 9 (F)	Aug 7 (F)	Aug 6 (F)
Official graduation date	Aug 27 (N)	Aug 26 (N)	Aug 25 (N)	Aug 23 (N)	Aug 22 (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.