

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**  
**URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
(Final; Action)

EP.13.37 Revisions to 2017-2018 Academic Calendar

**Background**

Similar to what we experienced for the 2012-2013 Academic Calendar prior to revisions, the 2017-2018 Academic Calendar is currently structured in a way that creates a hardship for achieving all the activities that need to be accomplished between the end of when grades must be submitted and the Federal Financial Aid disbursement deadline date. These activities include grades processing, and academic decisions by the Colleges and Departments (e.g. drops, probation, etc.) related to Fall Semester student performance.

This hardship is created due to the late timing of finals for Fall Semester 2017 and the abbreviated window between the Fall Semester 2017 and the Spring Semester 2018.

Just as we did for the Academic Calendar revised for 2012-2013, more time needs to be “created” for the above activities. This “effective time” needs to occur between when grades must be submitted and the Federal Financial Aid disbursement deadline date, and needs to be created with as little disruption to the academic calendar overall as is reasonably possible. Please see FAQs related to the academic calendar for additional information and requirements:

[Hyperlink to FAQs from EP.12.11](#)

Additionally, we have the experience from Academic Year 2012-2013 in administering Saturday finals and shortening the grading period by one day. Please see Educational Policy Report [EP.13.36](#).

Aspects of the currently approved Fall Semester 2017 and Spring Semester 2018 Schedule:

**Fall Semester 2017 and Start of Spring Semester, 2018**

Instruction Begins	Monday, August 28
Labor Day	Monday, September 4 (no classes)
Thanksgiving Vacation Begins	Saturday, November 18, 1 p.m.
Instruction Resumes	Monday, November 27, 7 a.m.
Instruction Ends	Wednesday, December 13
Reading Day	Thursday, December 14
Final Examinations Begin	Friday, December 15
Final Examinations End	Friday, December 22
Academic Standing Review Completed – 5pm	Friday, January 5, 2018
Financial Aid Disbursement deadline	Saturday, January 6, 2018
Spring Semester 2018 – Instruction begins	Monday, January 15, 2018

**Proposed Solution: The same solution that was implemented for Academic Calendar 2012-2013 on proposal EP.12.11.**

- Allow for Saturday Finals to occur on December 16, 2017. This would have the final Examination period end on Thursday, December 21, 2017 (one day prior to what is listed on the currently approved calendar.
- Grades submission deadline will be adjusted based on the Campus Holidays for Fiscal Year 2017. The intent would be to compress the grading period by no more than one day compared to previous general practice. This still allows for 5.5 days for grading examinations, determining and reporting of

grades after final examinations end (including holidays), and avoids having the deadline on a paid holiday.

- EP.13.37 effectively revises both [EP.05.29](#) and [EP.09.44](#). EP.05.29 states that “There shall be 18 3-hour Final Examination periods scheduled, with 3 periods each day and none on **Saturday** or Sunday.” [EP.09.44](#) is the currently approved 2017-18 Academic Calendar.

### **Impact**

As for Academic Year 2012-2013, we do not anticipate any major problems with this calendar revision. See [EP.13.36](#).

This provides the Office of the Registrar, Colleges and Departments sufficient time to complete the needed work to meet the Federal Financial Aid disbursement deadline date.

This solution shares the burden among students, faculty and campus administrators.

Given the advanced notice, faculty can plan their syllabi accordingly, and also take advantage of the pedagogical opportunity to try new examination or grading methods, or other strategies that meet course and student needs.

### **Assessment**

The Educational Policy Committee will again monitor outcomes associated with this Academic Calendar adjust as was done for Academic Year 2012-2013. But we do not anticipate any difficulties.

### **Recommendation**

The Senate Committee on Educational Policy recommends approval of the following revised 2017-2018 Academic Calendar. The following 2017-2018 Academic Calendar is formulated in accordance with *Synopsis of Policies Governing the Academic Calendar at UIUC*, adopted December 5, 2005 with the exception of permitting Saturday finals examination.

### **Fall Semester 2017**

Instruction Begins	Monday, August 28
Labor Day	Monday, September 4 (no classes)
Thanksgiving Vacation Begins	Saturday, November 18, 1 p.m.
Instruction Resumes	Monday, November 27, 7 a.m.
Instruction Ends	Wednesday, December 13
Reading Day	Thursday, December 14
Final Examinations Begin	Friday, December 15
Final Examinations to be conducted on	<b>Saturday, December 16</b>
Final Examinations End	Thursday, December 21

### **Senate Committee on Educational Policy**

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