

**APPROVED BY SENATE**  
**09/22/2014**

**EP.15.01**  
September 22, 2014

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**  
**URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**

**Committee on Educational Policy**  
(Final; Action)

**EP.15.01**      Revisions to the 2014-2015 Academic Calendar

**Background:**

Renovation of the Assembly Hall (now State Farm Center) will not be completed by the end of Spring semester 2015. Thus, the commencement ceremonies cannot be held in the State Farm Center. The only venue large enough for campus-wide commencement ceremonies is Memorial Stadium. With the need to move the venue, the Committee on Commencement's recommendation is to hold the campus-wide ceremony on Saturday, rather than Sunday because of practical considerations. For both invited guests and the students themselves, the Sunday Commencement ceremony often meant an extra day on campus. To avoid this, many students and their families simply left campus after their unit ceremonies, and did not attend Commencement. The Committee on Commencement thinks that holding the ceremony on Saturday may alleviate some of these problems and induce more students (and possibly more faculty) to attend Commencement.

This proposal, if passed, would supersede EP.09.41, which states that the 2015 Commencement occurs on Sunday, May 17, 2015. EP.09.41 is the currently approved 2014-2015 Academic Calendar.

**Impact**

The conferral date for awarded degrees appears on official student transcripts and diplomas. For this reason, the Office of the Registrar website communicates the conferral date of awarded degrees so that external agencies can confirm the accuracy of Illinois transcripts and diplomas. Also, the conferral date configuration in the Student Information System must be set prior to any student applying for graduation to the Spring 2015 term.

Additional impacts occur with respect to the other events of Commencement weekend, notably the unit convocations, many of which will need to be rescheduled, and some of which will need to be moved to a different venue. It must be stressed that some of these changes are independent of the occurrence of a campus-wide Commencement ceremony on Saturday, since several unit convocations have been held in the State Farm Center, which will not be available. Thus, considerable shifting of times and venues is inevitable.

[Hyperlink to FAQs](#)

**Recommendation:**

After the Chancellor’s Office and the Committee on Commencement evaluation requested by the Senate Committee on Educational Policy at the September 16, 2013 Senate meeting, the evaluation determined that the Memorial Stadium format was successful and should be maintained for the remaining years of construction at the State Farm Center.

Therefore, the Senate Committee on Educational Policy recommends revising the 2014-2015 Academic Calendar by moving the date of commencement from Sunday, May 17, 2015 to Saturday, May 16, 2015. The Committee again recommends holding a single campus-wide commencement ceremony on the morning of Saturday, May 16, 2015 in Memorial Stadium with the college ceremonies following. Altering the date of commencement to Saturday, May 16, 2015 also changes the degree conferral date to Saturday, May 16, 2015.

The revised calendar for Spring 2015 would appear as follows:

**Spring Semester 2015**

M. L. King Day	Monday, January 19 (no classes)
Instruction Begins	Tuesday, January 20
Spring Vacation Begins	Saturday, March 21, 1 p.m.
Instruction Resumes	Monday, March 30, 7 a.m.
Instruction Ends	Wednesday, May 6
Reading Day	Thursday, May 7
Final Examinations Begin	Friday, May 8
End	Friday, May 15
Commencement	Saturday, May 16

This alteration is formulated in accordance with *Synopsis of Policies Governing the Academic Calendar at UIUC*, adopted by the Senate on December 5, 2005.

**Senate Committee on Educational Policy**

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