

UMC ACADEMIC CALENDAR COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

Academic calendars will be established at least four years in advance so that students may plan their schedules and University units may plan events. Revisions to approved calendars must be made no less than two years before the date the calendar goes into effect.

A. Fall and Spring Semesters

1. There will be two semesters, each of which will include a minimum of 70 days of instructions, a maximum of 75 days of instruction, and approximately one week of final examinations (including Saturdays but not Sundays).
2. Fall semester classes will ordinarily begin on a Monday⁽¹⁾
3. For the fall semester, the exam period will end no later than December 22.
4. Colleges and campuses may authorize courses shorter or longer than the semester, subject to the approval of appropriate college or academic unit curriculum review committees.
5. Professional schools are permitted to have calendars that vary from the requirements of this policy.
6. Thanksgiving break will be the fourth Thursday and Friday of November (two-days only).⁽¹⁾
7. Spring break week should be coordinated with UM-Twin Cities calendar⁽¹⁾
8. For the Spring Semester floating holiday use a date that does not honor a specific religious holiday. The committee can consider observing Election Day (Tuesday, Nov. 5), Veterans Day (Monday, Nov. 11), or Washington's Birthday (Monday, Feb. 17).⁽¹⁾
9. Balance the number of Monday and Friday where classes are not scheduled⁽¹⁾
10. Spring Semester final exams will occur Tuesday-Friday⁽¹⁾
11. Spring commencement will be held on Saturday⁽¹⁾
12. Fall Professional Development will be during the third week in October, not over MEA, no classes scheduled.⁽¹⁾
13. Spring Professional Development should fall after spring break, no classes scheduled.⁽¹⁾
14. Use the holiday names from the Federal Office of Personnel Management (<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/federal-holidays/>)

B. Summer Term

1. Departments may schedule a three-week May session following the end of the spring semester and before the summer session. No department will be obligated to offer courses or academic work during this three-week session.
2. May session will begin on the Monday following commencement⁽¹⁾
3. There will be a standard eight-week summer session. No department will be obligated to offer courses or academic work during this eight-week session. Departments and programs may deliver courses over either shorter or longer periods of time and with starting and ending dates that differ from the standard eight-week and May sessions.
4. Summer session will begin on a Monday one-week after the conclusion of the May term⁽¹⁾

C. Revisions of Calendars

All calendars and any subsequent revisions or exceptions must be approved by the UMC Chancellor.

adopted by the Chancellor's Cabinet, Nov 2007, amended Dec 2008, Jan 2010, Dec 2013, Nov 2016, Nov 2017, Feb. 2019, Mar 2023.

⁽¹⁾ UMC specific policy.

UM Policy: <https://policy.umn.edu/education/academiccalendar>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can each campus set its own academic calendar?

Yes, each campus is responsible for setting its own academic calendar. The Faculty Senate approves the University of Minnesota, Morris and University of Minnesota, Twin Cities calendars. The University of Minnesota, Duluth and University of Minnesota, Crookston calendars are transmitted to the University Senate for information only. The University of Minnesota, Rochester follows the Twin Cities academic calendar.

2. Can instructors assign work to students prior to the beginning of the academic term?

No. Instructors cannot assign work until the term starts.

3. Does the University of Minnesota hold regularly scheduled classes the day before a holiday?

Yes, scheduled classes, including evening classes, are held the day before a holiday. For example, classes are held the Wednesday evening before the Thanksgiving holiday. Refer to the current academic calendar for University holidays.