

ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2011-2016

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 adopted in 1994 allowed that in the fall semester of 1998-1999, 1999-2000, and 2000-2001 the first day of the summary period be designated as a "Study Day/Exams Begin" day with one final examination period scheduled for 7:25 p.m. on that day; and that three examination periods (the first two in the morning, and the last one of the day) be scheduled on the day of commencement. This was necessary due to limitations of the calendar in those years. It was felt that this arrangement provided maximum protection for the study day and caused minimal inconvenience for students and their guests on commencement day.

This legislation also required that: a) to the maximum extent feasible, the three exam periods on commencement day be assigned to classes containing all or mostly freshman students; and b) if fewer than 38 exam blocks were required, the block scheduled on the study day, and then the evening block on commencement day, be given top priority for deletion.
6. 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.

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2011-2016

FALL SEMESTER	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
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)
<i>Rosh Hashanah**</i>	<i>Sep 29-30*</i>	<i>Sep 17-18*</i>	<i>Sep 5-6*</i>	<i>Sep 25-26*</i>	<i>Sep 14-15*</i>
<i>Yom Kippur**</i>	<i>Oct 8 (S)*</i>	<i>Sep 26 (W)*</i>	<i>Sep 14 (S)*</i>	<i>Oct 4 (S)*</i>	<i>Sep 23 (W)*</i>
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

* Please note that these observances begin at sunset on the day preceding that which is listed as the holiday.

**** 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 posted date(s) of the holiday. **Conflicts may occur for religious observances other than those identified in the calendar.** A listing, though not exhaustive, of religious holidays is available on-line at 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.

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SPRING SEMESTER	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
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)
<i>Good Friday**</i>	<i>Apr 6 (F)</i>	<i>Mar 29 (F)</i>	<i>Apr 18 (F)</i>	<i>Apr 3 (F)</i>	<i>Mar 25 (F)</i>
<i>Passover**</i>	<i>Apr 7 (S)*</i>	<i>Mar 26 (T)*</i>	<i>Apr 15 (T)*</i>	<i>Apr 4 (S)*</i>	<i>Apr 23 (S)*</i>
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)
<i>Shavuot**</i>	—	<i>May 15-16*</i>	—	—	—
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
SUMMER SESSIONS	SS 2012	SS 2013	SS 2014	SS 2015	SS 2016
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)
<i>Shavuot**</i>	<i>May 27-28*</i>	—	<i>Jun 4-5*</i>	<i>May 24-25*</i>	<i>Jun 12-13*</i>
<i>Ramadan begins**</i>	<i>Jul 20 (F)</i>	<i>Jul 9 (T)</i>	<i>Jun 28 (S)</i>	<i>Jun 18 (R)</i>	<i>Jun 6 (M)</i>
<i>Ramadan ends (Eid al-Fitr)**</i>	<i>Aug 19 (N)</i>	<i>Aug 8 (R)</i>	<i>Jul 28 (M)</i>	<i>Jul 17 (F)</i>	<i>Jul 6 (W)</i>
Official graduation date	Aug 26 (N)	Aug 25 (N)	Aug 24 (N)	Aug 23 (N)	Aug 28 (N)

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