



Memorandum

Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)
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TO: Senate
FROM: Morton J. Mendelson, Deputy-Provost (Student Life and Learning)
SUBJECT: Calendar of Academic Dates 2015-2016 and 2016-2017
DATE: May 15, 2013
DOCUMENT #: D12-73
ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE: Calendar of Academic Dates for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE: The terms of reference for the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs (CESA) state:

The Committee shall review and recommend to Senate:

- policies as they affect course timetabling, student records, and student affairs in general
- principles regarding sessional dates and specific sessional dates for all faculties and for the Centre for Continuing Education, including the beginning and end of the session, holidays, and examinations

In line with its mandate, CESA recommends that Senate approve the Calendar of Academic Dates for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 as outlined in Appendix A. The dates essentially conform to the principles regarding sessional dates as approved at Senate on April 27, 2011.

MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL: *Be it resolved that, on the recommendation of the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning), the Calendars of Academic Dates for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 be approved.*

PRIOR CONSULTATION: Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee
Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs

NEXT STEPS: N/A

APPENDICES: Appendix A: Academic Calendar of Dates 2015-2016 and 2016-2017

Calendar of Dates Proposal to Senate 2015-16 & 2016-17

At its meeting on April 16, 2013, the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs recommended the following Calendars of Dates for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years. The primary concerns that informed the decision of the Committee were the maintenance of the extended Winter break and ensuring that faculties that require minimum contact hours for professional qualifications had that option. Due to the compressed schedules of the two academic years, a Friday start was necessary to satisfy these requirements.

2015-16:

- Achieves the longest possible holiday break for students of at least 15 days.
- Placing the make-up day on the Friday before Labour Day enables the missing Monday to be made up at the start of the term.
- Faculties will have flexibility to determine whether to hold classes on Friday, September 4, 2015.
- Starting the winter term on January 7, 2016, addresses a shortfall of 1-3 contact hours for schedule patterns that include a Monday, ensuring that none of the class patterns is short of contact hours.

2016-17:

- Students will not be required to return to school significantly earlier in the fall.
- Placing the make-up day on the Friday before Labour Day ensures all contact hours are preserved.
- Faculties will have flexibility to determine whether to hold classes on Friday, September 2, 2016.
- The schedule provides an exam preparation day for the fall term.
- The slightly shorter holiday break provides an exam preparation day for the winter term.
- Easter will occur during the final examination period, so exams will have to begin early on Thursday, April 13, 2017, in order to end before May.
- Good Friday (no exams) falls immediately after the first day of exams, providing a long weekend at the beginning of the exam period.

Recommendations

Calendar of Dates Proposal 2015-16 and 2016-17

2015-16 Fall Semester	Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Exam Prep	Exams Begin	Exams End	Schedule Pattern and End Dates	
(66 lecture days)	F, Sep 4 ²	n/a	M, Dec 7	T, Dec 8	W, Dec 9	T, Dec 22	M, MW, MWF, MTR	Mon, Dec. 7
							WF, TRF, F	Fri, Dec. 4
							TR	Thurs, Dec. 3
							W	Wed, Dec. 2
							T	Tues, Dec. 1
							² F, Sept. 4 will follow a Monday schedule.	
Winter Semester	Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Exam Prep	Exams Begin	Exams End	Schedule Pattern and End Dates	
(65 lecture days)	R, Jan 7 ¹	Feb 29 – Mar 4	F, Apr 15	Weekend 16/17	M, Apr 18	F, Apr 29	MWF, WF, F, TRF	Fri, Apr. 15
							MTR, TR, R	Thurs, Apr. 14
							MW, W	Wed, Apr. 13
							T	Tues, Apr. 12
							M	Mon, Apr. 11
							¹ R, Jan. 7 will follow a Monday schedule.	

Key Dates 2015-2016:

Labour Day: Monday, September 7, 2015
 Thanksgiving: Monday, October 12, 2015
 McGill closed Thur. Dec. 24-Sun. Jan. 3 inclusive
 Christmas Day: Friday, Dec. 25, 2015
 New Year's Day: Friday, January 1, 2016

Good Friday: Friday, March 25, 2016
 Easter Monday: Monday, March 28, 2016
 Passover begins: Saturday, April 23, 2016
 (commences at sundown April 22)
 Passover ends: Saturday, April 30, 2016

2016-17 Fall Semester	Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Exam Prep	Exams Begin	Exams End	Schedule Pattern and End Dates	
(65 lecture days)	F, Sep 2 ²	n/a	M, Dec 5	T, Dec 6	W, Dec 7	T, Dec 20	M, MWF, MTR, MW	M, Dec. 5
							F, TRF WF	F, Dec. 2
							R, TR	R, Dec. 1
							W	W, Nov. 30
							T	T, Nov. 29
							² F, Sept. 2 will follow a Monday schedule.	
Winter Semester	Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Exam Prep	Exams Begin	Exams End	Schedule Pattern and End Dates	
(65 lecture days)	W, Jan 4, 2017	Feb 27 – Mar 3	T, Apr 11	W, Apr 12	R, Apr 13	F, Apr 28	T, TR, TRF, MTR	T, Apr. 11
							M, MW, MWF	M, Apr. 10
							F, WF	F, Apr. 7
							R	R, Apr. 6
							W	W, Apr. 5

Key Dates 2016-2017:

Labour Day: Monday, September 5, 2016
 Thanksgiving: Monday, October 10, 2016
 McGill closed Fri. Dec. 23-Mon. Jan 2 inclusive
 Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25, 2016
 New Year's Day: Sunday, January 1, 2017

Good Friday: Friday, April 14, 2017
 Easter Monday: Monday, April 17, 2017
 Passover begins: Tuesday, April 11
 (commences at sundown April 10)
 Passover ends: Tuesday, April 18