

New Academic Calendar Proposal

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Why consider changing the existing calendar?

Answer: We always want to be looking for ways to provide more classes to more students, provide what they need to be successful, and increase our FTES. A question that is part of this concern is, do we lose students over the long winter break between semesters?

Question: What is the timeframe for this discussion?

Answer: The Calendar Committee has been briefed on this option and has proposed that the academic side of the discussion funnel through two existing groups: Academic Senate and the Academic Affairs Advisory Council (chairs and Deans). These two groups will ask for input throughout the semester. The Academic Senate will review the input from their constituents at their meeting on November 19th and reach a recommendation. The AAAC will review the input from their constituents on November 20th and reach a recommendation. These recommendations will go to the Calendar Committee in December, and the Calendar Committee will then forward a recommendation to the President. If the recommendation is to change to the new calendar, the President will take this to the Board of Trustees.

Question: If approved, when would we start this new calendar?

Answer: The goal is to start the new calendar in 16/17 if approved. That would mean this upcoming intersession would be the last we offer, and the expanded summer would be in summer 2017.

Question: How do I make my opinion known?

Answer: Work with your Academic Senate Rep or Department Chair. Both will be providing you the opportunity to provide input before scheduled meetings above.

Question: What would this Calendar provide that our current one does not?

Answer: 1. A 12 week session provide an option more conducive for the larger science/lab courses, allowing us to offer a better selection of math/science courses in the summer. These are not options at all in the current winter intersession.

2. A shorter Winter break would possibly provide a calendar that would encourage fewer students to drop off and not return in the spring. It would possibly keep them motivated to continue to pursue their education.

3. 2- six week sessions would allow our students to pick up additional courses they could not in an intersession session, allowing them to complete more quickly.

Question: If I want to offer a course that meets a different number of weeks or has a different start date, am I able to?

Answer: Within reason. We all know how confusing it can be for students to know when their class has a different start date, or even meets at the Palmdale Center instead of Lancaster. The most important consideration is that we provide a schedule of classes where our students can actually get to their classes at the right time and place. A schedule with too many variables does not support this. The final decision is an assignment of work and ultimately rests with the President.

Question: What about those students who now take intersession to pick up a course?

Answer: They have the option of picking up a course in the first 6 week summer session, the second, or a longer course in the 12 week session.

Question: What about High School students who do not get out till later in the summer?

Answer: They can pick up a class in the second session, or even an evening first session course. They already cannot get a summer session of the 12 week science courses, so that would have no impact.

Question: If we have a more robust summer session, would it be a possibility for a faculty member to teach the summer and fall and take off the spring term, for example?

Answer: Yes, that is a possibility, and it would set up a trimester system at AVC. To do this, the option would need to go through negotiations and be approved as part of the contract. The District is willing to discuss this option.

It is important to not, however, that student needs must take precedence over faculty schedule requests, as always. In other words, if 2/3 of the English department wish to take off the fall it will not be possible. We must first provide a workable schedule of classes that provides enough sections for our students.

Question: Do we have any data on how intersession is doing?

Answer: Yes. Sections, FTES, and Enrollments are below:

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Credit Course Sections Summary Report

Antelope Valley

Winter 2008	Winter 2008	Winter 2008
Credit Sections Count	Credit Sections FTES	Enrollment Count
243	511.43	4,730

Winter 2009	Winter 2009	Winter 2009
Credit Sections Count	Credit Sections FTES	Enrollment Count
247	618.82	5,681

Winter 2010	Winter 2010	Winter 2010
Credit Sections Count	Credit Sections FTES	Enrollment Count
35	126.56	1,056

Winter 2011	Winter 2011	Winter 2011
Credit Sections Count	Credit Sections FTES	Enrollment Count
80	377.34	2,115

Winter 2012	Winter 2012	Winter 2012
Credit Sections Count	Credit Sections FTES	Enrollment Count
14	27.76	209

Winter 2013	Winter 2013	Winter 2013
Credit Sections Count	Credit Sections FTES	Enrollment Count
128	260.54	2,401

Winter 2014	Winter 2014	Winter 2014
Credit Sections Count	Credit Sections FTES	Enrollment Count
142	385.81	3,408

Winter 2015	Winter 2015	Winter 2015
Credit Sections Count	Credit Sections FTES	Enrollment Count
131	392.58	3,496

Question: Do we have any data on the number of students who do not return after the fall semester because of the long winter break?

Answer: AVC does not gather that information. However, that does not negate the importance of the query.

Question: Have any other institutions done this?

Answer: A poll was run on the CIO listserv this summer. Below are the results, both good and bad:

Poll Questions: We are starting discussions on dropping our intersession in lieu of a longer summer session, including two 6 week sessions or a 12 week--effectively a trimester model. Does anyone already use such a model? I'd like to provide some feedback to the campus on how it has worked at other institutions.

Results:

Barstow

Barstow has two summer sessions: one beginning in early June that runs 8 weeks; the other starts two weeks later and runs 6 weeks. These were instituted several years before I arrived and there are no issues. Of course, the majority of these offerings are online.

Our first session starts a week before the local HS's get out, so the second session is there option. We are very strict on concurrent enrollment so we don't get a whole lot of HS enrollment.

Cabrillo

At Cabrillo, we eliminated our four week intersession two years ago. For one thing, there did not seem to be a lot of student success benefit in four week classes.

However, our main goal was to increase the length of summer sessions so we could offer more science and math classes. We have 4, 6, and 8 week summer sessions. 12 weeks would be difficult because we like to wait until our high school students are available.

The success has been outstanding. Our summer FTES has increased. The summer science and math classes fill immediately.

EL Camino College

Don't do it. ECC did and we are reverting back to intersession. 1st 6 week has not worked as planned pulling from CSU's.

North Orange CC

Our School of Continuing Education employs a trimester model, which I believe has been effective.

They actually are scheduled for all three trimesters during the year not exceed 300 hrs per term. The full load for noncredit full-time instructors is 25 hrs per week. Faculty can then choose to work during summer session but this will be outside their contract.

Santa Rosa

We don't at SRJC but back before the budget cuts we developed a model for two five weeks and one 10 week overlay. We'd love to see the responses you get, please! Also, you may want to consider combining this idea with one about faculty teaching on an annual load basis. This would allow faculty to opt for teaching the two summer sessions and the fall semester and having the entire spring semester off. The option of teaching ten classes (each assumed to be three units) during summer and one of the primary semesters (could be either fall or spring) in exchange for having off an entire semester may be attractive to the faculty and help garner support for what you are trying to accomplish.

I am not aware of any STRS complications.

I do know the LA District has been using an annual load for several years.

RCC

No, I don't, but it seems easy enough to manage. Here is the one thing we noticed. We had some retention issues because students figured they could enroll and drop from the first session and still get into the late session. Best of luck, might be interesting to see how it is received.

Question: How does this new calendar proposal fit with the local K12 calendars?

Answer: Below is the proposed calendar with the local K12 posted calendars. Subsequent calendars are not available yet, but they tend to be fairly static.

Antelope Valley College 2016 – 2017

Fall semester:	Start: August 29, 2016 End: December 17, 2016	
Spring semester:	Start: January 9, 2017 End: May 5, 2017	Spring Break: March 6 – 10, 2017 OR March 13 – 17, 2017
Commencement:	Friday, May 5, 2017	
Summer Session:	<i>12 Week Session</i> Start: May 15, 2017 End: August 4, 2017	<i>2 - 6 Week Sessions</i> 1 st Session: May 15, 2017 – June 23, 2017 2 nd Session: June 26, 2017 – August 4, 2017

AV High School District 2015 – 2016 School Year

Fall	Start: August 10, 2015	Thanksgiving Break:	Nov. 23 – 27, 2015
		Winter Break:	Dec. 21, 2015 – Jan. 8, 2016
Spring	Start: Jan. 11, 2016 Last day: June 2, 2016	Spring Break:	Mar. 18 – 25, 2016

Westside School District 2015 – 2016

Fall	Start: August 6, 2015	Thanksgiving Break:	Nov. 23 – 27, 2015
		Winter Break:	Dec. 21, 2015 – Jan. 8, 2016
Spring	Start: Jan. 11, 2016 Last day: June 2, 2016	Spring Break:	Mar. 18 – April 1, 2016

Lancaster School District 2015 – 2016

Fall	Start: Aug. 10, 2015	Thanksgiving Break:	Nov. 23 – 27, 2015
		Winter Break:	Dec. 21, 2015 – Jan. 8, 2016
Spring	Start: Jan. 11, 2016 Last day: June 8,	Spring Break:	Mar. 21 – April 1, 2016

2016

Eastside School District 2015 – 2016

Fall	Start: August 11, 2015	Thanksgiving Break:	Nov. 23 – 27, 2015
		Winter Break:	Dec. 21, 2015 – Jan. 8, 2016
Spring	Start: Jan. 11, 2016 Last day: June 11, 2016	Spring Break:	Mar. 21 – April 1, 2016

Palmdale School District 2015 – 2016

Fall	Start: August 13/20, 2015	Thanksgiving Break:	Nov. 23 – 27, 2015
		Winter Break:	Dec. 21, 2015 – Jan. 8, 2016
Spring	Start: Jan. 11, 2016 Last day: June 1, 2016	Spring Break:	Mar. 21 – 25, 2016

Antelope Valley College subsequent years:

2017 – 2018	
Fall semester:	Start: August 28, 2017 End: December 16, 2017
Spring semester:	Start: January 8, 2018 End: May 4, 2018
	Spring Break: March 5 – 9, 2018 OR March 12 – 16, 2018
Commencement:	Friday, May 4, 2018
Summer Session:	<i>12 Week Session</i> Start: May 14, 2018 End: August 3, 2018
	<i>2 - 6 Week Sessions</i> 1 st Session: May 14, 2018 – June 22, 2018 2 nd Session: June 25, 2018 – Aug. 3, 2018

2018 – 2019	
Fall semester:	Start: August 27, 2018 End: December 15, 2018
Spring semester:	Start: January 7, 2019 End: May 3, 2019
	Spring Break: March 4 – 8, 2019 OR March 11 – 15, 2019
Commencement:	Friday, May 3, 2019
Summer Session:	<i>12 Week Session</i> Start: May 13, 2019 End: August 2, 2019
	<i>2 - 6 Week Sessions</i> 1 st Session: May 14, 2019 – June 21, 2019 2 nd Session: June 24, 2019 – August 2

