

Compressed Calendar Proposal

Abstract

Proposed 16-week semester calendar with a 4-week winter session and a 12-week summer session enabling students an extra opportunity to take classes in an academic year that will replace the current 18-week semester calendar. The proposed calendar is expected to provide a small ~1-3% increase in FTES that is maintained and provide more consistency with calendars of nearby districts, making it more convenient for students that often attend multiple colleges and districts. This proposal is to disseminate information about the compressed calendar, answer questions, and collect information from all stakeholders. The proposal will then be brought to all participatory governance groups at each college for consideration, namely Associated Students, Classified Senate, and Academic Senate. If there is general support with recommendations from the participatory governance groups, the proposal will be presented to the Chancellor to present to the Board of Trustees for future implementation, likely Fall 2022 at the earliest.

The What: Overview of proposed calendar

Proposed 16-week Fall and Spring semesters with a 4-week winter session and a 12-week summer session. An example 16-week semester instructional calendar for the current 2020-2021 academic year is shown on the final page. Fall is blue, winter is purple, spring is green, and summer is shown as yellow. Flex week would be the week of August 23, 2021 with the first day of class starting on Monday August 30. The sample instructional calendar summarizes the main features of a compressed calendar.

The Why: Better for Students & Brief Background

The compressed calendar discussion has come and gone quite a few times over the years. It was most recently re-initiated when the Moorpark College Academic Senate adopted a resolution on October 31, 2017 to explore the compressed calendar in collaboration with the chancellor's office, sister colleges, and other stakeholders. A districtwide workgroup was formed in the 2018-2019 academic year and found that compressed calendars benefits students, largely due to the winter session providing another opportunity to take classes. A

second workgroup was formed in the 2019-2020 academic year to discuss what implementation would look like for the VCCCD and remaining items identified for further consideration. The transition to fully online due to COVID-19 temporarily paused this work that was then restarted in the 2020-2021 academic year. Both workgroups had broad representation across all stakeholder groups among the three colleges and the DAC.

The How: Common Concerns & Questions

There are a number of questions that have come up in discussing the compressed calendar. Note that many items are negotiated items with both unions, Service Employee International Union (SEIU) Local 99 and American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Local 1828, with details to be worked out if a compressed calendar is adopted. However, we provide likely scenarios based on other colleges and districts that have already adopted such a calendar.

Common concerns from Classified Professionals:

- Increased workload and need for additional staffing.
- Reduced downtime for operational needs performed by classified such as IT upgrades and custodial deep cleaning.

Answers to common questions from faculty:

- Full-time faculty contract covers Fall and Spring semesters
 - With 16-week semesters, this provides an additional month of time off during winter session
 - Or an additional earning opportunity by teaching over winter (non-contract)
- Winter and summer are both treated similar to current summer sessions
- Classes will have the same total class time as now
 - Therefore, classes carry the same load as currently and
 - Schedule requires updates to accommodate the adjusted longer class sessions
- Non-instructional faculty have same total hours/load
- Total faculty service hours and Flex hours remain the same over the shorter semesters

Final Note

This is not a comprehensive document that attempts to address all questions and concerns. It simply provides the basic framework of the proposed 16-week semester compressed calendar for consideration. Many college districts have worked through this transition and our district will be able to do likewise if the 16-week semester calendar is adopted to replace the current 18-week semester calendar.

Ventura County Community College District: 2020-2021 EXAMPLE 16-Week Semester Instructional Calendar

Saturday Classes	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021
Possible Instructional Days :	10	15	15
First Day of Instruction:	5/30	8/22	1/23
No Instruction:	5/23, 7/4	9/5, 11/28	1/16, 2/13, 3/20
Last Instruction Day/Final Exam:	8/8	12/12	5/15

Fall Semester 2020: 88 days	Spring Semester 2021: 87 s
Instructional Days: 84 (includes final exam days)	Instructional Days: 84 (includes final exam days)
Self-Assigned Flex Days: 3	Self-Assigned Flex Days: 3
Mandatory Flex Days: 1	Mandatory Flex Days: 0
First day of instruction for full-semester classes: 8/17	First day of instruction for full-semester classes: 1/11
Holidays: 9/7, 11/11, 11/26-27	Holidays: 1/18, 2/12, 2/15
Final Exam Week: 12/10-12/16	Spring Break: 3/29-4/2
Last day of fall semester: 12/16	Final Exam Week: 5/13-5/19
	Last day of spring semester: 5/19

Fall 2020

	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
August 2020							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					
September 2020		1	2	3	4	5	
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30			
October 2020					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
November 2020	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30					
December 2020		1	2	3	4	5	
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		

	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
January 2021							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					
February 2021		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28						
March 2021		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			
April 2021					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	
May 2021							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					
June 2021			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30			
July 2021					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
August 2021	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

FLEX Fall 2021
First day of Fall 2021