

III-5.00 - POLICY ON ACADEMIC CALENDAR

(Approved by the Board of Regents, January 11, 1990; Amended by the Board of Regents, June 10, 1994; amended December 1, 1995; amended April 6, 2001; amended [June, 2025])

1. All institutions of the University System of Maryland will follow a common academic calendar to assist student planning, facilitate joint and cooperative programs and appointments, simplify student and faculty movement among institutions, and facilitate use of distance education technologies throughout the System.
2. The common academic calendar will provide sufficient time for instruction and examinations as recommended by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and as may be stipulated by state and federal regulations. Within the common framework, each president shall be authorized to adjust class time to meet instructional needs.
3. The features of the common calendar will include:
 - a) a fall semester that begins before Labor Day and that has its final examination period concluding on or before December 23; institutions may opt to offer a brief fall recess;
 - b) a minimum of fourteen instructional days over a three-week period in January available for institutions to use for an academic winter session or, for those institutions which do not plan to offer coursework, an extended winter holiday; and
 - c) a spring semester interrupted by a one-week common spring break and with a final examination period that concludes prior to Memorial Day.
4. The particular dates for each year's common calendar will be recommended by the Presidents' Council and approved by the Chancellor for publication and dissemination. The academic calendar will be adopted at least two to three years in advance.
5. The Law School at the University of Baltimore, the professional programs in the schools of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, UMGC, and cohort programs are exempted from this policy. Institutions may also exempt fully online programs from this policy. Each president shall be authorized to designate the programs to be exempted and adjust class time to meet instructional needs. However, all programs not otherwise constrained by the requirements of professional accrediting bodies or designated as an exempt distributed learning or cohort program should be on the USM common academic calendar.
6. The Presidents' Council and Chancellor may allow an Option A and an Option B calendar to be used so institutions have similar calendars but with slight adjustments to accommodate institutional needs.
7. By April 1 of each year, each institution will provide for the files of the Office of the Chancellor a copy of its detailed academic calendar for the upcoming academic year, including information such as registration periods, drop/add periods, and commencement dates as well as dates for summer sessions. Professional schools and online and cohort programs exempted from the common academic calendar under provision 5 will provide copies of their academic calendars to the Chancellor's office on the same schedule.

Replacement for: BOR I-5.00 and VI-19; BOT XIII-Y