

Reading Days for Final Examinations

The academic calendar is very important to the faculty, and concerns about it have been raised at many of the annual Faculty Senate planning meetings over the past decade. Longstanding concerns have included the lack of reading days between the last day of classes and the beginning of final exams, the final exams schedule, and the lack of stability in the academic calendar among others.

Tables 1 and 2 are reconstructions of the timing of the last day of classes and the start of final exams going back to the 2015-16 academic year. Several patterns emerge:

- x When the last day of classes falls on a Wednesday, Thursday is always a reading day, and final exams always begin on Friday.
- x When the last day of classes falls on a Thursday, final exams sometimes begin on Monday giving students three days to read and study (Fall 2016, Fall 2019, Fall 2024), but other times final exams begin on Friday (Spring 2023, Spring 2024).
- x When the last day of classes falls on a Friday, final exams always begin on Monday giving students two consecutive days to read and study (Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024).

Faculty Senate Resolution to Codify and Expand the Number of Reading Days for Final Exams

Whereas, the faculty have expressed a range of concerns about the academic calendar, which have included explicit concerns about a lack of adequate time for students to read and study in preparation for final exams;

Whereas, students rarely have three consecutive days to read and study following the last day of classes before final exams commence and do not always have two days to read and study before final

Table 2: Last day of classes, reading days, ~~final~~ exams, earlier academic years

	Fall 2015	Spring 2016	Fall 2016	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Spring 2018	Fall 2018	Spring 2019
Last day of classes	12/15 (T)	5/11 (W)	12/8 (R)	5/9 (T)	12/8 (F)	5/7 (M)	12/7 (F)	5/10 (F)
Reading days		5/12 (R)	12/9 (F)	5/10 (W)		5/8 & (TW)		
Weekend Reading days	12/19 & 20	5/14 & 15	12/10 & 11					

