

September 28, 2009

To: All Academic Titles, Staff, Students

Re: Revised Spring 2010 Academic Calendar and FAQs

During the 2009-10 academic year, the campus is making important changes to the academic calendar to implement the recommendations in the Final Report of the Joint Task Force on Exams: <http://vpapf.chance.berkeley.edu/ExamFinalReport.pdf>.

As a first step in Fall 2009, we instituted a five-day Reading/Recitation/Review (RRR) week, formalizing a longstanding Academic Senate guideline that no new material be introduced during the last week of classes. The RRR week is based on the pedagogical principle that students benefit from time devoted to synthesizing material learned over the course of the semester.

We are now ready to announce the new Spring 2010 academic calendar, which builds on the changes announced previously. The new calendar achieves the following goals: (1) maintains the five-day RRR week already established; (2) eliminates Saturday exams; (3) eliminates conflicts between scheduling of final exams and commencement ceremonies; and (4) equalizes the number of days of formal class instruction in the spring and fall semesters.

The new Spring 2010 calendar has the following features:

- The first day of instruction will remain the day after the MLK Holiday: Tuesday, January 19, 2010
- The last day of formal class instruction will be: Friday, April 30, 2010
- RRR week will be: Monday, May 3 to Friday, May 7, 2010. With the inclusion of weekends, students will have a full nine days to prepare for final examinations and to complete final papers and projects
- The last day of instruction will be: Friday, May 7, 2010
- Final exams will move to a four-exam-periods-per-day schedule and will be completed in five days: Monday, May 10 to Friday, May 14, 2010
- Spring semester ends: Friday, May 14, 2010
- Commencement ceremonies (with the exception of professional schools with only graduate students) will be held after the end of the final exam period, beginning on Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- The campuswide commencement convocation will be held on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The approved calendar for Spring 2010 is available electronically at <http://opa.berkeley.edu/AcademicCalendar/calendar.aspx>. Modified calendars reflecting these policy changes through academic year 2012-13 are also available there.

The Academic Senate and campus administration have jointly developed FAQs to assist the campus community with these changes. The FAQs give an overview of the revised

academic calendar, provide detailed guidelines on RRR policy, explain new and existing final and mid-term examination regulations and procedures, and address questions about commencement ceremonies. These FAQs are available at <http://registrar.berkeley.edu/Default.aspx?PageID=RRRFAQ.html>.

I urge you to visit this link and familiarize yourself with the content. We think that your questions will be answered on the website, but if you are unable to find the answer to a particular question, please contact Cynthia Schrager at [schrager@berkeley.edu](mailto:schrager@berkeley.edu).

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