

Academic Calendar FAQs

1. Who sets the academic calendar?

The Office of the Registrar develops the academic calendar, which is then reviewed and approved by the Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP).

2. What criteria are used to set the academic calendar?

position that any possible fall break should be available every year, to avoid disruption and confusion.

5. **Are you sure? Why can't we start earlier? Or end later? Or...something?**

A number of possible modifications to the fall semester schedule have been proposed. While any of these changes might allow for a week-long break, they would each create other problems. In the interest of thoroughness, some of the perennial contenders (and the problems associated with them) are detailed below:

- a) *Moving the academic calendar start date up (e.g., to begin the fall semester one week earlier than we currently do).* Beginning any earlier than we currently do would bring our schedule into conflict with Saratoga's track season. During the racing season, rental housing and hotel accommodation in Saratoga is less readily available and much more expensive. Thus, an earlier start date would severely limit student, staff, faculty, and family accommodation options

6. What about a remote option for the Thanksgiving week?

In 2022-2023, CEPP considered a remote learning mandate for the Thanksgiving week. The intent was to provide flexibility in student and faculty travel schedules without sacrificing instructional time. To explore this possibility, the committee reached out to several groups across campus for feedback, including department chairs and program directors. A total of 25 chairs and program directors responded to our request for feedback. The proposal was not popular. While respondents expressed a range of opinions on the remote learning mandate, the large majority expressed either strong opposition, moderate opposition, or neutrality towards this option. Those opposed to the remote learning mandate cited serious concerns about curriculum delivery and student learning.

CEPP also received input from the Office of the Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs, the Student Government Association, the Information Technology Department, and the Registrar's Office. This review highlighted both potential pros (e.g., mitigating travel costs, which disproportionately impact low-income students), and remaining questions (e.g., lack of information regarding the potential impact on board and lodging fees, impact on international students and Residential Life).

After a thorough review, CEPP has decided that the remote learning option does not have sufficient support to be practicable.

7. What are the add/drop deadlines?

The add/drop deadlines are reviewed and approved by the Committee on Academic Standing and are listed on the Academic Calendar. A detailed add/drop calendar is also available on the [Registrar's website](#). The initial add deadline is set to three days from the start of classes (includes the weekend if it falls on a Friday). Students are still allowed to enroll for another week but approval from the instructor is required to ensure everyone is on the same page and the student understands what they need to do to get caught up with the rest of the class.

8. Why are grades due when they are? Why are senior grades due before finals are finished in the spring?

We strive to give faculty the appropriate time to assess all students fairly. Senior grades are due early because Skidmore distributes diplomas at graduation and the timeline to process degree completions and honors is very tight.

9. Why is the final exam schedule not set sooner?

Because the Registrar's Office assigns final exam times based on the regular meeting time and patterns of enrollment across courses, the final exam schedule cannot be developed until after course enrollments have settled in Aug (for fall) or January (for spring).

10. Why do we no longer have Yom Kippur off? How do we decide what religious holidays are accounted for on the Academic Calendar?

