

Academic Term Dates Principles

(Formerly called: Academic Schedule Principles)

Fall & Winter Terms

1. The term will be set with 12 instances of each day of the week or day in lieu thereof, excluding holidays and study breaks (this allows for 36 contact hours per three credit hour course). Classes will not normally be scheduled on Saturday or Sunday.
2. In the fall term, classes begin the Tuesday after Labour Day.
3. In the winter term, classes begin the second Monday of January, except when New Year's Day lands on a Tuesday, in which case classes begin the first Monday of January. If using these principles exams begin later than the 16th of April the start of the winter term can be other than a Monday.
4. Normally there will be at least one calendar day between the end of classes and the beginning of the examination period. Where necessary, as determined by the Chair of Senate and the Registrar on behalf of Senate, and in consultation with the Officers of Senate, any day(s) between the end of classes and the beginning of exams may be used in lieu of lost days during the term.
5. No exams or classes should be scheduled on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday of Easter weekend. Otherwise, exams will be scheduled full days Monday through Saturday, and Sunday after 12 noon.
6. In the fall term, a one week Study Break will be scheduled near Remembrance Day. In the winter term, a one week Study Break will be scheduled near Heritage Day. The Faculty of Medicine winter Study Break is scheduled in mid-March. When possible it should coincide with the local public school break.

Spring & Summer Terms

1. The full summer term (coop programs) is approximately thirteen weeks (including Victoria Day and Canada Day) and begins on the first Monday in May.
2. The spring term is approximately seven weeks long (including Victoria Day). The start date takes into consideration the end of examinations in the winter term and the provision of a break between the end of spring classes and the beginning of summer classes.
3. The summer term is approximately seven weeks long (including Halifax-Dartmouth Natal Day) and normally begins the day after Canada Day unless Canada Day is celebrated later in the week than Wednesday.