

Palomar Community College

Compressed Calendar

FAQs

1. What is a “compressed calendar”?

For Palomar, compressing a calendar means altering the academic schedule from an 18-week semester to a 16-week semester without loss of instructional time in the classroom. Most community colleges convert to 16 weeks to better align their schedules with 4-year institutions. Fast Track sessions classes will continue to be eight weeks long, with a final exam during the last scheduled class meeting.

2. When will the compressed calendar be implemented?

The compressed calendar will be implemented in 2016-17, contingent upon approval of Palomar's compressed calendar application to the Chancellor's Office.

3. How would the change to fewer instructional days affect faculty paychecks? Since no instructional time is lost under a compressed calendar faculty pay would not be negatively affected, but work schedules may change. Incidentally, class contact hours will be scheduled towards the maximum allowed, providing a small overall increase in contact hours.

4. Would the change to fewer instructional days affect retirement through STRS or PERS?No. The compressed calendar would not affect STRS or PERS retirement benefits.

5. Will we have a finals schedule?

No. We will continue to have finals, but they will be held the last day of instruction. The formal 'finals week' will not be continued under the compressed calendar.

6. As a faculty member, do I have to change my syllabus?

Most likely, yes. Your syllabus may need updating because the number of class sessions will change.

7. Would I have to go to the Curriculum Committee to change my course?

No. The curriculum, unit value, and student learning outcomes would all remain the same under a compressed calendar, therefore you will not need to bring changes to the Curriculum Committee.

8. Would there be a winter intersession?

A compressed calendar provides an opportunity for a 4-week winter intersession, but there is no current plan to offer a winter intersession.

9. Will there be a spring intersession?

Yes. There will be a 4-week spring intersession as is determined to be feasible.

10. Would summer session be longer?

The 8-week summer session will continue. Within the 8-week summer session, it will still be possible to offer 6-week classes.

11. What implications does this calendar have for classified staff?

Full-time contract classified staff will not likely experience a reduction in their regular annual work schedule as a result of this calendar.

12. Would a compressed calendar affect our flex activities?

Yes. We will be moving from twelve flex days to seven. The number of required PD hours for full time faculty will be reduced from 72 to 42 reflecting a shift to more contact time for our students. There will be a total of seven flex days per academic year.

13. Why are class start and end times so 'odd'?

When compressing the schedule from 18 weeks to 16 weeks, the class times must be increased in order to assure that the class meets for the required amount of hours for the units awarded. This factor is what leads to 'odd' start and end times. In general, a 3-unit lecture class under our current schedule offered twice per week will require an extra five minutes per session. However, over the whole curriculum, there are instances where the number of added minutes varies. In all cases, the total class hours will be scheduled as near to the maximum course hours as is practical.

14. Whom should I contact if I have a concern about my schedule in the compressed calendar?

Your division dean.

15. Will night classes be scheduled longer so that the classes get out later than they do now?

As is current practice, scheduling options do not require night classes to meet later than 10:00 pm.

16. How does the compressed calendar affect students?

As we move to a compressed calendar, there is opportunity to focus scheduling into two-day blocks. The block scheduling offered with this calendar means that students may be able to reduce the number of days per week that they attend classes. For many reasons, students find this attractive (less child care, less travel, easier to fit in work schedules, etc.).