

Academic Calendar--Student Questionnaire 2016  
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### Academic Calendar Student Survey

The following survey asks for you to give candid feedback about Princeton's academic calendar. It is important that you know that your answers to this confidential survey will be linked to your email address. This link will allow us to combine your answers with other administrative information maintained by the University that is needed for this study (for example, your department or degree program) as well as greatly reduce the length of the survey. It is equally important that you know that your answers will be treated in a strictly confidential manner. Any findings based on this survey will be aggregated and reported in a manner that does not identify individuals. The survey is completely voluntary and you may skip questions you are not inclined to answer. We hope you will do your best to answer all the questions that are relevant to you. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation. If you have any questions about the survey please contact: Rebekah P. Massengill, Ph.D. Associate Dean of the College 408 West College Princeton University Princeton, NJ 08544 609.258.8197rmasseng@exchange.Princeton.EDU

### Q3 Finals Before Winter Break

Q2 Princeton's current academic calendar is different from the calendars of many peer institutions in the following ways: - Finals after winter break instead of before - Late start in the fall (mid-September) and late end in the spring (late May) - A relatively short teaching period (12 weeks) and a relatively long reading/finals period (3 weeks total) Please consider your past experiences with the calendar and answer the following questions thoughtfully and carefully.

Q4 Has the academic calendar ever created problems for you in the following areas? (check any that apply)

- Scheduling spring term study abroad (1)
- Scheduling summer study abroad (2)
- Scheduling courses at other universities during the summer (3)
- Attending a family member's graduation ceremony in May (4)
- Starting a summer internship in May (5)
- Scheduling research travel during the summer (6)

Q5 What is the length (in weeks) of the longest internship or research opportunity you have participated in during the summer?

- I have not had a summer internship or research opportunity (1)
- 1 week (2)

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- 2 weeks (3)
- 3 weeks (4)
- 4 weeks (5)
- 5 weeks (6)
- 6 weeks (7)
- 7 weeks (8)
- 8 weeks (9)
- 9 weeks (10)
- 10 weeks (11)
- 11 weeks (12)
- 12 weeks (13)
- 13 weeks (14)
- 14 weeks (15)
- More than 14 weeks (16)

Q6 Please think about the last reading period, for the fall of 2015. How did you spend that time? (check all that apply)

- Reviewing for my final exams (1)
- Finishing end-of-term papers and projects (2)
- Attending class meetings scheduled during reading week (3)
- Meeting with professors or AIs in office hours (4)
- Working on independent work (5)
- I stayed at home for part of reading period (6)

Answer If Career Is Equal to UGRD

Q7 Are you a varsity athlete?

- yes (1)
- no (2)

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Answer If Are you a varsity athlete? YES Is Selected Q8 What Sport(s)?

- Baseball (1)
- Basketball (2)
- Crew (3)
- Cross Country (4)
  
- Fencing (5)
- Field Hockey (6)
- Football (7)
- Football - Sprint (8)
- Golf (9)
- Hockey (10)
- Lacrosse (11)
- Soccer (12)
- Softball (13)  Squash (14)
- Swimming & Diving (15)
- Tennis (16)
- Track (17)
- Volleyball (18)
- Water Polo (19)
- Wrestling (20)

Answer If Are you a varsity athlete? yes Is Selected

Q10 Please read the following statements and indicate if you agree or disagree with each.

	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Not Applicable (3)
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<p>The timing of final exams in January and late May makes it difficult for me to balance my academic work with my team's competitions (1)</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>The timing of final exams in January and late May harms individual and team athletic development due to missed practices and competitions during exams (2)</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>The timing of final exams in January and late May helps me manage my academic obligations (3)</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>My team has less practice time than athletes in my sport at other Ivies because of Princeton's late start in September. (4)</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Answer If Career Is Equal to GRAD

Q11 Please read the following statements and indicate if you agree or disagree with each.

	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Not applicable (3)
Princeton's academic calendar provides adequate time to perform AI duties (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Princeton's academic calendar enables research productivity for graduate students (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Princeton's academic calendar schedules general exam periods in a suitable way (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Answer If Career Is Equal to GRAD

Q13 Please read the following statements and indicate if you agree or disagree with each.

	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Not applicable (3)
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My commitments as an AI require me to work over winter break in a typical year (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My commitments as an AI require me to work over intersession in a typical year (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My commitments as an AI would be lessened during winter break if fall finals were held in December (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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**Answer If Career Is Equal to UGRD**

Q14 The following statements describe a range of experiences that students may identify with when considering the current placement of fall term exams after winter break. Please consider each statement and indicate whether you agree or disagree with each one.

	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)
I appreciate having the extra time during winter break to study for my fall exams and complete my end-of-term work. (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I wouldn't be able to finish my fall term final projects/papers without the winter break. (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I enjoy having a winter break before returning to take my finals in January. (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to the spring term, I find that it is more difficult for me to recall material on my fall final exams. (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My professors assign more work/have higher expectations for end-of-term work in the fall term than in the spring. (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I find the fall term final exam period to be more stressful than the spring. (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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<p>The placement of fall term exams in January allows me to put more effort into my end-of-term work for the fall than in the spring. (7)</p> <p>Having finals after winter break means that I feel guilty or worry that I will fall behind if I don't work during winter break. (8)</p> <p>The current placement of finals in January makes me feel stressed over winter break. (9)</p> <p>Having fall finals in January results in me spending less time with my family and friends during the break. (10)</p>	<p><input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p>	<p><input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p>
<p>Having finals after winter break encourages me to procrastinate more than I would if finals were held in late December. (11)</p>	<p><input type="radio"/></p>	<p><input type="radio"/></p>

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Q15 On balance, would you prefer to have fall term finals before winter break?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Answer If Career Is Equal to UGRD

Q16 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement. If finals were before winter break, I would prefer to have my JP due after winter break.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

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Q17 Moving finals before winter break, while maintaining the full reading and exam period, would require shifting the Princeton start date from September 10 - 16 to August 24 - 30. Spring semester would then start and end earlier, resulting in a summer of the same length.

Q18 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement. I would prefer an earlier start to the school year (August 24-30) in order to have the full reading/finals period before winter break.  Strongly disagree (1)

- Disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Q22 Intersession Period

Answer If Career Is Equal to UGRD

Q23 If finals were held in December, they could be followed by a three-week winter recess and an intersession period of either one or two weeks. The intersession period could be used for: Research and senior thesis work Co-curricular classes such as those offered by the current

USG "Wintersession" program Not-for-credit curricular classes such as an introduction to a new language, computer science workshops, etc. Travel/rehearsal time for extracurricular groups on campus The intersession period would be optional and students could remain off-campus if desired.

Answer If Career Is Equal to GRAD

Q38 If finals were held in December, they could be followed by a three-week winter recess and an intersession period of either one or two weeks. The intersession period could be used for: Research and senior thesis work Co-curricular classes such as those offered by the current

USG "Wintersession" program Not-for-credit curricular classes such as an introduction to a new language, computer science workshops, etc. Travel/rehearsal time for extracurricular groups on campus

Q24 Do you return home for winter break in a typical school year?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

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Q25 Do you return home for intersession in a typical school year?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Q40 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
Traveling home for both winter break and intersession presents a financial hardship for my family. (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If finals were held in December, I support the inclusion an optional cocurricular intersession period after a three-week winter recess. (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Q41 A one-week intersession would maintain a summer length of 14.5 weeks.

Q42 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement. I support following a 3-week winter break with a 1-week co-curricular "intersession" period.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Q43 A two-week intersession would provide more time for travel and intersession opportunities. However, a two-week intersession would shorten summer to 13.5 weeks.

Q44 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement. I support a 3-week winter break followed by a 2-week co-curricular "intersession" period, at the expense of a summer shortened by one week.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Agree (4)
- Strongly Agree (5)

Q27 Would you prefer a 1-week or a 2-week intersession period?

- Strongly Prefer 1-week intersession period (1)
- Prefer 1-week intersession period (2)
- No Preference (3)
- Prefer 2 week intersession period (4)
- Strongly Prefer 2 week intersession period (5)

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Q28 Semester Length

Q29 Reforming the academic calendar also provides the opportunity to lengthen the teaching period. Princeton's current teaching period is 12 weeks, followed by a 3-week reading/finals period. The teaching period could be extended to 13 weeks, followed by a shortened 2-week reading/finals period.

Q30 Please read the following statements and indicate if you agree or disagree with each.

	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)
The current 12-week teaching semester provides ample time for me to engage substantially with the material in my classes (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The current 12-week teaching semester creates a pace that feels rushed or too fast (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q31 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement. I support a 13-week teaching period and a 2-week reading/finals period.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Q32 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement. The reading/finals period could be shortened without negative effects to my semester learning.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)

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- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Q33 If reading/finals period were shortened to 2 weeks, which of the following arrangements would you prefer?

- 4-day reading period and 10-day finals period (1)
- 7-day reading period and 7-day finals period (note that this might require some students to take two finals in one day) (2)
- No Preference (3)

Q34 Priorities and Preferences

Q36 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement. I believe that aspects of the current calendar should be changed.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Q37 In an altered calendar, which of the following changes would you like to see? Please rank in order of importance to you with 1 being of most important to you and 4 being of least importance to you. Use your mouse to drag and rank the four items listed below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ A 1-week intersession period with no change of summer (1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ A 2-week intersession period and one less week of summer (2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ A 13-week teaching period and a shortened reading/finals period (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Start the semester earlier to finish finals before winter break (4)

Q38 Please share with us any additional comments you have about these potential changes, as well as the pros and cons of the existing academic calendar.

Q39 Thank you for completing the survey. If you have any questions, please contact: Rebekah P. Massengill, Ph.D. Associate Dean of the College 408 West College Princeton University Princeton, NJ 08544 609.258.8197 rmasseng@exchange.Princeton.EDU

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If you are ready to submit your survey, please click the submit button. Once you click the submit button you will not be able to change your answers. If you are not ready to submit your questionnaire, please close your browser window without clicking submit.