

Dear Student,

The *Faculty Senate's Educational Policy Committee* (EPC) is responsible for setting the Cornell University academic calendar. During the past year the committee has been considering several scheduling alternatives in regard to aspects of the calendar related to:

- Evening prelims
- Final exam schedules
- Late afternoon and evening classes
- Length of Thanksgiving break, etc.

We are interested in obtaining your input regarding these options before we move forward with any recommendations to the Faculty Senate. We would greatly appreciate your time in completing the attached electronic survey. Your responses to the survey will have a direct impact on our policy recommendations regarding academic scheduling.

Your responses to the survey will be kept *strictly confidential* and will *contain no identifying information* once submitted.

Complete the survey by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.epc.survey.edu/>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT
IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED**

SURVEY OF STUDENT ATTITUDES AND PREFERENCES

SENATE EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS RELATING TO EVENING VERSUS IN-CLASS PRELIMS

In general, which of the following prelim scheduling options do you prefer

- evening prelims
- in-class prelims
- no preference

If you prefer evening prelims please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following possible explanations:

Evening prelims provide more time to think than in-class prelims.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- No opinion
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

Evening prelims ask more questions so a gap in my knowledge is less likely to affect my grade.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- No opinion
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

Evening prelims are a better measure of my knowledge because the instructor can ask more challenging questions.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- No opinion
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

Evening prelims are less stressful than in-class prelims.

- Strongly disagree

Somewhat disagree
No opinion
Somewhat agree
Strongly agree

I think most clearly in the evening.

Strongly disagree
Somewhat disagree
No opinion
Somewhat agree
Strongly agree

If you prefer in-class prelims please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following possible explanations:

In-class prelims ask fewer questions.

Strongly disagree
Somewhat disagree
No opinion
Somewhat agree
Strongly agree

In-class prelims ask lower-level questions.

Strongly disagree
Somewhat disagree
No opinion
Somewhat agree
Strongly agree

In-class prelims have less complicated problems to be solved.

Strongly disagree
Somewhat disagree
No opinion
Somewhat agree
Strongly agree

I am tired in the evening and don't think as clearly as during the day.

Strongly disagree
Somewhat disagree
No opinion
Somewhat agree

Strongly agree

In-class prelims are less stressful than evening prelims.

Strongly disagree

Somewhat disagree

No opinion

Somewhat agree

Strongly agree

Evenings should be free of academic activity.

Strongly disagree

Somewhat disagree

No opinion

Somewhat agree

Strongly agree

Next question asked of all students:

In many large courses preliminary examinations are given in the evening. I would prefer to have these examinations:

During regularly scheduled class time

In the evening between 7:30 and 10:00 pm as they are now

Between 4:30 and 7:30 pm

In the early morning between 8:00 and 10:00 am

No preliminary examination with total course grade determined by final exam grade

QUESTIONS RELATING TO STUDENT ATTITUDES TOWARD FINAL EXAM SCHEDULING

The current Cornell University final exam period consists of FOUR study days (Sunday through Wednesday) followed by a SEVEN day exam period (Thursday through the following Friday).

Current Cornell University Final Exam Schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1	Study day	Study day	Study day	Study day	Exam day	Exam day	Study day
Week 2	Study day	Exam day	Exam day	Exam day	Exam day	Exam day	

As a means of reducing the possibility that a student will have three exams in a 24-hour period, study days could be distributed throughout the exam period in one of the following ways:

Option 1

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1	Study day	Exam day	Study day	Exam day	Study day	Exam day	Study day
Week 2	Study day	Exam day	Exam day	Study day	Exam day	Exam day	

Option 2

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1	Study day	Study day	Exam day	Exam day	Study day	Exam day	Study day
Week 2	Study day	Exam day	Exam day	Study day	Exam day		

Which of the schedules identified above would reduce stress for you during the final exam period?

- Current Cornell University schedule
- Option 1
- Option 2

Which of the schedules identified above would increase the possibility you would perform to the best of your ability on the final exams?

- Current Cornell University schedule
- Option 1
- Option 2

Which of the schedules identified above would you prefer?

- Current Cornell University schedule

- Option 1
- Option 2

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE 4:30-7:30 AND 7:30-10:30 TIME PERIODS

The current Cornell University policy prohibiting any scheduled academic activities during the 4:30 -7:30 pm time period should be continued.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- No opinion
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

If out-of-class prelims are necessary, they should be held during the 4:30 - 7:30 pm time period instead of after 7:30pm.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- No opinion
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

I would like to have the option of taking academic classes during the 4:30 - 7:30 pm time period.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- No opinion
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

I would like to have the option of taking more evening classes (7:30 - 10:30 pm).

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- No opinion
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

Classes should be scheduled during the 4:30 - 7:30 pm period only if there are sections of the same class scheduled at other times.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- No opinion

Somewhat agree
Strongly agree

QUESTIONS RELATED TO THANKSGIVING BREAK

What was the last day you attended classes before Thanksgiving break last year?

Wednesday before Thanksgiving
Tuesday before Thanksgiving
Monday before Thanksgiving
Friday of the week before Thanksgiving
Prior to the Friday before Thanksgiving

Were any of your classes cancelled by the instructor on the Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday before Thanksgiving break last year?

none of my classes were cancelled.
one of my classes was cancelled.
2 of my classes were cancelled.
3 of my classes were cancelled.
4 or more of my classes were cancelled.

Assuming that the number of instructional days in Fall semester cannot be changed, I would prefer to have a longer Thanksgiving break and make up the days at the beginning or end of the semester instead.

Strongly disagree
Somewhat disagree
No opinion
Somewhat agree
Strongly agree

STUDENT ATTITUDES TOWARD DISTRIBUTED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Distributed learning refers to opportunities offered by course instructors for students to receive instruction outside the traditional classroom via web technology. Some examples of distributed learning include recorded lectures in streaming audio on class websites, lecture tutorials with interactive animations available 24 hours a day, web quizzes that are automatically graded providing immediate feedback, live office hours with the professor via a course chat room, etc.

I would like to have more distributed learning opportunities so that I could have more flexibility in my schedule.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- No opinion
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

I would like to have more distributed learning opportunities because I find I learn more in this medium.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- No opinion
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

If the distributed learning component of classes increased it would detract from the overall undergraduate residential experience.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- No opinion
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

What aspects of distributed learning would appeal to you? (Check all that apply)

- Entire courses on line
- Recorded lectures in streaming audio
- Interactive tutorials
- Interactive testing and feedback
- Live office hour with professor via on line chat rooms

QUESTIONS RELATED TO STUDENT DAILY PATTERNS

I rate my average alertness level during class on a regular day as

- Very alert
- Somewhat alert
- No opinion
- Somewhat sleepy
- Very sleepy

How many hours of sleep do you usually get during a week night (Monday through Thursday)?

- Less than 5 hours
- 5 to 6 hours
- 6 to 7 hours
- 7 to 8 hours
- 8 hours or more

How many hours of sleep do you usually get during a weekend night (Friday through Sunday)?

- Less than 5 hours
- 5 to 6 hours
- 6 to 7 hours
- 7 to 8 hours
- 8 hours or more

Do you ever pull all-nighters (i.e., do not sleep at all) during week nights (Monday through Thursday)?

- never
- seldom
- sometimes
- often

Do you ever pull all-nighters (i.e., do not sleep at all) during weekend nights (Friday through Sunday)?

- never
- seldom
- sometimes
- often

Do you ever fall asleep during class?

- never
- seldom
- sometimes
- often

Do you take naps during the day on week days (Monday through Friday)?

- never
- seldom
- sometimes
- often

At what times of the day during the week do you usually feel most alert? (check all that apply)

- early morning (8:00 – 10:00am)
- mid morning (10:00 – 12:00noon)
- noon time (12:00 – 2:00pm)
- mid afternoon (2:00 – 4:00pm)
- late afternoon (4:00 – 6:00pm)
- early evening (6:00 – 8:00pm)
- late evening (8:00 – 11:00pm)
- late night (11:00 onwards)

At what time of day do you usually go to sleep on a weekday (Monday through Thursday)?

- 9:00 - 10:00pm
- 10:00 - 11:00pm
- 11:00 - 12:00pm
- 12:00 – 1:00pm
- 1:00 – 2:00pm
- 2:00 – 3:00pm
- after 3:00pm

At what time of day do you usually go to sleep on a weekend day (Friday through Sunday)?

- 9:00 - 10:00pm
- 10:00 - 11:00pm
- 11:00 - 12:00pm
- 12:00 – 1:00pm
- 1:00 – 2:00pm
- 2:00 – 3:00pm
- after 3:00pm

At what time of day do you usually wake up on a weekday (Monday through Friday)?

- before 8:00am
- 8:00 – 9:00am
- 9:00 – 10:00am
- 10:00 – 11:00am
- 11:00 – 12:00am
- after 12:00pm

At what time of day do you usually wake up on a weekend day (Saturday and Sunday)?

before 8:00am

8:00 – 9:00am

9:00 – 10:00am

10:00 – 11:00am

11:00 – 12:00am

after 12:00pm

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WERE ASKED ONLY OF VARSITY ATHLETES.

Which of the following best describes your time allocation needs when you are in season?

I want much more time for athletics

I want some more time for athletics

The balance of my time between athletics and academics is about right

I want some more time for academics

I want much more time for academics

Which of the following best describes your time allocation needs when you are out of season?

I want much more time for athletics

I want some more time for athletics

The balance of my time between athletics and academics is about right

I want some more time for academics

I want much more time for academics

Do you feel pressure from your coach to spend additional time in athletic activities outside regularly scheduled practice times (such as individual skill sessions, strength training, video review, coach or position meetings)?

No pressure whatsoever

Some pressure

Considerable pressure

Do you consider the expectations of your coach to be reasonable regarding time you need to spend in both mandatory and other athletic activities?

Not reasonable at all

Somewhat reasonable

Extremely reasonable

Do you feel pressure from *faculty* who know you are an athlete to spend additional time in *academic* activities and less time in athletic activities?

No pressure whatsoever

Some pressure

Considerable pressure

Do you feel that *faculty* are generally understanding and accommodating of academic conflicts arising from your team travel schedule?

Not at all understanding and supportive

Somewhat understanding and supportive

Very understanding and supportive

Do you feel that your *coach* is generally understanding and accommodating of academic conflicts arising from your team travel schedule?

Not at all understanding and supportive

Somewhat understanding and supportive

Very understanding and supportive

What is your opinion on the following statement:

“There should be periods of time (maybe a few weeks) for each sport during the fall and spring semesters (depending on the sport) when there are no required athletic activities whatsoever for varsity athletes.”

Strongly disagree

Somewhat disagree

No opinion

Somewhat agree

Strongly agree