

F1AlumDisagree

Not much class time before the first break day. Personally it never bothered me to start earlier in the summer, it was around the same time as other schools. However, the shorter study/exam time is more reasonable and it makes sense to have more class time between the last break and exams to have them be more valuable.

Single instruction week after Thanksgiving in current calendar is often wasted time. However, having final exams on Sunday seems punitive, so the 12-day exam variant of the F1 schedule would be an improvement.

I can note several compelling reasons for either configuration. On the one hand, having a shorter reading/exam period may motivate students to organize their schedules more efficiently, and fall break being reduced to one day avoids having to give up observing Labor Day and may actually get students to use fall break for proper resting, instead of what I observed and experienced as a student, which is a tendency toward procrastination as well as an amount of rest that might not necessarily be productive for transitioning back into semester mode. However, utilizing the later December weeks might pose problems related to inclement weather and travel difficulties. Furthermore, I'm not quite certain if I agree that the last seven class days have diminished value.

It looks pretty much the same to me, except everything is pushed back a couple of days.

Having an exam day Friday does not necessarily mean students will make use of that time to study. I preferred having the Monday-Tuesday time to study because it allowed me to unwind from weekend activities and focus on studying. Reducing study/exam period is a good thing

I do not think the summer being "short" is an issue. I don't think this calendar makes any significant positive changes, it just seems somewhat pointless. The shortened exam period is only beneficial if the number of exams are reduced or spaced appropriately, not if they are just crammed in the shortened period.

Is there a significant amount of child care days that impact students? Why do the last 7 days of classed have diminished value? In what way do they have diminished value? How does this schedule impact regular blocks of exams? Example, will there be exams after Thanksgiving, will it be before? You may also have to think about the impact of shortening study periods. Sure in retrospect they seem long, but at the end of my time at Cornell, I was not the same student as I had started. The first semester is very stressful, both in adjusting to college life, being independent for the time (for some students), and to the workload of college. I am a medical student now and have significantly different study methods from when I was in college. I'm not sure what sort of impact shortened study days would have had on me back in the first semester; it possibly would have had a negative impact. A way to maybe offset this is to have a panel of successful students talk to the incoming freshman class about study methods or ways to keep up.

With respect to the stated Motivators and metrics listed in the link, I agree that the F1 calendar improves the current Fall calendar. However, there are some unintended consequences presented in the F1 calendar. Attending four days of classes in August weather is typically much more pleasant than four days of classes in December. Condensing finals week provides greater potential for conflicting exam times, which are a big hassle for professors and students, and removes a study day break in the middle of exams (I personally always appreciated the respite from exams to refocus, but I'm not sure this is a widespread opinion). Additionally, Fall Recognition would occur during the middle of exam week, and there is no way to guarantee all Fall graduates would be able to reschedule their exams to occur prior that Saturday-Sunday window to be able to attend the ceremony and spend time with their families (I'm assuming no one wants to have unfinished exams hanging over their heads as the graduate). Finally, the delay into December pushes student winter exodus from campus into the peak of holiday travel, which makes it more difficult for students, faculty, and staff who have family in destinations far from Ithaca.

Though I agree with all of the motivators, it was nice to be finished a bit earlier in December. I think a shorter study period is okay and it might be nice to have more class time between Thanksgiving and exams. I would not support reducing fall break to 1 day, but having class on Labor Day would be fine: it always seemed like it was too early in the semester to have a break anyway.

Recognition day in the middle of exam week is terrible. I'm unsure what you mean by items 3 and 4 (that the breaks work), but an extra week after Thanksgiving makes the period before exam week significant.

In general this seems better, but having a break day in the middle of finals was very helpful for having enough time to study for later finals. This new calendar makes it more worth it to go home for thanksgiving for west coast students, which is nice

I don't believe students would appreciate a shorter examination period. It's very stressful and they really use every day possible for studying.

Condensing exam period increases chances of scheduling conflicts and stress on students. Later start and end to the semester is a positive though as winter break is currently pretty long.

While it would be nice to have summer last longer, I think it is almost worse to get out so close to Christmas. If you are an international student and need to be home for Christmas, leaving the 22nd does not give you much time with delays/weather/etc.

Longer exam periods are nice for students that have many exams, assuming their exam schedule is spread out fairly evenly. However, a longer exam period is unfortunate for someone that has few tests, but they're near the end of the exam period. Having ~2 weeks after Thanksgiving break is good, as it makes the class time more meaningful and less rushed.

I liked starting earlier in August and ending earlier in December, but do like a shorter semester.

Doesn't seem to be much of a change

Later Christmas break causes travel issues for poorer students (transportation is more expensive closer to Christmas), but a longer class period between thanksgiving break and exams is beneficial to students (less of a jolt from break to school to intense study).

Having more than one week of classes between Thanksgiving break and study/finals period is definitely desirable, but I'm not sure if it's worth the reduced study period and later start/finish.

As a student, I really appreciated the longer study period and was disappointed when it got shortened. I also liked going home before the holidays, as it reduced travel costs significantly.

Would this truncate winter break? I am not for reducing the amount of days between each semester. I remember having class on Labor day, but I can't remember if Fall Break was extended by one day when I was a student at Cornell. I would absolutely not take a day away from Fall Break. I think reducing exam period is fine, and I do like having almost two full weeks of classes before after Thanksgiving before the end of the semester. I always remember having to work intensely over the Thanksgiving break, because papers and projects were always due right after the break. This will alleviate unnecessary stress. I would say I am more for the F1 framework, as long as much-needed holidays/breaks are not taken away from students. Having classes in August was always an issue for me as a student, and I didn't like how the semester abruptly ended after Thanksgiving.

I am not really sure what the effect of reducing the study and exam period would be. It would certainly increase the stress levels of students, in my opinion because more exams are crammed in a shorter time period.

I like that there is more time between Thanksgiving and finals. During the break you are usually worried about starting to study. If this change causes prelims to be after thanksgiving break, I will be against it. Also, the reduced number of days for finals will be more stressful.

The reasoning for the F1 calendar is good, but I am concerned about shortening the exam period. When the new calendar was implemented in 2013-2014, exams became much closer together (sometimes on the same day), giving less time to study for each.

Because of the shorter study period. I think it's a negative that students would finish as late as December 22. I would prefer a shorter study period AND starting earlier in August.

Holiday travel under F1 may be more difficult, but the longer summer has advantages.

Depending on exam schedule it might be particularly stressful for some students, maybe have two study days and then 3-4 exam days, and then another 2 study days and then the remainder 3-4 exam days? Might be helpful depending on how the exams are scheduled. Also, I understand that Labor Day is a holiday, however I feel like having that specific day off with the F1 schedule doesn't help as much in terms of catching up on work/taking a break because you only had 1 week of class. It would be nice to have a 1 day break on Sept 19 instead of Labor Day, and then keep the 2 day Fall Break (maybe push it back a week so Oct 17, 18), and keep Thanksgiving break as is.

That way the breaks are evenly distributed with about 3-4 weeks of instruction in between. This gives students a chance to take a break/catch up on everything/study/chill with family. For Freshmen/new student's family's sometimes it's hard having the moving day on Thurs. b/c then parents might have to take Thurs. and Fri. off which can be difficult for some folks.

Generally think that moving back the start/end is good. However, eliminating mid-exam period study day is a mistake.

The increase in class days after Thanksgiving break is good, as it both increases the value of those class days and decreases the likelihood that you will be forced to work on final projects over the break. However, decreasing the number of study days and having them start the Friday of the last day of classes is not good. Would be better to have study days Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues.

The exam period was not too long. It was helpful in ensuring there wouldn't be multiple tests on the same day, which helped reduce stress

Things I like about the current Fall Calendar: - First week of instruction is only 4 days long (less overwhelming for new students) - There are 9 days of instruction before Labor Day; Labor Day is a good catch-up day (there is nothing to catch up on after 5 days) - The distribution of study days during finals weeks / a study day in the middle Things I like about the F1 framework: - There are 2 weeks of instruction before study days

I think shortening the exam period is a good idea, but now it seems that classes extend too far into December (22nd is very late/close to Christmas/could make travel difficult/expensive for some)

Although I like the idea of a later start date, traveling home for Christmas can be more difficult on later dates in Dec. I lived in California, and the weather gets more unpredictable the further you get into Winter so flights can be challenging.

Winter weather in Ithaca is unpredictable. Also Sunday exams would probably be difficult. But there are benefits to orientation being on a weekend and starting later in August.

Although I like the Ideas of the F1 Framework, I fear that pushing exams even further into December, and having students have to travel on 12/23 so close to the holidays would be a drawback.

I think it's generally better to have winter break begin earlier to give people more opportunity to travel home for the holidays. However, it might be worthwhile to shorten exam period by a couple of days.

I think if we are pushing the days back, then allow the freshmen to have a proper orientation week as was done in prior years before it became an orientation period. I think you could burn out students by giving them an extra week at the end of the fall semester.

Having the last day of possible exams so late makes for traveling home for the holidays more difficult. I do like the shortened exam and study days though. I feel like final exam week always dragged with having study days involved.

Looks like a reasonable start to the semester, greatly improves the time after and including Thanksgiving. I would prefer to see an extra exam day for those with demanding course loads.

Getting done so close to the holidays adds stress, especially with travel plans. Having once been a student, I never found the summer too short and found that professors utilized the one week after Thanksgiving.