

F1FacAgree

More class days after Thanksgiving makes end-of-semester project deadlines more manageable for students and faculty. A longer summer is better for students on internships and faculty preparing for classes. The January break is too long for most students.

The only negative to this one is that it goes very late into December, making final grades more difficult for faculty.

later fall start makes more sense

It addresses some of the significant challenges outlined in the list of motivators. Childcare is a particular concern for me.

The F1 Motivators 1, 2 and 6.

Agree with the summer being too short and challenging for child care. Agree that study/exam period is very long and that the last 7 days have very limited value in the term.

Later start works much better for families with school-age children.

August and early Sept. child care options are few December days are wasted

I wish we could have more class days after Thanksgiving, but other than that, this helps with the child care problem that plagues this calendar.

Gives extra time at end of semester after 3-day Thanksgiving break.

I prefer the longer summer, and the push later in December doesn't bother me too much (though we always seem to schedule faculty meetings during those days in December after finals are over; we couldn't do that under a schedule that goes all the way to Dec. 22). I really dislike finals over weekends, though.

Increased time off during summer and more efficient use of time at the end of the semester.

later August start is better

Longer summer; better use of time after Thanksgiving.

longer summer; shorter exam period

Seems to address concerns listed above.

It makes the post Thanksgiving instruction days more viable. Probably at the expense of the pre-Labor day instruction days - which some students choose to miss.

Additional instruction days after Thanksgiving & shorter exam period are both improvements

Summer is too short. This proposed one is more aligned with the public school calendars, to aid families with children.

Longer summer

1. Difficulty and stress with managing childcare AND start of school. 2. Much better use of post-thanksgiving time, given the proscription of tests and assignments over holidays. 3) Allows more continuous time for work over the summer

I like the assurance that we will not start two weeks before Labor Day. The extended post-Thanksgiving class interval would allow more learning and less panic during the final stretch.

A later start would be much appreciated; the current schedule has posed a real challenge in terms of summer opportunities for faculty.

Fall semester begins too early in August. 11 days of final exam days are enough; we do not need more.

later start to the semester is good.

it extends summer break while reducing exam period. Only disadvantage I can see are the few extra days at the end in December.

The 5 class days after thanksgiving in the current calendar are too few to start another topic, and are not fully useful. Nine class days is more meaningful. University vacation in August (matching public schools and societal norms) is preferable to University vacation in December

More aligned with Ithaca City School District calendar, so better for parents

We need to have more class days in December and extend the period without classes in August.

Later start extends summer break. More class days after Thanksgiving should improve the usefulness of the last week of classes.

extends summer

Starting later allows students more time to wrap up Summer activities and for faculty to do the same and to prepare.

2 weeks classes after thanksgiving.

For agriculture students doing summer jobs or research, the additional days during peak activity in August is valuable. The days after Thanksgiving will be used more effectively, increasing academic value. American will have to bring a 747 to ITH on 12/23.

Starting later in August is preferable.

Lengthens summer, reduces August childcare issues and provides more instruction days after Thanksgiving

This option is better than the current arrangement and it is better than F2. Why can't we have the Thanksgiving arrangement from option F2 in this option?

I agree that it is hard to teach students for such a short time following the Thanksgiving break. I'd personally like a calendar similar to the one I experienced at Yale University, with no Fall Break but a full week for Thanksgiving, since I find the Fall Break to be disruptive to my teaching schedule as well.

Lengthens non-teaching time in August. Eliminates useless teaching days between Thanksgiving and last day of classes (permits us to continue to build our classes and not just "stop" because everyone has checked out for the final few days after Thanksgiving).

Adding class days after Thanksgiving deals with the problem of the post-Thanksgiving period being too short for anything useful to get done in some classes. There is a negative because December is already a pressure cooker, with a combination of grad student qualifying exams, grading, and dealing with papers and projects. Still, on balance this could be an improvement.

Current start is too early

The later start means fewer weeks at the end of summer when kids are off school but faculty are teaching. It is a major scramble to find camps and child care for two weeks at the end of August. This revision may be better for faculty with families

Fall semester currently starts too early. I agree that study period is too long. An extra week of classes after Thanksgiving is better for students to retain knowledge, do final presentations, etc.

Semester starts later, more days after Thanksgiving break

It resolves/improves most of the issues identified.

Improves value of last week of classes and makes the start more reasonable given summer employment and vacations.

Starting later in the summer is important. I like the shorter exam period, too. Agree with all comments in the F1 Motivators.

For all of the reasons outlined as F1 Motivators. Also, I believe SHIP starts on August 16 or 17, so for those of us wanting to hold programming for graduate students the week before the semester starts, we do not have to deal

with potential "gap days" of coverage.

I like having a longer summer by moving class days into December.

Additional summer days for research vacation options.

Current study/exam period seems longer than necessary and many people would benefit from starting fall semester more in line with elementary school start date.

Fewer study days, and nearly two weeks of instruction between Thanksgiving and finals.

But NOT in the case of a variation in which Fall Break is reduced or Labor Day is not a holiday; there is no reason in my field for the study/exam period to be even half as long as it currently is.

Summer is currently too short, before-Christmas break is too long.

Longer summer

more closely coincides with local school district schedule

For those students who have and need summer jobs, leaving in mid-August is problematic. One loses compensation; one also, sadly, often cannot return again to the same employer/

Starting a week later brings us more into line with other institutions and lessens the burden for childcare in August.

It addresses the F1 Motivators # 6 and # 7. As well, having more days after Thanksgiving to wrap up the semester is a GREAT idea. Right now, it's a terribly stressful time for students.

Exam days after Fall Recognition does not seem like a smart move. One week gained in the summer does not seem worth it.

One week of classes after Thanksgiving is hard to use as effectively as two weeks. This calendar extends the summer which is useful for students who need to work. Better overlap with ICSD will be valuable for parents.

F1 gives more time after thanksgiving break to finish final projects. Longer summer break in F1 is preferable to extended Thanksgiving break in F2.

give more time for students to prep for semester and recruiting over the summer

Classes start way to early in current scheme

I think shifting from August into december is a good trade but I like F2 better

prefer the later start

The time after Thanksgiving has been hard to use in anything but a review capacity. Students often don't return for that last week of class -- we could expect them to return and to cover new material with the F1

The later August day is better for summer projects, and the 2nd week after T-day will reduce the deadline pressure on the students during the T-day holiday.

Based on the way you present the information it seems to improve the calendar for faculty. However, for student's a shorter study/exam period may be particularly stressful.

Starting later brings schedule closer to public school and allows longer summer.

Later start is good.

Longer summer. Nearly two full weeks after Thanksgiving.

Having 2 full weeks of classes after Thanksgiving makes more sense for my course.

Lengthens late summer period.

Starting and ending later in Fall makes sense for students (related to summer jobs and travel) and faculty (child care). Currently a LOT of students show up late, missing the first two days of classes. Having only a couple of

classes after Thanksgiving break hurts the flow of the semester and tends to impede learning. Two weeks of classes after Thanksgiving would be much better for student learning.

Later start date for classes which is very helpful in maintaining summers for research and in terms of childcare for school-age children. It also preserves the much needed breaks and I completely agree with the shorter study period. It goes on much too long. However, it's not ideal to have the semester go so far into December, especially with the last test day on December 22. The 17th-20th is fine but to think about the 22nd is a bit difficult.

Summer is a little longer, and it is ok to finish classes a little bit later

Much prefer starting later in August. It's a more family-friendly schedule, and it avoids a running conflict with my annual professional meeting.

Childcare in August is difficult for many parents.

It potentially reverses (1) the August childcare issue and (2) the diminished value of the last 7 class days. I don't personally place much value on the "summer is too short" argument or "study/exam period is too long" motivators. Later start to fall semester, so to free up time in August rather than December. This shift helps faculty and student research and better matches calendars for public schools and other universities. Of all possible changes, this one is my very top priority.

Should start earlier. Don't like the three day TG break.

Personally, having more time in the summer for preparation time and time with children is important to me. Break is long as is, which is useful, but taking the days out of the summer and into December is more useful. Please do not hold class on Labor Day. That is a no win situation if you have children at home and a Monday afternoon lab. And it screws up courses with multiple afternoon labs.

International conferences in my field are often scheduled for August. A later fall semester start date presents fewer potential conflicts.

The summer is too short! Agree with the all the motivators. But do not agree with the alternate versions of F1 (reduce fall break, or have class on labor day)

starting classes so early in August is a huge handicap for summer internships and other summer plans. Later is better, longer summers are preferred.

Longer summer, shorter exam period

I think there is a small improvement, as the last 3 days of the semester in the current calendar don't quite work. Students come back from Thanksgiving in a panic about getting term papers turned in on time (after having sworn to themselves that they would work through Thanksgiving on them), and the problem set schedule is thrown off. Nevertheless, I don't have a strong preference for this over the current schedule.

F1 motivator 1

The later start date will be a boon to dual-career families with school age children. If we're serious about work-life balance, the later start is a good move.

August child care is challenging

I don't think the Fall calendar needed change at all, but if it is to be changed, F1 is preferable F2. There is no good reason to extend the Thanksgiving break to 5 days. Students often miss class on the following Monday just as frequently as they do the preceding Wednesday or Tuesday.

Later start gives a longer summer break.

Classes begin too early now.

We currently start too early in August. It is terrible to miss the time with my kids.

More time after Thanksgiving break for better focus. Shorter exam period.

Reduce the exam period -- YES. For most of the students, the bulk of work (and assessment) is done over the semester. Putting less emphasis on the final-exam-week-rush, and more emphasis on the continuous performance

during the semester, is in keeping with the desire of the University to diminish acute stress for students and faculty. Move four August days into December. - The weather can be extremely hot, humid and unpleasant in the last two weeks of August in Ithaca. This adds stress to an already stressful time period. Also, for many faculty having families out of town or out of state, starting early in August means much less time spent with family members (who typically take vacations in August).

Reduces August child care days.

1. I have children in school. 2. There is no need for so many days after exams and before winter break, but summer is a time when I need time to do research off-campus.

Having more class time after Thanksgiving will improve the educational value of that time frame in my classes. Starting the semester later would be less disruptive for child care, and our start would no longer conflict with the annual meeting of our professional association (sociology).

Allows for more research in the summer. Current December schedule is a waste. The students check-out at Thanksgiving.

The summer is too short, the study/exam period is long, and August child care days are particularly hard (I do not have children, but I sympathize with this problem.)

It takes away a week in December from the time available to complete term projects and term papers, do demos of final projects, and grade final projects and term papers. This can be managed though, and fixing the 'dead week' issue for the week after Thanksgiving is important for some classes. I understand the later start is a big plus for some people, I guess something of a plus for me.

Later start is great for faculty field work and for faculty with kids in school. Longer Thanksgiving break is too long - disruptive.

Makes for a longer summer and more class days after Thanksgiving break, which allows students to focus on class work rather than have fewer days sandwiched in between two breaks.

Aligns fall schedule with NYS school schedule the most - don't need such a long exam/study period.

The summer IS too short. I like the variation with 12 days for study and classes on Labor Day; it never seemed to me to be a good idea to skip a class at the beginning of the semester.

I agree with the stated rationales.

matches ICSD calendar better (for now)

I like more teaching days after the Thanksgiving break to wrap up the class. I think starting later in August is good for summer jobs.

This is my first year here, and I've been shocked by how many study days there are in the fall. So I'm happy to see that cut. Additionally, if you teach in the summer, there's not enough break between the end of summer session and teaching for fall. So I love these changes.

later start is a real benefit to all.

Later start makes August child care easier. More class days after Thanksgiving make those days more meaningful, students less likely to blow them off.

The later start allows for a more productive August for research; and the second week after Thanksgiving makes pedagogical sense. Starting Week 1 on a Monday also makes sense.

Later start

Maintains 4 week winter (Dec.-Jan.) break.

Personally, I don't really have a strong preference. But many PhD students don't return from summer internships until after Labor Day, hence start classes late, show up late for TA roles, etc. the upshot is that the F1 calendar is a better match for our graduate students.

I like starting later and having a more substantial chunk of classes after TG. Currently it's hard to cover anything substantial in the last couple of weeks of the semester.

Later start to semester is preferable, and all else is OK.

The current calendar starts and ends too early.

More time in summer. Better use of December time.

Later start.

moving days from August to December makes a lot of sense. We end ridiculously early and start ridiculously early now

Starting in early Sept or closer to end of Aug would be a big improvement - lengthening the summer and bringing calendar more in line with local public schools.

Mostly because the summer is longer, and the period after the Thanksgiving break makes more sense

More instruction days after Thanksgiving. Shorter exam period.

A slightly longer summer is better especially for those who travel internationally for research.

Commitments during August are moved to December, when fewer alternative obligations occur.

Labor Day and Thanksgiving Break are not as disruptive.

delays start of semester to be closer to public school start date

Because it improves the schedule for Monday-only classes, where we only met ONE time during the first three weeks of class under the current schedule.

Summer not cut short; time after Thanksgiving is meaningful

Strongly prefer starting a week later, don't see a problem with ending closer to the holidays, would rather have the extra week in August and if need be lose a day of fall break.

more efficient

Prefer not to start in August.

The old calendar started too early, and having only a partial week for the first week of classes was very inconvenient.

This will sound rather petty but the annual American Political Science Association meetings now take place during the first week of classes and that week is a waste for the Department of Government anyway. This would make teaching more productive for that reason.

The later start is valuable - August is family time with kids in school but done with summer camps/activity

Classes start on a Monday -- better for MW or Monday only classes. A bit of a push for end-of-semester grading, however. May need to allow grades for non-graduating students to come in after Dec 26.

This seems great. I share the sentiment "August child care days are particularly hard". This change would really help with this -- it is extremely inconvenient to have these two weeks without childcare, with all the back-to-school stuff going on. In a city (with a nanny care industry), this would be much more easily solvable than in Ithaca, where people have to rely more on an informal childcare economy. Plus, the summer feels very short here! I am often invited to "summer" conferences in the end of August/early September.

Starts the semester a bit later. provides more instruction days after thanksgiving making these days more useful.

later start in August

Longer summer is helpful, and this doesn't shorten the winter break by very much. It is also a big help to the class I teach in the fall to not lose two Mondays during the first three weeks.

It allows for two weeks of instruction after the thanksgiving break and makes Thanksgiving break seem less like the end of the semester.

For two reasons. First, it makes the summer longer, which is important for faculty trying to do research and still come back to Ithaca in time to prepare for fall teaching. Second, it extends the number of classes that will be taught after the Thanksgiving Break; this is important pedagogically as this is usually a wasted week.

I like the later start in August, and the extended teaching time after Thanksgiving.

August is still Valuable time for research and international conferences.

The December break is too long and this maximizes summer opportunities for students.

Delays start

Summer is too short.

Mostly because of the diminished value of the last week.

I have never liked that we begin so early in August. Also, the Ithaca school calendar starts so much later than Cornell. And furthermore, students feel little incentive to come back after Thanksgiving on years like 2016. Classes are nearly over at Thanksgiving.

At least partially addresses the August child care issue. When we used to have class on labor day, it was difficult since staff weren't around for support.

Moving august days into December will make post-Thanksgiving teaching more productive (and give folks more time in August to finish internships, research, etc).

Extra week at the end of summer - a very prime time for conferences and workshops.

Beginning Aug 27 works best as it gives students to spend holidays on time with family

The additional class meetings after Thanksgiving break make for a much better academic experience.

Child care in late August is an issue with current calendar; Also, having only 1 week after Thanksgiving break is stressful; Shorter time until Fall Break is better for new students

1. Less childcare to provide before the ICSD school year starts 2. Most students travel for the duration of the thanksgiving week, making that week useless anyway in terms of teaching; having two weeks of instruction following thanksgiving makes that period more substantial in terms of fitting in coursework to complete the semester.

improved, but the 2 days just before thanksgiving are of little educational value and i much prefer a week long break there.

Later start, more reasonable exam period.

Better to have more time in the summer before classes begin. I run a summer program for students. I have only 1.5 weeks between the end of that program and the start of the semester

Later start in August. More class days after T-giving. Shorter exam period.

I prefer to have more time in August to prepare for classes and TAs orientation than at the beginning of December when I makes sense to me to finish later. Also, kids are out of school until September and it's difficult to find places for them while we begin the courses. In December kids are at school and we can finish one week later with no problems involved.

Starting in mid August is a terrible idea.

I agree with the comments/motivators that have been identified.

Later start after summer break

Because starting later in August is humane.

Starts later, more time for classes after Thanksgiving

I like the later Fall start, however, having a final so close to winter break is totally unappealing. Can we have 3 study days and one week (Mon-Fri) for exams? This would not change the number of instruction days.

Summer is too short. I like starting later. Also I like the Cornell Tradition of class on Labor Day.

For the reasons given above - mostly classes start too early. The current start date is constantly a problem with late summer conferences predicated on classes starting in latest August or September.

summer is too short

longer summer plus keeping what works now

The later start is a big improvement for faculty who teach summer session and for students with summer jobs/internships. It's also easier on faculty & staff with school age kids (for whom school doesn't start until after labor day.

Longer summer, desirable for folks like me who must teach and perform administrative duties during the 6-week summer session.

Starting later is a good idea.

for the reasons given: semester starts too early, and the period after tksgring is pedagogically problematic

fewer study/exam days, later start

starts later in August. Uses more days in Dec, which is more effective use of Dec.

Later start is a huge improvement. Shorter exam period not a problem at all.

Because it is less ruinous to everyone's summer vacation. Still has many of the same problems, however, and so not much of an improvement. Numerous people on the site were calling for a beginning after Labor Day. It would seem reasonable to shorten the class schedule by a week in the fall.

My daughter (and others with kids in the Ithaca school system) doesn't start until after Labor Day and also goes later into December, so this better synchs with that schedule

1) August child care days are hard, plus it depresses me to start so early in summer, and 2) A shorter study/exam period might get students to work harder while classes are in session, not wait for the end to work. To me that is pedagogically preferable.

summer is a key research period

longer summer - yeah!

I prefer starting a bit later in the summer, and don't mind paying for it with the extra days in December.

Later start.

Later start.

This is a reasonable way to lengthen the summer provided that you do not also adopt one of the spring semester changes that would shorten the Jan break. There is a need for some time between the two semesters to catch up on research and proposal writing activities.

We start too early now.

It's very hard to find child care at the end of August. It cuts the summer.

Later start date

This is more in align with the Ithaca School District calendar. Thanksgiving break is not too close to the winter break.

Provides more summer and more class time after Thanksgiving

Matches my child's school calendar better giving us more time together as a family

prefer later start and shorter exam period

Two reasons. Starting later makes the summer longer, which is good. Second, having nearly two weeks after Thanksgiving is better than one.

The shift to later makes sense to me.

summer is too short; study/exam period seems too long

I think our fall semester begins far too early--too many weeks before the start of the ICSD school calendar and also cuts too far into field seasons and summer research time; I like retaining the 1, 2, and 3 day breaks in the fall.

Fewer childcare days in August, longer summer

Start date is not too early.

The discipline of Political Science holds its major annual meeting on Labor Day weekend. It is hugely disruptive to start the semester in the lead up to our conference. This revised schedule makes things a bit less burdensome.

Longer summer (better accord with a 9-month appointment for faculty); fewer days without daycare options for parents (late August is a daycare "desert" in Ithaca)

Later start date, shorter exam period

Starting later makes a HUGE difference for anyone with school-age children. And the shorter exam period makes good sense, too.

Mainly due to moving the start date later (longer summer, child care options)

More time off in late summer (August) Still have adequate break before, during, after Christmas and into January

Summer is too short. Oriented with local school calendar better.

reducing august childcare days

Too few days in the current calendar between Thanksgiving and Study Period

I like the somewhat later start. Also, having more than a week of classes after Thanksgiving makes sense.

More time in summer, less childcare in August.

I agree with most/all elements of this proposal. The last weeks of December are typically very quiet. Good scheme to expand the summer break without too many downsides

Current study period is too long; week after thanksgiving currently is a waste; semester starts too early

Summer is longer and more review time after thanksgiving

Classes would start later in August

The current semester starts too early in August. It is hard to regain enthusiasm in class when there is only one week of teaching after Thanksgiving.

It starts with a full week of classes

The current term starts too early. Delaying its start would be a great help to families with kids.

I agree with most of the motivators, esp. numbers 1, 2, 6, and 7. I like the idea of moving 4 August class days into December. I would object to holding class on Labor Day, but would not mind reducing fall break to one day.

Starting later in August is important. 9 class days after Thanksgiving considerably increases the academic value of the end of the fall semester. Extending later into December isn't an issue since the time between the end of the semester and Christmas isn't productive time.

It's nice to get a few more days of class after Thanksgiving; decreasing the study days also makes it more efficient time wise, and extending the summer is great because there are a few conferences that take place during that last week of summer that normally overlap with the current fall schedule.

One week after Thanksgiving Break is useless. The F1 proposal adds meaning to the period. Also, the summer break is too short and the winter break is too long. The F1 proposal improves both breaks.

Satisfies all motivators.

The reasons illustrating problems with the current calendar are on point: summer too short (especially compared with summer of other Ivy League schools), just one week of class after Thanksgiving is odd.

The fact that classes start so early in August creates a headache for parents, who have to find childcare for two weeks. I would prefer to see classes start after Labor Day, but this is an improvement.

Moving the start of classes back in the Fall makes complete sense.

summer too short; classes start too early. Better if classes begin with a full week. Even better: drop Labor Day as holiday.

Lengthening summer break is a good move, as is making the period of instruction after Thanksgiving break more meaningful.

Extra days after November makes that time useful. As it stands, the semester is virtually done in mid-November. Also, this shift aligns Cornell's calendar more closely to primary and secondary schools, making it more compatible with the family lives of students, faculty, and staff.

I agree that the summer is too short and that the December period is too short after the Thanksgiving break to undertake substantial projects

Motivations for F1 are valid, especially August childcare

It helps with August childcare and gives a longer summer. It also shortens a too long study period.

more summer, fewer exams days; we could cut one more stud day for a total of 3. ..

I particularly appreciate having a solid block of classes after Thanksgiving Break. The current format -- where there are usually only 1-2 class meetings after Thanksgiving -- encourages less motivated students to "check out" entirely.

Later start.

Moves start of classes to last week of August. Has two weeks of classes after Thanksgiving. Both are important issues.

Thanksgiving break is positioned so the time after is enough to be of use. Fall start day is matched more closely to K-12 school start, to help faculty and students with children in the local school systems.

Thanksgiving so close to the end of the the semester in the current calendar makes it really hard to give students an end-of-semester mini-project of any significance.

Later start

I subscribe to motivators 1, 2, and particularly 7.

In my particular situation, August child care days are hard and the study/exam period is long. I would recommend making fall break one day before holding class on Labor Day (see child care day issue!).

Leaves August freer --best for everyone (student jobs, parents with kids, people who like vacations) and makes use of December days that are not otherwise useful

I like having more class days after the Thanksgiving break. The fall break also divides the semester more naturally.

Much better for families to have the Cornell class schedule not begin the third week of August. I no longer have children in public schools, but it has been terrible. Also, the days after Thanksgiving seemed meaningless, and now there's time for content.

Starting Aug. 21 is ridiculously early. Is there no discussion of simply making our semesters one week shorter, so that we would be closer to our peer institutions? What other elite institution has 17-week semesters, with 15 weeks

of classes? Even the best classes start to get stale the last few weeks when everyone is burning out.

the summer is indeed too short and I am fine with having exams right up to Christmas - That time is otherwise wasted.

Begins later in August which is good. Time off immediately before Xmas is a waste, so good to have exams close to Xmas

more classes after Thanksgiving break

Moving the start date back a few days really helps with the summer period when faculty/staff kids are not in school and child care can be difficult. With our current calendar, Cornell employees' summers essentially end in early August, since we need time to get back before classes start.

The school year starts later and ends later in December. The time before the holidays in December is not 'useful' travel/research time so this calendar represents a net gain in terms of that.