

F2AlumDisagree

Again, same reasons as the previous comment. Especially when it starts getting to around the holidays, people will want to leave quickly and get to family.

I think a week break in Thanksgiving would tempt professors into giving us a lot of work due around then, right near finals. I don't think additional days off are required for Thanksgiving - 3 weeks later, we go home anyway. I don't think it matters what days of the week orientation falls on. Again, shorter exam period would be tough

5-day Thanksgiving break unnecessary.

It was my senior spring when they first changed the calendar back in 2014, and I was concerned about this when I first heard about the proposed changes, because I didn't understand how there were claims that it would make less back-to-back exams, etc. if the days for finals were being compressed. And, it turns out, exactly what I feared happened. Throughout my time at Cornell I had always taken a rather large course load each semester, so I was very used to numerous exams. However, I had NEVER had such a terrible exam schedule as I did that spring. For the first time I had 3 finals scheduled for one day, and 2 scheduled 2 days later. This was absolutely ridiculous. It would be one thing if this were just my own experience. But for a LARGE majority of everyone I talked to, this was the rule rather than the exception. People had 3 or 4 exams scheduled on the same day, and the finals went through the weekend. This was completely of the opposite of reducing student stress. It seems as though the whole calendar change did nothing but INCREASE student stress. I have heard that Cornell messed up the algorithm for scheduling exams. If this is true, WHY DIDN'T THEY THEN FIX IT?! Instead, they seemed to have told professors to be flexible in allowing make-up exams. I don't think Cornell realizes how inflexible professors usually are in this area. They all think their class is most important and that the other professor should change their exam instead. In the end, this just results in more stress and frustration for the student. Also, with slope day on Thursday, it took away YET ANOTHER of our much needed study days. And then we always have our track Ivy League Championships that weekend right before finals start. In the past, we would have this very important track meet, return to campus, and then still have 2 days to study before exams start. Now, however, they start the next day (Monday) and (surprise!) this is the day that all of us seemed to have been scheduled 3 or 4 exams. Seriously. This does NOT REDUCE STUDENT STRESS! I honestly saw nothing positive about that last schedule change. I really felt like the schedule was not thought through, and I was disappointed that despite all the student protests before it was enacted, we were not heard. With this proposed schedule above, I do not understand what the main argument here is for changing things, as all the things listed above are rather weak motivators. I have never heard people complain that the summer is too short, and I never felt like that as a student. I also never experienced having only one more week of classes after Thanksgiving to be a problem. Point number 6- the exam period- I think it misguided. I thoroughly needed all of those study days, and judging by how the change to the spring schedule felt my senior year when they took away study days- it really does make a huge difference when they are taken away. Sure, other schools may have less study days, but I do not feel it is a fair comparison. Other schools test in different ways; at Cornell with our prelim schedules, we are often tested less than at other universities and as a result each exam covers more material and weight towards our grade. I think having the one study day off in the middle of the exam period as the schedule currently has is vital for students. The variation mentioned above that suggests changing the exam period to 11 days would be similar to what they did my senior spring and I strongly oppose this for the reasons already stated.

I like the long break but I think you need the weekend orientation for parents

A whole week off that close to exams will hurt not help (I always felt it was an effort to get back into school after the short Thanksgiving break that close to finals). Also, I disagree with shortening the exam period

There's no reason to have an all week-day orientation. This variation also still has the problem of the compressed finals schedule that adds stress to students.

Weekend orientation is perfectly acceptable. A full week off for Thanksgiving creates 9 days without class towards the end of term which would cause some students to lose focus and forget material at a crucial time. Students will be better served by a shorter Thanksgiving break and more study days which allow focused, scheduled time between end of lectures and exams.

The winter break is useful for students to do internships/shadowings, and for international students to visit home. Do not push back the winter break start date any further.

Same about the recognition event. That is not good. Also please end exams earlier than 12/22

The F2 framework is much better than the F1 framework, but its main and only drawback is the end of the semester in which papers and study time is seriously compromised.

Dec 22 last day is too late.

While an entire week for Thanksgiving seems appealing, it causes the semester to drag on. International students who could not afford to travel home twice would not benefit as much as local students.

Why are weekend orientation days ineffective? I personally hated orientation so having some time on the weekend to myself to call my parents go on a run spend not be around other people and explore was quite nice and made it slightly less miserable. Adding time to Thanksgiving break would be helpful for people who can afford to/ have access to leaving campus, but will make life very sad for those who stay on campus. Those times are lonely, quiet, and food is very inaccessible since the dining hall will probably be closed too/ only open if you want to spend \$11 on dining hall food instead of a meal swipe. (Note: the people who can afford to spend \$11 on 1-3 dining hall meals a day are probably NOT the people same who can't afford a bus ride home for break). Like F1, this schedule also has finals too late in December. Sit in Uris or Olin or Duffield after 11pm in December and you can literally see the sadness in the eyes of students. Even if you're starting school later in August, that doesn't matter - 4 more days of classes in December and finals 4 days later will be a drag.

An all-weekday orientation says takes away valuable class days. The extended thanksgiving break is too long and would add anxiety over the large amount of work that will be due when students get back.

Starting classes on a Thursday is super weird and a lot of upperclassmen will probably just stay home and skip the first two days -- starting on a Thursday also means that most discussions will get cancelled during the first "week" and thus a lot of students will only have 1 or 2 classes to attend unless they have Thursday heavy schedules; classes should start on a Tuesday or Wednesday. A full week off for Thanksgiving isn't necessarily necessary and essentially giving students 9 days off right at the end of the semester can be difficult and cause people to lose momentum -- they go home, get settled and get used to being able to relax only to come back to school for the hardest part of the semester. Just like with F1, I think finals need to end earlier and exams should not be scheduled over the weekend. Students feel like they don't get to enjoy the holiday season and often miss a lot of holiday traditions when they don't get done with exams until the 19th or later. As far as most students are concerned, the fall semester is fine as is.

I like that classes would start a little later. Cornell started earlier than the average college in the area. I like having off Labor Day. It allows students to get a taste of classes after summer, and a brief breather before the full blown semester. (However, if Labor Day falls less than a week after the start of classes it's a waste.) I like the 4-day weekend for Fall break because it allows a nice break and the option to travel off campus to get away for a few days. I like the full week off for Thanksgiving, but I don't think it's necessary. Many people took the full day off only when we had a half-day. It would allow students to start studying for finals, if they wanted. I like that there's more class days after Thanksgiving. Only 1 week of classes after Thanksgiving always seemed to make those classes less worthwhile. The shorter study/exam period seems to align with more other colleges. I have mixed feelings about it. A shorter period means higher stress rates for a shorter period a time. Students have less time to study for each exam, but that is true for everyone. There is a higher probability of exam conflicts or too many exams (3+) in a short period of time (24 hours).

Same reason as before

Thanksgiving doesn't need to be that long

Again, why are you shortening the exam period? I like the overall idea of this more because the summer does not really need to be lengthened (it's pretty long) and because it would be nice to have a full week for Thanksgiving. However, you cannot shorten the exam period.

Week long thanksgiving break is too much when the month long winter break occurs shortly after

Overall I like the idea of having orientation during the week to have less propensity for drinking, however, it puts an undue imposition on families to take off of work to move their children in on a week-day. I also do not think a longer Thanksgiving break is necessary because 3 weeks later students have a 5-week winter break

The semester starts at an appropriate time now. The exam period benefits from being longer and having a dedicated study day in the middle by breaking up the test schedule across two weeks.

I don't understand the "weekend orientation days are not effective" motivator. I thought orientation worked fine as is. If the motivation is that new students drink on the weekend, I don't think that will change by switching orientation to all weekdays, if they have made that their goal. I personally did as many orientation activities as possible, and since we weren't in class the day of the week was irrelevant. I also don't see value in increasing the thanksgiving break. I think no matter when the break starts, you'll have people leaving on the day of classes before then. I would rather get out earlier than have a longer break, just a few weeks before going home for the winter. Again, I lived far away so plane tickets home for thanksgiving were astronomical. I didn't once go home since I knew I'd be back in a few weeks anyway. I suppose having the full week might lower the cost of plane tickets to people traveling locally, but for the international students I'm not sure it's worth the effort to go home for only a week, at which point they are alone at school or have to put someone out for much longer.

short exam period - harder to schedule - more conflicts

Shortened exam/study period. I also don't think students need a full week off for Thanksgiving that close to Winter break.

Exam period ends too late; long weekend (3 days off) for Thanksgiving is fine.

Other than a longer Thanksgiving break (which students with family in the US would appreciate, but is still too short and too late in the semester for those with family outside the US to take full advantage), this proposal does not improve the current calendar better than the F1 proposal, while retaining all the problems of the F1 proposal.

I thought the study period was already too short, making it shorter puts even more stress on students.

Same criticism as before, don't really think this improves up on it. I really don't think that the orientation weekday/weekend makes any difference. You will have students that do everything and get a lot out of it and you have students that will skip most of the stuff and do your own thing. This will happen whether it's on a weekend or weekday.

Weekend orientation is effective. Starting classes on a Thursday will mean that the first week of classes is worthless and students can't get into the semester at a normal pace. Thanksgiving break does not need to be more than 3 days. This will lead to further anxiety, stress on the part of the teachers. This has the same problem as F1 in that the exam period is crammed and includes the weekend, meaning that students are more stressed. Also, fall recognition day is during exam period which causes problems for both those trying to celebrate their accomplishments and students trying to study and take exams without being distracted by those trying to celebrate. Finally, the last seven class days don't have diminished value - they are an important time for classes to review for exams, and allow students to breathe for a minute between thanksgiving and finals.

See my answer above. And I never felt a need for a full week off, though maybe others feel differently.

Having such a long Thanksgiving break is silly. The time after break is already awkward and short, I don't think it needs to get longer.

It is very close to final time after Thanksgiving. having such a long break does not facilitate studying.

Winter is the time where people don't want to be going to classes, and everything is due/people are stressed. On top of that, the exam period is shorter with more classes closer to that time period. The two extra days of thanksgiving break isn't going to ease anxiety, and students will feel pressure to study for finals during that time period anyways (and probably end of the year projects and problem sets).

Only two days of instruction the first week is too short. I had that from 6th thru 12th grade. It did not work well. Also, please don't have a full week for Thanksgiving. It only increases the pressure to go home right before finals. Not everyone has a pleasant home experience and having to spend a week there right before exams will only make that time more stressful. It is also harder to focus on academics with such a long break. I always was more behind

after spring break than I was after the shorter breaks. Also, don't have two weeks of classes after Thanksgiving or the fall recognition before exams are over because both add stress.

I object to this for the same reason I object to F1. The exam period ought not be seven consecutive days of tests, with no study break day scheduled.

Doesn't really lengthen the summer because it doesn't even add a whole week. And a whole week break before winter break is silly.

Reducing the finals / study period makes student life incredibly difficult. It becomes nearly impossible to space exams out so they do not happen adjacent to each other / on the same day. Orientation is fine the way it is. Start / End days of semester are fine as is. Might be nice to have more time between thanksgiving and finals. Would likely keep professors from scheduling large assignments to finish before end of semester.

The end of the fall term falls too close to the holidays.

Thanksgiving break is way too long - it's nearing the end of the semester, a full week off is completely unnecessary.

getting full week for thanksgiving off is not worth a shorter winter break

I still believe ending the semester later in December is much more complicated, risky, and inconvenient for students, particularly students traveling a great distance to get home.

Short winter break

I do not see a value of adding two days to Thanksgiving break.

I like having orientation over a weekend because it gives everybody a chance to adapt back to campus life

Same comments as F1 framework

You don't need a week long Thanksgiving break.

Students often skip around thanksgiving, but more official days off may not stop this practice

Later start of winter break will disrupt student plans. Travel expenses are more expensive towards the holidays which will encourage students to try and finish exams earlier

Again, having an exam period that ends so close to Christmas is unfairly economically stressful for students who must fly home for winter break.

I always thought the study days were crucial and do not think they should be reduced. Also I don't clearly understand the difference between F1 and F2

Moving in on a Sunday seems like it would inconvenience many working families, likely having to take time off of work to make the move. With the current calendar, families of new students often stay the weekend to help with the transition. Without this option, new students may have a more difficult time adapting to Cornell and begin their semester on a poor note.

Don't shorten the study/exam period. It is stressful enough on the students as is

22 Dec is still too late.

1. The F1 framework lengthens summer break at the expense of shortening an already shorter winter break. 2. The study/exam period should be even longer, not shorter. My colleagues and I found solace and confidence in our academics because of this period. Shortening it will only fuel the anxiety and pressure that already comes with final exams. Comparing this period against our peers is not a logical justification. 3. Thanksgiving is a 1-day holiday and does not justify a break longer than the Fall break.

F2 ends too late in December, and weekday orientation is inefficient. I prefer weekend orientation. A 5 day break at Thanksgiving shortly before the month-long Christmas break is wasteful. Students who have a long way to travel home might only want to make the trip once at Christmas. It would be better to leave Thanksgiving break at only 2 or 3 days, and finish the semester 2 or 3 days earlier in December.

Having orientation on the weekend is preferable because parents are able to take time off to help students move in. The weekday orientation would present hardships on parents who aren't able to take work time off. The week-long Thanksgiving break is unnecessary, especially given that a long winter break is ahead.

I have the same concern as I had with regard to the F1 calendar, in particular with regards to the length of the summer and the last day of finals potentially falling as late as December 22.

While the increased break is nice, it concentrates all the exams into one place. Also, again, the proposed change is way too close to Christmas. Leaves students out of vacation and is, quite frankly, depressing to be stuck at college right before the holidays.

I still do not like having final exams go even later into December. This makes it more difficult to get home for the holidays and more stressful to be still taking finals at the end of December. I do not see the benefit in changing orientation and starting classes on a Thursday. I do like the longer Thanksgiving break.

Having a week off for Thanksgiving helps American students but not international students. Most international students stay at Cornell for Thanksgiving because it takes too long to go home, and this is taking away their time at home during the winter break and forcing them into a week with nothing to really do.

Orientation should be on a weekend - no need to take up 3 possible class days with orientation

5 days for Thanksgiving is ridiculous. More study time before finals would help decrease anxiety much more effectively. Also, would be better to have the Monday after Thanksgiving off for travel purposes instead of the Monday before.

Extending summer by a few days doesn't do anything for students, but cutting study period down can have a very negative effect. Orientation is too long, maybe cut that a bit.

1. A week long off for Thanksgiving is unnecessary. Three days is fine. Having a longer break may be difficult for students who cannot go back and forth twice over the course of 1 month. A longer winter break is better. 2. Orientation during the week is unnecessary, but can help some students who cannot attend on Friday night/Saturday or Sunday due to religious reasons. 3. For students with heavy course loads, having a longer exam period is helpful

I don't care for the week-long thanksgiving break. I feel it is too close to the end of the semester and you lose the effectiveness of the last 2 weeks of class

Same reasons as F1.

Thanksgiving break is too long; I preferred having a longer winter break to recharge and travel then Thanksgiving break since Thanksgiving break will always be stressful since it is right at the end of the semester.

Exams are too late and close to the holidays

Professors will use the thanksgiving break to assign more work. It is not a high valued break by students and should not be extended.

In my opinion, the Thanksgiving break is way too long. Often, when people take a break that long, they lose the studying momentum, then it's really hard to get back into exam mode. I feel like the current 5 day (3 days off + weekend) thanksgiving break is long enough.

I would rather start college a week earlier and finish a week earlier. I do not like the proposed end of the semester study/exam period. I do not like it because (1) it takes away the Dec 11th study day (2) there are exams on Saturday and Sunday (3) it extends the amount of time students have to be on campus and students really want to go home quickly at the end of a semester.

No point in having a week off for Thanksgiving right before a really long winter break. Would also contribute to forgetting course material right before finals.

Although I think a 1 week thanksgiving break is better, especially given several people take the whole week off anyway, it has the same problems as F1

Same reasoning for F1

I would rather have exams end earlier than have a longer Thanksgiving break. I feel as if the Thanksgiving break is sufficient.

A full week off for Thanksgiving seems unnecessary when the winter break is so close.

Having the majority of the study week on the weekend is the exact problem that I have with the current spring semester--it's too short and ineffective as professors aren't around for OH or study sessions.

Similar reason as above, also makes getting home for Thanksgiving impossible unless you live in the tri-state area.

Though I am a big fan of the longer Thanksgiving break, I still feel strongly that taking from Winter Break is not effective. The big problem with our exam period being too long is that it sends the students home too late. This does nothing to help that problem. In addition, the motivators are confusing me. I do not understand why weekend orientation is ineffective, nor why August child care days should be a motivator. Yes it affects some, but not many.

I do not think that weekday orientation versus weekend orientation is a big deal for students when they are not in term time. This is still problematic vis a vis having more class in December than August. Students are burnt out and want to be home early for the holidays.

goes too late

I don't think it's worth having a longer thanksgiving break -- at this point, students are already stressed about approaching final exams. If you were given this time off, it would be a stressful vacation rather than a relaxing one. More time for undergrads in Ithaca in warmer, summer months is better rather than dreary December. Study period should not be shortened under any condition, as students need uninterrupted time to study and review what they learned in the semester

Exams on Saturday? That's terrible.

Same as F1 reasons.

Again, reducing the study period is not a wise move. This will create unnecessary stress on students. Also, in this model, you are not giving students who live abroad or on the west coast adequate time to get home for the holidays during the winter break.

I don't think people need a week for Thanksgiving, especially since finals and winter break occur so shortly after

Do orientation over the weekend. The new calendar will be too hard for parents to help with move-in

Again, school ends too close to Christmas eve/day. Makes it hard for people who celebrate this holiday if they have to travel far.

It's hard having a whole week off so close to the end of the semester.

As a former undergraduate student with no children, extending the summer break has little value when you are impinging on the winter holiday and making more difficult and expensive to travel home. While I think the enhanced Thanksgiving break may be good idea, it doesn't make much sense to not utilize the weekend for the orientation period. It also reduces the exam period and has no intermediate breaks, which is always harder on the students with many exams.

Less study days and less orientation, even if that means a longer summer, isn't worth the extra stress it would cause during the semester

It is better than F1 but ends too late. You should just go back to the fall calendar with the four day orientation week, it worked.

As I stated in F1, a lot of schools start around the 21st so there isn't much reason to start later because then you are home when most of your friends have started classes. Also I enjoy getting out earlier in December. I don't think the full week of Thanksgiving is necessary because in at most 2.5 weeks, possibly less depending on an individual's final schedule, you will be going on a 6 week winter vacation. Also, I do not like reducing the study/exam period because I was very busy then with all the projects I had. If that had changed, then I would need to start final projects during my Thanksgiving break, which would not be relaxing at all.

Later end to school affecting travel plans; thanksgiving break too long

As I said before, summer being too short is imaginary, theres enough time for an internship and several weeks of

vacation. what's the purpose of not having orientation of the weekend before? is that last weekend really going to help students? i Don't think so, the chart says weekend orientation days are not effective, do we have any reason to believe this? do we have any reason to believe a during the week orientation will be more effective? I have a hard time believing problems with orientation are related to which days of the week it's held on. But the real problem with this calendar is thanksgiving break being a week long. seem like a needless interruption to classes, i've certainly never heard people complaining in earnest of it being too short. my first year we had classes the Wednesday (a.m. classes) before thanksgiving that was inconvenient and short but was corrected the the current plan. Having a week break so close the end of the semester presents a huge challenge for students and professors. as the Semester is in its closing weeks there are projects and papers that need constant work and feedback, interrupting that with a week off can't help. Additionally why are we concerned with exam periods compared to peers? we should be looking at our own problems or shortcomings, not creating them by comparison to other schools. If there is a problem with our exam period fix it, don't just follow other schools because Cornell is different.(i noted problems with exams in my response to f1)

Having the extra study and exam period was very useful for me to prepare for my exams. Also, as an Fall MEng graduate, I would not want to have my fall recognition during the exam period as it would be just another thing to worry about during my exams.

No need to make thanksgiving break so long. Many students can't afford to travel home for that break, and making it longer just extends the amount of time that they are isolated at Cornell or trying to accompany peers to spend the holiday with their families

Don't like ending late in December

Very few schools have a full week off for Thanksgiving, it is entirely unnecessary. No one needs a week off 3 weeks before the end of the semester. This one is just ridiculous

We don't need a longer Thanksgiving break.

I don't think any orientation days are effective in my experience, but those students who want to go will still go regardless. Again, strongly disagree with a shortened study period.

Same reason as before regarding study days

I do not believe there is the need for a longer day Thanksgiving break. It is difficult enough for students to re-enter 'study mode' after the existing break and any added days would not help in that regard, especially so close to final exams. I do not like the possibility of shortening either the study or the exam period. There have been scheduling issues in the past few years (even with the updated final exam scheduling algorithm) that forced students to take up to four exams in three consecutive days. The added study day helps break up those schedules and allows students to regroup before the second half of exams. If F2 is adopted, I would argue removing one of the four study days before the the beginning of the exam period and keeping either the Sunday (December 11) or the Saturday immediately prior (December 10) as a study would be more beneficial. A further point to keep in mind is that some students participating in the Fall Recognition ceremony will be sitting exams and there will inevitably be students who cannot attend their own recognition ceremony because they have an exam scheduled for that day or the days immediately following.

I don't think weekend orientation is ineffective. I never felt I needed a 5 day break towards the end of fall break when we're about to have 4 weeks off.

1 full week for Thanksgiving is too long. Students may have a hard time getting back into coursework afterwards, or they may forget what they've learned up to that point. Again, finals could end late / too close to Christmas, making travel difficult.

1. Reduced exam period 2. Weekend orientation not effective? I'd rather be on campus already than have to travel on the weekend 3. I prefer less class after Thanksgiving, it's easier to prepare for finals and not have to learn more.

See first answer

Reducing the study period and holding all exams over 7 days (instead of 9) adds additional stress to the exam period. I also disagree with the F1 motivators that the summer is too short and that the last 7 class days have reduced value.

Study time is important. The current Fall schedule was a blessing.

I think a week long Thanksgiving break would be detrimental to the coursework flow. I personally would go too far into "vacation mode" making it that much harder to come back and prepare for the end of the semester. I also think this longer break would give the professors the freedom to assign more work over the break to capitalize on the time away and maintain momentum.

Unnecessary to have so much time off for Thanksgiving when winter break is only a few weeks away. People who live far away aren't going to travel home twice in such a short time.

Having a whole week of Thanksgiving Break reduces the overall days we have of direct instruction. While a whole week of Thanksgiving sounds nice, it interrupts the academic year unnecessarily and we are getting less direct instruction for our tuition dollars.

Summer isn't too short

Same comments about study period as before. Additionally, I do not find the summer to be too short if students do not stay for Commencement, but rather leave after the exam period.

full week (Effectively 9 day) Thanksgiving break is excessive, especially because it's so close to the end of the term.

There should be more than 2 days the first week so you have a chance to go to every class. Thanksgiving doesn't need a full week, especially if you're too far from home and stay on campus that week.

I feel pushing exam days further into December isn't necessary. The thanksgiving break is already long enough I dont know if the added days to thanksgiving justify then pushing exam days further into December

It is fine to reduce study/exam period but don't shift classes back. I like the added 2 days to thanksgiving break. Take them from exam time.

3 day thanksgiving break works. No need for 5. Also the first break is too early.

December 22 is too late to be at Cornell.

Week of vacation during Thanksgiving is not advantageous - not late enough to use to study for exams and extends the exam period too late.

This keeps students in class longer, and while there is a longer thanksgiving break, it's likely students will still have to spend a lot of this time working since assignments and exams pile up toward the end of the semester.

As said before, December is dreadful in Ithaca and August is definitely preferable for students being on campus. Shifting days to the end of the calendar is not a good idea. We have a very large campus and most students walk 20+ minutes to class. It is much easier and better for morale if that walking is done on a sunny august day than a frigid december day

Nice to have the break for Thanksgiving but still have the issue of the exams ending too close to the holidays which impact students being able to get home for the holidays and to be able to afford it.

Five days off for Thanksgiving equates to another "Spring Break" and is too long to take off for classes and is disruptive.

Don't reduce study period days

No one needs a week vacation for Thanksgiving when we're about to have finals and then go home anyway. Thanksgiving is too close to the end of the year to warrant a week-long break. I understand that some people need to travel farther to get home for break, but having the day off before Thanksgiving is sufficient. If you want a long break, make Fall Break long. At least the weather is nice in October, and students could take that opportunity to make a vacation out of it.

The longer Thanksgiving break gives more time to forget content that will be tested on after only 8 class days after break. I do like the shortened exam period.

I agree with extending the Thanksgiving Holiday, but I, again, disagree with pushing exams so close to the holiday. I would recommend starting orientation/classes earlier.

Ends too late.

Ends too late in December.

Once again, ending later is generally not preferred