

F2FacDisagree

The end of the fall semester is stressful for students and they think a longer Thanksgiving break would solve that problem. However in my department much of the stress comes from end-of-semester projects coming due and faculty rushing to get in work/lectures before the end of the semester--with more days after Thanksgiving, this stress will be reduced sufficiently. A five-day Thanksgiving break will result in more student travel, which distracts them and can add to stress because of weather-related travel issues common at Thanksgiving.

Students leave early for thanksgiving, but they will continue to leave early even if given more itme, so they will leave mid the previous week. No help to have the 5 days.

This doesn't significantly address the following motivators: summer too short--won't have significant impact on students with internships; child care (camps enroll for the full week, still need to scramble for most/all of that week).

A week long break just before the end of the semester is unnecessary. The short time between the end of the semester and the Christmas holiday could also make travel difficult for students, faculty, and staff with families that live far away.

Again, do not move the semester later into December. It is already a nearly unmanageable scramble to get exams marked and grades turned in and then to get ready for the holidays. Moving this process later in December could make the task completely unmanageable. I believe the scramble is particularly difficult for women faculty, since women typically manage more of holiday preparation. Also, the exam period should not be shortened. Our students learn an incredible amount during study period, but I notice how much less they learn if they have exams for other classes that are close to the exam for mine.

Don't need a week of vacation several weeks before Holiday break. Not enough of a shift out of August

A week long Thanksgiving break so close to the end of the semester is extremely disruptive.

Going later in December does not make sense to me.

I think it is pointless to extend the Thanksgiving holiday in order to avoid empty classes on Monday/Tuesday. We'll just start getting empty classes the Thursday/Friday beforehand, just as we do for spring break.

while I understand taking more time over Thanksgiving (since students do it anyway), getting that out of the swing of things so close to the end of the semester isn't the best idea

The longer Thanksgiving break is wasted time. It differs from what other schools do, so there's little benefit in it.

Significant disruption to teaching before and after thanksgiving

Do not agree with the increase in Thanksgiving Break

1. Doesn't address childcare problems 2. Fall starts much too early. With meetings & coordination, eats up a big chunk of August, and complicates planning for time with distant friends and family (the rest of the world tends to take vacations in August) 3. Thanksgiving is TOO LONG. Awkward time to have such a long break.

Runs too close to winter holidays. Hard for students to get home in time. Study days are good. People learn better over extended period of time, so compressing the calendar has negative effects.

The semester should not begin so early in August. We do not need 2 more days for Thanksgiving.

I don't agree that the 3-day Thanksgiving break add to anxiety. I would prefer a later start in August.

it only slightly extends the summer break while extending further into december. Not as good as F1

Does not really address the problem of alignment with Ithaca City School District calendar, and the week off for Thanksgiving is unnecessary and disruptive to course flow

A week-long Thanksgiving break is too long and disruptive. Weekend orientation is fine.

For the same reason as stated for F1

Way too long for Thanksgiving Break and 12/22 end date is way too late.

Same reason as F1. Last exam date is too late. Dec. 22 as an exam date for large lecture classes could result in grad students and faculty working into Christmas.

Does not extend Summer break as much as F1 and the longer Nov break would seem to offer marginal advantages. However, if students strongly prefer that, then this does seem logical.

Again, I don't think that these proposed changes have taken into account the veterinary school's curriculum. We already go that late in December now and use the three days before Thanksgiving as valuable teaching days so from the looks of this we would lose teaching days which would not benefit the students or the courses that run during that time.

If instruction begins on a thursday, non-freshman students with only T/Th courses or non-Friday courses will not show up the first day of class. They will simply begin the next week. this means that they miss key intro material and we have to restate it all the next week.

A break of a week so close to the end of the semester is not needed, it's a waste of the scarce time resource.

Exams on Dec 22 will mean grading on Christmas Eve.

Exam period ends too late. It will be impossible to grade large classes holding finals at the end of the period. Most TAs are gone by that date, especially those traveling internationally. The start date is good: just do not add days to the Thanksgiving break so the end date does not fall so late. Adding to the break seems unnecessary and inconvenient: students will now want to leave the Friday before and in practice we will miss one more day of classes.

I prefer the weekend orientation, and I like being able to break sooner before the holidays. Although I do agree that the exam period might be compressed in any of these scenarios

Extended Thanksgiving break does not provide sufficient benefit.

Way to many holidays Christmas break too short and too close to Christmas Day Students far from home don't like that long Thanksgiving break and feeling forced to travel twice in close proximity Dislike the short first week

The start date isn't significantly later. Thanksgiving break does not need to be longer--it works well as is. If you extend to a week, then Monday classes are shorted both Labor Day and Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving break is too long - classes start too early.

Keep Thanksgiving Holiday 2 days.

Breaks are already long enough. last week of August is difficult for parents with small children.

Better to start earlier in August than go later in December. The long Thanksgiving break makes the last 2 weeks of class very disjointed.

For reasons stated in my response to F1, I would like Cornell to begin as late in August as possible. September would even be better. If you have a summer job, many of them want you to stay through August; some want you to remain through Labor Day. Summer jobs are important for many of us. I couldn't have attended Cornell without one.

A full week at Thanksgiving is not needed (we have 3 days off that week already) - it will just push the student exodus into the previous week. The current calendar is preferable to this.

Do not like exams after Fall Recognition. 5 days for Thanksgiving is appropriate as it originally stands, though many students check out early that week those that stay and finish up classes will be able to stay on top of their work. Life is full of decisions, those that still feel they will check out early that week have made that choice and must live with that decision, I don't see why the school needs to change this to allow a larger break for those feeling they need it. That is what the break between semesters is for.

Teaching days in mid August are challenging for parents and students with school-age children, as the ICSD calendar is very different

I do not think we should push the latest exam day back under any circumstances.

Does not substantially lengthen summer. A full week break right before the end of the semester is too long -- would lose momentum on work. Better to have the extra days elsewhere.

inefficient use of time, too much scattered break time, not enough final study period

Pushing the semester further into December will hinder research activities (travel, service on panels, etc.) Having 5 days for Thanksgiving has unclear benefits. Students may find it hard to take a true break with a full week off so close to the semester. Paradoxically, a three-day break might be better. Having an all-weekday orientation seems like a second-order consideration.

Semester goes on too late, fall break should be removed.

Cuts into summer period; longer Thanksgiving Break cuts into academic program very late in the semester

A full week off (for Thanksgiving) two weeks before the end of classes makes no sense. It's bad for student learning and sharply breaks the flow of the semester just when most courses are reaching their most challenging material.

I'm not sure why weekend orientation days are not effective. This calendar doesn't have much of an impact on starting later in August and giving faculty more summer research and students more time in their internships or summer jobs. Also, the semester starts earlier than F1 with the semester still going too far into December. I am unsure about the Thanksgiving break being extended, though a nice idea. Another option is to extend the break but keep orientation as is over the weekend.

A week-long holiday for thanksgiving does not add any advantage. Once again, a longer winter break is more useful for those who need to do research abroad during winter. The current model is better.

Making Thanksgiving Break another Spring Break will be counter-productive to students finishing out the semester strong. There should be only ONE Spring Break, towards the middle-ish of the Spring Semester, after they have been in classes for 3/4 of the year. Longer breaks are not useful until this point in the year...

Slight improvement over current schedule because it shifts the start a little later - but only a little. F1 is much preferred. There is no need for a full week off at Thanksgiving when winter break starts a couple of weeks later.

would rather have a longer summer than a longer Thanksgiving break

Last exam day can be very close to Christmas.

The 5-day Thanksgiving break is not helpful (regardless of how long it is, some students will leave early, yes?).

It adds more class days to December and so delays the beginning of the study/exam period. Students should be given as much time as possible between exams to study without too closely crowding the holidays.

Still early semester start and the Thanksgiving break is too long - disruptive for the teaching process

Classes after Txgiving are virtually useless as the students begin the review process--adding more after Txgiving will mean more useless classes.

I think this puts final exams too late for both students and for faculty to grade and post

Too hard to recapture students' attention after a full week break so late in the semester. I was unsure about F1 -- I'm definitely sure F2 is a very bad idea pedagogically.

it really does not start much later, and we don't need a full week at thanksgiving.

The whole week off for Thanksgiving is not viable for many students.

I do not like the idea of a full week off for Thanksgiving.

A full week for Thanksgiving is unnecessary.

We don't need a week break so close to the end of the semester, it's redundant and a waste. This option is dominated by F1.

Longer Thanksgiving break is too disruptive for learning.

Many students already take off Thanksgiving week and perhaps this might be construed as evidence of the benefits in simply giving it to them, but if your argument about it is that it adds to the end-of-the-semester anxiety, it's unclear how or why extending it would address this.

I don't think a full-week Thanksgiving break is necessary and it will still cause anxiety.

Off-campus interview issue as previously described in F1 feedback.

Starting with a fragment of a week makes no pedagogical sense, and we do not need an entire week of Thanksgiving Break two weeks out from the end of classes.

Family lives abroad - need time for traveling before Christmas

Thanksgiving is a disruption but a national holiday so unavoidable; I don't think you should lengthen it

The long TG break will just break up the semester even more badly than currently.

Don't need a week at Thanksgiving - would rather have the time in the summer.

A full week for Thanksgiving break is a bad idea. Too disruptive that close to the end of the semester.

The August delay in starting classes is too trivial to be useful, and the full week break for Thanksgiving is disruptive at that point in the semester. Yes, Thanksgiving is disruptive by itself, but that's familiar to those who've gone to school (prior to Cornell) in the U.S.

So many students leave for the whole week of Thanksgiving anyway, that it makes no difference in the "BREAK" part for them, yet for those who do NOT leave, it makes a much longer alone time without family or friends around during a very stressful time of the semester. In addition, I think it will just create two wasted weeks at the end of the term instead of one. Other universities have a policy that no new content should be introduced during the last week of classes; that time should be used to "integrate" the material over all the semester. I practice that, and find the last week to be very useful. In addition, I think that having the Recognition ceremony before seniors would potentially be finished with exams is just cruel.

Not adding much upfront (re: summer) and extending on the other end for no strong reason (why long Thanksgiving?)

Thanksgiving is too long and interrupts the study flow.

Beginning with a two day week is foolish. I'm not sure about a whole week at Thanksgiving.

This plan appears to aggravate rather than solve many of the problems with the present schedule (e.g., it is longer in terms of actual class days...

See F1

Runs later but no real improvement at end of August. Still creates imbalance by starting classes on a Thursday (!!) Students will take the whole week of Thanksgiving anyway whether we make it class-free or not.

Shortens study period and exams, no need for 5 day Thanksgiving

Again, December 22nd is too late for large lecture final exams.

the change is too minor on the front end.

Not a fan of having entire week of Thanksgiving off, would rather start semester later (F1)

A longer thanksgiving break is not beneficial

5 days of thanksgiving? What?

You lose more in Dec than is gained in Aug

A long thanksgiving break is detrimental to end-of semester focus.

A full week break at Thanksgiving is a waste of time.

One full week off for Thanksgiving that close to the winter break is not justified.

A 5 day Thanksgiving break seems over-kill, particularly this late into the semester. Having the last exam on Dec. 22 might make grading and reporting final grades a challenge, given that many TAs may want to travel for the holidays earlier. delaying the start of the semester by just 2 days does not make much of a difference.

Having such a long Thanksgiving break (9 days total if we were to add the two weekends that bookend it) will have the equal value diminishing effect, if not more, on the post-holiday instruction as a shorter post-holiday instruction period. Besides, since there will be limited dining services, a longer Thanksgiving break will be it all the more difficult for students who cannot afford to go home for the holiday. No, keep the Thanksgiving break to no longer than 3 days!

Although many students travel for the duration of the thanksgiving week, about 30% still show up to class. Many of them travel home somewhere between the Saturday before thanksgiving and Wednesday. Making that whole week a break means that students will be traveling on Thursday or Friday the week before and will again be missing classes Thursday and Friday.

Same complaint as F1 -- having a chance to reconnect with research before Xmas is a big plus in current calendar.

The concern about grading in large classes (mentioned for F1) remains the same. Additionally, this schedule is completely unworkable when combined with S3 and S4. Once again, I think there is nothing wrong with Fall, and forcing a change on Fall greatly hurts our choices for Spring semester (which is the bad semester)

No reason for such a long break in November--disrupts the semester too much.

I don't think this will improve it at all. I already know that many students with classes beginning on Friday will miss the first one and begin directly on the following Monday. We don't need a full week for Thanksgiving since it's so close to the end of the semester and kids are in school.

Starts too early. The five day Thanksgiving break is a bad idea, and the justification about "reducing anxiety" assumes that young adults must be treated like children. This is silly.

Weekend orientation works better for freshman parents and faculty/staff who have to participate are used to this requirement. A week-long T'giving break so close to the end of the term is counter-productive. Additionally, international students and those from the west coast will be stuck in Ithaca on their own for even longer.

No need for full week thanksgiving break

Not as good as F1

This just makes the semester unnecessarily long(er).

DO NOT add two days to Thanksgiving Break. No one will attend class on the Friday before break. I taught at other universities that had a week off for Thanksgiving Break, and attendance on Friday before the break was 10% at best.

I think a week long break at thanksgiving is too much.

thanksgiving too long

It is better to begin classes on a Monday. Thanksgiving break is fine the way it is since most students will take the week end too. With the F2, it will be a 9 day break. Again, I think there should be 3 study days at the beginning of final exam period and the second Sunday should be a study break day. i.e. No exams on Sundays. This is not for religious reasons--but everyone needs 1 day off on the weekend. Call it a mental health day.

No one needs more time off in November. We need to start and end the semester later.

Thanksgiving Break is a vacation, not a 'BREAK.'

Students often skip class during Thanksgiving break, so this is a nice change. As before, I think having exams administered on Sundays is difficult and ideally would be avoided.

A whole week for Thanksgiving seems too long, especially given that winter break follows in about 3 weeks.

It improves the beginning of the semester but lengthens the Thanksgiving Break and ends too late to accommodate

international students and faculty and others who travel far over the break, and it also forces them to buy high-priced air tickets during the peak days leading up to Christmas. The long Thanksgiving Break is disruptive for anyone trying to manage a syllabus at the end of the semester. If the problem is that students leave early for Thanksgiving, what is to prevent them from leaving even earlier? And why doesn't the university crack down on dismissed classes, which is the real problem? When instructors dismiss classes--and you know they do--students absent themselves from other classes, feeling sanctioned to do so.

I do not think that a 5 day Tday break is useful. The traditional Tday holiday that most other family members or students or faculty would have is Thurs and Fri. Adding Wed had some merit in making travel easier but I see no reason to add Mon and Tues.

Thanksgiving break is too long.

Summer is still too short. Having a week long break during Thanksgiving is interesting.

The week long TG break that close to holiday break doesn't make sense

don't need a full week Thanksgiving break

Too many break days during the semester.

With this calendar Thanksgiving break comes too close to the end of classes and much momentum would be lost. Also, orientation for freshmen is improved if it includes a weekend.

Although the full week off at Thanksgiving works well for me, since my annual conference always extends from Friday to Tuesday before Thanksgiving, I think it is overall very detrimental if what it means is that the semester extends both earlier and later. This cuts into research time, internships and jobs for our students, and aligns very poorly with the ICSD calendar. The ICSD calendar should be taken into strong account, especially for the spring semester because one of Cornell's key ways to lure excellent faculty is by a family friendly research institution and town; but especially for parents with young kids, the off-kilter calendars is a real stresser and has negative impact on morale. In the F2 scenario there is no benefit to students or faculty, it seems to me.

Again, it's shortens the winter break

Week-long Thanksgiving break is too disruptive.

A week off at Thanksgiving is disruptive for classes; it would be useful if it occurred in the middle of the semester, but it doesn't. The start of classes is still too early in August.

Keep the same thanksgiving break and the same final exam dates. Not to make the exams too close to Christmas.

F2 finishes too close to Christmas

Still starts too soon for those with children at school. Term is longer, and more exhausting for everyone.

Even though some students take thanksgiving week off, I think it's s mistake to have the whole week scheduled that way. Too many students will postpone work till then, seeing they have a whole week.

Fine proposal, but I prefer F1.

a 5-day TG break is too long a gap until what often would be only one and max. two weeks of classes after TG.

The thanksgiving break would be too long (5 days) considering how late in the semester it is.

The Thanksgiving break should not be a full week.

I am not in favor of the full week Thanksgiving break. It's far too long of a time off for students near the end of the semester. Local students will go home and sit around. International students and west coast students will stay on campus and have nothing to do.

A week-long break is pointless two weeks before the end of the semester. This only exacerbates the frustrations of international and west-coast students who regard it pointless to go home for Thanksgiving and then go home for

winter break a few weeks later.

Still starting too early on August and then ending later in the December seems a lose-lose situation. I don't like this proposed change.

Shortens winter break and no need for a full week of break for thanksgiving

A longer thanksgiving break disrupts the semester. An all-weekday orientation is unnecessary.

Two days don't help much. Don't like starting late in the week.

Weeklong break at Thanksgiving not needed.

Same as above

Not so keep on Thanksgiving break of a week; better to have those day for reading and exams (although I am much in favor of cutting reading and exams to 10 days.

too close to the winter holidays. not sure if post thanksgiving time would be used productively love the fact that exam period is shorter

Extends Thanksgiving break to 5 days, which does not seem needed (e.g., not common at other schools) and does so at expense of earlier start of semester which is problematic.

Combined the worst of all scenarios. Started them a week earlier in August and end them a few days before Xmas. A full week off for Thanksgiving week! Why? Does any other schools do that???

F2 shortens the winter break. The winter break is important for preparing for the spring semester and doing research.

I think having a week-long break so close to the end of the semester would be disruptive.

No need for week long Thanksgiving break at that point in semester

The two days extra for summer are good but dont matter much. However, the whole week for thanksgiving will bring everything to a complete halt. Students will invariably stretch it to a week and a half or even two. Not a good thing that late in the semester

Having a full week off less than 2 weeks before the end of classes is terribly disruptive to instruction. One loses the flow of instruction, and students' minds will be elsewhere. Do NOT do this.

one week off at Thanksgiving is not needed -- it will be too disruptive to class continuity and will adversely affect learning.

I do not like the idea of a longer Thanksgiving break - it will just make it that much harder to come back for the final push.

Too late. Don't need a whole week off for TG

This calendar lengthens the semester. It does very little to address the issue of starting early and it simultaneously extends the calendar into December. I don't see the benefit of taking a full week at Thanksgiving, and don't have problems with students missing class on Monday prior to Thanksgiving.

Please don't shorten the winter break - we need it for research! I'd also gladly start the fall semester earlier and have a full, week-long fall break. I believe that it would be beneficial for students.