

## S1AlumDisagree

Lining up February break with the Presidents Day holiday makes more sense than delaying it because it feels too close to the beginning of term. If you're trying to avoid that, start the spring semester earlier. Again, a shorter exam period is good, but spread out the study days. The placement of spring break doesn't matter - there is so much variation among schools anyway. The only thing to consider would be placement in reference to Easter/Passover, but it is often hard to encompass both of those in the same week, so it's better to ignore both than to favor one. Commencement over Memorial Day weekend is helpful for parents and relatives to have time off to travel and attend.

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February break currently aligns with Presidents Day federal holiday and Ithaca public schools holiday. Misaligning that break will cause difficulties for faculty and staff. Final exam period spans a Sunday without a break; 12-day exam period variation would be an improvement.

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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. Point number 4- 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 make it even worse than what they did my senior spring and I strongly oppose this for the reasons already stated. The only improvement I see here is moving back the February break by a week. However, the break in February was completely unnecessary in the first place and was probably more disruptive than productive. It came at a very bad time in the semester- classes had only just started so there was no need for a break, it really just ruined my momentum with studying, etc. Spring Break being pushed back was also a huge issue. The weeks leading up to Spring Break are always rather stressful, and a lot of assignments and exams occur. The old timing of Spring Break was perfect- right after a huge round of tests and was much needed. My senior year when they changed the calendar, it came way too late- I was beyond exhausted and stressed out because it was a much longer stretch than I was used to. It also messed up the scheduling of exams (especially in courses with three prelims) so that these exams were right when we returned from Spring Break. So not only did the break come too late at a point where I was way too stressed, but then I had to spend my Spring Break preparing for the exams I

was going to have as soon as I returned. It used to be that prelims just ended right as Spring Break began, so the break was very much welcomed and it was actually able to be a break. It also really disrupted the outdoor track schedule of meets (I was a student athlete). Also, as a note: for future, it would be helpful in these surveys to have a but more of an explanation as to where these "motivators" are coming from, and what is meant by "childcare days".

Moving the two breaks later might improve timing but it also reduced exam study time, which would be detrimental to student health.

I don't think the exam period should be shortened. Feb break is quite early in the semester and could be moved later.

Moving February break later is ok. I don't like reducing the study days before exams though.

Cutting down on studying days makes for poorer performance on finals.

The reduction of one study day during final exams period will be severely detrimental to all students.

I think study days are important. When everyone has a study day at the same time (as opposed to having chunks of time in the exam days free), then the net ambient stress always felt less, which led to better studying.

Having a spring break that does not align with most other colleges makes it hard to coordinate activities with friends who attend other universities. It also means that there may be activities that are offered during typical spring breaks that students at Cornell are unable to attend because class is in session.

Do not shorten exam/study days. It makes finals week unnecessarily compressed and, for seniors, somehow also turned into the shortening of senior days when this happened in 2015. Also, stop having both weekend days as viable testing day options. The Feb break is fine where it was.

It does nothing to improve the awkward spring break placement and does not address the fact that our finals/exam period is too long.

Having break during President's day is more convenient, even if it is early.

I don't see any benefit to starting a single day later. But shortening the study period by 2 days just to end 1 day earlier doesn't seem useful. As a student, I wanted the study+exam period to be as long as possible. When you have take home projects+exams that each take multiple days to complete, there were several times I used up all of the available time. Professors often make projects due on the last day of the study period, so shortening this period by 2 days make it more difficult to finish these projects on time. Time to study for exams was less of a concern for me during this period than was time to finish projects/take home exams. Personally, as a senior I would actually have preferred one more study day and one less "senior day" :)

Spring break is still too late. Would rather have no Feb break and have an earlier Spring break and then end the semester earlier.

Same reason as before

No, none of these changes make sense to me.

Only slight improvement, not worth changing

move spring break more in line with other schools

It seems that we lose a day or two of instruction (NYS) overall. I don't think creating two child care days balances with the supposed benefit of delaying February break (It just shuffles around four days of classes), but it certainly complicates matters for anyone with young children, primarily graduate students, faculty and staff. I disagree with the premise of shortening exam days; the exam period is long, but that is preferable to an increased need to resolve exam time conflicts condensing the time for recovery and study between exams (especially given how much weight they carry towards the overall grades)

I think moving the february break later is a good idea, it is too early. Again, I disagree that the study period is too long, and think it should at the very least stay the same length

This doesn't solve the major issues with the Spring calendar in my opinion. The main issue with Spring is how late

commencement is. This causes more issues than the "unusual" Spring break or the early February break.

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I don't think cutting study days is a good solution.

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Don't cut into childcare days for staff members.

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I cannot support a calendar that schedules seven consecutive days of exams, with no break.

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I like the space between the start date and the first break.

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February break is now too late... "Not enough time to prepare dorms for graduation" is a silly reason to change the schedule to inconvenience current students.

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It is more important to move spring break earlier than February break later.

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Study week/exam period already feels so cramped, there's no need to reduce it.

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February break, at any time, is a waste. The class schedule was significantly better before this was added. The loss of senior days was a big deal, and was caused by this break. Internships already start earlier than our final exam schedule ends. Delaying the end of final exams makes it even harder to find internships and jobs.

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The study break day in between exam days is important.

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Later end dates for spring semester makes less competitive student interns for the summer. Most other universities have earlier end dates which makes them more flexible for internships

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I always thought the study days were crucial and do not think they should be reduced. Breaks too close together

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Adding one Senior Day is a good idea but reducing the study/exam days is again unacceptable. These exams are stressful and difficult!

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I think it's important to have that Study Day during exam week, even if it's at the expense of an early February Break.

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What is the purpose of starting one day later? The spacing of breaks changed by moving February break by one week seems inconsequential.

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I do not like the idea of a shortened study period

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change is insignificant, spring break is still rather late

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Every day counts - creating more time to prep dorms is a solvable problem without changing the entire calendar for 25,000 people. Again, the graduation dorms prep should not be a strong consideration for a calendar change of this magnitude.

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February break is pointless. Just make Spring Break earlier. Keep the final study days.

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Do not cut study period. Everything else is fine.

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I would rather the February break align with a federal holiday or be eliminated completely since it cut back on senior week for my class. Exam period should not be reduced and I prefer the later Spring break because the weather was slightly better.

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Spring break still too late, awkward to have Presidents' Day when people would expect off and then a break a week later, exams too late

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"Time to prepare the dorms for graduation" should not be a deciding factor in the academic calendar. Don't cut study days!

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Slope Day is a study day, when it should be a class day. The break in the middle of study week is appreciated to prevent too many exams at once.

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Better to have February break aligned with presidents day

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Don't reduce study time, or time in May when weather is finally nice

February Break should fall over President's Day weekend. There is no reason why it should not coincide with President's Day weekend.

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No need for Feb break

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I like the moved break period, but I would keep a longer study/exam period, so I am in support of the variation.

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February break is too early, and it loses its purpose of being a break. Finals week is staggered strangely with a random study day on Friday, which would be overall ineffective as a study day

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Spring break needs to be in mid March

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Current February Break is well-positioned. Fewer class days before study period.

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The February break should follow the holiday.

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The only difference is really one less study day? Who would want one less study day?

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While February break is too early currently, I can't agree to a plan that shortens study period. That break was added during my college career, and most of us found it to be unnecessary anyway.

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I am proponent of having at least one study day half through to keep students from feeling too overwhelmed.

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I think the exam and study period needs to stay as is.

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Breaks are nicely spaced, but exam week is too condensed - students would be extremely stressed with having several finals in a short period of time.

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Reduced exam period

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Things I do not like about the S1 calendar: - Moving spring break to something that doesn't match most schools (prevents inter-school socialization) - February break is now too late Things I like about the S1 framework: - More senior days

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My primary objection is reducing the study days and exam period. Other than that I like the changes proposed by S1.

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The current Spring Break worked well with community service programs. I would prefer that to remain at the same time then have a later Feb break.

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We get out too late already, and I've had 3 internships which have been affected by late exams. Pushing Feb break back might be good, but I think we should start earlier..

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Like how study day is set up now. But appreciate one extra senior day!!

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Spring break is already unusually placed, please do not delay it even more February break should not be delayed

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The Spring Break is way too late, for one. I have found myself feeling the effects of burn out by the halfway point, so pushing it to week 11 is a bit too late. And not having the February break at the same time as the federal days off makes little sense--if I'm going home to visit family, or I'm visiting to see a friend, wouldn't you want that to be consistent across the board? The same can be said for trying to have consistent spring breaks across Universities.

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Makes spring semester very dissimilar to other peer institutional calendars

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No one travels for February Break anyway, because it's cold then, so it doesn't matter when it falls exactly. It's better to keep February Break early, and have a longer exam period.

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Spring break service trips are often during weeks that work for the majority of schools. Having an unusually-timed spring break would prevent students from being able to take part in those opportunities.

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People like to coordinate spring break with friends from other schools

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Study period should not be shortened.

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February break only makes sense because it falls on a popular holiday week; moving it makes it almost illogical.

I don't think moving the February break by a week has enough going for it to overcome the problems.

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Breaks are best if they incorporate existing holidays. S1 looks as if it misses the President's Day Holiday on February 19th. That would be a mistake because a break which includes a holiday allows students to spend time with their family and siblings if they choose to do so.