

## S3StaffUnsure

Shortening the winter break by two weeks denies administrative staff a much-needed quiet time to get caught up on work before starting another semester. Students and faculty use the winter break for a variety of activities. Students also need the gap to really relax and renew, especially the students who had a difficult fall semester. They need the time to shake it off before starting again.

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see above

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Jan 8 seems way too quick a start after semester break

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Bringing back students this early in January is going to drag them back to campus at a time that is historically cold and snowy. It also removes over a week of time that some administrative units use to prepare for the upcoming academic semester - a week that's used for system upgrades, clean-up from before break, etc. that need to happen while the campus population is sharply reduced. Moving Commencement as early as this plan suggests really doesn't make much sense.

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Spring break placement is good. The February break is not necessary. Classes start too early and commencement comes too early.

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Moving classes to January seems not to provide a real break for students.

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I think having a month long break in January is important. It give foreign students enough time to get home and relax before coming back.

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Students will hate that the semester starts so early. Commencement is much better. It would be a better option to start after MLK day but I realize the potential complication with Ithaca College's graduation.

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This calendar would cripple student parents, who would have to find childcare (or skip classes) during the public school April vacation week which would fall just at the end of classes (=peak crunch time). If you adopt this calendar it will send a clear message to ALL students (and faculty) with school-age kids that the University doesn't care about work-life balance. Cornell's spring breaks need to coincide with the local school district breaks to minimize stress (both financial and time constraints) on staff, faculty, and student parents.

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I volunteer to work commencement every year, I rather like it on Memorial Day weekend., it gives a day off after commencement to recover before going back to work.

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Reducing winter break so much would be devastating to the international-travel courses and service-community projects that Cornell offers now, including trips to Myanmar, India and South Africa. I strongly oppose this calendar option for that reason.

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Too early to return.

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Too short a winter break, particularly for international students who have to fight for space on flights and often take two travel days to get home. A longer winter break provides necessary rest after the end of the semester. Moving commencement is inadvisable. It is already a monumental feat to pull it off, and having it on a three-day weekend gives staff volunteers at least an extra day to recover.

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Disadvantage of having a break two days after classes start and this makes it more difficult for students that wish to work between semesters.

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Classes would start too early.

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Would interfere with our Nationals (Women's Equestrian).

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Among other things, departments and colleges hold academic reviews during winter break. This calendar would not allow sufficient time (especially paired with either of the proposed fall calendars) to hold those reviews and enact academic actions. I'm especially concerned about the situations in which students need to be placed on leave for the spring term. It also seems that this calendar would preclude faculty and students from participating in field work, courses, etc. over winter break. Finally, though I'm not a big fan of having Commencement during Memorial Day weekend, we do typically have wonderful weather; moving Commencement earlier may create more weather problems.

Moving up Commencement is attractive, but not at the expense of losing the Winter Intersession. If classes could start the day after MLK day, that would be an improvement.

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Start of semester is too soon.

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Too early for students to have had time to recover from stressful fall semester before returning for the spring semester. This is the worst option/scenario I have seen.

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Not sure moving commencement will work for so many families who have already made reservations.

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Starting classes in early January is too soon. This does not allot enough break time between semesters.

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Too complicated- too much happening

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Don't need two breaks.

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Not enough days for Monday classes (some laboratory classes only meet once a week). The term begins too early, making the winter break too short.

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Again, students do not like the Feb. break. A Spring break mid-way through the semester and an earlier graduation date is preferred.

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Coupled with either fall change, this schedule is a disaster for us; our staff would effectively be required to work during the winter break in order to ensure our labs were ready for the spring semester: we cannot restock them and inventory what is required, order materials - and more so, expect them to be delivered in time! - with two or three fewer weeks separating the semesters!

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I would agree with this only if the students were let out from Thanksgiving to New Year's. This way they would get the longer break in the middle. I wonder how it would affect employee holidays, though. All of the staff members that I know really appreciate having the entire week off before New Year's. I hope that can remain an employee break. Also, if commencement is earlier, how does that work with other (surrounding area) college commencement weekends? Will it cause problems for Commencement guests/visitors? Hotels and dining establishments overtaxed? Would be nice (as a staff member) to have Memorial Day weekend off, but at what price?

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It feels like the end of the month would have better weather for Commencement and more flexible move out times for those living off-campus.

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Depending on what is chosen for the fall semester, this could be a problem in terms of too little time to prep for the new semester.

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This revision would depend on how Fall calendar worked. If we work later in December then we as staff do not have enough time to prepare for Spring semester. or taking time away from the office. Most academic offices do not take vacation during the semester due to course loads and number of faculty being supported. An early graduation date seems nice but I do not think this works for all involved (faculty, staff and students). There again they would be given a really short holiday season break from December to January.

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Not enough time to complete fall grades and actions meetings for fall before the start of the new semester

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Better to have the end of classes prior to new years.

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see previous comments

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Keep winter break the length it is. If you start earlier it will impact the winter community-engaged learning service trips.

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You are not giving the students enough of a break in between semesters, some of them take winter classes so they can graduate: have you made allowances for that?

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The break between fall and spring semesters is important. Many students have the opportunity for international experiences in January. If the goal of the university is to have 50% of students have such experiences, time is needed during the academic year.

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I know of several people who teach during winter break. Knocking it down to 20 days, put's a lot of stress on the professor, also if the class is travel related, there is almost no time to do anything. Keep commencement on the Sunday before Memorial day! Not everyone who has a graduating child at Cornell has the liberty to take a lot of

time off to see their big day.

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I do not like this plan.

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Much reduced time for Facilities & Grounds to prepare campus for commencement with uncertain weather and springtime conditions.

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Students need study time.

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Between semester break too short MLK holiday in 1st full week of class is disruptive

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no way - winter break is then way short.

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Students need the break between semesters

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Full week break seems very late in the semester. Last day of classes on a Friday pushes us back into the issues with Slope Day occurring on a class day. I'm not sure trying to hold Slope Day on Saturday is realistic, especially because of all the volunteer needs and the mandatory staff needs.

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Complete craziness. Increases the winter travel and cold weather on-campus residence time during January. Higher energy use on campus. More expense to clear sidewalks, etc.

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This would be very difficult to start the semester so early. Students would not have time for winter break internships if they were trying to add more experience to resumes. International students might not be able to go home. Could contribute to mental health issues without a larger gap between fall and spring semesters.

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Eliminates Winter Session.

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I strongly dislike this option though the breaks are placed fine. To decrease the amount of time between semesters by 13 or 17 days is hugely disrespectful to staff. I, too, would like a longer summer, but not at the expense of a stressful end of semester then thrust into the holidays then thrust in to an insanely compressed schedule between semesters. I think this is a bad idea and everyone will be the worse for it (the ripple effect). Plus, it makes an assumption that faculty will also be absolutely ready for classes as soon as the new year hits and this is simply not the case. It is important to remember we need to focus on employee well-being, too, not just student well-being.

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Summer break is long enough, winter break shouldn't be shortened to make summer even longer.

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I hate the earlier start date. My job involves getting things ready for the semester, the early start would mean I wouldn't have enough time to do those preparations. Also for me personally, I value having a little longer respite from the busy-ness of the fall semester.

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The January 8th start date seems much earlier than peer schools.

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Start date too early Also if you don't have graduation during memorial day how will families use the holiday to come to graduation? Otherwise, they will have to use their precious vacation days. This is a huge population that becomes affected. I disagree with having graduation NOT on Memorial Day weekend. I was an undergrad and grad - so I have personal experience with this.

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January is the worst month for being on campus and will come with all sorts of problems for staff and faculty who have to travel from afar for classes, and also for students who have to move in during the worst weather of the year. I think that having a longer winter break is ideal for our weather and for the students to have a healthy and more study conducive environment. I have heard time and again that December is the worst month on campus because of how depressing the weather is. I also think that ending classes so early does not make any sense- the summer break will be excruciatingly long.

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To early for graduation and too early start date- they would not have a winter break at all! Really bad alternative.

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January time away is precious to staff. Also, quiet staff time in January is the way staff successfully prepare for student return. Otherwise, the Christmas week is threatened. Commencement, when is IC and TC3? EVERYTHING is jammed, hotels, restaurants, lodging . . . any overlap would cause frustration with whomever is the overlap. This is way too disruptive.

Semester starts too early.

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Term starts too early.

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Not enough break between Fall and Spring semester for students, staff and faculty to recharge batteries. Would eliminate the ability for students to do networking events, off campus opportunities like Birthright Israel, recruiting programs and fairs, shadowing opportunities, etc. Also when would Fraternity and Sorority Recruitment take place? During classes or starting New Year's Day? Just seems absolutely silly.

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Winter break could be as little as 2 weeks - that impacts having any winter session courses as well.

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Gives us very little time between semesters to prepare for Spring--assigning TA's; conducting Q-Exams. I know you mostly focus on the well-being of undergrads but graduate students use this time between semesters when there are no classes to take or teach in order to get some concentrated research done.

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This destroys the possibility of taking Winter-Session courses, and for students who live far away (more than a full day's travel) they need the long winter break to get there and back with time for family and rest in between, with some flexibility for catching flights or buses (\*everyone\* can't return to Ithaca the same day, given the lack of trains or major airport connections).

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This is too early. Come back the Wednesday after MLK day.

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Winter break is currently too long, but starting on January 8 is just way too early.

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Classes begin too early in Jan.

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too early start up

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PLEASE DON'T MOVE GRADUATION!!!

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Winter break is too short to catch up on intersession work and students will probably want to be away for a longer period of time.

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The winter break is too short, not enough time to decompress

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Results in too short of a break between Winter Break and students returning - 2 to 3 working weeks is vital to getting caught up on projects that get shelved while students are on campus.

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oh HELL no. We need that January time with students away in order to facilitate building maintenance.

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A much earlier start time does not give staff a chance to catch up after their own winter break.

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What will happen to winter session courses?

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Not a long time for winter break, break between semesters. Winter break also allows more time for staff to prepare for the spring term.

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this would eliminate Greek recruitment week or residence halls would be opening on January 3rd eliminating any staff training time. Would Slope day go back to being on a class day? weekend days don't work due to staff needed to work that event.

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Holding Commencement on Memorial Day weekend has worked for students and their families for years.

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Need winter break time for family.

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spring semester begins too early. colleges need the first couple of weeks in January to process their student actions based upon how they completed the fall semester.

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Makes winter break way too short. Graduation will be colder, potentially worse weather.

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Starting class that early, with RUSH even earlier would be a HUGE disruption, especially if combined with a later fall semester ending. I know many parents also depend on that Memorial day graduation to attend, even though it costs us staff a holiday weekend.

starts and ends too early

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what happens to January semester where there are commonly short foreign trips?

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Maintenance projects that cannot be scheduled while classes are in session often wait until the semester break. Ending fall later and starting spring earlier is going to make this already tight window even tighter. Projects won't happen until after commencement and alumni weekend and then you run into the end of the fiscal year.

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This makes for a very short January break.

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Moving Commencement 2 weeks ahead seems crazy. How does this help with the issue of getting the dorms ready for Commencement weekend?

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I agree with an earlier start, but starting two days before a day off doesn't make sense. Reduce study days by one, but keep study day in middle of period. It's needed for exams on the late days.

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S3 makes the students suffer more of Ithaca's winter and necessitates more winter commute for faculty and staff.

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I think students appreciate a longer winter break

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beginning semester quite early

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Moving Commencement two weeks earlier would require us to eliminate valuable courses that are taught (and can only be offered) during the intersession.

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No need for classes to start so early.

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make more of the semester in the miserable part of winter/early spring? possibly miss out on having any nice weather until finals? no thanks

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too early of a start

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The S3 Intersession is too short.

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Start is too early - pushes some start-of-semester processing back into December break and does not give adequate time to prepare for student return

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What would this do to the winter session?

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The current length of the between semester break is important for field classes.

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the winter break is too short.

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The semester starts too early.

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not long enough winter break

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With start date as early as Jan 8, how would January orientation run? FYSA's and Jan transfers would need to arrive on campus soon after Jan 1; staff returning from university holiday break would have limited time to get January move-in and check-in organized. Student orientation volunteers would need to conclude all preparation and volunteer training before break; not feasible.

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Having Jan. start so early after fall ends will cause a lot of problems at the start of the term since there will be very little time for staff and faculty to get ready for a new term. Students won't have a real break that they can really relax and have time with family.

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Winter term break will be too short

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The earlier start in January creates a very tight situation for academic grade review and sharing outcomes with students in a timely fashion. They might be back to campus and find out they have been asked to not return for the spring semester due to poor academic performance. It also does not provide adequate time for a spring orientation event.

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This calendar would eliminate winter session which is necessary for some students. It would also eliminate time for

service learning trips. For those of us who have to prepare for spring semester, it cuts down the amount of time for academic actions and to inform students if they are not able to return or even appeal an action by the department.

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Feb break is unnecessary

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Students count on winter break internship time and income from January jobs.

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too early of a start in January, especially since we have many international students who travel home, and undergraduate and graduate students who participate in field work during the longer winter break

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The semester start is too early; it will make preparations for the semester unduly rushed.

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Semester starts too early.