

## S4AlumDisagree

No. Should have a break b/w the start of the semester and spring break. 2 months straight is brutal.

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Enjoyed having an additional break in the spring semester outside of spring break. Moving commencement off of Memorial Day weekend is good though.

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Graduation should be kept on Memorial Day.

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Students need the long weekend in February to prevent student burnout

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I like having a short break in addition to spring break, as shown in the original calendar. It balances the semester out well. However, I like that all of the study days are together.

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Students need to have two breaks in the spring semester as it gives students an opportunity to recharge, especially given the academic stress and the more dreary weather in the spring semester.

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February break is very necessary for our sanity. The difference from without Feb break to with Feb break cannot be described. Start classes a week early, and graduate a week earlier. Keep spring break at the end of March/beginning of April

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Two breaks are needed in Spring semester

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February break was an important addition to the spring calendar - do not remove.

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I strongly liked the addition of the February break to help break up the long spell of academic days

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Skips Presidents Day federal holiday / Ithaca public schools day off. Too many unbroken 5-day weeks. Exam period spans a Sunday with no break.

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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 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 2- 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. Before, 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). While I think they schedule would have the breaks at better timings, I highly disapprove of reducing the exam period. As an athlete, I also want to voice concerns over moving the exam period so that championship games/matches/meets will now fall within the exam period instead of just the study days- which may not be something that was on people's minds when making the schedule. 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".

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Two breaks are absolutely needed for student mental health.

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Complicates things for IFC and PHC formal recruitment. February break is helpful and important for student mental health.

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February break is a necessity! Do not get rid of it!

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I think the february break was much needed

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Senior Week too short.

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The S4 framework looks too similar to the previous 2014 format, which often entailed two long lengths of intensive instruction, which was draining after week five of each half.

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Don't get rid of breaks. Don't force people to spend more time in Ithaca's winter. Longer days with sunlight are helpful for studying; don't shortchange the students. Additionally, when partial snow days did happen, I missed at least 3 different morning lectures of my favorite course--this is more likely to happen with more January days.

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The two days were removed. It was good having a long weekend to catch up with work.

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There needs to be at least a break of some sort before spring break because exams and assignments tend to be assigned weekly and some students may burnout easily from such an intense routine with little breaks.

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Keep the February Break.

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Having 2 breaks is important for the mental health of students.

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Need to have 2 breaks in a semester, spring break is now too early

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February break seems pretty necessary. Also this final stretch from spring break to finals is huge.

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Removing a break will increase anxiety

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Two breaks are necessary and important for students

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I think having two breaks during the semester is important for mental health.

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I disagree strongly with the removal of February break. There should be at least 2 breaks throughout the semester.

2 breaks in the spring semester are very important for students' mental health and anxiety.

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I like February break, but think it should be a 3-day weekend rather than a 4-day weekend. A 4-day weekend makes students feel they could/should leave campus for a long weekend. In some ways I believe that a 3-day weekend would encourage students to stay on-campus, but give them an extra day to catch up on work and/or take a breather day. I don't like how much earlier classes would start. I like having a nice long winter break. It allows time to recuperate after a stressful Fall semester, and/or do an externship, and/or travel. 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). I like that it would be the same length and set-up as the Fall semester. I definitely don't like that Senior days wouldn't be longer! Seniors deserve to celebrate and enjoy an extra day with their friends before heading off into the real world. I don't like that graduation weekend would be moved. It's a tradition for it to be Memorial Day weekend, even though it's late.

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Not as good as other options.

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I do not like the shortened winter break.

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Really dislike this one. There is only 1 break and it's just a week. The daily grind of a semester should have a little bit more of a break in there.

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Cornell is very stressful and having two breaks helps relieve some of that stress. When I was a freshman in 2013 and didn't have a February break it felt like I was at school for long periods of time without seeing my family and I didn't like it.

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See my comments on S1 and S3. This calendar is perhaps the least beneficial thus far.

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Winter session is important!

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Need another break or long weekend

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Same as previous. Memorial Day Commencement works well.

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I think February break is necessary.

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No February break means 2 stretches of more than a month without a break.

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February break IS necessary. What would happen to January/winter term? I'm not a fan of shortening winter break.

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I think it is nice to have two breaks in a semester.

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Our summer break already begins on the early side -- if it's made longer it should be on the other end (this would be more useful for summer internships)

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Love everything about this but keep the february break and shorten the semester.

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I think having a second spring semester break is necessary.

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Two breaks is important.

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Again, against shortening winter break, bad for morale

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coinciding memorial day weekend and commencement is important for families that may not be able to take time off. two breaks are important!

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Same issues as S3, but now spring break isn't even in a good spot. Short winter break, bad graduation weekend.

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Again, due to the reduction in winter break days and because, although the Feb break seemed poorly placed and unnecessary when it was first introduced, I think it would be good if it were repositioned rather than eliminated totally.

Winter break becomes too short

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February break always came at a time when students really needed the break/ a long weekend to go home

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February break is necessary, extended winter break is better

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That's a really long time without a break after cutting the winter break.

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February break is important as it provides a gap in the long semester.

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Strongly disagree. Don't try to students back to campus early!!! They deserve to have more time on campus when the weather is nice in May!!!!!!!

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Strongly disagree. Classes start too early, and there aren't enough breaks. Too stressful, especially in the winter.

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Shifting the semester up like this adds in January and loses in May, dropping the average class day temperature significantly. Many of my more positive memories were later in the year, when people would actually want to go outside. One break probably isn't enough.

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I like two breaks. Freshman year was very long only having a week in the middle. I prefer shorter breaks, more often. I do like the start date and end date though.

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This calendar cuts the holiday break too short, and does not provide a study day during finals. The designers clearly do not care about students' stress levels and mental health.

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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. February Break has always been way too close to the start of the semester. It provides little respite from classes as they have barely started at that point. However, two breaks are important to have, they just need to be spaced out better.

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A 2 day break is very useful and absolutely worth keeping in the schedule

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The February break is necessary.

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February Break was great for sanity.

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February break is essential.

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February break IS necessary. Cornell fosters an extremely stressful and high pressure work environment, and it is in the best interest of student's mental health to offer that break. Further, I believe the semester starts too early for students.

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Too long periods without a break stressed me out.

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This schedule allows for very long stretches of classes. A second break is needed.

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I liked starting later and graduating over Memorial Day weekend.

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NO. STUDENTS NEED FEBRUARY BREAK.

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You need 2 breaks.

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2 breaks is a good break from classes

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Would rather live with the summer vacation starting later than have to deal with these changes (apart from moving the spring break closer to normal times which is a good idea).

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No. You should keep the 2 breaks.

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long winter break and two breaks during spring are preferable

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I think February break is important. However, the earlier termination of spring semester is an improvement.

Two breaks are necessary.

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A single mid-semester break is not sufficient.

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February break seems useful in the spring to make it more similar to the fall schedule. Having two breaks was helpful in terms of balancing work and travel

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Commencement should be Memorial Day weekend as it makes move out easier. Same comments about needing later January start for recruitment and sports teams training. February break was a fantastic addition, do not remove it!

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Need 2 breaks in the spring

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Earlier in May is a bad idea or commencement - It's more difficult to get to Ithaca not on a long weekend. It is also colder and more likely to have bad weather. Also two breaks are needed.

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Too long for students to go without a break. Commencement will be on Mother's Day.

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It's nice to have two breaks. I think it motivates students.

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OK with removing February break but again if you are going to remove that to save days there is no reason to not extend study/exam period two more days

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Definitely need two breaks Spring Semester.

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Removing the break would be detrimental to the well-being of students. I remember my freshman (and maybe sophomore?) year not having a break other than Spring Break, and the semester felt unbearably long. I also felt like I had harder classes in the Spring, so having a few days off to catch up was also very helpful. Having a Feb break was also helpful as a senior who was applying to jobs, and helped me leave campus to interview without missing as much class.

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Students will die trying to get to class in -2 degrees during the second week of January.

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I prefer a longer Christmas break over a longer summer break. S4's spring break is too early in March. I preferred the current atypical later spring break.

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February break is definitely necessary.

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The addition of Feb Break was really good for mental health!

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I liked the current spring schedule a lot when I was at Cornell. I have the same reasoning as I've mentioned regarding other calendars.

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**DO NOT REMOVE FEBRUARY BREAK!!** It is very important for students to have that break, especially if it is a very cold winter and give them a chance to unwind and destress.

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I think this is the earliest start for the semester allowing time for Greek students to hold recruitment before the semester start. I do not at all like that there is only one break. Breaks are beneficial to students' mental health. Only one break during the semester makes the weeks of class quite long and stressful chunks. This is also a rather early Spring Break.

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Not enough breaks - which are essential to maintaining personal health and well-being while studying at a highly demanding university.

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late Feb break is good. I do agree with the earlier Jan start though (just not as early as S3)

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Memorial day weekend is a good time to have commencement because families often already have the day off from work. Do not get rid of February break, do not cut exam period down.

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I like the 2-day break in the Spring semester

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despite a week off in the middle, there are some long stretches without time off beyond a weekend.

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Winter break should not be shortened and commencement should not be moved earlier.

I found this taxing when I was there. Even if it is just a three day weekend instead of two week days off, one very short break before spring break makes a huge difference in mentality. Spring always feeling harder and much longer than fall semester.

A February break is necessary, particularly at the end of the first round of prelims. It helps students recharge and relax. Having classes for 8 weeks in a row with no breaks can be tiresome and cause undue stress.

Not enough time off for students

It is not necessary to end classes so early and it removes a lot of the breaks that students value

Only one break, which isn't during Easter weekend, and adds more classtime in January, when classtime in May is much preferred.

Too few senior days, earlier start okay and February break likely not necessary.

I like the start date for this new proposed calendar. I think the week of Jan 15th is excellent. However I do not like that the February break is removed. I think a couple of days off during the academic year really helps to reduce stress levels. It is nice that the new calendar commencement is May 14th, but not necessary at the expense of a couple break days earlier in the year.

February break is good!!

I prefer the current spring semester calendar. I do not find a May 24th commencement too late, and I enjoy having more time in between semesters.

Please. No. Just no.

Not enough breaks but like that study days go into week days. Senior week is too short.

February break was necessary. I felt burnt out my first year that did not have the extra break

No, we need a break. Even if it's only a couple days.

Again, no. Not only is winter break shortened, there is no February break. Students need some time to de-stress.

Though I never understood why we had a February break, I did enjoy the mental break. Moving it a week later seems nice and you could even make it one day, but it doesn't need to go away altogether.

I had February break in my last year at Cornell and did not feel like it added much value. However, I think having commencement during Memorial Day weekend is good for parents and families who have to come to Ithaca. Also, the weather is nicer in late May than early May in Ithaca.

starts too early, no time for recruitment

No February break is a horrendous proposal. Whoever came up with this plan either had a joke major or went to a joke school.

Terrible idea to minimize time in May when it's finally warm while making students return earlier in a January when it's terribly cold

A longer winter break is useful for travel, externships, and other extra study. I would definitely not shorten it, otherwise it becomes useless.

It's just gross.

I like having two breaks. I don't mind being in school through Memorial Day weekend.

It's extremely helpful to have 2 breaks over the semester.

I like the start date better than S3, but don't like that it gets rid of the February break. I felt that was necessary, and having it my senior year really improved the semester compared to previous years.

I was really excited my senior year when Feb break was added to the calendar. I think it makes the semester more similar in composition to the Fall with a shorter break and longer break.

February break was a necessary mental/school break.

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We need two breaks.

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I think that many students did appreciate having February break, especially since the spring semester often seems more stressful than the fall semester (probably because students do not have a fresh start after several months of a break from classes). While the earlier semester start and end dates presented here seem ideal for accommodating both winter courses and summer jobs, it might be good to consider a similar start date with a February break, later spring break, and slightly later end date.

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Do not remove the middle break or reduce exam period, this is stressful for students. As previously stated, Memorial Day is a good weekend for families to travel for Graduation.

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February break is absolutely necessary to mental health of the students. A break to breath, have fun, and catch up on work is so important. Even if it just lets someone finally get around to cleaning their room and going grocery shopping, the break is needed.

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Same reasons as before, this forces everyone to be in Ithaca on the coldest days of the year, and it is hard for families to travel to graduation.

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As a student I really appreciated having at least 2 breaks in Spring so no this does not help anyone in my perspective. Improvements on Exam Dates: 2 study days, 3 exam days, 2 study days, 4 exam days. So there is time in between to adequately prepare depending on how exams are scheduled. In this case I would want a 2 day Feb break either Feb 13 or Feb 20, and then Spring Break March 19-25

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two breaks are needed to handle the stress and reset mentally and physically

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It's too early to go back in mid-January. It's so cold. But it's ok that there is no February break, it was very awkwardly placed. With spring break in the middle, it will help when it is not so late.

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No February break

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I believe two Winter breaks is important for managing stress in the Spring semester. Losing the study time is also a negative for me, as I found it very helpful during exams. This also cuts into Winter break, which I am not a fan of.

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February Break is necessary. Spring Break is too short to make up for leaving it out. The small break provides a necessary breather. A longer Winter Break is good, especially for Winter Session classes and short internship/externship opportunities.

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Feb. Break is a good respite for most students. Getting out so early in the summer will not allow most students to do more with their summer (most internships/positions will not allow starting so early.)

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I preferred a longer semester with a short February break.

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Same as before

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Like having a longer winter break. Also felt that the February break was needed.

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February break is a necessity.

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Unless you are planning to give out fewer final exams, Please Do Not shorten exam preparation time.

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same as S3

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I like we start later and avoid the worse weather in January. Additionally, I'm supportive of the study day half way through exam period.

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I completely disagree with removing February break. It is needed by all students to break up the dark month of February and definitely promotes mental well-being. However, I agree with starting the day after MLK Day. Add the February break and push graduation back one weekend and, in my opinion, the ideal spring term calendar would be created. I do not think shortening / eliminating the breaks and study weeks at all cost to fit graduation in before Ithaca College's would promote student satisfaction and welfare and it is therefore not advisable.

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Don't think it needs to end any earlier than it already does.

Very helpful to have 2 breaks

Starting on the Tue after MLK holiday is great, but there should still be a Feb break. If Feb break is added to this calendar, spring break could be pushed back, finals week could be longer, Senior Days could be extended back to 1 week, and commencement could be back on Memorial Day weekend.

No February break

The loss of February break

Things I dislike about S4 Calendar: - Lack of February break; at least give them a day off

Ok I thought I didn't like S3, but I really don't like S4. 1) Condensed exam and study periods are a negative. 2) Moving more class days to January is a negative in my opinion (Ithaca weather kind of sucks in January, not so much in May). 3) The February break is necessary.

There should be two breaks! For my first three years, we only had one spring break and it was a loooooong semester. Seven full weeks without a break felt like forever!

Starting classes earlier in January is not a bad idea, but getting rid of the February break would be awful. Whatever you do, don't go back to the old calendar where there was no Feb break. It was horrendous. 8 full weeks of classes just to end a little earlier? no thanks

I like the February break. I just think it's too early.

No February break doesn't seem to make much sense if you're not replacing it with anything else.

The February break, while not traditionally present, is important for students' stress levels. Otherwise, same reasons as S3.

I found February Break quite useful to giving students a break. I don't support removing it.

jan break too short, not enough break days.

I think students need a February break at some point in spring semester. It is mentally taxing and the weather makes it more difficult for students. I think a break gives students the opportunity to recharge during the semester in order to perform their best. I do like having the earlier graduation date.

February break is necessary.

Two breaks are necessary

February break while early, provides a much needed mental health break from the vicious Ithaca winter couple with intense classes. Eliminating it would potentially cause burn out and stressed students

Need to have the February break.

Commencement on Memorial Day is great for families traveling and means to additional vacation days need to be taken. Parents can help kids move out and enjoy the full long weekend on the campus.

This would feel rushed and more challenging than fall semester, where students are used to having 2 breaks.

no Feb break

february break is important

February break is a good addition but it is too early.

My comments regarding graduation hold from the S3 framework. I think having a February break is important for morale.

Nope- same issues as S3- forcing greek recruitment too early in January and making students endure more cold and icy Ithaca in exchange for less days off? Doesn't make sense. Also graduation will conflict with every other college ever



Students need a February break. I remember I had the luxury of having a February break and not having it. I certainly enjoyed have two different breaks than having just one long spring break.

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February break is necessary for mental sanity

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I think that February break has been beneficial and generally lowers stress levels. I think removing it would not be helpful.

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February break needs to stay in the calendar.

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It might be harder for family to come to a graduation that doesn't coincide with a holiday

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I thought the whole point of adding this new February Break (like 3 years ago or whatever it was) was to give 2 breaks Spring Semester, so students don't have to go so long without a break...

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I disagree with removing February break completely. This is a valuable break for students and it will help parents deal with childcare issues over President's Day.

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February break is necessary.

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Please don't remove Feb Break!

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only one break?

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Again, externships are available during the longer winter break.

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Study period should not be shortened.

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Way too long without a break

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The February break was added after important mental health needs became clear. Having more than one break is essential, especially after a shortened winter break.

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February break is necessary. Why can't the two semesters look identical?

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That's a long stretch of classes without a break in the dead of winter.

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I think the two breaks are beneficial to students and taking one away makes the semester feel very long/stressful

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Keep February break

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"As Cornell Alum, I believe that had I been a student after this change my Cornell experience would have been drastically worse. Having a long break between the fall semester and the spring semester was critical for my mental health. I needed this time to relax, recover from the previous semester, and get ready, excited and motivated for the coming semester. I believe it would be very bad for students to change the academic calendar in any way that shortens the break between semesters.