

**Academic Calendar Exploration and Feasibility Analysis (ACEFA)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Q: *Why is a transition to a compressed semester calendar being considered now?*

A: A combination of factors led to the decision to seriously consider this option at this time. The factors include declining enrollment in our district, recent budget cuts resulting in fewer staff members, the new State general apportionment funding formula (Student Centered Funding Formula or SCFF), state regulations that allow for two 16-week semesters, rather than just the options of two 18-week semesters or three 12-week quarters, and the decision by the CSU system to transition all of its campuses to the semester system,.

Q: *What is a compressed semester? Are there other community colleges on compressed semester?*

A: A traditional semester-based academic year calendar consists of two 18-week semesters. Compressing a semester typically means altering the academic schedule from an 18-week semester to a 16-week semester (the minimum mandated by CCR, Title 5 Section 55701) without loss of instructional time in the classroom. Most community colleges convert to 16 weeks to better align their schedules with 4-year institutions. Of the 114 community colleges in California, 64 have converted to a compressed semester calendar, 47 are on a traditional semester calendar, and three (Foothill, De Anza, and Lake Tahoe) are on the quarter calendar.

Q: *Will we have a winter intersession if we move to semesters?*

That will be a local (district level) decision we will have to make. The California Community College Chancellors Office regulations govern the academic calendar configurations we can use for our primary terms (either three quarters or two semesters). Each district can make a local decision regarding whether or not to offer courses in a winter intersession, in one summer session, or even in two summer sessions. Any enrollment from a potential winter intersession or additional summer session(s) would be reported to the state and would contribute to our funding from the state.

Q: *Who is pushing for a semester calendar?*

A: No one is pushing for a semester calendar. The members of the task force will be gathering data and feedback about the options and fairly weighing the pros and cons of such a decision. You will have multiple opportunities to provide input into this decision. This review will take the full 2019-20 academic year, at least.

Q: *When will the change to semesters happen?*

A: We have not decided to change to semesters. But, if the recommendation to Chancellor Miner is that we move to a compressed semester calendar, that transition would take multiple years (TBD) to complete. The timeline is also part of the research this year.

Q: *How many classes will each faculty member teach per semester or per year if we move to semesters?*

A: Faculty workload and “load factors” will have to be re-negotiated, so there is no simple answer to this. Currently, workload for instructional faculty depends on the number of lecture hours and lab hours taught each week, and that would be the basis for scheduling under a new system. The exact details of workload will depend on the course outlines of record and the re-negotiated load factors.

Q: *Will faculty and staff be compensated for the additional work involved in a possible move to semesters?*

A: The District recognizes that moving to semesters will involve a significant amount of work. Any decisions about additional compensation can occur once we know whether a change is recommended and the scope of the work involved.

Q: *Who is serving on the task force?*

A: Please refer to the list of members of the Task Force in the attached document.

Q: *How do employees give input into this discussion?*

A: The Task Force recognizes how important it is to collect information and feedback from many varied perspectives and to understand the effects, both positive and negative, of any change in our academic calendar. Starting in Winter quarter, the Task Force will be planning multiple opportunities for employees to provide input. Announcements of those opportunities will be provided in advance.