

Fall Break Proposal

Introduction: Mental health and wellness continue to be important issues on our campus and on campuses nationwide. Especially for first year students, having the opportunity to visit home, decompress, catch up on work, or just rest, can have a huge impact on their academic success and personal well-being. A short fall break would provide that opportunity and break up the semester into chunks without disrupting classes and losing school days. Adopting this proposal is not unprecedented in higher education, 65% of our benchmark institutions have a fall break, lengths differ but most are two days.

What: A change in the academic calendar to implement a Fall break on the Thursday and Friday of the 8th week of the Fall semester.

When: Begin Fall 2019 and continue thereafter.

Details:

- To make room for the two day break classes would begin on a Monday instead of Wednesday.
 - Coincides with a reshaping of the first year experience on campus in regards to K Week activities and early move in.
 - Starting class on a Monday helps set an academic standard for first year students so that, right away, they know they are here first and foremost to learn and attend classes.
 - Reduces the chances of student conduct issues happening during the first week of school.
- Classes that will lose a day on the Thursday or Friday will be able to make it up on Monday and Tuesday – once the standardization of TR and MWF classes sets in this will not be an issue.
- Residence Halls would remain open.
- Endorsed by Associate Provost for Student and Academic Life Greg Heileman and Dean of Students Nick Kehrwald.
- Endorsed by the Student Government Association Senate.