Calendar Principles for Academic Years 2015-2016 through 2020-2021

**General:**

1. Maintain 15 weeks of instruction plus one week of final exams for fall and spring semester.
2. Maintain no fewer than 74 days of instruction per fall and spring terms.
3. 3-credit MWF lecture/recitation classes during fall and spring semesters shall normally meet 50 minutes per class period (2200 total minutes of instruction per semester.)
4. 3-credit TR lecture/recitation classes during fall and spring semesters shall normally meet 75 minutes per class period (2250 total minutes of instruction per semester.)
5. Provide nine University holidays per year in accordance with merit system contract provisions.
	1. Refer to the university’s Holiday Policy for appropriate holidays: <https://www.policy.iastate.edu/policy/holidays>
	2. Note. When January 1 falls on a Saturday, the New Year’s Day holiday will be observed on Friday, December 31.
6. Balance, as much as possible, M-T-W-R-F classes.
7. Maintain a final examination week with a M-F format for fall and spring semesters.
8. In accordance with the university’s Holiday Policy and Iowa Code Section 1C.2, “When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the Friday preceding will be declared the holiday. When any holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday will be declared a holiday.”

**Fall Semester:**

1. Start fall semester on the latest day possible given the following constraints.
2. Have no classes on Labor Day.
3. Have a full-week break at Thanksgiving.
4. Hold commencement no later than December 21 for fall semester.
5. Schedule at least a three-week break between fall and spring semesters.

**Spring Semester:**

1. Begin spring semester classes on the second Monday of the calendar year (i.e., no earlier than Jan. 8.)
2. Schedule spring break the week of the eleventh Monday of the calendar year to coincide with other Regent University spring breaks.
3. Hold commencement no later than May 11 for spring semester.
4. Schedule a one-week break between spring semester and summer session.
5. Maintain at least fifteen weeks between the end of spring semester and start of fall semester.

**Summer Session:**

1. Schedule a twelve week summer session.
2. Encourage flexible scheduling in the summer to include an eight-week Session I and an eight-week Session II, with Session II starting four weeks after Session I.
3. Have no classes on Memorial Day.
4. Have no classes on July 4; if July 4 falls on a Saturday, have no classes on July 3; if July 4 falls on a Sunday, have no classes on July 5.
5. Hold summer commencement at the end of Session II.
6. Schedule at least a two-week break between summer session and fall semester.

**Calendar approval review cycle:**

1. The current calendar principles provide guidance for calendar development through Summer 2015.
2. The calendar principles shall be reviewed on a six-year cycle.
3. Review of these calendar principles will commence during Spring Semester 2011.

Update History:

* January 27, 2012
* Updated on March 19, 2021, to include E.a, E.b., and H under General guidance.