

NEW TYPE OF ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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A four term academic year which differs significantly from the conventional quarter system has been adopted by The Pennsylvania State University. The new plan which went into operation June 15, 1961, consists of four terms of 10 weeks each during a year. Under the plan the typical academic day is divided into six class periods of 75 minutes each instead of eight periods of 50 minutes as found under the old semester system at Penn State. A three credit course meets three times per week for a total of 225 minutes per week or 2250 minutes for the entire term.

Classes begin at 8:00 a.m. and continue until 5:10 p.m. with 20 minute intervals between classes.

This four term calendar is a modification of what is traditionally called the "quarter system". Formerly Penn State offered two semesters of 15 weeks each plus a 12-week summer session. Provision is made under the new system for special courses for elementary and secondary school teachers to be offered which would run from one to six weeks in length.

Penn State made the change from the traditional semester plan to the four 10-week term plan in order that it might better serve the educational needs of the people of Pennsylvania by having a year-round operation.

In the College of Agriculture most curricula require 140 semester hour credits for graduation. Under this new plan undergraduate students may schedule a maximum of 13 credits per term. Full-time graduate students may schedule up to one credit per week or a maximum of ten per term.

Although sufficient time has not elapsed for any real conclusions to be made for or against this new plan, it is expected that the following advantages will emerge:

1. Students may accelerate their program and qualify for a degree in three calendar years.
2. Students who need to interrupt their studies could re-enter at more frequent periods than heretofore.
3. Many faculty members will teach only three terms, others four, depending upon the instructional needs of the various departments.
4. Students will schedule fewer courses per term, thus they can give greater concentration to their course work than was possible under the old semester system.
5. Since greater use of the University facilities will be made, a larger number of students can be accommodated during the year than during the former plan.
6. Terms are scheduled so as to avoid minimum disruptions by holidays.

For example the dates for the 1961-62 terms are as follows:

Summer Term	June 15 - August 24
Fall Term	September 25 - December 7
Winter Term	January 3 - March 17
Spring Term	March 28 - June 8

During the 1961 Summer Term courses in agricultural education for graduate students were offered which varied in length from one week to three weeks. The courses were so arranged that a teacher could attend for as little as one week or if he took a succession of courses, he could attend for ten weeks. We feel this arrangement best meets the needs of our teachers.