



CAL POLY

Office of the President

Note: A change was made to reflect that the Registrar will send a proposed calendar for AY 2027–28, not AY 2028-29.

Faculty, Staff and Students,

As we enter the final period of the academic year — and our final quarter before transitioning to a semester system in San Luis Obispo — I'm excited to share an update about our academic calendar.

Last fall, I convened a task force to review CAP 211, our Academic Calendar Policy. Our calendar is a foundational document that shapes nearly every aspect of campus life, from instructional days to breaks and holidays.

I am grateful to the task force — led by Special Advisor to the Provost Cheryl May and Director and Project Manager of Semester Conversion, Philosophy Professor Dr. Rachel Fernflores — for developing clear, inclusive criteria to guide future calendars.

Representing a diverse cross-section of both campuses, the group worked through multiple calendar options, weighing complex requirements related to accreditation, regulation, the transition to semesters, U.S. Coast Guard and Summer Sea Term requirements, collective bargaining agreements and the planned implementation of a year-round model. The recommended approach reflects this careful analysis and is designed to best support student success. The result of their work includes a draft CAP 211 policy, which has been recently reviewed by the CAP Committee and is posted on the CAP [Policy Updates](#) webpage through April 2026.

In the coming days, the Registrar's Office will follow its established process by sharing a proposed academic calendar for AY 2027–28 and seeking input from appropriate campus constituencies.

Some of you may recall a [2024 message](#) regarding calendar planning. The direction outlined in that message remains unchanged today. As I noted then, our calendar will evolve in phases as part of our plan to expand access to more students via year-round operations.

With that in mind, I would like to share a brief update on our progress:

- Vice President of Strategic Initiatives Jessica Darin is leading efforts for year-round operations and will share an update in the coming weeks.
- Academic Affairs is identifying early adopter academic programs and developing implementation plans.
- Teams including faculty, staff and administrators have visited peer universities that are successfully operating year-round to learn from their models and experiences.
- Strategic Enrollment Management conducted surveys, which indicate a strong interest from students and parents for participating in a summer semester, particularly to increase access to internships, study abroad, service learning and other opportunities.

Additional planning and forecasting efforts are underway to assess the operational changes and resources required to support a year-round model. Cross-campus project teams also are being formed to support this critical initiative.

We recognize that misconceptions about “year-round operations” persist. The term can suggest that students and faculty will be required to study or teach continuously throughout the year, which is not the case. Our model envisions three academic terms per year, with students typically enrolled in two terms and able to use their third term for internships, co-ops, study abroad, research or other pursuits. Likewise, faculty will teach two terms with the third being optional.

What remains clear is the strong demand for a Cal Poly education and the need for expanded access and opportunities for more students to engage in meaningful Learn by Doing experiences. As work progresses, we remain committed to a shared governance model and will continue seeking input from across our campuses to ensure we move forward both thoughtfully and with appropriate urgency.

Thank you for all you do to support Cal Poly.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Armstrong

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