

The commissioner shall establish and periodically update a common calendar for Texas public universities and community, technical, and state colleges. The commissioner may grant waivers to the common calendar to benefit students and/or to improve the efficient operations of the institutions. A public university or community, technical, or state college that begins its fall and spring semesters and its first summer term within seven days of the date set by the common calendar is in compliance with the common calendar and does not require a waiver. *19 TAC 4.5(a)–(b)*

Fall and Spring Semesters

A semester normally shall include at least 15 weeks for instruction and one week for final examinations or a total of 16 weeks for instruction and examinations combined. Every fall semester will end before Christmas but not later than December 23. *19 TAC 4.5(c)*

Summer Session

The summer session shall be considered an integral part of the college year, and maximum use should be made of the summer session. Each of the two summer terms shall include no less than five-and-one-half calendar weeks including registration, instructions, and final examinations. Colleges may register students for a six-semester-credit-hour load for each five-and-one-half week summer term. Colleges and universities may schedule summer enrollment periods longer or shorter than five-and-one-half weeks, but the amount of credit given must be proportional. *19 TAC 4.5(d)*

Other Dates

Each college and university shall establish its own dates for orientation, registration, holidays, final examinations, and the end of each semester and summer term consistent with the provisions above. *19 TAC 4.5(e)*

Utilization of Facilities

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to preclude experimentation and innovation by any institution looking toward full utilization of facilities on a year-round basis. *19 TAC 4.5(g)*