

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The Cornell academic year follows a semester system, consisting of a fall and a spring semester, both of which include a final exam week. Each semester must be a minimum of 14 weeks of instruction, yet must combine in fall and spring to a minimum of 30 weeks of instruction. Instructional periods/terms include fall, winter intersession, spring, and summer. In all academic terms, variable-length, short-session courses are available, and meet the same total contact (class) hours as in a standard semester. See the policy on Defining and Assigning Credit Hours (<https://vpe.enrollment.cornell.edu/credit-hours/>) for additional information.

The university bylaws define the academic year as the approximately nine-month period beginning two working days before registration in the fall term and ending on the last day of final examinations in the spring term.

The summer period is defined as the period between the last day of one academic year and the first day of the following academic year. Summer courses carry full credit because classes meet the same number of contact hours as in the standard fall or spring semester.

For the current Academic Calendar and other important dates, see Key Academic Dates (<https://registrar.cornell.edu/calendar/>) on the University Registrar's website.

2025-2026 Academic Calendar

Fall 2025

Date	Event
August 25	Instruction Begins
September 1	Labor Day - No Classes
October 11	Fall Break Begins
October 13	Indigenous Peoples' Day
October 15	Instruction Resumes
November 26	Thanksgiving Break Begins
December 1	Instruction Resumes
December 8	Last Day of Instruction
December 9-11	Study Period
December 12-20	Scheduled Exams
December 21	December Recognition Ceremony
December 31	December Degree Date

Winter 2025-2026

Date	Event
January 2	Winter Session Instruction Begins
January 16	Winter Session Instruction Ends
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / Holiday / No Classes

Spring 2026

Date	Event
January 20	Instruction Begins
February 14	February Break begins
February 18	Instruction Resumes
March 28	Spring Break Begins
April 6	Instruction Resumes
May 5	Last Day of Instruction

May 6-8	Study Period
May 9-16	Scheduled Exams
May 22-24	University Commencement Weekend

Some programs, including Johnson MBA Programs, Law School, and College of Veterinary Medicine have different academic calendars. Please review the respective program pages for specifics. Calendar dates are subject to change.