Spring academic calendar / timing changes to accommodate an earlier commencement
Purpose

• Institute goal is to make adjustments to the IAP and/or spring term academic calendars to enable a longer summer period and move Commencement into late-May most years.

• Three options were presented and after presenting to the MIT community (students, faculty, staff) and collecting feedback one option was chosen.

• This option was presented to the faculty as a motion on March 20 and for a vote on April 17 for implementation during the 2019-20 Academic Year. It was approved.
Institute Advantages

• Enables graduating students to begin jobs and internships on June 1.
• Enables graduating students living off campus to avoid extending their lease for the month of June
• Reduces time students spend between the end of exams and the commencement ceremony
• Allows Graduate Residence Tutor’s to have more opportunities for internships/jobs since they are required to remain in their dorms until commencement
• Dorms and living groups can rent rooms in summer for longer
• Possibly increase faculty participation in commencement
Summary of the chosen option

• IAP stays the same but Spring Reg Day is moved to the last day of IAP (Fri. 1/31).

• First day of spring classes is on Monday (2/3) instead of Tuesday.

• Tuesday of Patriots' Day weekend in April is no longer a class holiday.

• Last day of classes is two days earlier (Tues. 5/12)

• Four days of finals (instead of five) that straddle a weekend. First day is on Friday 5/15 and the next three on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of final exam week (5/18 – 5/20).
• Grade deadline for all subjects that do not have a final exam scheduled by the Institute is only three days after the end of classes (5/18).

• The Drop-dead grade deadline moved to noon on Friday (5/22) of final exam week instead of the Tuesday after Memorial Day.

• Shorter administrative time after finals (from 12 to 7 days)
Effect on the Department schedule

1. Registration Day coincides with the last day of IAP on Friday (1/31) and moves the first day of classes to Monday (2/3)

- Students and advisors will need to find their own mutually available times to meet and register prior to the deadline rather than having a dedicated day free of classes. The registration deadline remains the same (Friday 2/7).

- Studio presentations can not be held on Reg Day because of on going IAP classes and to accommodate students that may be traveling for IAP workshops. The first time students are guaranteed to be available for studio presentations would be during the first scheduled studio period, Tuesday 1-5 PM, on the first week of classes (2/4).
2. Shifting of the last day of classes to Tuesday (5/12)

• Removing one of the Patriots Day holidays in combination with the first day of classes held on a Monday instead of Tuesday will push the last day of classes to the Tuesday of the last week of the term. This causes the three days of graduate studio final review to straddle the weekend. This will shift Option studio reviews to Friday (5/8) and Tuesday (5/12) and Core 2 on Monday (5/11).

• The final day for required M.Arch subjects, or workshops with enrolled M.Arch, to submit papers, hold presentations, exams, reviews, etc would be moved back to Friday (5/1), to preserve the Department mandated 6 day cushion period prior to the first final studio review.

- Thesis reviews for SMArchS, SMBT, BSAD & MArch will need to be moved earlier to Wed. 5/13, the day after the last day of class and two days before the first day of finals.

- SMBT, SMACT, SMArchS, BSA and BSAD thesis book deadline will shift earlier to the Institute thesis deadline of Friday 5/8 in the penultimate week making the thesis book submission prior to the presentations.

- Thesis grade deadline shifts to Friday 5/15.

- M.Arch theses submission will shift earlier by a couple of days to Tuesday 5/19 during final exam week.

- Any student that does not have a final thesis grades by Friday noon 5/22 will need to be removed from the May degree list.
4. Possible effects of the reduction of final exam period to four days and the shifting the drop-dead grade deadline to the Friday of final exam week (5/22/20 at noon)

• Greater chance of exam conflicts and more students may have two final exams on one day.

• The last day of finals is on a Wednesday and all subjects with an Institute scheduled final exam must submit grades by Friday noon. Instructors will no longer have the weekend to grade papers.
5. Shortening of administrative time between grade deadline and hooding & commencement

• Department grades meetings will be held on the Tuesday after Memorial Day (5/26). The Institute grade meeting, when final dept. approved degree lists are submitted, will take place the following day (Wed. 5/27). Hooding and commencement take place immediately after, Thursday 5/28 and Friday 5/29 respectively.

• There is less time for administrators to seek late grades from instructors and for students to resolve incompletes or bursar deficits, which may result in more students being removed from the degree list than previously.
6. Conflicts with Harvard

• GSD Thesis Reviews take place May 12-15 overlapping with the final day of final studio reviews and SMArchS / SMBT / MArch thesis reviews.

• Harvard Commencement overlaps with MIT Hooding.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29-30 May 2020</td>
<td>GSD Studio Reviews April 29 – May 5, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 May 2020</td>
<td>1:00 PM Core 2 Studio Reviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-15 May 2020</td>
<td>GSD Thesis Reviews May 12–15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 May 2020</td>
<td>9:30 AM Final Exam Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 May 2020</td>
<td>9:30 AM Final Exam Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 May 2020</td>
<td>12:00 PM 12 noon: Grade Deadline for subjects with instute scheduled final exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 May 2020</td>
<td>Memorial Day—holiday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 May 2020</td>
<td>12:00 PM CAP/CGP meetings – Degree lists submitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 May 2020</td>
<td>Harvard Commencement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 May 2020</td>
<td>10:00 AM MIT &amp; School Commencements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 May 2020</td>
<td>9:00 AM Summer Term Begins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# End-of-Term Reviews and Exams

## Spring Term 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grad &amp; UG Final Studio Reviews</td>
<td>Apr 27-May 1</td>
<td>No presentations or new assignments due in graduate studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Workshop Final Reviews — in class prior to studio assignment</td>
<td>May 4-8</td>
<td>Final during class time or... No presentations or assignments due in design workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMArchS, M.Arch, SMBT &amp; BSAD Thesis Reviews</td>
<td></td>
<td>Undergraduate studio reviews scheduled by Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MArch required non-studio academic subjects</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final assignments due or... No presentations or assignments due in req. M.Arch classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes without Institute scheduled final exam — no test and at most one assignment due between this date and the final class of the term, Subjects with Institute scheduled final exam — no test or assignments shall fall due after this date. (req. M.Arch has earlier deadline; note above)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSD</td>
<td></td>
<td>Studio Reviews Final exams Thesis Reviews</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 12:30 PM — MIT M.Arch Grades Meeting. M.Arch studio instructors, M.Arch required class instructors and M.Arch advisors expected to attend.**
Key dates: Spring 2020
For a list of Academic Calendar changes, visit https://registrar.mit.edu/calendar-change.

**JANUARY**
1: New Year's Day
6: First day of IAP
20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
31: Last day of IAP
31: Registration Day

**FEBRUARY**
3: First day of spring classes
4: Studio Previews 1-5PM
6: First day of graduate studies 1-5PM
17: Presidents' Day
18: Monday schedule of classes held

**MARCH**
6: Add Date
23-27: Spring break

**APRIL**
20: Patriots’ Day
21: Drop Date

**MAY**
1: Last day for required M.Arch subjects to hold exams, reviews, presentations or assignments due.
8-13: Thesis Deadline for SMArch6, SM8T, SMAct & BS
11: Core 2 Studio reviews 1-6PM
12: • Last day of spring classes
• Second Option Studio Reviews 1-6PM
13: Final Thesis Reviews for SMArch6, SM8T, MArch & BS
15, 18-20: Final exam period
15: Grades for classes without final exams due
22: Grades for classes with final exams due
25: Memorial Day
26: M.Arch grades meeting 12:30 - 2PM
27: CAP/GAP degree meetings
30: Commandant's addresses