April 2019

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

• 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 Option 2 is the preferred option.

• Option 2 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.
Summary of the chosen option

• IAP stays the same but Spring Reg Day is moved to the last day of IAP (Friday).

• First day of spring classes on Monday instead of Tuesday.

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

• Four days of finals (instead of five) that straddle a weekend. First day is on Friday of the last day of classes and the next three on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of final exam week.

• Drop-dead grade deadline moved to noon on Friday of final exam week instead of the Tuesday after Memorial Day.

• Shorter administrative time after finals (from 12 to 7 days)
Option 2: Remove Tuesday Patriots’ Day student holiday

IAP stays the same. Reg Day on last day of IAP (Friday). First day of spring classes on a Monday.
Remove Tuesday Patriots’ Day student holiday. Four days of finals, but straddling the weekend, which adds a reading day (2 reading, 1 exam, 2 reading, 3 exam). Grades are due Friday of final exam week. Shorter administrative time after finals to sort out grade issues prior to removal from degree list.
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 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
Effect on the Department schedule

1. Registration Day coincides with the last day of IAP on Friday (1/31/20) and moves the first day of classes to Monday (2/3/20)

   • 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 2/7/20).

   • Studio presentations can not be held on Reg Day because of on going IAP classes, plus students 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. Shifting of the last day of classes to Tuesday (5/12/20)

• 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 meaning that Option studio reviews would need to be held Friday (5/8/20) and Tuesday (5/12/20) and Core 2 on Monday (5/11/20).

• The final day for required M.Arch subjects, or workshops with enrolled M.Arch, to submit papers, hold presentations, exams or reviews would be moved back to Friday (5/1/18), to preserve 6 days of a cushion period prior to the first final studio review.
3. How the shortening of the end of term effects thesis reviews and submittal.

- Thesis reviews (SMArchS, SMBT, a possible few M.Arch, & Undergraduates) will need to be moved earlier to Wednesday (5/13/20), the day after the last day of class and two days before the first day of final exams.

- SMBT, SMACT, SMArchS and BSAD thesis book deadline will shift earlier to the Institute thesis deadline of Friday (5/8/20) of the penultimate week. M.Arch theses will shift earlier by a couple of days to Tuesday (5/19/20) during final exam week. The shifts will provide more cushion time for students who might otherwise need to come off the degree list due to late thesis submission.

- Thesis grade deadline remains on Tuesday (5/19/20); if a thesis grade is not submitted by noon on Friday (5/22/20) the student will come off the degree list. No grade can be submitted unless two copies of the final, approved, signed, archival-ready thesis has been submitted to HQ.
4. Reduction of final exam period to four days (Fri. 5/15 – 5/20/20) 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 (5/22/20 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 (5/26/20). The Institute grade meeting, when final dept. approved degree lists are submitted, will take place the following day (Wed. 5/27/20). Hooding and commencement take place immediately after, Thursday (5/28/20) and Friday (5/29/20) respectively.

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

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

• Harvard Commencement overlaps with MIT Hooding.
**May 2020**

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- **Sunday, May 31 – Monday, June 1**: Memorial Day — Holiday.
- **Tuesday, June 2**: Summer Term Begins.
- **Wednesday, June 3**: 9:30 AM Final Exam Period.
- **Thursday, June 4**: 6:00 AM Final Exam Period.
- **Friday, June 5**: 1:00 PM Option Studio Reviews.
- **Saturday, June 6**: 6:00 AM Last Day of Spring Classes.

**Notes:**
- Summer thesis begins on Wednesday, May 26.
- Summer term begins on Monday, May 31.
- Summer term ends on Friday, June 5.