

S4GradDisagree

Two breaks are helpful, and again the later start is preferred because of weather.

Winter break is too short; S4 also forces students to come back to campus much earlier, leaving essentially no time for students who live far away to return home and spend time with family. PARTICULARLY PROBLEMATIC: this calendar makes it impossible for international students to return home for the holiday season. This is an emotional burden, as many of them cannot return home during the summer because of work, projects or internships. Some may also have to renew/reapply for visas, which normally takes more than two weeks and can only be done in their home countries. Spring Break in S4 is also too early; the weather in Ithaca and throughout the Northeast is typically not warm enough for comfortable travel, and snow/low temperature may hinder travel plans. Also, a full half semester without a short break before Spring Break is exhausting.

Same as above

S3 is better.

Having two breaks in the winter semester is important.

No need to push up the semester and take away from winter break. Take a few days out of the exam/study period is fine, but do not take away so much break!

Less breaks = more stress

Definitely keep February break!!! Otherwise we burn out.

If you do the later December date and this earlier January date it really shrinks winter break.

February break was a lifesaver when it was introduced, mental and physical break.

It is important to keep February Break. Spring break is too early on this calendar.

I don't think having only one break a semester is enough, since semesters are pretty stressful, and the spring semester has to deal with the winter being long and cold and dark, so I think having two breaks is necessary. This start is slightly better than the previous version, but I still think January 12th is too early (perhaps having the 15th or the 17th as the earliest time?). It might be better for summer opportunities if we end our spring semester a bit earlier, but I don't think doing this at the expense of having only one break or doing school during even more of winter would work. Again, if there was a way to reduce the exam period somehow, this might work.

Still, engineering project teams need the long winter break! I will admit, I am not entirely opposed to shortening the semester, only if it didn't start earlier.

Again, starting a bit too early and no february break, with an early spring break: 1. too stressful 2. spring break is going to be cold. This actually reduces the overall time for a major class or senior project.

February break is something I enjoy, and again, would rather be here later when its warmer rather than earlier when its colder

January break is valuable time

too short winter break and feb break is needed

I like February break. It is nice to have that small amount of time off.

Feb break is very helpful and should remain a feature of the academic calendar.

Same comment as before. A shorter break is damaging to students who have large distances to travel, and for those in rigorous programs who need a rejuvenating break this is too short a break.

I believe we have February break in order to decrease the incidence of suicide on campus. I don't feel that problem has gone away.

I don't think just one break in spring semester is a good idea.

Cuts too much into January break

It's a long stretch without a break.

Two breaks are absolutely necessary. Starting classes so early would be terrible for well-being given Ithaca's winters. International students may not be able to go home for such a short break. No classes in January help faculty and grad students focus on research instead of teaching.

the winter break is so short and make it difficult for international student to go home and get back.

I like moving the start earlier to make Christmas break shorter, but I do not agree with ditching Feb. break. Having a few days to rest and recoup is good mentally and physically.

While I like that classes have begun earlier, I still am not a proponent of the movement of commencement weekend before memorial day.

I think starting January 12 is too early- starting late in January allows students to avoid a lot of the snowier Ithaca days. Starting later in January also allows for a short break between classes offered in winter and the start of the spring semester. May 14th graduation is very early.

February break IS necessary.

Two breaks are mostly wanted.

Dislike lack of Feb break - important for long semester

Two breaks in the spring semester, please! And once again, I disagree that the between-semester break needs to be shorter and that the summer break needs to be longer.

No one want's be to in Ithaca during the winter. In your comparison statistics, look at average temperature for each university during the month of January, and maybe choose a start date for when Ithaca has that average temperature.

Same response as previous question.

February break is important.

Need time in January for international travel.

I agree with moving the start date of classes back, but completely removing February break doesn't seem like a good idea.

there needs to be two break in the spring

See comments for S3 option. Disagree with eliminating the February break.

The two breaks are great, and I like the long January intersession.

February break is very helpful for the students.

Again, I think the January break is too valuable to shorten and I think having two breaks is important for student mental health.

Having two breaks in spring is important. Removing February break would impact some COE classes which do trips over February break.

I don't like the removal of February break.

More breaks in between classes greatly alleviates stress. S4 does not reflect this.

Nice to have two breaks.

No President's Day weekend.

While an earlier commencement is an improvement, February break is helpful.

prefer longer winter break and want more break days in winter season when people tend to be more depressed

This reduces winter break too much. February break is nice to have.

Having long weekends is important to my ability to travel at all during the school year. February break is one such opportunity, and extending the summer break is not a substitute.

Spring Break is far too early here again, and Feb. Break is something I'd rather not lose.

February break is necessary.

Feb break is really important

A shorter winter break adversely affects international students since that is the only time we can go back to our home countries since over the summer we are expected to be engaged in research or internships and fall/spring breaks are also too short.

Nope, this is a bad idea. I think that the February break might be unnecessary/occurs too early GIVEN THE VERY LONG WINTER BREAK. Cut the winter break in half, and absolutely all involved parties: students, teachers, TAs need a second break to avoid having a total breakdown. If this plan is chosen (and I strongly hope it is not), I hope that the university will track student grades, mental health, and suicides/suicide attempts (yes, I'm that serious) because I would be shocked if you didn't see a spike in the latter two, and dive in the former.

Don't take away the two day Feb. break!

Graduate students need a longer winter break to complete research requirements by the end of the semester.

Shortens the winter break

February break is necessary

Absolutely not. Students need a break before spring break!

I like having february break.

Feb. Break is important. It should not be removed.

Classes start too early s4

I like having two break, especially because with this option, every week is a full class week.

February break should not be removed.

The Feb break is necessary. It just needs to be better positioned.

I think it would be a horrible idea to get rid of February break.

Summer break is not too short and the semester does not need to start earlier. An additional break in conjunction with spring break is helpful.

I think two breaks are important.

I like to have the february break

Feb break is nice. Add feb break to S4 and make graduation May 21. Nice to have graduation a little earlier

Fall break is really nice to have

no no no no no.

february break is necessary. it's been mild recently, but winter can be very bleak in ithaca.

February break is important

As stated for other options, the proposed S4 reduction in exam and study days is not conducive to academic performance. About the only benefit of S4 is its elimination of the February break. Again, I must ask how the earlier Commencement date would impact the Law School's Convocation and the academic schedule which must accommodate it. I fear law students may suffer for the convenience of those at other university colleges.

Two breaks are good in the spring. Breaking things up is very useful. I like starting classes earlier and shrinking exam period, but only having one break is a serious concern.

February break allows me to take care of backlog that accumulates because of beginning-of-semester madness. Plus, I tend to get sick during the early part of the year. Having even just 2 days to recuperate and rest helps a lot.

This looks like the worst option - moving classes up, reducing break times, and shortening the exam period.

I prefer having a February break to break up the semester. I think it would be too long to go with just one break in the semester.

Removing February break is a bad idea.

February break is necessary.

Again, I feel that this proposed S4 framework removes too much of our winter break. Many of us grad students rely on the January break to do international travel to support our research projects.

The second, shorter break is important to maintain.

February break is necessary!

February break is good to have

Feb break is necessary

Having two breaks is highly preferred.

The longer winter break provides the chance for a wide variety of enriching experiences for motivated students. It is time to travel, to take part in a design contest, or, like it was for me this year, to truly dive into a thesis.

Winter break too short.

While I like an earlier finish the idea of going to class through January is a bad idea because the weather is so horrible. Also, I don't understand how anyone could survive class all the way to march without a break in the cold and snow. This is a recipe for mental health disaster.

I do not like the loss of February break. Although I like starting the semester earlier and ending earlier, I think there is too long of a period in the semester without breaks and that would be detrimental.

Two breaks are important for the health of this community. Even if it is weird I don't think many people realize how helpful the break is for them.

I think having a February break is important.

Does not end semester soon enough to justify beginning so early in January and not having February break

Keep the winter break long!

It isn't necessary to have feb break but it sure is nice in the dreary months

February break is necessary.

February break is necessary!! It provides a much-needed opportunity to catch up on work and rest after a busy start to the semester. Not in favor of eliminating the break. However, I am in favor of starting earlier. Would it be possible to start earlier and keep February Break?

we need two breaks for organizing what we've learned and to have time for recharge.

I like the two break semester.

The main problem I see with this Spring proposed calendar is for students like me that have children. My son goes to one of ICSD and they give him a full week break on February. If the February break is not synchronized with the ICSD February break, in this calendar, I will have to pay for a full week of child care. So, I'm in favor of keeping February break the way it is.

The starting date is too early.

The summer break is already quite long, shortening the winter break is difficult for students who need to travel internationally.

It's nice to have a Feb break

No. This is equally as terrible as the previous one. While I do think February break is currently too early, having two breaks helps alleviate stress and workload. The schedule that switched the order of the two breaks was the best one; that way, we get the longer break earlier in the semester and the shorter one more towards the end so we can have a short breather before delving into the final part of the semester.

we need a february break!

Don't like the lost of February break.

I feel it is important to have 2 breaks during the Spring semester.

The February break is necessary to help students adjust back to life on campus.

Two breaks are better than one.

Far too few breaks in this calendar - winter break is too short, meaning activities cannot really take place during this period, and there's no need for such a long summer. Students will be stressed without the extra break time during the semester.

Winter break too short

I prefer breaks and a shorter winter break

Feb break is needed.

February Break is absolutely necessary in these God-forsaken terrible winters.

interferes with winter fieldwork interferes with Plant & Animal Genome conference between semester break too short for winter session classes long periods without a break during the semester increases stress and encourages burnout Commencement on a holiday weekend allows friends & family from afar to travel here more easily Commencement on Memorial Day lessens demand for rental rooms since it doesn't conflict with other Ithaca events

Breaks serve important mental health functions, and that seems more important than ending classes super early.

I love the February break. It is a great time to recuperate after the stressful initial period. It is a good mental health break, as people call it. And I absolutely do not think reducing the January term is worth it.

Removing February break is bad idea.

We need breaks. February break is a great opportunity to catch up on work or take a short getaway.

starts too soon in january. need longer winter break

Spring break is too early. This change makes the winter break too short. The 2nd break in class is good for mental health.

Again, reducing the winter break is a terrible idea. Students and teachers need to recover from the semester and prepare themselves for the coldest and darkest time of the year.

The in between semester break is not too long. I like the length as it is now.

Not enough mid-semester breaks.

February break is nice. People are mean if they want to remove February break.

Largely, spring break position doesn't matter to me. Presence of February break is very useful. Opposed to earlier start time.

All the same things I said on the previous proposal. Cornell, I cannot emphasise my dread enough.

February break is necessary, especially when dealing with Ithaca winters. The gaps between Winter and Spring breaks and then Spring break and the end of the term are far too long.

2 breaks are good

February break enables an important settling in period, which I can assure you that most grad students (at least) very much appreciate.

Substantially reduces opportunities for alternative plans over winter intersession; lack of breaks causes students to break

Two breaks are important.

I don't like losing February break

Definitely want a February break.

This seems a little too dramatic. 2 breaks is helpful, starting right after 3-day weekend is helpful. Bringing commencement back 1-week would be helpful, 2 weeks is too long. Commencement on MMD weekend seems like a bad idea.

The earlier termination of the semester is not worth the removal of February break.

I argue that the February break is necessary. Without breaks, the stress of the semester might be unbearable for some students.

It ends winter break earlier and reduces finals study time.

short winter break does not work for international students as trips become very short and expensive.

February break is necessary.

Feb break is nice.

Starting too early in freezing Jan

I like feb break

Having two breaks is really important for student mental and physical health.

The shortening of winter break reduces travel opportunities.

Mini break is necessary in the gloomy winter months

starts to early

Having a short break divides up the semester nicely

February break is nice.

I think two breaks are important.

Shortening winter break disadvantages Cornell faculty and research students who have national research and conference submission deadlines in January.

This plan removes February break and reduces winter break significantly. Absolutely no. Why would anyone support this? I don't care about ending earlier in May.

Terrible - winter break is too short - does not give time to write grants or papers over winter break.

I don't think earlier start date is a good idea ("guarantees" that students who are often walking (sometimes without weather-appropriate clothing, especially at night) will experience very cold temperatures for a longer period of time). Also, I think having 2 breaks is a real asset to Cornell's schedule.

It is absolutely necessary to have two breaks, like we do in the fall.

February break is important for mental health and to allow students to catch up on schoolwork.

I think february break is important for mental rest

Opposed to changing commencement

February break is necessary, just move it to the end of Feb and Spring break to April.

No one wants to be in Ithaca in January

We do need feb break cuz it's winter and it's too cold we need to get used to the pace of study after the winter break and new year celebration

Having two breaks is important

Although better than options 1 and 2, I feel the Feb break allows gives a very necessary break from the semester/Ithaca.

I like Feb break. It doesn't bother me how long the semester is.

As a graduate student working toward may conferral, moving things up so much put excessive pressure on spring semester PhD candidates. I'm breaking my back to be ready by May 5th, moving it up two weeks adds excessive stress by essentially forcing students to be done with dissertations by mid February to make it through the defense process by the new commencement.

Not enough breaks

February break is needed as well as the long winter break.

Start on Jan 22. Out-of-state students will not have a long enough winter break with S4.

i like having a longer exam period

Febuary break is a very welcome break. One of the things I love about Cornell!

We need breaks

THIS IS ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE. No high school students taking AP exams will be able to attend their sibling's graduation ceremony due to AP exams. This would likely mean a parent would not be able to attend their older child's graduation because they have to take the younger child to their exam. DO NOT DO NOT PASS S4

Having two breaks is important to prevent burnout

Study period is ok as it currently is.

Breaks improve mental health, they appear to be important. I do like that class starts the day after MLK day. I was surprised this was the only version that had that feature.

No. February break is necessary. This semester looks like literal hell.

Don't remove February break please!