

Question: Why the change from quarters to semesters?

Answer: The University System of Ohio Strategic Plan for Higher Education has called for all State of Ohio public universities on the quarter system to strongly consider converting to a semester academic calendar.

Over 90 percent of the universities in the U.S. and nine of the 13 public universities in the state of Ohio are currently on semester calendars. The transition should produce a calendar that is in alignment with these universities to facilitate collaborative academic programs, student transfer, and articulation.

Question: Which colleges and universities are making the conversion to semesters?

Answer: Belmont Technical College, Central Ohio Technical College, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Clark State Community College, Columbus State Community College, Hocking College, Marion Technical College, North Central State College, The Ohio State University, Ohio University, James A. Rhodes State College, Sinclair Community College, Southern State Community College, University of Cincinnati, Washington State Community College, Wright State University, Zane State College. The other nine state universities are already on semesters.

Question: What is the difference between a quarter and a semester?

- Answer:
- Almost all universities have an academic year of approximately 30 weeks. On quarters, the academic year is divided into three terms (approximately 10 weeks each); on semesters, the academic year is divided into two terms (approximately 14-15 weeks each). Both calendars offer a summer term.
 - For undergraduate students, full-time status required a minimum of 12 credit hours on the quarter calendar and will require a minimum of 12 hours on the semester calendar.
 - University Minimum Degree Credit Hour Requirements*:
 - An associate's degree requires completion of a minimum of 90 quarter hours or 60 semester hours;
 - A bachelor's degree requires completion of a minimum of 183 quarter hours or 120 semester hours.

*Note that some programs may require a higher number of hours for graduation.

- The tuition and fees for ONE ACADEMIC YEAR OF SEMESTERS (i.e. two semesters) will not exceed what the tuition and fees for ONE ACADEMIC YEAR OF QUARTERS (i.e. three quarters) would have been. However, it is important to note that:
 - Under semesters, students will pay fees twice per year instead of three times per year.
 - Because a semester is about 1 1/2 times the length of a quarter, charges for one semester will be approximately 1 1/2 times higher than for one quarter.
 - If you receive financial aid, you will receive the same financial aid annual amounts per eligibility as established by the awards you receive. However, the amounts will be divided between two semesters as opposed to three quarters.

Question: What are the advantages of changing from quarters to semesters?

Answer: Semesters provide several advantages to students, faculty, and staff. The semester system:

- Provides more time for learning course material
- Provides an opportunity for faculty curricula innovation
- Provides more time for summer internships
- Brings courses in line with most textbooks, which are written on the semester calendar
- Gives students a better chance at summer jobs because the school year ends earlier
- Allows graduating seniors to enter the job market earlier

- Reduces registration and financial aid activity from three times to two times per academic year
- Brings calendars into line with most of the state supported universities in Ohio
- Allows better scheduling of off-campus learning experiences such as student teaching and clinicals
- Promotes better scheduling of activities involving other universities and colleges such as conferences and athletic events

Question: What planning is underway currently across Ohio?

- Answer:
- See handouts for Wright State, Ohio State, University of Cincinnati, and Sinclair
 - Courses
 - Curriculum
 - Advising

Resources:

Wright State University (2009). WSU fall 2012 semesters. Found on Jan. 25, 2010 at the following;

<http://www.wright.edu/semesters/>

Sinclair Community College

www.sinclair.edu/semesters

University of Cincinnati

www.uc.edu/conversion

Ohio State University

Academic Affairs:

http://oaa.osu.edu/semester_conversion.php

OSU College of Engineering:

<http://engineering.osu.edu/q2s/index.php>

OhioBoard of Regents

<http://regents.ohio.gov/calendar-conversion/index.php>