



**Campus Administrative Policy**

**Policy Title: Fall and Spring Semester Breaks**

Policy Number: 1017                      Functional Area: **Faculty and Academic Affairs**

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Effective: July 1, 2021  
 Date Last Amended/Reviewed: July 1, 2011  
 Date Scheduled for Review: July 1, 2027  
 Supersedes: Fall and Spring Semester Breaks (July 1, 2011)

Approved by: Michelle Marks  
 Chancellor, University of Colorado Denver

Prepared by: Provost’s Office  
 Reviewing Office: Provost Office  
 Responsible Officer: Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Applies to: CU Denver Campus

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**A. INTRODUCTION**

In conjunction with the Auraria Campus, the University of Colorado Denver uses an academic year calendar in which the Fall Semester starts on a Monday in August, the Spring Semester starts on the Tuesday after Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday holiday, and both semesters end on a Saturday/Sunday. Changes were made in the schedule in 2004 to include a week-long Fall Break that (1) make the spring and fall semesters equal in meeting pattern—a 17-week semester with one full week and one Monday of break—and (2) satisfy the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) guidelines for contact time for all regular class meeting patterns.

**B. POLICY STATEMENT**

Effective with the Fall Semester 2004, the CU Denver academic calendar has been modified to include a week-long Fall Break during the week in November in which Thanksgiving falls. In both the Fall and Spring Breaks, CU Denver is open but classes do not meet, with the exception of official holidays when the campus is closed.

**C. IMPLEMENTATION**

It is essential that the deans inform and remind faculty of this policy and instruct them to include the Fall and Spring Breaks in course syllabi. Deans must also ensure that the CDHE guidelines for contact time are maintained for all courses. Alternate class meeting patterns must also be adjusted to ensure compliance with CDHE guidelines for contact time.

## Notes

1. Dates of official enactment and amendments:  
April 4, 2004: Adopted  
July 1, 2011: Revised and reissued by the Provost  
April 12, 2019: Modified  
January 1, 2020 (Pending): Revised
2. History:  
April 12, 2019: Modified to reflect a Campus-wide effort to recast and revitalize Campus policy sites into a standardized and more coherent set of chaptered policy statement organized around the several operational divisions of the university. Article links, University branding, and formatting updated by the Provost's office.  
January 1, 2020 (Pending): Minor Clarifications made.
3. Initial Policy Effective Date: April 4, 2004
4. Cross References/Appendix: N/A
  - Campus Policy 4018, *Holidays*