ACADEMIC CALENDAR & EXAMS

Academic Calendar

The campus operates year round, with fall and spring semesters of 16 weeks each, a winter session in between fall and spring semesters, and a summer term that includes two three-week sessions (Maymester and Augmester), two five-week sessions, an eight-week session, a 10-week session and two intensive (one- or more-week) sessions.

For a complete calendar of academic and financial dates and deadlines, visit the Office of the Registrar’s Academic Calendar (http://www.colorado.edu/registrar/students/academic-calendar) webpage.

The University of Colorado at Boulder has a legal and moral obligation to accommodate all students who must be absent from classes or miss scheduled exams in order to observe religious holidays; and takes care to not inhibit or penalize these students for exercising their rights to religious observance. For further information, see the university policy on the Observance of Religious Holidays and Absences from Classes and/or Exams (http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams).

Summer 2020

- May 11 (Mon.) Classes begin for session M (Maymester)
- May 25 (Mon.) Memorial Day holiday; campus closed
- May 29 (Fri.) Final exams for session M (Maymester)
- June 1 (Mon.) Classes begin for sessions A, C and D
- July 4 (Sat.) Independence Day holiday; campus closed
- July 2 (Thurs.) Final exams for session A (first five-week session)
- July 7 (Tue.) Classes begin for session B (second five-week session)
- July 24 (Fri.) Final exams for session C (eight-week session)
- Aug. 3 (Mon.) Classes begin for session G (Augmester)
- Aug. 7 (Fri.) Final exams for sessions B and D (second five-week session, 10-week session)
- Aug. 20 (Thurs.) Final exams for session G (Augmester)
- Aug. 20 (Thurs.) Degree conferral date (no campuswide ceremony)

Fall 2020

- Aug. 24 (Mon.) Classes begin
- Sept. 7 (Mon.) Labor Day holiday; campus closed
- Oct. 1 (Thurs.) Spring application deadline (all applicants)

Spring 2021

- Jan. 11 (Mon.) Classes begin
- Jan. 15 (Fri.) Summer & Fall application deadline (regular decision, freshman applicants)
- Jan. 18 (Mon.) Martin Luther King Jr. holiday; campus closed
- Mar. 15 (Mon.) Summer application deadline (transfer applicants)
- Mar. 15 (Mon.) Fall application deadline (early notification, transfer applicants)
- Apr. 29 (Thurs.) Last day of classes
- April 30 (Fri.) Reading day
- May 1–5 (Sat.–Wed.) Final exams
- May 6 (Thurs.) University commencement ceremony, degree conferral date

Summer 2021

- May 10 (Mon.) Classes begin for session M (Maymester)
- May 31 (Mon.) Memorial Day holiday; campus closed
- May 27 (Thurs.) Final exams for session M (Maymester)
- June 1 (Tues.) Classes begin for sessions A, C and D
- June 1 (Tue.) Fall application deadline (regular decision, transfer applicants)
- July 2 (Fri.) Final exams for session A (first five-week session)
- July 3 (Fri.) Independence Day holiday (observed); campus closed
- July 6 (Tues.) Classes begin for session B (second five-week session)
- July 23 (Fri.) Final exams for session C (eight-week session)
- Aug. 2 (Mon.) Classes begin for session G (Augmester)
- Aug. 6 (Fri.) Final exams for sessions B and D (second five-week session, 10-week session)
- Aug. 19 (Thurs.) Final exams for session G (Augmester)
Final Examinations

It is the policy of the University of Colorado Boulder to adhere to the final examination schedule as published by the Office of the Registrar each semester. Unless notified otherwise in writing during the first week of classes, students enrolled in undergraduate courses should assume that an examination will be given. While it may be appropriate not to give a final in some undergraduate courses, such as independent studies, laboratory courses, seminars, project-based courses and colloquia, final examinations are integral parts of the instructional program and should be given in all other undergraduate courses. Graduating seniors are not exempt from final examinations. Students enrolled in graduate courses should consult with their instructors on whether final examinations will be administered.

1. The final examination in a course should be given as scheduled by the Office of the Registrar and not at other times, even if the instructor and all students in a course agree to such a change. An instructor may allow individual students to take the final examination at an earlier or later time if the instructor is satisfied that an exception is based on good and sufficient reasons and if such an exception is unlikely to materially advantage or disadvantage the interests of other students in the course.

2. Students should consult with their instructors and course syllabi for final examination information for courses that are scheduled at non-standard times and are not included in the published final examination schedule.

3. Final examinations in summer courses and in courses offered during special (variable length) sessions in fall and spring semesters are typically administered on the last regular meeting day of the course. No Common Exams for multiple sections of a single course may be scheduled for special session courses.

4. The week of classes preceding the scheduled final examination period should be used primarily for continued instruction and may include the introduction of new material. For courses in sessions of ten weeks or longer, no examinations may be given during the week of classes preceding the start of the campus’s final examination period; however, assignments listed in the syllabus such as papers, lab practicums, presentations, portfolios and projects may be due during that week.

5. Class sessions or graded assignments of any kind, including papers, lab practicums, presentations, portfolios and projects, may not take place or be due on a day designated in the academic calendar as a Reading Day.

6. When students have three or more final examinations on the same day, they are entitled to arrange an alternative examination time for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day. When students have two final examinations scheduled to meet at the same time, they are entitled to arrange an alternative examination time for the course that meets later in the week during the term or, if the two courses meet on the same day during the term, the course that meets later in the day. Students must make arrangements with the instructor of the affected course(s) by the standard deadline to drop a course in that term and are expected to provide supporting written information of these situations to qualify for exceptions.

7. The submission deadline for grades each semester or special session is 96 hours after the conclusion of the final examination, excluding designated university holidays.

8. The Provost (or designee), in consultation with the Senior Vice Chancellor (or designee), may either reschedule or cancel final examinations in response to inclement weather or other emergencies that result in a campus closure during the final examination period. The administration’s determination of whether to reschedule or to cancel final examinations is based on the number of exam periods affected by the closure and the timing of the closure.

Rescheduled Exams

A final examination may be rescheduled within the final examination period. Students who do not participate in a rescheduled final examination are not guaranteed any make-up examination or alternative assignment, and in such cases students will be assigned course grades based on tests, assignments and other graded work completed up to the end of the term.

Canceled Exams

If a final examination is canceled, course grades will be assigned based on tests, assignments and other graded work completed up to the end of the term. Faculty may also offer a make-up examination and/or allow for an alternative assignment to be submitted after the final examination period. However, such opportunities must be made available to all students enrolled in the course, all final work must be received and graded no later than the end of the first week of the subsequent term (inclusive of summer session), and faculty must then submit change of record information for students whose course grades change due to their work on make-up examinations or alternative assignments.