

Wright State to switch from quarter to semester academic calendar in 2012

A proposal to convert Wright State University's academic calendar from the quarter system to semesters was approved by the university's Board of Trustees at its March meeting.

Ohio's public colleges and universities still on the quarter system have been encouraged to make the transition by the University System of Ohio's Strategic Plan for Higher Education, which calls for all Ohio public universities on the quarter system to strongly consider converting to a semester academic calendar.

In response to this call, Wright State's Faculty Senate authorized an Exploratory Committee on the Transition from Quarters to Semesters to identify the tasks involved in undertaking such a transition. The committee, made up of faculty, staff, students, and administrators, recommended the semester calendar for consideration by the Board of Trustees. With the board's approval, it will produce a transition plan and timeline for completing the steps of the plan.

The committee will work with representatives from Sinclair and Clark State Community Colleges to create a unified regional approach to the transition. The other three state universities still on the quarter system—University of Cincinnati, Ohio University, and The Ohio State University—have also recently voted to adopt the semester system.

"The common calendar will facilitate shared academic programs and ease of transfer between institutions, resulting in increased quality and cost savings," said Lillie P. Howard, Ph.D., Wright State's senior vice president for

15 weeks of instruction and a week for finals. An academic year generally consists of three quarters or two semesters. Under either system, there are about 30 weeks of instruction in one academic year.

In the quarter system, the minimum requirement for a full-time student is 12 credit hours per term. On average, a full-time student takes 16 hours or four classes to reach the university minimum of 183 credit hours for a bachelor's degree. In a 3-credit-hour base semester system, the average student will take approximately 15 hours or five 3-credit-hour classes per term.

"The committee received input from faculty, staff, students, and the WSU branch of the American Association of University Professors," said Sudkamp. "Among the advantages identified for converting to semesters were increased time to learn course material and better synchronization with textbooks that are typically written for semesters; improved scheduling of internships, student teaching, and clinicals; registration and financial aid activity is reduced from three times to two times per academic year, resulting in cost savings; and academics and activities between institutions are more easily accommodated when everyone is on the same system."

"The earliest we can expect to make the conversion is Fall 2012," said Sudkamp. "An important part of our process is to guarantee that the calendar conversion does not adversely affect either the time to graduation or the cost for students who entered Wright State on the quarter system."

The university's newly appointed Semesters Transition Team will continue to maintain a website with updated information regarding the transition. For more information, visit www.wright.edu/semesters



curriculum and instruction, who co-chairs the committee with Thomas Sudkamp, Ph.D., professor and chair of computer science and engineering and president of Wright State's faculty.

Over 90 percent of the universities in the U.S. 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.

A quarter at Wright State University is 10 weeks of instruction, followed by a week for final exams, while a semester is normally

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

May 2009

- 1 – Deadline to request specific roommate for Fall Quarter campus housing
- 1 – Admission petition deadline for Summer Quarter
- 2 – SAT national test
- 5 – SAT registration deadline for June 2009 test
- 8 – ACT registration deadline for June 2009 test
- 15 – PSEO application deadline
- 25 – Memorial Day holiday (university closed)

June 2009

- 6 – SAT national test
- 13 – ACT national test
- 13 – Spring Commencement
- 15 – First day of Summer Quarter classes
- 26 – Women in Engineering Day

NOTE: Fall Quarter 2009 classes will begin on Tuesday, September 8.

Admissions deadline

Applications are processed year round for new students, but transfer and returning students with a GPA below 2.0 should pay close attention to petition deadlines. Decisions regarding admission to Wright State are usually made within two weeks.

Housing deadline

Housing is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Although applications are accepted on a year-round basis, it is recommended that students submit an application and prepayment in the fall to ensure the best possible housing options.

Financial Aid deadline

Filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online is the quickest and most convenient method for submitting financial information. Wright State's Title IV code for the FAFSA is 003078. The priority deadline for the FAFSA at Wright State was February 15, 2009, but students may still apply for financial aid after that date.





Women in Engineering Days

Friday, June 26, 2009

Female high school students will have an opportunity to learn about more engineering and how it relates to their interests during the Women in Engineering Day on June 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Russ Engineering Center on Wright State's Dayton campus.

Participants can complete hands-on engineering projects, meet with engineers and professors to learn about what they can do with a degree in engineering, and find out more about the engineering and computer science programs offered at Wright State. In addition, participants can tour the Russ Engineering Center labs and the rest of the Wright State campus.

For more information, visit www.cs.wright.edu/cecs/women-in-engineering.shtml

Wright State student profile:

Ian Fuller

Hometown: Bellbrook, OH
(Bellbrook High School)

Major: Engineering Physics

Ian is getting the most from his academic experience at Wright State. Not only is he gaining knowledge inside the classroom, he is also working with his professors outside of the classroom on various research and patent projects.



What was the deciding factor in your decision to attend Wright State?

There wasn't one deciding factor when I chose to go to Wright State, there were several. I live nearby and it was important for me to stay close to my friends and family. I also had received several scholarships that made it possible for me to live on campus in order to get the full college experience. Wright State also offered the degree I wanted to pursue, Engineering Physics. This degree is not offered at many colleges.

I really liked Wright State's campus because it was very pretty and has a lot of "green space." But, at the same time, the mall is right up the road and there is a lot to do off of campus.

What is the best piece of advice you would give a student who is considering Wright State?

I would tell them to be themselves and to step out of their shells. There is so much to be learned outside of the classroom that can benefit them in their everyday life. It is often easier to just go along with the crowd and blend in with everyone around you, but you will never really get to think on your own if you do this.

Wright State awards \$1.9 million to need-based students

Many incoming and current Wright State undergraduates will find that getting a college degree is less of a financial burden thanks to a recent announcement that the university is making almost \$2 million available for need-based grants—not loans.

"Ohio's governor and chancellor of higher education are to be commended for their efforts on behalf of higher education in these difficult times. They know that the future of the state depends on an educated workforce," said David R. Hopkins, Wright State University's president. "We are committed to being affordable and accessible so that more and more students can attend college, earn their degrees, and achieve their dreams."

The university uses the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to identify which new, continuing, and transfer undergraduate students will be considered for these grants.

"This is excellent news," said Catlin McGee, a Wright State freshman, when told the university funding she is eligible for will be given in the form of a grant rather than a loan. "This is one less thing I have to worry about," said McGee, 18, of Waverly, Ohio.

For more information about financial aid at Wright State, visit www.wright.edu/financialaid

Summer theatre camp

Beginning June 22

Students ages 12–18 who want to act out their dreams of becoming a performer are invited to spend their summer singing and dancing at Wright State's Musical Theatre/Acting Preparatory Program. Students enrolled in the three-week camp will be trained in acting, dance, and music by experienced performers and teachers. Their efforts will culminate in a production of the hit musical *The Me Nobody Knows*.

For more information, visit www.wsumapp.org

Send your students to college for a day!

Learn more about WSU during a one-day campus visit

All prospective Wright State students are invited to spend a day on campus. The Office of Admissions will work with each student personally to create a customized visit, including a campus tour and meetings with an admissions counselor.



Campus tours are offered Monday–Friday at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m.

Check out our **Campus Housing Virtual Tour** for important information about student housing.

Unable to come to campus? Visit www.wright.edu/admissions

What's new @ WSU?

You can find news, events, and WSU website highlights at:

ON THE WEB www.wright.edu/announce

\$2.7 million Choose Ohio First scholarships targeted for students with disabilities

Nearly \$2.7 million in Choose Ohio First scholarships will soon become available to graduating high school and current college students with disabilities interested in pursuing careers in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) at five area colleges and universities.



A collaboration led by Wright State University and including Ohio State University, Sinclair Community College, Clark State Community College, and Columbus State Community College, will share the \$2.687 million in Choose Ohio First scholarships awarded last winter, to attract and graduate more than 300 students with disabilities in STEM majors over a five-year period. Wright State leads the nation in helping individuals with disabilities overcome barriers to finish college degrees.

The program, "STEM Degrees and Careers for Ohioans with Disabilities, Including Veterans: COF Scholarships in Support of NSF-funded Regional Alliance in Disability (OSAA)," was announced by Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut in March.

"Consistent with Wright State's mission, as well as our national reputation for meeting the needs of students with disabilities, this initiative is one of many that are under way across the university to address the special needs of these very, very, talented students," said Lillie Howard, Ph.D., senior vice president for curriculum and instruction at Wright State. "This kind of collaboration reflects the direction that Chancellor Eric Fingerhut has set as the mission for the University System of Ohio and helps meet Gov. Strickland's goal of educating 230,000 more students by 2017."

The new scholarships, available in amounts ranging from \$1,500 to \$4,700 for students with a minimum GPA, will increase the number of students with disabilities who enroll in and complete two- and four-year degrees in the STEM fields. The scholarships support the new Ohio STEM Ability Alliance (OSAA), an initiative among Wright State, Ohio State, Sinclair, and Columbus State to overcome barriers that prevent students with disabilities in the Dayton and Columbus regions from pursuing and succeeding in STEM education and careers. The OSAA was awarded \$3 million in funding from the National Science Foundation and launched in February.

This is the final year of the state's Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program, a two-year \$100 million investment to be awarded over five years and designed to assist Ohio's higher education institutions in building the talent and research pipelines critical to the state's economic development. The Choose Ohio First Program is part of the Ohio Innovation Partnership created by the Ohio General Assembly.