### BO6. Academic Calendars (Q&A)

**Question:**

Clock-hour school. We have one program that with a length of 50 weeks/1500 hours, and one with a length of 20 weeks/400 hours. When defining our academic year, do we simply say that the academic year is defined as 30 weeks/900 hours for all programs, or would we define the academic year for each program separately?

**Response:**

SME Scott - Thanks for your question. You could define the academic year separately for each program, or apply one definition to both programs. It is up to the school. Just make sure that your policies and procedures clearly explain the definition for each program.

**Question:**

Clinical work question- Can you confirm these flexibilities only apply to standard terms? Our institution is a nonstandard term, however we still have defined start/end dates of payment periods that may not align with clinical work timeframes.

**Response:**

SME-Summers-Thank you for your question. Per Volume 3, Chapter 1 of the FSA Handbook, this guidance only applies to standard term environments.

**Question:**

How do i reconcile the fact that the academic year must be at least 30 weeks but semesters can be 14 weeks? is it that we include the summer semester in the 30 weeks?

**Response:**

SME Vancil: Please see question #10 in the Q&A of the November 5, 2019 Electronic Announcement. This situation is addressed in this question.

**Response:**

i don't suppose you can give me the link? it's hard to search on fsapartners.

**Response:**

SME Vancil: https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2019-11-05/revised-policy-standard-term-length The problem is the platform doesn't let you click or copy paste! You can look in the Quick Reference on Knowledge Center and click Electronic Announcements and then look in the 2019 list.

**Response:**

ok. i found it. i'm probably not understanding. is it that this 30 week thing applies only to loans? if not, that answer doesnt answer my question. it looks like we have to make sure that there are 30 weeks in the academic year. but i'm back at the question, does that include our summer semester? and if the student only attends fall-spring, with 14 weeks each, for example, that he will not be considered ok for full time pell? or the academic year won't have enough weeks? the more i write, the more confused i'm getting. sorry. it also doesnt let you copy and paste which i wanted to do in case i have to ask-a-fed.

**Response:**

i have to go away from the screen now. if you answer, i hope it will still be visible. thank you so much for your patience and help. was quite a good session.

**Question:**

We had program starts this year in Jan, Feb, April, May, Aug, Sept and Nov. Does this mean our AY is not a SAY?

**Response:**

SME-Summers-Thank you for your question. This question needs to be submitted to the Ask A Fed portal on The Knowledge Center with more information. Details about program type (clock or credit), length in hours and weeks, start and stop dates, etc., should be included so the responder can see the larger picture and research accordingly.

**Question:**

For programs offered in standard terms, fall, spring, summer (summer required), that permit a student to begin the program in any semester, is SAY permitted?

**Response:**

SME Vancil: Yes it is permitted. It sounds like your SAY is fall/spring/summer (with summer required and included as part of your defined academic year) and your loans typically would be awarded this way. If you have a student who starts in the spring, and you choose to use the SAY for a student, the loan would be spring/summer and the SAY would start over with fall. You have the option to use a BBAY1 however.

**Question:**

Slide 29 regarding Pell Grant Formula- The institution is a standard term, traditional Fall/Spring academic calendar with at least 16 weeks of instructional time each semester. The institution offers a 1 semester certificate program within it's standard term that spans the entire term. When considering which Pell formula to use for students in the one semester program, does the institution consider their entire academic calendar (standard terms Fall through Spring) so are able to pay using Pell Formula 1? Or can the institution only consider the program's academic calendar of one semester and need to pay using Pell Formula 3?

**Response:**

SME Scott - Thanks for your question. If the program has sufficient credits to be eligible, the eligibility to use Formula 1 is based on the academic year definition, not the program length. The one semester program could use Formula 1 based on the academic year definition.

**Response:**

For clarification: If an Academic Year Definition is 30 credit hours, with 15 credit hours per Fall/Spring. Are you stating that the one-semester program would need to be the full 30 credit hour academic year definition? Or if the the institution defines the Academic Year as 15 credit hours Fall and 15 credit hours Spring, and the one-semester program is at least 16 credit hours, then Pell Formula 1 is okay? Since it is more credit hours than the 15 credit hours for the single term?

**Question:**

If you are a quarter based school with equal terms, can you decided to be a non-term school even if you meet all of the definitions of term?

**Response:**

SME-Summers-Thank you for your question. Well, you have to tell us (ED) what academic calendar you adopt at your school. This is your choice but you cannot be quarter based and non term. Regardless, you can choose to administer the FSA programs in a non term format if you are a quarter school. That seems to me to be somewhat unusual and very complicated for the FAA office staff.

**Question:**

If our academic year consists of two 16-week semesters, can we still define our year as 30 weeks?

**Response:**

SME-Summers-Thank you for your question. The answer is yes.

**Question:**

we have a program defined as nonterm with AY definition of 24cr and 32wk. AY1 is a full academic year with remaining period of enrollment of 20 weeks and 20 credits. We teach one class at a time with each class being 4 cr and 7 weeks. How would we define is PP for AY2 for aid calculation, payment period progression and R2T4? Would both aid and R2T4 be calculated with 10 cr/10wk and PPP be 12cr/12wk or would aid use 10cr/10wk while PPP and R2T4 using 12cr/12wk?

**Response:**

SME Scott - Thanks for your question. Payment periods are defined in regulation and for the period that remains the period must be divided equally, so each payment period is 10 credits and 10 weeks. It may be that students do not complete the credits in the first payment period until more than ten weeks pass. You may wish to attend tomorrow's session about non-term administration where this will be covered in detail.

**Question:**

If the term begins August 15, but a 0-credit course begins August 8, can we use August 15 as the term start date? The 0-credit course would not count toward Title IV eligibility.

**Response:**

SME Vancil: Yes, you can use August 15 as your term start date.

**Question:**

Is there a way to make the Q&A answers so we can click on links or copy and paste answers?

**Response:**

SME Vancil: Sorry that the platform doesn't let you copy/paste or click links! Here's how you can find this. Go to fsapartners.ed.gov. Click on the View Knowledge Center blue button to get to the knowledge center. In Quick Reference, select Electronic Announcements and then select 2019 from the year and find the EA from November 5. Sorry it's not easy to click the link I provided!

**Question:**

If you have a standard term, there used to be a 'two-week extension' for some classes to extend before or beyond a term as long as it did not overlap another term. Is this no longer the case?

**Response:**

SME Vancil: That's correct, the two week extension idea no longer applies. Please see the Electronic Announcement from November 5, 2019 at https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2019-11-05/revised-policy-standard-term-length. In the Q&A section, question #8 addresses your question.

**Question:**

We are awaiting approval for an additional location. Once approval is received, students may be in semester/term 3. Can we start the AY with term 2 so students only miss out on TIV for term1?

**Response:**

SME Scott - Thanks for your question. The answer depends on whether or not we are talking about Pell Grants or Direct Loan. For Pell Grants, students become eligible for the payment period in which eligibility is granted, and for Direct Loans, it is for the loan period. I suggest you follow up with your School Participation Division for the specific details of your situation and the contact information for each team is on the final slide.

**Question:**

If a student's primary program of study is a standard term program, does enrollment in a study abroad program for one semester at another institution with start or end dates that overlap the primary program of study standard terms impact the academic calendar for the student's primary program of study at the home institution?

**Response:**

SME Scott - Thanks for your question. The general answer is that there is flexibility under consortium agreements, and we'll discuss that at the very end of the presentation - see slide 47.

**Question:**

If you have an intersession that is in January, not required, and attached to the spring semester and do not charge tuition for the January term do you still need to award aid since the living expenses would be covered in the fall and spring COA?

**Response:**

SME-Summers-Thank you for your question. We are researching your answer.

**Response:**

SME-Summers-Thank you for your question. If the student is enrolled for the January intersession, yes, you should award and disburse aid if the student is otherwise eligible (regular student, enrolled in an eligible program, making SAP, etc.).

**Question:**

Can you have an intersession in the summer between spring and fall, when no summer term exists and there would be a large gap of time between intersession and fall term beginning?

**Response:**

SME Vancil: Yes, you could have an intersession in this situation. Programs with standard terms and intersessions can remain standard if the intersession is attached to a standard term. So the reasonable thing to do would be to attach the intersession to the spring term.

**Question:**

If a course overlaps with another term, that program becomes nonterm. Is there any exception for summer term? In other words, does a Spring Term course that overlaps Summer term have to be nonterm?

**Response:**

SME Scott - Thanks for your question. No, there is no exception for summer. If any terms overlap, the entire program becomes nonterm for Title IV purposes.

**Question:**

For example if we are closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving, but there is instruction on Monday-Wednesday. Would that count as an instructional week?

**Response:**

SME-Summers-Thank you for your question. The general answer is yes. The more specific answer is that is depends on the day you start counting the weeks. A week is any period of seven consecutive days in which at least one day of regularly scheduled instruction, exams, or after the last day of classes, at least one day of study for examinations occurs. The count of weeks can start on any day of the week, assuming the above criteria are met.