



Frequently Asked Questions

When is Cal Poly Pomona switching to semesters?

Cal Poly Pomona is switching from quarters to semesters in fall 2018. The first day of fall 2018 will be August 23, 2018.

What is the difference between the quarter system and the semester system?

The quarter-based academic year has three 10-week terms — fall, winter, and spring — and an optional summer quarter. The semester based academic year has 15-week terms in fall and spring, as well as an optional summer session.

What are the benefits of switching to the semester system?

Semester Conversion is a CSU-wide initiative to have all 23 campuses on a similar calendar. Currently, only four campuses are on a quarter calendar, and all but one are undergoing conversion. A similar calendar will facilitate shared programs, research grants and academic initiatives among the campuses. Transferring credits from community college will be smoother, as the majority of community colleges in California follow a semester calendar. Semesters also allow students to get to know their professors and classmates better, and students will have more time to learn and study academic material.

Will students lose credits in the transition between systems?

Cal Poly Pomona's Pledge to Students promises no loss of credits earned before conversion and no additional time to graduation as long as students remain in their chosen major after completing 45 major units, pass their classes, take a full class load, and meet with their advisor regularly. To read the entire pledge, visit the Semester Conversion website at www.cpp.edu/semester.

Will the requirements for majors change?

Academic departments may make substitutions for specific classes as a result of semester conversion. However, these classes should meet the same program outcomes and should not extend students' time to degree.

How will semester conversion affect students' time to degree?

If students work with their advisor, the transition should have no impact on the anticipated graduation date. Students should try to finish any sequence of classes they have already started and delay starting any new class sequences that cannot be completed before conversion. If students need a class before conversion that is not being offered or all the sections are full, they should talk to that academic department.

What information and resources are available before and after the transition?

Students' primary resource is their advisor, who can guide them to the right courses to graduate on time or transition to semesters. MyPlanner in the BroncoDirect Student Center (<https://www.cpp.edu/broncodirect/>) will help students plan their future courses. Additionally, updated curriculum sheets and road maps with semester curriculum information are available through the Semester Conversion website at www.cpp.edu/semester. The Bronco Advising Center is on the second floor of the CLA Building. Visit their website at www.cpp.edu/studentsuccess/bac/ or get timely updates about semester conversion from their social media accounts (@cppbac). Students should also read the BroncoBytes student email newsletter and quarterly semester conversion newsletter for updates.

What are bridge and cap courses?

If students are unable to complete a course sequence before conversion, some departments will be offering 5-week bridge and 10-week cap courses.

How will semester conversion impact tuition payments?

Total annual tuition costs will not be affected. On the semester calendar, annual tuition is paid in two installments, instead of three. For this reason, each installment amount will be higher than payments on a quarter term. Student Accounting & Cashiering Services will offer an installment payment plan.

Updates will be available on their website at www.cpp.edu/student-accounting/. More information about tuition will also be linked from the Semester Conversion website at www.cpp.edu/semester/.

How will semester conversion impact students' financial aid package?

Students' annual financial aid award will not be impacted by semester conversion. However, disbursement will happen twice a year instead of three times.

Financial aid information is available at www.cpp.edu/financial-aid/ or stop by the office on the third floor of the CLA Building.

How will semester conversion affect summer 2018 course offerings?

Summer 2018 will consist of just one five-week session instead of the usual ten-week session and two five-week sessions.

If I have already transferred to Cal Poly Pomona with semester credits, will I lose units in the conversion?

While students should not lose credits due to semester conversion, the answer to this question depends on the specific classes and major.

For more information, students should talk with their advisor or visit the Bronco Advising Center in person on the second floor of the CLA Building, online at www.cpp.edu/studentssuccess/bac/, via phone at 909-869-4600 or email bac@cpp.edu.

How will the semester calendar affect study abroad opportunities?

The semester calendar will make it easier to pursue study abroad opportunities. Most international universities that partner with the California State University follow some version of a semester system.

How will the calendar change students' ability to get a summer job, internship, or research opportunity?

The semester calendar will make it easier to pursue a summer job, internship or research opportunity. Employers often match their start dates with the end of spring semester. There will be more time to pursue and work on undergraduate or graduate research projects.

It is possible that students will have a better chance getting chosen for summer employment, internships or research opportunities when Cal Poly Pomona's academic calendar more closely aligns with those of neighboring institutions.

For more information on Semester Conversion, please visit their website at <http://www.cpp.edu/~semester/>.