SOFTWARE & TECH

Academic Calendar Uwo

Published: November 20, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Your Guide to the Academic Calendar at Western University (UWO)

Navigating university life can be both exciting and overwhelming, especially for new students. Among the most critical documents you will encounter is the **Academic Calendar UWO**. Far more than a simple list of dates, this official publication serves as the foundational contract between you and the university. It outlines every regulation, program requirement, course description, and key deadline that will shape your academic journey. Understanding how to use the Western University academic calendar effectively is not just a good habit—it is essential for staying on track, avoiding costly mistakes, and making the most of your time on campus.

Whether you are a first-year undergraduate, a graduate student, or an international scholar, the University of Western Ontario's academic calendar is your definitive source of truth. This article will break down everything you need to know: from the structure of the document and how to locate important dates to the policies that impact your enrollment, course selection, and graduation. By the end, you will have a clear roadmap for using the UWO academic calendar to your advantage.

What Is the Academic Calendar UWO?

The **Academic Calendar UWO**is an official publication released annually by Western University. It contains the complete list of programs, modules, courses, and academic policies for the upcoming academic year. Unlike a typical planner or university handbook, this document has legal and contractual standing: by registering for courses, you agree to abide by the rules and procedures outlined in the calendar for that year.

Typically, the calendar is published online in the late spring or early summer, covering the fall, winter, and summer sessions. Students are encouraged to consult the calendar for the year they entered their program, as policies can change. The UWO academic calendar is divided into several main sections, including general regulations, faculty-specific information, course descriptions, and university-wide policies. It also contains important dates such as the start and end of classes, examination periods, reading weeks, and deadlines for adding or dropping courses.

Key Sections of the University of Western Ontario Academic Calendar

To use the calendar effectively, you must understand its structure. Here are the primary sections you will encounter:

General Academic Regulations

This section applies to all students, regardless of faculty. It covers topics such as:

- Admission requirements and procedures
- Registration and course load
- Grading system and grade point average (GPA) calculations
- Academic accommodation policies
- Petitions and appeals processes
- Scholarships, awards, and financial aid guidelines

Reading this part of the Western University academic calendar early in your studies can prevent many common misunderstandings. For example, you will learn how to withdraw from a course without academic penalty, what

constitutes a full-time course load for scholarship eligibility, and how to request an exam deferral.

Faculty and Program Information

Western University is composed of several faculties, including Arts and Humanities, Engineering, Health Sciences, Information and Media Studies, Law, Music, Science, Social Science, and the Ivey Business School. Each faculty has its own set of regulations, program structures, and module options. The UWO academic calendar dedicates separate chapters to each faculty. Within these chapters, you will find:

- Degree requirements for each program (e.g., Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science)
- Module types: Specialization, Major, Minor, Honors, and Combined degrees
- Course prerequisites and exclusions
- Co-op and internship opportunities
- Graduation requirements

For example, if you are in the Faculty of Science and want to pursue an Honors Specialization in Biology, you must follow the specific course sequence and credit requirements outlined in the calendar. Deviating from these requirements can delay graduation.

Course Descriptions

One of the most practical sections of the **Academic Calendar UWO**is the course catalog. Each course is listed with a unique code (e.g., PSYCH 1000), title, credit value, description, prerequisites, antirequisites, and often the semester offered. When planning your schedule, you should always verify this information directly from the calendar rather than relying on third-party websites. Some courses may have changed prerequisites or been discontinued.

Pay special attention to notes like "restricted to students in the Honors program" or "priority registration for third-year students." These details can affect your ability to enroll in a desired class. Using the UWO academic calendar as your primary source ensures accuracy.

University-Wide Policies

Beyond faculty-specific rules, the calendar includes important policies that affect all students. These include:

- Academic integrity and misconduct policies
- Student code of conduct
- Privacy and access to information
- Accommodations for students with disabilities
- Religious accommodation
- Policy on the use of generative AI in coursework (a newer addition)

Understanding these policies is crucial for maintaining good academic standing and avoiding unintentional violations. The Western University academic calendar clearly outlines the consequences of academic dishonesty and the steps for appealing a decision.

Important Dates in the UWO Academic Calendar

While the policies and course descriptions are invaluable, the most frequently referenced part of the **Academic Calendar UWO**is the list of important dates. Each year, the calendar publishes a comprehensive schedule that includes:

1. First day of classes – Typically in early September (fall term) and early January (winter term).

2. Reading Week – A week-long break in the fall and winter terms, usually in October and February.
3. Last day to add a course – Usually within the first two weeks of the term.
4. Last day to drop a course without academic penalty – Often around the midpoint of the term. After this date, a withdrawal is recorded on your transcript.
5. Exam periods – Formal examination periods in December and April, plus a summer session.
6. Holiday closures – Statutory holidays when the university is closed.
7. Convocation and graduation dates – Typically in June.

Missing a deadline for adding or dropping a course can have serious consequences, including financial penalties or a grade of "F." Therefore, it is wise to bookmark the important dates page from the UWO academic calendar at the start of each term. Some students even sync these dates into their personal calendars to stay organized.

How to Access the University of Western Ontario Academic Calendar

The official **Academic Calendar UWO** is hosted on Western's website, usually under the "Registrar" or "Current Students" section. The URL typically follows a pattern like *registrar.uwo.ca/academic-calendar*. You can also navigate from the Western homepage by searching for "academic calendar." The calendar is available in a fully searchable online format, which makes it easy to find specific courses or policies.

It is important to note that the online version is the authoritative source. While PDF versions may be available for offline reference, they might not reflect the most recent updates. Western often updates the calendar throughout the year to correct errors or incorporate late policy changes. Always verify critical information against the live web version of the UWO academic calendar.

Tips for Using the Western University Academic Calendar Effectively

To get the most out of this essential resource, follow these best practices:

Read the Calendar Early and Often

Do not wait until you encounter a problem to consult the **Academic Calendar UWO**. Read the relevant sections at the beginning of your program, before course registration opens, and before making any major academic decisions. The more familiar you are with the rules, the better prepared you will be.

Use the Search Function

The online calendar has a powerful search feature. Use keywords like "prerequisite," "withdrawal," "probation," or your course code to quickly locate information. This saves time and reduces frustration.

Pay Attention to the Year

Always confirm that you are viewing the calendar for the correct academic year. For example, if you started in 2024, you should follow the 2024-2025 academic calendar for your entire program unless you take a leave of absence or change programs. When you graduate, the registrar will use the calendar in effect at the time of your initial registration to determine your degree requirements, but policies can change for subsequent years if you interrupt your studies.

Consult Academic Advisors

While the Western University academic calendar is comprehensive, it can be dense. If you are unsure about any policy or requirement, speak with your faculty's academic advising office. They can interpret the calendar and provide personalized guidance.

Check for Updates

Western occasionally publishes amendments to the calendar. Bookmark the "Calendar Updates" page or check the main calendar website periodically. This is especially important for deadline changes due to unforeseen circumstances like weather closures or public health situations.

Common Questions About the UWO Academic Calendar

Is the Academic Calendar the Same as the Course Timetable?

No. The **Academic Calendar UWO**provides course descriptions and academic policies, while the timetable (also called the time schedule) lists the specific days, times, and locations where classes are held. The timetable is typically released after the calendar and is used for registration.

Can I Rely on the Calendar for My Degree Audit?

The calendar is a primary source, but the degree audit tool available through Student Center (often called "Degree Works" at Western) uses the same rules to track your progress. However, the calendar itself is the authoritative document. If there is a discrepancy, the calendar takes precedence.

What If I Find an Error in the Calendar?

Contact the Office of the Registrar. Official corrections are published as amendments. Always check the online version first, as errors are often corrected quickly.

Conclusion

The **Academic Calendar UWO**is far more than a schedule of dates—it is an indispensable guide that empowers you to take control of your education. By understanding its structure, familiarizing yourself with key policies, and keeping track of important deadlines, you can avoid pitfalls and make informed decisions throughout your time at Western University. Whether you are mapping out your major, preparing for exams, or planning your graduation, let the academic calendar be your reliable compass. Bookmark it, read it, and refer to it often. Your academic success depends on it.

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