

PROPOSED TRIMESTER PLAN  
FOR  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY OAKLAND

"Michigan State University Oakland will move to a full-year operation as soon as it is economically feasible."

This was one of the commitments made in the planning of this new institution. To minimize the inconvenience of such a transition, yet to obtain as quickly as possible the advantages which would result, it is recommended that Michigan State University Oakland adopt the trimester plan approximately as outlined below, effective September 1, 1961.

The Program

A. The Academic Calendar

1. During each academic year there would be three trimesters of approximately equal length.
2. Each trimester would include 15 weeks (75 teaching days), which is the equivalent of a traditional semester. Two such trimesters would be the academic equivalent of three quarters under our present scheme.
3. The school year would begin on Tuesday following Labor Day and terminate on about August 5. This would leave the month of August as vacation month.
4. The academic calendar for 1961-62 would likely be as follows:  

fall trimester: September 5 -- December 20  
winter trimester: January 3 -- April 13  
Spring trimester: April 23 -- August 5

B. Estimated Enrollments

1. For this plan to be effective, it is planned that the entering class in the fall of 1961 be advised that their class would graduate in April of 1964 and that they would be expected to attend on the new trimester

basis. The university would make every effort to provide financial aid to students since the opportunities for summer employment would be eliminated. There is reason to believe that the student loan program, bank loan plan, student labor opportunities, and scholarship program would provide the necessary support for cases of genuine need.

2. The sophomore and junior classes enrolling in the fall of 1961 would proceed on the new trimester plan, but would be expected to attend only the fall and winter trimesters. Therefore, they would graduate at the end of four years.
3. The spring term, 1962, would include only those students who had entered for the first time in the fall of 1961. It is estimated that this fall term enrollment will be 700 and that 560 would be enrolled for the spring term 1962.
4. For an estimated projection of the enrollments on this plan, see the attached table.

C. Faculty

1. One of the long-time objectives of colleges and universities has been to improve faculty salaries substantially, but at the same time to keep enough faculty time free to permit continued scholarly growth and development. The following plan for faculty utilization under the trimester plan advances both these objectives:
  - All non-tenure faculty appointments would be made for two years.
  - All tenure faculty teaching schedules would be organized on a two-year block.
  - Since two trimesters of instruction are the equivalent of our current three quarters, it is proposed that the trimester, as the unit of instruction, be compensated at the rate of one-half the current annual pay (for 10-month appointees).

--The two-year appointment would provide for teaching five of the six trimesters.

--The two-year compensation would be calculated by the use of this formula:

$$\frac{\text{present annual salary}}{2} \times 5 = 2 \text{ year salary}$$

--The annual salary would be one-half this amount.

2. This plan would provide for an annual salary increase of 25 per cent for each participating faculty member, yet would result in no added cost per unit of instruction. The faculty members would be teaching more days per year on the average, but would still have one trimester each two years free for his own scholarly work.
3. Those members of the faculty electing not to participate in this plan would be compensated on the existing annual basis.
4. Administrative officers and most staff positions are already on a 12-month appointment. This plan would not affect their status.

D. Student Fees

1. It is proposed that resident fees be established at \$140 per trimester, and that out-of-state fees be established at a minimum of \$325 per trimester, or one-half the annual out-of-state fees charged by the Land-Grant college in the state of residence of the student, not to exceed \$375 per trimester.

E. Budget Considerations

1. While this plan would require additional operating funds during a given fiscal year, the costs per unit of instruction would be reduced. Further, the physical plant would be utilized more fully, resulting in substantial savings in long-run capital expenditures.

2. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1961, the following added costs are estimated for the full added trimester:

Salaries

--additional faculty salary costs  
70 faculty members @ average salary  
of \$7600, 25 per cent increase = \$1900  
per faculty member 70 X \$1900 = \$133,000

--added retirement costs @ 8 per cent = 10,000

Labor

--for instructional assistance and  
added maintenance = 10,000

Equipment

--no additional equipment needed

Supplies & Services

--added utilities, instructional supplies,  
travel, and miscellaneous = 50,000

Total for added trimester \$203,000

3. Estimated additional student fee income:

560 students @ \$110 (\$30 per trimester  
reserved for student programs and  
intramural building bonds) \$61,600

4. The balance: \$203,000 less \$61,600 = \$141,400.

This represents the estimated additional costs to be covered by appropriations for the first full trimester.

5. However, only 2/3 of the added expenses for the spring trimester would be chargeable to the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1961. This means that approximately \$75,000 in added appropriations would be required for the fiscal year.

F. The Advantages of This Plan

1. For the Students

--Students would gain a full year's start in their careers. This would be especially beneficial for students entering graduate or professional schools.

--Substantial financial advantages would accrue to the student since he would move to professional employment 14 months earlier than under the more traditional pattern. Thus, any loss of earnings for the two summers would be relatively unimportant.

2. For the Faculty

--Faculty members now on a 10-month appointment would realize a 25 per cent increase in their annual pay.

--One full trimester, plus two one-month vacations, would be available each two years for study, travel, and writing.

3. For Society

--This plan would make possible a fuller use of faculty teaching resources at a time when competent teachers are in an increasingly short supply.

--Since most administrative and staff appointments are already on a 12-month appointment, this plan would effect a saving through a more complete use of their talents.

--Library facilities, a major cost for any university, will be more completely utilized.

--Even though the enrollment per term might be the same, the total student capacity would be greatly increased.

--Fuller, year-around use of the physical plant, could, by the same token, reduce by as much as one-third the need for costly additions to it to accommodate a mounting student population.

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT FIGURES

To estimate total enrollments by terms, the following assumptions were made:

1. The sophomore class is 80 per cent of the previous year's freshman class.  
The junior class is 90 per cent of the previous year's sophomore class.  
The senior class is 90 per cent of the previous year's junior class.
2. 500 freshmen will enter in fall of 1960.  
700 freshmen will enter in fall of 1961.  
900 freshmen will enter in fall of 1962.  
1000 freshmen will enter in fall of each subsequent year.
3. "Trimester" plan will start in fall of 1961.

RESULTS

1959	1960			1961			1962			1963			1964			1965			1966			1967	
	F	W	S	F	W	S	F	W	S	F	W	S	F	W	S	F	W	S	F	W	S		
570	530	490	455	440	425	410	390	---	370	350													
			500	465	430	400	380	---	360	340	---	325	310										
						700	630	560	530	505	480	455	435										
									900	810	720	685	650	615	585	555							
												1000	900	800	760	720	685	650	620				
															1000	900	800	760	720	685	650	620	
																1000	900	800	760	720	685	620	
																			1000	900	800	720	
																						685	
																						900	
																						800	
570	530	490	955	905	855	1510	1400	560	2160	2005	1200	2465	2295	1415	2345	2175	1485	2410	2240	1485	2410	2240	1485

**PROPOSED TRISEMESTER SCHEDULE  
FOR THE ENTERING FRESHMEN CLASS  
FALL 1961**

**FALL 1961**

Registration & Orientation	August 31 & September 1	(Thursday & Friday)	
Classes begin	September 5	(Tuesday)	
Thanksgiving recess	November 23 & 24	(Thursday & Friday)	75 class-
Classes resume	November 24	(Monday)	days
End of Semester	December 20	(Wednesday)	

(Between Semesters - 12 Days)

**WINTER 1962**

Registration	January 2	(Tuesday)	
Classes begin	January 3	(Wednesday)	75 class-
End of Semester	April 17	(Tuesday)	days

(Between Semesters - 2 Days)

**SPRING 1962**

Registration	April 20	(Friday)	
Classes begin	April 23	(Monday)	
Memorial Day recess	May 30	(Wednesday)	
Classes resume	May 31	(Thursday)	75 class-
4th of July recess	July 4	(Wednesday)	days
Classes resume	July 5	(Thursday)	
End of Semester	August 7	(Tuesday)	

(Between Semester - 27 Days)

**FALL 1962**

Registration & Orientation	September 4 & 5	(Tuesday & Wednesday)	
Classes begin	September 6	(Thursday)	
Thanksgiving recess	November 22	(Thursday)	75 class-
Classes resume	November 26	(Monday)	days
End of Semester	December 21	(Friday)	

(Between Semester - 11 Days)

**WINTER 1963**

Registration	January 2	(Wednesday)	
Classes begin	January 3	(Thursday)	75 class-
End of Semester	April 17	(Wednesday)	days

(Between Semester - 1 Day)

**SPRING 1963**

Registration	April 19	(Friday)	
Classes begin	April 22	(Monday)	
Memorial Day recess	May 30	(Thursday)	
Classes resume	May 31	(Friday)	75 class-
4th of July recess	July 4	(Thursday)	days
Classes resume	July 5	(Friday)	
End of Semester	August 6	(Tuesday)	

(Between Semesters - 27 Days)

FALL 1963

Registration	September 3 & 4	(Tuesday & Wednesday)	
Classes begin	September 5	(Thursday)	
Thanksgiving recess	November 28	(Thursday)	75 class-
Classes resume	December 2	(Monday)	days
End of Semester	December 20	(Friday)	

(Between Semesters - 12 Days)

WINTER 1964

Registration	January 2	(Thursday)	
Classes begin	January 3	(Friday)	75 class-
End of Semester	April 16	(Thursday)	days



PROPOSED TRI-SEMESTER SCHEDULE  
FOR THE ENTERING FRESHMEN CLASS  
FALL 1961

FALL 1961

Registration	September 7, 8	
Classes begin	September 11	
Thanksgiving recess	November 23, 24	75 Days
Classes resume	November 27	
End of Semester	December 22	

(Between Semesters - 10 Days)

SPRING 1962

Registration	January 2, 3	
Classes begin	January 4	75 Days
End of Semester	April 16	

(Between Semesters - 8 Days)

SUMMER 1962

Registration	April 26, 27	
Classes begin	April 30	
Memorial Day recess	May 30	76 Days
Classes resume	May 31	
4th of July recess	July 4	
Classes resume	July 5	
End of Semester	August 10	

(Between Semesters - 26 Days)

FALL 1962

Registration	September 6, 7	
Classes begin	September 10	
Thanksgiving recess	November 22, 23	75 Days
Classes resume	November 26	
End of Semester	December 21	

(Between Semesters - 12 Days)

SPRING 1963

Registration	January 3, 4	
Classes begin	January 7	75 Days
End of Semester	April 17	

(Between Semesters - 7 Days)

**SUMMER 1963**

Registration	April 25, 26	
Classes begin	April 29	
Memorial Day recess	May 30	75 Days
Classes resume	May 31	
4th of July recess	July 4	
Classes resume	July 5	
End of Semester	August 9	

(Between Semesters - 26 Days)

**FALL 1963**

Registration	September 5, 6	
Classes begin	September 9	
Thanksgiving recess	November 28, 29	75 Days
Classes resume	December 2	
End of Semester	December 20	

(Between Semesters - 12 Days)

**SPRING 1964**

Registration	January 2, 3	
Classes begin	January 6	75 Days
End of Semester	April 15	