

trimester--



a
richer
future
sooner

at

MSUO

Year-Round College

why is it being done?

A major evolution is under way in American higher education. It is year-round operation, and it is being brought about by the pressures of a changing world:

Knowledge in every field is not merely growing but multiplying. Economies, technologies and human relationships are ever more sophisticated and complicated. Nothing is in greater need nor in shorter supply than the university's product: educated brains.

The 3,600,000 youths now in college will soon be 7,000,000, or, more probably, 9,000,000. The nation's resources of teaching talent even now are woefully inadequate; the costs of doubling or tripling the size of today's college plant would be enormous—\$30 billion or more.

Yet, in the face of these national urgencies, many colleges shut down three months each year, apparently for one historic reason: students were once needed to get in the crops. This leisurely educational pace is a luxury that neither student nor society can afford any longer.

Year-round college is the natural answer.



what are the benefits?

- **THE STUDENT GAINS LARGE AMOUNTS OF BOTH TIME AND MONEY.**
- **IT SAVES THE TAXPAYER MONEY BY ACCOMMODATING UP TO ONE-THIRD MORE STUDENTS WITH NO MORE CLASS-ROOMS, AND WITH ONLY A MODEST INCREASE IN STAFF.**
- **SCARCE FACULTY RESOURCES ARE USED MORE FULLY.**

Recognizing all this, the many able and distinguished figures who sought the best ideas to create Michigan State University Oakland as a

university for the future decided it should go to year-round operation at the earliest feasible moment. That moment will be September, 1961, when a proposal known as the Trimester (three-semester) Plan approved by the faculty and the Board of Trustees will go into effect.

how does it operate?

Three Semesters a Year

It is known as the Trimester Plan because it provides for three full semesters of 15 weeks each in place of two traditional 14-to-16 week semesters or three 10-week quarters. The terms for the next school year will run as follows: September 5-December 20; January 2-April 17; and April 20-August 7. The University will be closed from August 7 to Labor Day. This will mean approximately four weeks of summer vacation, plus Christmas and spring vacations.

A Degree in Two and Two-thirds Years



Adding a third full-term semester to every school year obviously will mean completing the normal eight semesters of college work in two and two-thirds years instead of in the usual three and three-quarters. This is because students at MSUO will be achieving fifty per cent more in a calendar year than at two-semester colleges.

This plan may also lead to such things as master's degree programs in less time than it takes for a bachelor's degree today. This is a very important consideration; advanced degrees are needed in more and more fields. Already about one-fourth of all college graduates continue their education, and the percentage is rising at a rate that is likely to make graduate degrees as general as undergraduate degrees today.



who is affected?

Only Freshmen Are Eligible

Only the freshmen entering in September, 1961, and thereafter will be able to take the full schedule all three semesters. All freshmen will be urged to do so.



Students now enrolled will be able to take some, but not all, courses the third semester if they wish. One reason is that MSUO does not yet have a staff large enough to provide the many upper-class courses needed for a three-semester operation. Further, the freshmen who entered in September, 1959, were assured that they would graduate in 1963 as the charter class.

what are the financial effects?

Tuition the Same

Tuition will be the same for the entire college career as now. The resident fee per semester will be \$140, which would figure out to the same per-day or per-week rate as now.

A Gain of \$4,000 to \$5,000

Completing college work 14 months sooner will mean more than a year's earlier start in graduate work or in a career, and an extra year's salary.



True, the student may lose three months of work time for each of two summers—assuming that he is one of the fortunate three in ten who is able to find a full-time job. Even if he does, the weekly pay envelope for a summer job is much thinner than for the career job of a college graduate.

Hence, the net gains add up to about \$4,000 for those lucky enough to earn \$800 per summer, and to about \$5,000 for the great majority

who aren't. It should be noted that the Trimester Plan still leaves one month of summer vacation each year for work or leisure.

Summer Job Substitutes Available

The loss of summer job time gives the University the responsibility for helping to provide a substitute. This it is seeking to do with scholarships, loan funds and jobs.

Scholarship aid is now being provided for more than 100 students, and strenuous efforts are being made to accumulate funds for succeeding years.

Loan funds are available under the National Defense Education Act. The Act permits borrowing up to \$1,000 a year for five years. Repayment and interest at 3 per cent do not start until a year after a student leaves school, and up to one-half of the loan will be forgiven for those who teach in the public schools.

Other loan funds, including one of \$3,000 donated by the Pontiac Kiwanis Club, are also available.

Jobs on campus have been provided by the University for more than 100 students. Perhaps double or triple this number have Saturday or other part-time jobs off campus.



As a practical matter, the University is confident that any serious student who wants to learn will not be denied the chance because the summer vacation period has been shortened.

what are its academic effects?

Is It Harder on the Student?

The student will be going to school 11 months (45 weeks) a year instead of nine months (30 weeks), but his year—unlike that of his working

Michigan State University Oakland

friend—will be dotted with frequent vacation breaks. College will still be much less demanding in this respect than will his career.

Is It Better or Worse Intellectually?

It should prove a distinct advantage.

First, studies show that a person reaches the peak of his creative abilities in his twenties. But this is the period when most graduate and professional school students are still under the direction of their professors and hence not free to develop their intellectual capacities to their limits. Shortening the college span will free more of this creative period.

Second, in a continuity of learning activity, it can be argued that students receive a better quality of education than under alternate periods of learning and intellectual idleness. One doesn't have all summer to forget what one has learned (or to become bored). Experience with accelerated programs during and after World War II is evidence of this.

Third, four years of interrupted and sometimes disjointed starts and stops will be integrated at MSUO into two years and eight months of more effectively and smoothly connected learning.

what about other colleges?

A Pattern Already Is Developing

The University of Pittsburgh pioneered the trimester idea in September, 1959, and now regards the program as a resounding success. MSUO next decided to put its entire program on this particular kind of year-round plan.

However, Pennsylvania State University, Ferris Institute, Kalamazoo College, Michigan State University (East Lansing) and the University of Michigan's Dearborn Center, among others, are already involved in variations of year-round operation.

Forty or more other colleges have plans under study and the number adopting either a trimester or a four-quarter plan will undoubtedly multiply in the next few years.



For further information, write:

Director of Admissions
Michigan State University Oakland
Rochester, Michigan

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adds a year to your career