

# Expansion and Enhancement of the Academic Calendar

***Strategic Plan Theme: Student Success***

***Funding Level: Below \$1 million***

***Facility Needs: No new facilities will be needed***

***Submitting Unit: Provost***

***Collaborating colleges/departments/units involved with this proposal.***

Enrollment Services (Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar); Human Resources/Faculty Academic Staff Affairs; Student Life and Engagement (RHS, Student Affairs); All Colleges; Academic Governance; Student Leadership; Graduate, Undergraduate, Health Sciences

***What is the proposal's big theme or idea?***

Adjustment of the Academic Calendar to include the creation of space in January between the traditional Fall and Spring Semesters for a 2-3 week long J-term.

***What is the proposal's goal?***

Create Expand Learning Opportunities for a wider range of MSU students; Provide adequate breaks within and between semesters for the MSU community; Support students needing a catch-up, transition, advancement period for student success, and reduced time to degree; Support students needing greater access to MSU courses (i.e. adult, returning, distance); Position MSU as the leader among Big Ten, AAU, and APLU peers; and Actively engage business, industry, government, and workforce for continuous enhancement and alignment of curriculum. \_\_\_\_\_

Increase opportunities for:

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: Internships; Apprenticeships; Education Abroad/Away/Exchange; Research; Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Community Engagement; Performance; Industry Immersion; Professional Skill Development.

ALTERNATIVE MODALITIES: Online; Hybrid; Blended class-lab studios; Block scheduling; Study Abroad/Away/Exchange; Field Work / Field Stations (KBS); Conferences; Seminars; Directed/Independent Study.

MICRO-CREDENTIALING: Certificates; My Spartan Story; Professional Skills; Career Preparation.

TRANSITION & CATCH-UP: Poor Fall Semester performance; Gaps in foundational Learning (math, writing); College Core/Foundation support with enhanced major/career exploration; New Student Transitions; Bridge Programming; Returning from leave students (medical, academic dismissals, suspension, funding gaps, abroad/away); Some college, no degree; smaller faculty:student ratios for high-quality experiences.

CURRICULAR INNOVATION, IMMERSION, CULTURAL COMPETENCE: Piloting opportunities (new courses, major course revisions, Interdisciplinary efforts); Intensive concentration into a subject; Space for University-wide strategic educational efforts (cultural programs, DEI, RVSM)

***Define the significance, or impact of your big idea.***

Greater opportunities for student access to the curriculum and an expanded learning platforms; Organizational focus on mental health and wellbeing for students, faculty, and staff; Potential for reduction in student

withdrawals, decreased time to degree, increased persistence and graduation; Expansion of student body to become more inclusive of working, returning, and completion students; Innovation and leadership in Big Ten, AAU, APLU higher education.

***Who will be impacted?***

The entire MSU community with possible exceptions for professional programs already following alternative program specific academic calendars. Financial Aid, Housing/Dining, Academic Year Appointments are a few of the significant areas impacted, and with thoughtful planning can be reasonably adjusted to support the changing calendar with limited impacts. It will take a thoughtful and inclusive team to advance this proposal for the betterment of the University.

***What does sustainability for your proposal look like?***

The greatest effort is in changing the schedule. Once established, it becomes the foundational framework for the creation of innovative and impactful learning experiences throughout the University. All good policy planning should include review, assessment, and appropriate revisions as we continue to collect data and learn from our program implementations