

POLICY BRIEF

No. 40-16

July 2016

Proposed 2017 Summer Sessions

Summer Sessions at NOVA offer a convenient and affordable opportunity for transient students from other colleges and universities and recent high school graduates to earn transfer credits during their summer semester.

To optimize local transient student and high school graduate Summer enrollment, NOVA should consider altering its Summer Sessions as follows:

- One 10-Week Session: May 22 to July 30
- Two 5-Week Sessions: May 22 to June 25 and June 26 to July 30
- One 8-Week Session: May 29 to July 23

This Policy Brief explains why this proposed schedule would help NOVA maximize Summer Session enrollment among transient students and local high school students.

Transient Students

For most four-year universities in the region, Spring semester final exams occur between May 5 and May 17 (Table 1). Thus, in order to target transient students from area universities, NOVA Summer Sessions should start May 21 or later. In 2016, however, most Summer classes began on May 16.

Table 1. University End Dates: 2016-17

Institution	Exams End	Commencement
George Mason University	May 17, 2017	May 20, 2017
George Washington University	May 05, 2017	May 21, 2107
James Madison	May 04, 2017	May 06, 2017
Liberty University	May 09, 2017	May 13, 2017
Marymount University	May 13, 2017	May 21, 2017
Mary Washington	May 05, 2017	May 13, 2017
Old Dominion University	May 03, 2017	May 06, 2017
University of Maryland	May 19, 2017	May 22, 2017
University of Virginia	May 10, 2017	May 14, 2017
Virginia Commonwealth University	May 12, 2017	May 13, 2017
Virginia Tech	May 10, 2017	May 14, 2017

Local Public High School Graduates

In 2017, all Northern Virginia public high schools will end their classes by June 23 (Table 2). In order to target 2017 high school graduates, the later Summer Session should not start before June 26.

Table 3. Public High School End Dates by Jurisdiction: 2015-16 and 2016-17

Jurisdiction	2015-16	2016-17
Alexandria City	June 24, 2016	June 22, 2017
Arlington County	June 23, 2016*	June 21, 2017*
Fairfax County	June 23, 2016	June 23, 2017
Falls Church City	June 24, 2016	June 21, 2017
Loudoun County	June 16, 2016*	June 09, 2017**
Manassas City	June 16, 2016	June 14, 2017
Manassas Park City	June 15, 2016	June 14, 2017
Prince William County	June 23, 2016	June 22, 2017

*Date is for Graduation, which is after the last day of school.

** This is the last day of school; graduation dates are not posted and may occur after this date.

Comparison of NOVA Summer Sessions to Other VCCS Colleges

Table 3 presents Summer Sessions offered at VCCS colleges in 2015-16. NOVA is the only college in the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) that offers a 12-Week Summer Session. NOVA and Tidewater Community College are the only VCCS colleges that hold two 6-Week Summer Sessions. Instead, most VCCS colleges hold 10-Week Summer Sessions, and all but five VCCS colleges hold two 5-Week Summer Sessions.

Table 3. Summer Sessions Offered at VCCS Colleges: 2015-16

VCCS College	12 W	10 W	8 W	7 W	6W 1	6W 2	5W 1	5W 2	4W 1	4W 2	Dynamic Session
Blue Ridge		X	X				X	X			3W MTE Sessions
Central Virginia		X					X	X			3W MTE Sessions
Dabney S. Lancaster		X					X	X			3W MTE Sessions
Danville		X					X	X			
Eastern Shore		X									
Germanna		X		X			X	X	X	X	
J. Sargeant Reynolds		X	X				X	X	X	X	
John Tyler		X	X				X	X	X	X	3W Session
Lord Fairfax		X	X*				X	X			
Mountain Empire											3-3W Sessions
New River		X					X	X			5/23-8/02
Northern Virginia	X		X*		X	X					
Patrick Henry		X									
Paul D. Camp		X					X	X			
Piedmont Virginia		X					X				
Rappahannock		X	X				X	X			
Southside Virginia		X					X	X			
Southwest Virginia		X					X	X			
Thomas Nelson		X	X				X	X			
Tidewater		X			X	X					X
Virginia Highlands		X					X	X			
Virginia Western		X					X	X			
Wytheville		X					X	X			

MTE: Math courses

*Two Sessions

Table 4 presents Summer Start Dates at VCCS colleges in 2015-16. Most VCCS colleges started the first Summer Session on May 23, 2016, while NOVA started on May 16, 2016.

Table 4. Summer Start Dates at VCCS Colleges: 2015-16

VCCS College	Start Dates
Blue Ridge	May 23 (10W, 5W1); June 29 (5W2)
Central Virginia	May 16 (10W, 5W1); June 23 (5W2)
Dabney S. Lancaster	May 31 (10W, 5W1); July 5 (5W2)
Danville	May 23 (10, 5W1); June 23 (5W2)
Eastern Shore	June 6
Germanna	May 23 (10W, 5W1); June 1 (4W1); June 13 (7W); June 28 (5W2); July 7 (4W2)
J. Sargeant Reynolds	May 23 (10W, 5W1, 4W1); June 6 (8W); July 5 (5W2, 4W2)
John Tyler	May 19 (3W); May 23 (10W, 5W1); June 6 (8W, 4W1); June 28 (5W2); July 7 (4W2)
Lord Fairfax	May 23 (10W, 5W1, 8W1); June 6 (8W2); June 28 (5W2)
Mountain Empire	Long Session June 2-August 1; First Short Session June 2-June 30; Second Short Session July 5-August 1
New River	May 23 (10W, 5W1); June 27 (5W2)
Northern Virginia	May 16 (12W, 8W1, and 6W1); June 13 (8W2); June 27 (6W2)
Patrick Henry	May 23 - August 8
Paul D. Camp	May 23 (10W, 5W1); June 30 (5W2)
Piedmont Virginia	May 23 (10W, 5W1); June 28 (5W2)
Rappahannock	May 23 (10W, 5W1); June 7 (8W); June 28 (5W2)
Southside Virginia	May 23 (10W, 5W1); June 27 (5W2)
Southwest Virginia	June 2 (regular term, 5W1); July 5 (5W2)
Thomas Nelson	May 23 (10W, 5W1); May 31 (8W); June 28 (5W2)
Tidewater	May 23 (10W, 6W1); July 6 (6W2)
Virginia Highlands	May 26 (10W, 5W1); July 5 (5W2)
Virginia Western	May 16 (10W, 5W1); June 22 (5W2)
Wytheville	May 23 (10W, 5W1); July 5 (5W2)