



University Policy: Establishing Degree Dates

Policy Category: Academic

Subject: Rules for Establishing Degree Dates

Office Responsible for Review of this Policy: Office of the Provost

Procedures: Development of the Academic Calendar

Related University Policies: Commencement eligibility

I. SCOPE

American University graduates students three times a year, from Fall, Spring, and Summer terms. Each term has an associated degree date that is the official date of the degree conferral. Students must complete all work prior to the degree date of a given term in order to be eligible to graduate from that term.

Due to the increase in modular and online programs, the number of programs that do not adhere to the standard start and end dates for a given term has increased. In order to accommodate the students in these programs the following rules for the degree date for a term are established.

Establishing the degree dates as described below provides the largest window of opportunity for students to graduate from each given term.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

The degree date for each term is established as follows:

Fall Semester: The degree date for Fall semester is the last calendar day of December (12/31).

Spring Semester: The degree date for Spring Semester is the second Sunday of May, which is the last calendar day prior to the first day of Summer classes.

Summer Sessions: The degree date for Summer term is the last calendar day prior to the first day of classes for the Fall Semester.

The degree date will be printed on the diploma and will be published on the Academic Calendar. Students are only eligible to graduate from the furthest future term in which work is completed toward the degree requirements.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 21, 2016

VI. SIGNATURE, TITLE, AND DATE OF APPROVAL

This document was approved and signed by

**Scott Bass
Provost**

on March 18, 2016