

To: University of Toronto Faculty of Law Community
From: Curriculum Committee
RE: Proposed Intersession term beginning 2019-20
Date: September 26, 2018

This report describes the Curriculum Committee's discussions and recommendations regarding the creation of an Intersession Term at the Faculty of Law.

Motivation for Creating an Intersession Term

The intersession term provides an opportunity to offer students a dynamic set of courses beyond the existing curriculum. It will be taught in large part through the Faculty of Law's Distinguished Visitors program, a longstanding signature component of our Faculty that brings together leading academics from peer universities around the world to teach rich and diverse courses and to be part of our community for a brief but concentrated period. The intersession provides upper-year students the opportunity to take courses from experts in a wide range of areas in a close-knit seminar setting.

Prior Consultations on Intersession

The Faculty of Law initiated discussions of an Intersession term in the 2014-15 academic year. Discussions during the 2017-18 academic year explored the possibility of a two-week intersession term with mandatory participation by students in both the 2L and 3L year. The Curriculum Committee's discussions with students and faculty revealed concerns over the feasibility of holding an intersession along these dimensions, in light of student academic demands during the fall and winter terms, as well as their co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. A common concern was over the frequency of deemed days to be made up on a Friday.

The Proposed Intersession

The Committee has worked each year since 2014 to resolve these concerns and provide our students and faculty with the immense benefits we believe a properly structured intersession will yield. Based on all of the discussions and consultations the Committee has undertaken over the past four years, we propose that the intersession term run for one week in the beginning of January with the winter term commencing the following week. Courses offered during the intersession would take a seminar format, meeting for four classes for a duration of three hours each (a total of 12 hours). Each intersession course would be worth one (1) credit. Law students would be required to enrol in intersession only once, during *either* their 2L or 3L year, although the Faculty would welcome participation in both years.

The intersession, if implemented, would begin in the 2019-20 academic year, in January 2020. Students enrolled as 3Ls during this academic year, while welcome to participate in the intersession, would be exempt from any requirement to do so. The credit(s) earned from intersession would apply to total credits required for graduation, and could apply for total credits required for each year of matriculation. The credit(s) would not count against the maximum credits allowed in the fall term immediately preceding or the winter term immediately following the intersession. The intersession would defer both the start and end of the winter term by one week but would not introduce any deemed days to be made up on a Friday.

The Faculty of Law would make every effort to channel their Distinguished Visitors' program through intersession, which would eliminate the challenge students currently face when taking such classes during the term in addition to their semester-long courses. It would also allow students to choose from a diverse range of study, including doctrinal, experiential, and Indigenous courses.

Next Steps

Faculty Council has to decide this fall whether to implement an intersession if it is to be in place for the 2019-20 academic year. The Curriculum Committee welcomes feedback from any member of the law school community on the proposed intersession. Toward that end, it will hold two informal meetings: Tuesday, October 2, 2018 (FL 219 – Willis Room) and Tuesday, October 16, 2018 (FA 103 – Solarium), both from 12:30pm-1:45pm. The committee also encourages written feedback, which can be sent to associatedean.law@utoronto.ca, submitted on or before Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

Signed,

The Curriculum Committee: Zachary Biech (3L), Brendan Cassidy (2L), Mohammad Fadel, Sara Faherty, Larissa Katz, Sophia Moreau, Richard Stacey, Catherine Valcke, Albert Yoon