

TABLE 1. Semester lengths at top univervities in North America

Universities with a quarter system					
University	rnk	start	end	weeks	days
Caltech	1	Sep 29	Jun 12	32.5	130 (145)
Stanford	4	Sep 22	Jun 10	33.5	146
U.Chicago	11	Sep 29	Jun 13	33	139
UCLA	12	Oct 2	Jun 12	33.5	146

Universities with a semester system					
University	rnk	start	end	weeks	days
Harvard	2	Sep 2	May 16	32	125
MIT	6	Sep 3	May 22	31.5	129
Princeton	7	Sep 10	May 23	32.5	110 (120)
UCBerkeley	8	Aug 28	May 15	33	136
Yale	9	Aug 27	May 6	32.5	128
Columbia U	14	Sep 2	May 15	32.5	129 (131)
Johns Hopkins U	15	Aug 28	May 14	32	130
U.Penn	16	Aug 27	May 12	33.5	139
U.Michigan	17	Sep 2	Apr 30	32.5	137
Duke	18	Aug 25	May 2	32.5	140
Cornell	19	Aug 26	May 19	33.5	137
Toronto	20	Sep 8	Apr 27	31	119

Remarks:

- (1) The table contains exactly those universities that are in North America and that appear on the top 20 of the 2014–15 Times Higher Education World University Ranking, <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/2014-15/world-ranking>
- (2) The column “rnk” specifies the Times Higher Education ranking.
- (3) The column “start” specifies the first day of instruction in the fall term.
- (4) The column “end” specifies the last day of exams, not including the summer term if there is one.
- (5) The column “weeks” specifies the sum of the lengths of the quarters or semesters, in weeks, not counting a summer term if there is one. Thus, in a quarter system we take the sum of three quarter lengths, and in a semester system we take the sum of two semester lengths.

The length of a quarter or semester is obtained as the time from the first day of classes until the last day of exams, excluding the winter break if it falls inside a quarter or a term.

- (6) The column “days” lists the number of days of instructions are per year, not counting a summer term if there is one.

When there are two numbers, the number in the parenthesis is the number of days of instruction plus the number of days for midterms.

(7) The data for the University of Toronto is for the UTM campus. The data at the Faculty of Arts and Science is similar.

(8) Sources:

Caltech: <https://www.registrar.caltech.edu/documents/41-academiccalendar2014-15.pdf>
Harvard: <http://www.registrar.fas.harvard.edu/calendar/five-year-calendar>
Stanford: <http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/registrar/academic-calendar-1415>
M.I.T.: <http://web.mit.edu/registrar/calendar/>
Princeton, fall: <http://registrar.princeton.edu/academic-calendar/Fall-2014-2015.pdf>
Princeton, spring: <http://registrar.princeton.edu/academic-calendar/Spring-2014-2015.pdf>
U.C.Berkeley: <http://registrar.berkeley.edu/CalendarDisp.aspx?terms=current>
Yale: <http://yalecollege.yale.edu/academics/calendars/2014-2015-academic-calendar>
U. Chicago: <http://www.uchicago.edu/academics/calendar/>
U.C.L.A.: <http://www.registrar.ucla.edu/calendar/acadcal14.htm>
Columbia U.: <http://registrar.columbia.edu/event/academic-calendar>
Johns Hopkins U.: http://web.jhu.edu/registrar/academic_dates/20142015.pdf
U. Penn.: <http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/3yearcal.html>
U. Michigan, fall: <http://ro.umich.edu/calendar/fa14.php>
U. Michigan, winter: <http://ro.umich.edu/calendar/wn15.php>
Duke: <https://registrar.duke.edu/academic-calendar-2014-2015>
Cornell: <http://www.cornell.edu/academics/calendar/>
UTM: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/important-dates>