

New Scheduling Blocks for the Spring Semester

The Spring 2024 course schedule will introduce new class times. These new time blocks for classes were developed as a result of a multi-year process that began in 2019, when the Campus-Wide Course Scheduling Committee (CWSC) was formed to respond to challenges with the existing course schedule.

In their final report, the CWSC identified several concerns, including:

- insufficient passing time for students between classes, especially if they must transit between the College Hill Campus and Downtown Arts Campus;
- irregularly-scheduled courses that cover multiple scheduling blocks;
- concentration of courses mid-day, leading to challenges with space use/classroom assignments and limiting student choice (if most or all of their courses are offered in the middle of the day); and
- the inability to schedule non-conflicting 4-contact hour courses.

Composed of representatives from across the College, the CWSC included administrators from across the campus, faculty members representing particular committees as well as some elected to the CWSC, and students. The fifteen members brought their experience and expertise from the arts, athletics, student life, STEM fields, and many other aspects of the campus, to their discussions. The CWSC gathered information from both our campus community as well as peer institutions using a variety of tools ranging from online data gathering, report analysis, individual consultations, focus group interviews, multiple surveys and open meetings in order to develop their recommendations.

The recommendations of the CWSC were to be presented at the May 2020 Faculty meeting but were tabled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The recommendations were then revisited in the Spring of 2023 by the Faculty Academic Policy Committee, which brought a motion with the new course block schedule to the faculty in March of 2023. The new course block schedule was approved for implementation in the Spring 2024 semester.

The new course block schedule was constructed to include elements identified as necessary by the Lafayette community, and therefore is expected to have positive outcomes for students and departments alike. The academic day will be maintained from 8 am – 4 pm with very limited scheduled instruction between 4 pm-7 pm in order to preserve time for student activities, faculty committee meetings, etc. A standard 75-minute block option will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to allow for 4 hours of instruction over the week and help mitigate time conflicts and overlapping classes. There will now be 15 minutes of passing time between blocks, which will allow easier transition for both students and faculty members. Finally, the new course schedule provides a lunch break of varying lengths each day, including a standard one-hour lunch slot on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The new schedule times are as follows.

Block	Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays	Block	Tuesdays/Thursdays
1	8:00 – 9:15 (75) or 8:25 – 9:15 (50)	7	8:00 – 9:15 (75)
2	9:30 – 10:20 (50)	8	9:30 – 10:45 (75)
3	10:35 – 11:25 (50)	9	11:00 – 12:15 (75)
4	11:40 – 12:55 (75) or 11:40 – 12:30 (50)		
Lunch	12:30/12:55 – 1:15/1:40 (20, 45, or 70)	Lunch	12:15 – 1:15 (60)
5	1:15 – 2:30 (75) or 1:40 – 2:30 (50)	10	1:15 – 2:30 (75)
6	2:45 – 4:00 (75) or 2:45 – 3:35 (50)	11	2:45 – 4:00 (75)

Labs/Studios: 8:00 – 10:45 and 1:15 – 4:00

More information about spring registration can be found on the [Registration Announcement](#) page.