

October 1, 2015

To: Associate Deans, Department Heads, and Departmental Course Contacts

From: Gail Burd, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs 

Re: Elimination of Dynamically Dated Course sections

In an effort to reduce faculty and student confusion, reduce unnecessary costs to the administration and to students, and streamline the Schedule of Classes, the University of Arizona will discontinue use of the Dynamic Dates session beginning in the Fall 2016 semester.

Although initially meant for a very small number of exceptional classes, the Dynamic Dates session has been used for a growing number of classes with atypical dates. In Fall of 2014 alone, there were 462 dynamically dated undergraduate class sections with 38 unique dynamic dates and 142 dynamically dated graduate class sections with 51 unique dynamic dates.

Listing a class with Dynamic Dates requires significant additional manual work from both the offering department and multiple administrative departments. This includes the maintenance of different start and end dates, processing of refunds, financial aid processes, special processes for the \$250 late fee, calculation of meeting times to ensure compliance with federal government regulations regarding what constitutes a unit of academic credit, and additional impacts on students using the GI Bill. The amount of work required for this process has proven to be disproportionately large for the number of students being served by these classes, and the process is often confusing and costly for these students.

A review of classes currently utilizing the Dynamic Dates session found that most of the distinct date ranges fall within a few days of the existing 7.5-week sessions, or within a new set of three 5-week sessions. The new 5-week session codes will be available for use beginning in the Fall 2016 semester.

15 Week Session (REG)		
7.5 Week Session (7W1)		7.5 Week Session (7W2)
5 Week Session (5W1)	5 Week Session (5W2)	5 Week Session (5W3)

Please review your Dynamic Date class offerings to determine how best to align them with the Regular, 7.5-week, and 5-week sessions. By moving all classes to a few standardized sessions, we will be able to better serve our students and provide a more consistent experience for all students.

Please contact me at gburd@email.arizona.edu if you have any questions or concerns about how this process will affect your department.

