

**To:** The University Senate  
**From:** Purdue Student Government  
Educational Policy Committee  
**Subject:** Academic Regulations Update for Quiet Period Policies  
**Disposition:** University Senate for Discussion and Adoption  
**Reference:** [1] Purdue Student Senate Resolution 20-40, “A resolution to update Purdue’s Dead Week policy.”  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SaYNwFbl97SMPgzah6ZAg8VgyGpa8yji/view>  
[2] Academic Regulations:  
<https://catalog.purdue.edu/content.php?catoid=14&navoid=16527>

\* See also [Document 20-59 as presented in April 2021](#)

**Disposition:** University Senate for Discussion and Adoption

**Rationale:** This legislation is based on PSG Resolution 20-40. [1]

Final exams are inevitably high stress situations for students, a condition which does not contribute to a constructive and positive environment in academic assessments. Students report burdensome amounts of work in some cases [1], and in others, what appear to be comprehensive exams, in addition to final exams during the final exam period.

As currently stated in Purdue’s Academic Regulations [2], courses are prohibited from administering examinations or quizzes during the week before final exams. The policies surrounding this period and finals week appear unclear, or insufficient, to both faculty and students, as reported by students regarding the burdensome workload assigned during this time. The existing policy also does not accommodate courses in which instructors have decided to use an assessment approach which places a reduced emphasis on high stakes (final) exams.

This proposal seeks to modify the Academic Regulations for this time period to provide more mental space for students to review for their final exams, and opportunity for instructors to grade and return to students already-collected coursework before final exams occur.

This proposal also seeks to change the term of “Dead Week” to “Quiet Period” to reflect the intended protection of this time. While we considered using the term “Reading Week,” based on Purdue’s use of “Reading Days” during the first year of the COVID pandemic, those were declared days without any instruction. A benchmarking of Big 10 institutions’ academic calendars confirmed that when institutions listed “reading” periods (reading days, study days, reading periods, etc.) associated with their semester or quarter terms, these periods were days without any instruction or assessment at all, scheduled between the end of classes and the beginning of final exams. We are considering a different timeframe when instruction is still occurring.

Modification of the Academic Calendar is the purview of the University Senate. The votes by Educational Policy Committee represent the agreement to bring this proposal to the University Senate for a full discussion and vote.

- Proposal:** The University Senate revises the Academic Regulations and Procedures from the original policy on the left, to the policy on the right, in two areas:
- Part B. Final Examinations, revising point 8
  - Part C: A new section defining a Quiet Period, its scheduling, and restrictions on student work for courses which offer a final examination.

The revised regulation shall become effective in Fall 2022.

This revision does not change anything with regards to what constitutes a final examination.

<b>Existing language</b>	<b>New language</b>
<p><b>B. Final Examinations</b>  <b>[Excluding Sections 1-7, with additional formatting to highlight parallel structure]</b></p> <p>8. The final examination period is intended for the end-of-semester examination.</p>	<p><b>B. Final Examinations</b>  <b>[Excluding Sections 1-7]</b></p> <p>8. The final examination period is intended for end-of-semester assessments (such as a final exam, quiz) Any such assessment that requires students to be present must conform to</p>

<p>No examination or quiz may be given during the week (three days in summer session) preceding the final examination period of the semester (examinations for laboratory, intensive, or minicourses excluded).</p> <p>It will be the responsibility of the department head or, where appropriate, the school head to ensure that none of the departmental or school faculty use the week (three days in summer session) preceding the final examination period to administer an examination.</p> <p>9. Comprehensive final examinations (examinations for laboratory, intensive or minicourses excluded) are prohibited except during the regular final examination periods of the last week of the semester.</p>	<p>the central scheduling of, and time limitations of, a final examination.</p> <p>9. Comprehensive final examinations (examinations for laboratory, intensive or minicourses excluded) are prohibited except during the regular final examination periods of the last week of the semester. [No changes]</p>
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<b>Existing language</b>	<b>New language</b>
<p>[No current bullet C.]</p>	<p><b>C. Quiet Period</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Quiet Period” shall occur during the last Monday through Saturday (during the fall and spring terms), or the last three days (for 8 week terms), or the 1 day (in 3-4 week terms) of the instruction period preceding the final examination period. Distance learning, hybrid and asynchronous classes are subject to this same regulation as in-person instruction.</li> <li>2. “Quiet Period” is defined as a time during which courses that conduct or collect an assessment during the final exam period shall refrain from assigning or collecting assessments.</li> </ol> <p>Here, “assessments” are defined</p>

	<p>as activities relating to the course's learning objectives that students turn in for class credit that the course instructor intends to use to judge whether students have met the associated learning objectives. Assessments do not include class participation during normally-scheduled class time.</p> <p>Courses that do not offer an assessment (such as a final exam, quiz) during the final examination period are exempt from following the restrictions on Quiet Period.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the unit head to ensure that the unit's faculty preserves this regulation thusly.</p>
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**Committee Votes Educational Policy:**

**For:**

**Faculty**  
 Thomas Brush  
 Jennifer Freeman  
 Eric Kvam  
 Alice Pawley  
 Vanessa Quinn  
 Libby Richards  
 Thomas Siegmund

**Students**  
 Janelle Grant  
 Olivia Wyrick

**Advisors**  
 Jeff Elliott  
 Keith Gehres  
 Jenna Rickus

**Against:**

**Faculty**  
 John Sheffield

**Abstained:**

**Faculty**  
 Todor Cooklev

**Advisors**  
 Jeffery Stefancic

**Absent:**

**Faculty**  
 Erik Otárola-Castillo  
 Li Qiao  
 Antônio Sá Barreto  
 Jeffrey X. Watt

**Students**  
 Elli DiDonna

**Ex-Officio Present, but non-voting members:**

Jaelyn Palm  
 John Pearson