



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:  
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92521-0132

November 21, 2019

TO: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair  
Academic Senate

FROM: Lucille Chia, Chair  
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: [Campus Review] Proposed Regulation Change: Senate Regulation R1.8.1-Final Exam Duration

The CHASS Executive Committee discussed the “Proposed Changes to Regulation R1.8.1” at our meeting on Nov. 20, 2019. We strongly recommend that before the Senate votes on this change that, as noted on p. 3 of Associate Provost Baerenklau’s memo of Oct. 7, 2019, this decision “should be informed by broad feedback from our campus and the experiences of other campuses (both UC and non-UC) that may have changed their exam schedules and studied the outcomes. Such a review would ensure that the regulation reflects the current will of the faculty. . .”

Furthermore, the CHASS Executive Committee’s discussion touched on:

1. The wording of the proposed change to Regulation R.1.8.1 be more flexible, since there are valid reasons for some classes to have final exams that are three hours long and that the instructors should have the right to choose the duration of their final exams. We recognize that this will create further complications and more work in scheduling the final exams, but the ultimate consideration should be the pedagogical benefit of the students.
2. One important impetus for the proposed change is to allow for a reading period of a weekend between the last day of classes (Friday) and the first day of final exams, as had been the practice until exams began to be scheduled on the Saturday, 24 hours or less after the last class day. Indeed, our committee’s undergraduate student representative pointed out that rather than the 2 or 3-hour duration of the exams, more students are concerned about the lack of a reading period and that even a two-day weekend is insufficiently brief (a view supported by several faculty members of the committee). This last is a more complicated issue that requires more discussion.
3. Some EC members felt the whole concept of final exams, as institutionalized, should be re-assessed. For some kinds of courses, final exams may neither be necessary nor desirable for the best pedagogy. In fact, a discussion on this seemingly broad issue may actually help to reduce the number of final exams

that need to be administered and thus mitigate the crunch on classroom time and space and other resources needed during exam week.

Lucille Chia, Chair

CHASS Executive Committee

## Cherysa P Cortez

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**From:** Gabrielle Brewer  
**Sent:** Friday, November 22, 2019 2:32 PM  
**To:** Cherysa P Cortez  
**Cc:** Senate  
**Subject:** FW: [Campus Review] Proposed Regulation Change: Senate Regulation R1.8.1-Final Exam Duration  
**Attachments:** Proposed Regulation Change- Senate Regulation R1.8.1-Final Exam Duration.doc; Final Exam Schedule Undergraduate Student Survey Responses-sample size 53.pdf

Hi Cherysa,

One of the undergraduate students on the Executive Committee did an informal survey with 53 students regarding the final exam duration. The committee would like to include the survey as an addendum to the memo that was earlier today. I've attached both documents.

Thank you,  
Gabby

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**From:** Gabrielle Brewer  
**Sent:** Friday, November 22, 2019 9:52 AM  
**To:** Cherysa P Cortez <cherysa.cortez@ucr.edu>  
**Cc:** Senate <senate@ucr.edu>  
**Subject:** [Campus Review] Proposed Regulation Change: Senate Regulation R1.8.1-Final Exam Duration

Hi Cherysa,

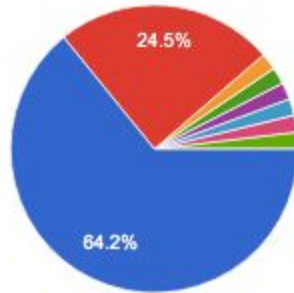
The CHASS Executive Committee reviewed the [Campus Review] Proposed Regulation Change: Senate Regulation R1.8.1-Final Exam Duration at the EC meeting. Here is their response. At this point, they are not approving the regulation change. Please let me know if there are any questions.

I hope all is well!!

Thanks,  
Gabby

### Would you like finals to start on Monday (following week 10) and have finals be 2 hours long instead of 3?

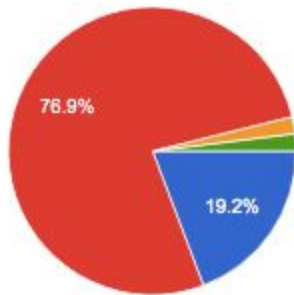
53 responses



- Yes
- No
- I think started on Monday is great but leaving the 3 hours because some...
- Continue as is
- Yes but that's not feasible
- Depends on if professors will adjust to the shorter time frame or keep it the...
- I would like Finals to be the Monday...
- Yes to beginning on Monday. No to...

### Would you like finals to start Saturday of week 10 (what the schedule is now) and continue to have finals for 3 hour periods?

52 responses



- Yes
- No
- Yes, but change it to two hours. So Saturday of week 10 and 2 hours
- I think 3 hrs is long, however I feel like it makes the students feel better knowing that they potentially have that whole time to finish their exam.

Please explain why you chose your answer for the 2 questions above?

It gives students who have a hard time with tests to process the information less time and more pressure.

Because I feel like it is more efficient and it will also allow for the professors to create exams that would be more relevant to the class time.

Starting Monday would give people at least 2 days from the end of classes to be able to study however I think 3 hours makes people feel less stressed especially if you have back to back exams

Professors never really let us use the 3 hours anyway so it wouldn't make that much of a difference. But not having finals the last last day would be better.

Most professors do not use the whole 3 hour time period and make it 2 hours.

It's unnecessary for CHASS majors to have that many hours for finals that require less than two hours to complete. I understand those who need the extra hours. Those who need it should have opportunities to arrange for accommodations. As for midterms, we only get less than an hour and a final/s is no different.

Most times, finals don't need a 3 hour time and they always give a final either really early or really late.

Some classes fully require the 3 hours

I think Saturday is okay, but like there's no way for people to spend the weekend to study for that test. And starting on Monday makes it easier for people to take a test when they are already set to take tests on weekdays.

We need time to study!

I don't usually take the whole 3 hours for the final & I usually finish before the 2 hours unless I'm trying to procrastinate

It would be nice to have the weekend to study and 3 hours is too long

See previous response

3 hours is a perfect length allowing enough time for slower readers or slower writers and does not pressure students to rush through an exam whether written or multiple choice

The additional hour is a comfort to slower students. Having a shorter time with which to complete the exam could lead to worse test anxiety, and thus make people do worse.

I agree with finals starting on Monday following week 10. I don't usually take the full 3 hours; however I know a lot of people that do.

Starting the day after does not give students enough time to study new material learned, can decrease scores on finals due to lack of time.

I want to have time to study for finals and not feel rush.

Starting early is preferable because it helps with getting tests done ASAP, and changing it to 2 hours is common sense because no one takes 3 hours. O

Starting on the Monday following Week 10 would create a far advantage to all students and provide the opportunity to have a minimal amount of time to study before exams officially begin; instead of learning material at the same time.

Depending on the class 3 hours are required, it gives students more time on the exam and it is most likely they'll do better. We already struggle with 40 minutes when taking midterms

I chose 2 hour finals starting Monday of Finals Week because I believe that college finals for undergraduate CHASS courses do NOT need to be 3 hours long, nor should they take over our weekends. In addition, professors can create a shorter exam very easily, but students cannot so easily catch a break.

It honestly depends on how complex the finals are, some may need more than 2 hours to write essay portions of the final. I wouldn't want to have a final on a Saturday. But at the same time, having it the following Monday gives us time on the weekend to study.

Let's students have more time to study

I prefer not to have to commute to school on a Saturday when I normally have to work. I would much rather have my finals during the week rather than beginning on the weekend. I do not mind them being three hours long, however. I believe some people utilize the full three hours and I don't think they need to be reduced. If someone finishes early they can just leave early so I don't think those who need more time should have to suffer.

I would like for finals to start Monday but keep the 3 hours.

It's long enough to where there is not rushing

We already come to school for the whole week, why add weekends too? I want to go home.

We already have a lot to do week 10 and we can't take finals on content we just learned and don't have enough time to conceptualize and many people have plans. However, I would also wanna start early if I was able to end early

By having them start on Monday students that would have the exam on Saturday are given a few more days to prepare which can be the difference between a B and an A. Many students leave before the 3 hour block period, and many professors don't make the exam 3 hours long (except linguistics). Therefore the two hour block is fine as students typically take an hour and a half. I can vouch for this as I personally take 1 and 1/2 on my exams and I am typically one of the last few people to leave (from a room of 200 I'm one of the last 10-15 people to leave )

I feel like Saturday finals are at a disadvantage because it doesn't even give students the weekend to study

Maybe leave it up to the professors to choose how long it should be.

Sometimes you need more time than you might think, yes moving the exams up would help but also allowing students to have time to truly answer the exam

Having it on a Monday would provide students a chance to prepare for finals after completing their normal assignments. A weekend would provide them a chance to take a breather and prep for the final.

It would be better for finals to start on Monday so that students will have the weekend to study for their final. It is very stressful to have a final the day immediately after week 10 ends because students need time to process the material being taught during the final week. As for the length of the final, since students have all finals on Monday instead of Saturday, the duration of the final should remain 3 hours. Having the weekend to study for a final should be enough time to be prepared for a 3 hour final.

Similar to my answer as to how I feel about finals in the Saturday of Week 9, I just think there will be more time to study if finals began on Monday, even if it means not being able to finish finals earlier. As for wanting 2 hours instead of 3, I just think that professors will better be able to make much more efficient final exams rather than dragging the exam out and burning the students out in the meantime.

Basically I will have more time to study without having to feel like I need to skip my sleep so I can study for the final.

Many professors make their exams extra long, meaning two hours sometimes is not long enough to answer everything. I'd rather finals start Monday after week 10 and still have three hours.

The time should be kept to 3 hours however the day we begin finals should be Monday and not Saturday. Again, students who are not good test takers or essay writers may feel pressured to hurry and finish. Some professors also implement shorter times (2 hours) for Finals and some students do not finish on time so keeping the 3 hour option open would be a good option. Concerning the day, the weekend after Week 10 should be reserved for studying and so Finals should begin Monday instead of Saturday. This would give more students the confidence and rest needed to do well in their Finals.

Midterms are not even 2 hrs long, most classes only use 1 30 of the allotted time. It be awesome to destress from everything for 2 days.

I think finals are already stressful enough with 3 hours and sometimes even 3 hours don't seem to be enough time. I can't imagine only having 2 hours for a final.

**Please leave any suggestions you have to overcome this issue! :)**

Let's have a dead week just to study for finals :)) cancel week 10

At least give students the weekend to study new information. Some of us also work on the weekends because we cannot work during the week due to school, therefore gives us less time to study as well. Keep finals 3 hours as some finals are lengthy and take time to gather our thoughts, specially for essay and short answers. 3 hours is a good time to start with.

I think people should schedule the rooms correctly because professors should not believe that the room is occupied during finals week.

This survey is a great way to start! :-)



N/a

Thats everything:)

It may be difficult to transition from beginning finals from Saturday to two days later on a Monday because there are a lot of finals from numerous classes to cover during the period of finals week. Moving finals to begin on Monday would result in a lot of final time being lost that would have been covered during the two day weekend. A lot of class finals are conducted during the immediate weekend after week 10. To compensate for this, it might be possible to end the duration of finals week two day later if it were to also begin two days later. As a result, instead of ending finals week on Friday, it would end on the following Sunday instead. However, that's just my opinion and I'm unsure about everyone's opinion about ending finals later because people do need to go home for break. On the other hand, final times can also start earlier or end early each day from Monday to Friday to balance out the two days that were sacrificed. I hope this helps and that a solution is proposed soon. Good luck with everything!

Maybe make it so that the students have a say on when to have Finals on the first day of lecture?