

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

BOARD POLICY NO. 3002

Academic Year

Date Adopted: 1 April 1993

Date Revised: June 9-11, 2026

Date Reviewed: 24 March 2014; 3 Dec. 2020, June 9-11, 2026

References: College of Micronesia-FSM general Catalog 2001-2013, p.9; [Federal Student Aid an office of the US Department of Education: 2025-2026 Federal Student Aid Handbook. \(34 CFR § 668.3\)](#)

~~The academic year, which begins in August, is divided into sixteen-week semester terms and an eight-week session. (Financial Aid defines the academic year as at least 30 weeks of instructional time in which full-time students are expected to complete at least 24 credits.)~~

1. Institutional Definition of the Academic Year

The academic year officially commences in August and concludes in July of the following calendar year. The institution operates on a semester-based calendar comprised of three distinct terms designed to accommodate diverse learning paces:

- Fall Semester: A primary term spanning 16 weeks of instructional time.
- Spring Semester: A primary term spanning 16 weeks of instructional time.
- Summer Session: An accelerated 8-week session designed for intensive study or credit recovery, which is explicitly included within the same academic year.

2. Federal Compliance & Title IV Financial Aid

For the purposes of administering federal student aid programs, the institution defines a "Title IV Academic Year" in strict accordance with federal regulations (34 CFR § 668.3).

Federal Minimum Criteria

To qualify as an academic year for financial aid purposes, the structure must meet the following baseline thresholds:

- Duration: A minimum of 30 weeks of instructional time.
- Academic Workload: An undergraduate student considered full-time must be expected to complete a minimum of 24 credit hours within that 30-week period.

3. Operational Alignment and Satisfaction of Requirements

The institution's academic calendar structure is specifically designed to satisfy and exceed the federal Title IV requirements outlined above:

- **Instructional Weeks:** Together, the standard Fall (16 weeks) and Spring (16 weeks) semesters provide a combined total of 32 weeks of instructional time, successfully meeting the federal 30-week minimum requirement.
- **Credit Hour Requirements:** Full-time undergraduate students who enroll in a standard course load across the Fall and Spring semesters will easily satisfy the 24-credit annual workload requirement.

The 8-week Summer session serves as a supplemental term within the defined academic year, allowing students additional opportunities for credit accumulation or recovery without altering the compliant baseline established by the primary semesters.

See Administrative Procedures No. 3002