

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Bethel operates on an early semester calendar with two 15-week semesters and a three-week session in January. Bethel offers five summer sessions.

2026-2027 University Academic Calendar (pdf) (<https://www.bethel.edu/undergrad/academic-affairs/files/university-calendar-26-27.pdf>)

All University Fall Term 2026

Labor Day (no classes)	September 7
Homecoming & Family Weekend	October 9-11
Thanksgiving Break	November 25-27
Festival of Christmas	December 3-5
Commencement	December 18

All University January & Spring Term 2027

Classes Begin	January 4
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)	January 18
Good Friday (no classes; Thursday night classes are held)	March 26
Commencement	May 22

All University Summer Term 2027

Summer Term Classes Begin	May 24
Memorial Day (offices closed)	May 31
Juneteenth observed (offices closed)	June 18
Independence Day observed (offices closed)	July 5
End of Summer Term	August 15

Traditional Undergraduate Fall Term 2026

New Student Arrival	August 27
Fall Term Classes Begin (Full-term & First Half of term classes)	August 31
Labor Day (no classes)	September 7
Fall Break (no classes; Thursday night classes are held)	October 2
Homecoming & Family Weekend	October 9-11
First Half of term Classes End	October 20
Advising/Assessment Day (no day classes, night classes are held)	October 21
Second Half of term Classes Begin	October 22
Thanksgiving Break (Tuesday night classes are held)	November 25-27
Festival of Christmas	December 3-5
Last Day of Classes	December 11
Final Examinations	December 14, 15, 17, & 18
Study Day	December 16
Commencement	December 18

Traditional Undergraduate January Session 2027

January Session Classes Begin	January 4
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)	January 18
January Session Classes End	January 26
January Session Break	January 27-30

Traditional Undergraduate Spring Term 2027

Spring Full Term & First Half of term Classes Begin	February 1
Spring Break	March 8-12
Classes Resume	March 15
Good Friday (no classes; Thursday night classes are held)	March 26
Easter Monday (no classes)	March 29
First Half of term Classes End	March 30
Second Half of term Classes Begin	March 31
Advising/Assessment Day (no day classes; night classes are held)	April 7
Last Day of Classes	May 14
Final Examinations	May 17, 18, 20, & 21
Study Day	May 19
Commencement	May 22

Traditional Undergraduate Summer Term 2027

Summer Term Classes Begin	May 24
Full Term & First Half of Term Classes Begin	May 24
Memorial Day (offices closed)	May 31
Juneteenth Observed (offices closed)	June 18
First Half of term Classes End	July 4
Second Half of term Classes Begin	July 5
Independence Day Observed (offices closed)	July 5
End of Summer Term	August 15

Adult Undergraduate Fall Term 2026

Classes Begin (check class schedules for specific dates of classes)	August 17
Labor Day (no classes)	September 7
Homecoming & Family Weekend	October 9-11
Thanksgiving Break	November 25-27
Festival of Christmas	December 3-5
Commencement	December 18
Fall Term Classes End (check class schedules for specific end dates)	December

Adult Undergraduate Spring Term 2027

Spring Term Classes Begins (check class schedules for specific end dates of classes)	January
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Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)	January 18
Good Friday (no classes; Thursday night classes are held)	March 26
Commencement	May 22

Adult Undergraduate Summer Term 2027

Summer Term Classes Begin	May 24
Memorial Day (offices closed)	May 31
Juneteenth Observed (offices closed)	June 18
Independence Day Observed (offices closed)	July 5
End of Summer Term	August 15

Graduate School Fall Term 2026

Fall Term Classes Begin (check class schedules for specific class dates)	August 17
Labor Day (no classes)	September 7
Homecoming & Family Weekend	October 9-11
Thanksgiving Break	November 25-27
Festival of Christmas	December 3-5
Commencement	December 18
Fall Term Classes End (check class schedules for specific end dates)	December 20

Graduate School Spring Term 2027

Spring Term Classes Begin (check class schedules for specific dates of classes)	January 4
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)	January 18
Good Friday (no classes; Thursday night classes are held)	March 26
Commencement	May 22

Graduate School Summer Term 2027

Summer Term Classes Begin (see class schedule for specific class dates)	May 24
Memorial Day (offices closed)	May 31
Juneteenth Observed (no classes)	June 18
Independence Day Observed (offices closed)	July 5
End of Summer Term	August 15

Seminary Fall Term 2026

First Half of Term Classes Begin	August 24
Labor Day (no classes)	September 7
Homecoming & Family Weekend	October 9-11
First Half of Term Classes End	October 15
Second Half of Term Classes Begin	October 19
Thanksgiving Break	November 25-27
Festival of Christmas	December 3-5

Classes End	December 11
Commencement	December 18

Seminary January Session 2027

January Session Classes Begins	January 4
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)	January 18
January Session Ends	January 29

Seminary Spring Term 2027

Spring Term Classes Begin	February 1
Spring First Half of Term Classes Begin	February 1
Spring First Half of Term Classes End	March 25
Good Friday (no classes; Thursday night classes are held)	March 26
Spring Second Half of Term Classes Begin	March 29
Spring Classes End	May 21
Commencement	May 22

Seminary Summer Term 2027

Full Term & First Half of Term Classes begin (MFT Program)	May 24
Memorial Day (offices closed)	May 31
Juneteenth Observed (offices closed)	June 18
First Half of Term Classes End	July 2
Second Half of Term Classes Begin	July 5
Independence Day observed (offices closed)	July 5
Full Summer Term Classes End	August 13
End of Summer Term	August 15

At the close of the fall and spring terms, one week is provided for final examinations in traditional undergraduate courses. Two hours are allowed for each examination. The examination schedule is prepared by the University Registrar (<https://www.bethel.edu/registrar/important-dates-schedules/>) and published at the time of registration. Students are required to take examinations at the indicated time. Exceptions necessitated by conflicts with an established work schedule, severe personal hardship(s), or academic hardship (in the form of having three examinations on one day) must be approved by the faculty member. Faculty approval must be obtained at least two weeks prior to the date of the exam in cases where the hardship is known in advance. Exams will not be rescheduled merely for the economy and/or convenience of the student.

Final examinations are usually given in First half of term, January, and Summer school courses, but no special days are specifically set aside for this purpose.

Bethel's policy on final exams is that every regular academic course must include a final exam or other final appropriate academic exercise within the final exam schedule. In lieu of a final exam that covers the entire course, the following have been declared to be appropriate academic exercises: a paper due at the time of the regularly scheduled final exam period; a unit test similar to others given during the term which covers only a part of the course; or a required class meeting or academic exercise during the regularly scheduled final exam period. Final exams should not be advanced into the last week of classes because doing so negatively affects student performance in other classes.

**The Bethel Seminary has no week of final examinations scheduled, but a professor may elect to give a final examination through a variety of means. Faculty members seek to be sensitive to student needs in the scheduling of examinations.*

Traditional undergraduate programs have January Session courses which take place during three weeks in January and sometimes differ from those taught in the fall and spring semesters. Some are offered at locations away from the St. Paul campus. Most January session courses are listed in this catalog. Description of January session courses not listed are provided as part of the January session and spring schedule. Students are strongly encouraged to take a January session course each of their first three years, so as to retain maximum flexibility for completing all requirements in the senior year. See General Education Entry Standing level (<https://catalog.bethel.edu/academic-information/academic-policies/transferring-credits/transfer-entry-level/>) for the number of January sessions required.

Students are allowed to add/drop a class on or before the third January session class day. They will not be allowed to enroll in a different January session class if they drop a class after the third January session class day.

January Session Waiver

If a student wishes to waive the fulfillment of all of the January Sessions required by his/her entry standing level, he/she may do so by submitting the form found on the Registrar's Office webpage (<https://www.bethel.edu/registrar/forms/>).

By taking courses in Bethel's Summer Session (<https://www.bethel.edu/undergrad/academics/summer-school/>), **traditional undergraduate students** may be able to take a lighter load during the academic year, make room for a study abroad program, or perhaps even graduate earlier. Courses are offered for many different majors and most General Education requirements can be met by taking summer session courses. Bethel conducts six summer sessions. The first, fourth, and full summer sessions start shortly after spring commencement. The second, third, and fifth summer sessions start mid-June. The end dates vary by course. Summer Session registration starts in April. Most courses are offered online.

For **online undergraduate and Graduate students**, Summer session counts as a full academic term, along with fall semester and spring semester, for the purpose of assessing academic standing and application of grading policies. Some programs require coursework during day or evening hours in the summer months. Consult the course schedule, which shows the calendar of class sessions for the full Summer session.