

The Change to Semesters Coordinating Group ([CSC](#)) was jointly appointed by the University Senate and the University administration to coordinate the semester conversion effort. The CSC has adopted the following statement of objectives regarding the conversion of academic programs to a semester-based academic calendar.

**The conversion of academic programs to a semester-based academic calendar should meet seven broad objectives.**

- *The conversion of a program from quarter courses to semester courses should preserve the intellectual content of the program, and the distribution of courses by credit module in the new curriculum should be justifiable, as judged by the impact on faculty workload and on student progress toward a degree.*
- *The conversion should preserve a program's instructional hours; that is, the total amount of instruction offered by the program over the course of an academic year should be approximately the same on semesters as it is on quarters.*
- *The impact of the change to semesters on faculty and instructional staff workload should be neutral.*
- *The service provided by a program to other programs should be preserved.*
- *A semester-based program should not require greater financial resources than its quarter-based predecessor and should be justifiable in terms of its impact on classrooms and other University resources.*
- *At the undergraduate level, the redesign of programs and the conversion of courses on each campus should result in a campus-wide undergraduate curriculum that is coherent, as measured by the intellectual content of undergraduate degrees and student progress toward a degree.*
- *At the graduate and professional levels the conversion of programs should be carefully coordinated to preserve the integrity of programs involving the intellectual resources of more than one department.*

This statement of academic objectives, together with the Semester Standards adopted by the University Senate and the UMD Campus Assembly, provide the basic guidelines for the semester conversion. The Senate standards as adopted on April 18, 1996 are presented below. The UMD Campus Assembly standards will be distributed separately to the UMD community.

As was stated in the introduction, these are minimal standards that may be augmented by colleges with the approval of the appropriate chancellor or provost. The Graduate School Executive Committee has already adopted additional standards for graduate programs, which are set forth in [Appendix 4](#).