

Class Meeting Times Changing: *How and Why?*

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The University of San Francisco has announced its intention to change the class meeting times of some courses offered on its main campus, beginning September, 2010.

First, MW courses will be replaced with MWF courses. USF will continue to offer TR courses, one-day per week day and evening courses and 2, 3 or 5 unit courses as well. Second, the class meeting patterns have been adjusted to align the start times of courses.

These changes will not affect tuition, course credit hours, or how much total time you spend in class. It will only affect when courses meet.

•••WHY

The goal is to provide the best learning environment to students through improved classroom utilization. When courses are roomed each semester, there are never enough classrooms to accommodate all of the courses taking place. Even though there may be classrooms that are sitting empty on a given day, courses cannot be scheduled in them because the timeslots do not fit together. Because of this, courses must sometimes be cancelled or they are forced to meet in non-standard spaces, such as Hayes-Healy Lounge or Memorial Gym.

The new class meeting times will address this problem by more evenly distributing time slots and provide the University with the capacity to room appropriately at least 200 additional course sections every semester. Moreover, this change will also make it easier for students to register for classes because the number of time conflicts will be reduced.

Benefits of the change:

1. USF can accommodate in its current classrooms at least 200 additional course sections every semester.
2. Classes will not have to meet in non-standard spaces, such as lounges or conference rooms.
3. The number of time conflicts between classes will be reduced, thereby making it easier for students to create their class schedules.
4. Benefit the student learning experience through more effective classroom utilization.

Next Steps:

The University will communicate with you about next steps.

Check out the FAQ on the back...



●●●FAQ

1. Will my classes be shorter?

No, your classes will meet for the same length of time measured over the course of the week. For example, each individual MW class meeting will be shorter than on the current schedule, but the total weekly class meeting time will be the same because of the addition of the Friday class meeting.

Comparison of 3-unit course meeting MW vs. MWF:

- MW classes meet twice a week for 75 minutes each meeting.
75 minutes x 2 meetings per week = 150 minutes per week x 16 weeks = 2,400 minutes per semester
- MWF classes meet three times a week for 50 minutes each meeting.
50 minutes x 3 meetings per week = 150 minutes per week x 16 weeks = 2,400 minutes per semester

A similar comparison can be done for a 4-unit course by including additional time for breaks for class meetings that last more than 90 minutes.

Comparison of 4-unit course meeting MW vs. MWF:

- MW classes meet twice a week for 105 minutes each meeting.
105 minutes x 2 meetings per week = 210 minutes per week – 15 minutes for breaks = 195 minutes per week x 16 weeks = 3,120 minutes per semester
- MWF classes meet three times a week for 65 minutes each meeting.
65 minutes x 3 meetings per week = 195 minutes per week – 0 minutes for breaks = 195 minutes per week x 16 weeks = 3,120 minutes per semester

2. Will my courses be worth fewer credit hours?

No, your courses will continue to be worth the same number of credit hours. The plan to change the class meeting times does not change the number of credits offered for each course. The University will continue to offer the same number of credit hours for each course.

3. Will Tuesday-Thursday courses be eliminated?

No, USF will not eliminate or reduce the number of courses that meet on the Tuesday-Thursday schedule.

4. Will the one-day per week courses be eliminated?

No, courses that meet on the one -day per week class schedule will not be eliminated. USF will continue to offer courses that meet just once per week.

5. Will this change affect my tuition?

No, this change will not affect your tuition. The new class meeting times will neither cause you to be charged more tuition nor force you to take more courses.

6. Is a MWF and TR class schedule used by many other universities?

Yes, approximately 2 out of 3 universities in the U.S. use a MWF and TR class schedule.