



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTHERN MAINE**

**USM GRADUATE ASSISTANT  
HOLIDAY AND SCHOOL VACATION  
WORK POLICY  
Updated April 16, 2008**

Customarily, graduate assistants are expected to work **during the weeks that USM is in session** throughout the academic year from September through May. Weekly work schedules are to be negotiated between the supervisor and the graduate assistant. Assistants are paid the same monthly salary, regardless of the number of USM scheduled holidays or other school breaks in a particular month. If a student is normally scheduled to work on a day when their employing USM facility is closed for a holiday but school is still in session, the student will not be required to work and will be paid for that day as usual. Graduate assistants do not routinely work during finals week.

Any alternative to the above work schedule needs be negotiated in writing by the supervisor and the graduate assistant. Such agreements should be on file with the Office of Graduate Studies.

For your convenience, the **USM 2008-2009 academic calendar** is listed below.

**For further clarification, please contact:**

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**USM STUDENT SESSION SCHEDULE  
2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**FALL SEMESTER 2008**

Classes begin 8 a.m. Tuesday, September 2

October Vacation begins after all classes, Sunday, October 12

Classes Resume 8 a.m. Wednesday, October 15

Election Day (no classes), Tuesday, November 4

Thanksgiving Vacation begins after all classes, Tuesday, November 25

Classes Resume 8 a.m. Monday, December 1

Last Day of Classes, Friday, December 12

Final Exams, Monday, December 15 - Friday, December 19

**SPRING SEMESTER 2009**

Classes Begin 8 a.m. Tuesday, January 20

Winter Vacation begins after all classes, Sunday, February 15

Classes Resume 8 a.m. Monday, February 23

Spring Vacation begins after all classes, Sunday, March 22

Classes Resume 8 a.m. Monday, March 30

Last Day of Classes Friday, May 8

Final Exams Monday, May 11 - Friday, May 15

Commencement, Saturday, May 16