Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences
Public Administration and Public Policy
Academic Year 2026-2027

August	
17	Classes Begin on SUBR Land Mass
September	
7	Labor Day Holiday
18	**Doctoral Submissions for September Defenses Due @ 8:50 PM CST |NO EXTENSIONS (1st Time) Chairs must submit to Dr. Hines**
28	**Doctoral Approved Defense List and Schedule Shared (1st Time)**
October	
5 AND 6	**Doctoral Defenses (1st Time)**
5 - 9	**Midterm Exams**
12	**Doctoral Submissions for October Defenses Due @ 6:00 PM CST (2nd Time) Chairs must submit to Dr. Hines**
9	**1st Defense Results Shared**
15-16	**Fall Break**
21	**Doctoral Approved Defense List and Schedule Shared (2nd Time)**
22, 23, 26, 27	**Comprehensive Exam (WRITTEN)**
28 and 29	**Doctoral Defenses (2nd Time)**
30	**2nd Doctoral Defense Results Shared**
November	
2	**2027 Spring & Summer Registration Begins**
2	**2nd Doctoral Defense Results Shared**
6	**Written Comprehensive Exam Results**
11 and 12	**Oral Exams | Comprehensive**
16	Last Day to Withdraw from Fall Courses or the University
26 - 27	Thanksgiving Holiday
30	**Final Exams Begin for Fall 2026 Candidates**
December	
2	**Last Day of Final Exams for Fall 2026 Candidates**
2-4	Concentrated Study Period
4	Last Day of Classes
4	Final Grades Due for Fall 2026 Graduates
7-11	**Final Exams**
14	Final Grades Due
17	Fall Graduate Commencement
18	Fall Undergraduate Commencement
23-31	Winter Break (University Closed)