The MiraCosta College academic year shall consist of at least 175 days of instruction and evaluation. Primary terms of the academic year are fall and spring semesters, each consisting of at least 17.5 weeks. Fall semester is the first semester of the academic year. Ten of the 175 days are flexible-calendar days.

The process for determining the academic calendar shall be as follows:

A. In early spring semester, the Academic Affairs Committee proposes an academic calendar to the Academic Senate Council for the year following the next academic year.

B. In March, the Academic Senate Council approves the recommended academic calendar.

C. In April, the superintendent/president submits the Academic Senate's recommended academic calendar to the Board of Trustees for approval.

D. By the second Tuesday of May, the Board of Trustees adopts the academic calendar for the year following the next academic year.

Legally mandated holidays observed in the academic calendar include:

- New Year's Day (January 1)
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (third Monday in January)
- Lincoln Day (February 12 or see note below)
- Washington Day (third Monday in February)
- Memorial Day (last Monday in May)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day (first Monday in September)
- Veterans Day (November 11 or see note below)
- Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November)
- Christmas Day (December 25)

Other holidays approved by the Board of Trustees include:

- Friday after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve
- New Year's Eve
- One week of spring break, to be scheduled for the week following the eighth week of instruction in spring semester, including Friday of that week as a local holiday.
The Board of Trustees may declare other days to be holidays and close the college sites and offices when good reason exists.

Note: Refer to Education Code §79020 for laws regulating the scheduling of Lincoln Day, Veterans Day, and holidays that fall on weekends.