

## Four Day Weeks - 2012

In 2012 I have only revisited the schools with the lowest percentage of class on Friday in 2011. There were some substantial changes, some good and some bad. We can start with the bad. See the [2011 memo](#) for preliminary discussion.

The four-day week is closest to realization among the Claremont schools. The farthest gone there is [Pitzer](#). In fall 2011, less than 10 percent of its courses met on Friday. The proportion was .094. For Fall 2012, there are 21 of 192 that meet on Friday, 10.9 percent, slight improvement. The other Claremont schools proportions were somewhat higher in 2011, but they now approach Pitzer's level. [Claremont McKenna](#) was .229 in 2011 but is .124 in 2012. [Pomona](#) was .242 in 2011 but is .186 in 2012. [Scripps](#) was .243 in 2011 but is .118 in 2012). It appears that these other Claremont schools have rapidly slide into the four-day week mode.

The lowest proportion in fall 2012 goes to [Hampshire College](#). The proportion there was .138 in 2011, but it is now .084 (13/154). Fortunately, the other four-day schools in this region have not fared so badly. [Mount Holyoke](#) had a proportion of .219 in 2011, but is up to .263 in fall 2012. [Connecticut College](#) is also up a little (.206 in 2011 and .221 in 2012). But [Bowdoin](#) is down (.205 in 2011 and .168 in 2012). [Vassar](#) is virtually unchanged (.197 in 2011 and .198 in 2012). So the "five college" region is not much changed.

The Philadelphia region is another mixed bag. Here the worst offenders in 2011 were Haverford and Bryn Mawr. [Haverford](#) got worse (.249 in 2011 to .213 in 2012) and [Bryn Mawr](#) stayed the same (.243 in both years). [Muhlenberg](#) slipped a little (.271 in 2011 to .246 in 2012). [Swarthmore](#) was above 30 percent for F11, but in F10 they were below it (.260) and now they are again (.252). [Moravian](#) is a bright spot with .239 in 2010 and .424 now in 2012. Aside from these schools there is only one other in the 2010 US News Top 125 that has less than 30 percent of its courses with a class on Friday. [Birmingham-Southern](#) had a proportion of .255 in 2011 but it has crept up to .290 in 2012.

So, we see ebb and flow of classes on Friday in the worst regions in the East. The Claremont schools seem to have all but abandoned Friday as a class day.

I'll finish, as I did in the [2011 memo](#), by emphasizing that faculty don't have to have the traditional MWF schedules to have class on Friday. They can still meet only twice a week by shifting a good portion of their MW classes to either MF, WF or TF as some schools have. That will require a larger portion of the students and faculty to come to school on Friday, which may not be popular, but would be good for the quality of education. After all, students won't have a 4-day week when they get out in the real world. As I've grown older I appreciate that a primary purpose of college is identify young people who will function well in the real world. Why should we have colleges that are less like the real world than they need to be?