

Wednesday Extended Common Hour (noon – 12:50) Guidance for Use from APEX Implementation Working Group

The purpose of the extended common hour is to provide students access to required APEX-aligned events, experiential opportunities, and CIE common events.

In response to faculty concerns of event creep, overscheduling, and student unavailability, we are offering this guidance for 2026-27 use of the common hour.

Scheduling and Clarity of Messaging

There are 2 distinct time slots during this time.

- noon-1:20 “Common Hour”
- 1:30-2:50 “Apex Block”

The Provost’s Office coordinates use of these time slots for:

- Noon-1:20 Common Hour: Faculty meetings or Provost Office scheduled Common hours (open to faculty and staff on pedagogy, CIE discussions, TLI workshops, APEX or core discussions)
- 1:30 -2:50 APEX Block: CIE common events, Required APEX-050 or -051 events, hub/center events

The provost’s office will create a shared calendar for these events. The link to the calendar will be included in the beginning of term memos and on the Provost’s Office resource page.

APEX Block student events by year:

- First years:
 - Required CIE common events
 - Required APEX-50/-51 events
 - Hub/Center events
- Sophomores-Seniors
 - Apex-200/PBL workshops or collaboration on occasion
 - Hub/Center events
 - Time for research or other experiential learning opportunities; if possible, build in some flexibility so that these meetings can be occasionally rescheduled if they conflict with relevant one-off hub or other events.
 - Upperclassmen focused events such as CPD workshops

To facilitate availability of students for participation in APEX Block

- Student clubs: The noon-1:20 common hour is available to be used by student clubs and organizations. The 1:30-2:50 APEX Block should be reserved for APEX-aligned activities so that they are able to fully participate.
- Athletics: There are no official practices scheduled during the Wednesday 12-2:50 block. Athletics and coaches are aware that this time is reserved for APEX events. Coaches will reiterate that the 1:30-2:50 APEX Block should not be used for student-led practices.