

Contracts ^[1]

Need help choosing the faculty contract payment schedule that works best for you? We can help.

Academic year and pay schedules differ, based on your campus.

- CU Boulder and CU Colorado Springs contracts start payment the first day of the academic year in August, and end payment on the last day of the academic year in May.
- CU Denver sets up contracts to pay from Sept. 1 to May 31.
- All campuses allow the option to be paid over 12 months.

Learn more about pay schedule options below.

Academic Year Pay Schedule

An Academic Year Pay Schedule is based on the academic year and will pay according to your campus guidelines.

CU Denver

You will be paid one-ninth of your contract each month from September through May. Your contract will be paid in full at the end of May. You will receive no pay in June, July or August.

Use our [contract calculator](#) ^[2] to see if this option is best for you.

CU Boulder and CU Colorado Springs

The academic year salary will be paid from Aug. 31 through May 31.

August pay is a prorated gross amount of the academic year salary based on the August start date.

September through April will pay equal gross amounts of the academic year salary.

May will pay a prorated gross amount of the academic year salary based on the May academic year-end date.

Use our [contract calculator](#) ^[2] to see if this option is best for you.

12-Month Pay Schedule

If you select the 12-Month Pay Schedule, you will be paid over 12 months. Your contract will pay according to your campus guidelines.

CU Denver

If you select this schedule, you will receive 12 equal payments of your contracted academic year salary, which is paid from Sept. 30 to Aug. 31.

Some faculty may not be eligible to enroll in this pay schedule. Please see [Tax Considerations for the 12-Month Pay Schedule](#) below to learn more.

CU Boulder and CU Colorado Springs

Academic year salaries will be paid from Aug. 31 of the beginning year through Aug. 31 of the following year.

In August, you will be paid a prorated gross amount of the prior year's contract accrual based on the mid-August end date, in addition to the prorated gross amount of the new academic year contract based on the August start date.

From September to July, you will receive equal gross amounts of the academic year salary.

Some faculty may not be eligible to enroll in this pay schedule. Please see [Tax Considerations for the 12-Month Pay Schedule](#) below to learn more.

Contract Selection Resources

Tax Considerations for the 12-Month Pay Schedule

Consideration one: Payments on this schedule paired with additional summer pay may be taxed at a higher rate because the two values are combined for tax purposes.

Consideration two: 12-Month Pay Schedule contracts result in pay being deferred into the following tax year. For this reason, this contract type is restricted to faculty whose combined 12-Month Pay Schedule does not exceed the limits defined in [Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code regarding Deferred Compensation](#) [3].

Before selecting a 12-Month Pay Schedule, verify that you are under the allowable deferred compensation with out Contract Calculator [2].

Select your Schedule

Returning Faculty Payment Schedule Selection?

From May to June of each year, you will have the opportunity to change your payment schedule for the new academic year in your employee portal. If you make no changes, your payment schedule will remain the same.

To view specific election dates and learn how to access contract pay elections, view our guide [4].

New Faculty Payment Schedule Selection

You may select an Academic Year Pay Schedule or 12-Month Pay Schedule.

If you do not choose a schedule, it will default to an Academic Year Pay Schedule. If you have questions about contract payment options or the appropriate form [5] to make your election, please contact your department liaison or Human Resources office.

Restrictions

Your contract election must be made before the start of the applicable academic year. Your election is irrevocable; it may only be changed before the start of each academic year.

Compensation Changes

Contracts for academic year faculty are generally updated in August. Mid-year contract compensation changes will affect remaining payments. Changes made to the full contract amount during the contract period will change future payments to ensure accuracy.

If you have questions about new academic year compensation, please contact your department.

Leave

If you're on an academic year contract, you will not accrue vacation leave.

However, you may be eligible for sick leave under certain circumstances. See the Faculty Handbook [6] for guidelines and contact your department.

Groups audience:

Employee Services

Right Sidebar:

ES: Payroll Contact

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Links

[1] <https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/payroll/pay/contracts>

[2] <https://www.cu.edu/docs/contract-proration-calculator>

[3] <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/frequently-asked-questions-sec-409a-and-deferred-compensation>

[4] <https://www.cu.edu/docs/contract-elections-guide>

[5] <https://www.cu.edu/docs/information-9-pay-12-faculty-election>

[6] <https://www.cu.edu/oaa/faculty-affairs/faculty-handbook>