

January 2026

What is the AFA?

It's your union, protecting and fighting for the rights of all adjunct faculty members. We are affiliated with the Illinois Education Association, a state affiliate of the National Education Association. Visit <https://oaktonadjuncts.com> for more information and how to join.

SPRING 2026 Payroll Dates

1/30, 2/13, 2/27, 3/13, 3/27, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22

Non-instructional pay is typically delayed. Union dues are deducted from the 4th and 5th paychecks.

Oakton Board of Trustees Meetings for Spring 2026

1/20, 2/17, 3/17, 4/21, 5/26
all at 6:00 in the DP Board Rm

AFA Board Meetings

Friday mornings Time TBA

AFA Open Office Hours

TBA



Welcome back from that well deserved break! Here's what you need to know:

The **All Adjunct Faculty Meeting** meets on [Zoom](#) on Wednesday, January 14th from 4 to 5:15 pm. Join your colleagues to learn what is happening.

The **Orientation Week Package** is worth .081 LHE's if you attend at least 3 hours of Orientation Week sessions per articles 3.4B and 10.4 of our [new contract](#). The focus of this year's Orientation Week is federal accessibility requirements for all online materials and how instructors can meet those requirements. The keynote address on Monday, January 12th, from 12:30 - 2pm will be held via Zoom and led by [YuJa](#) (a provider of cloud-based digital compliance and accessibility solutions). This software, Panorama, will be used by the college to assist in making online materials more accessible to all students. Viewing the Zoom session will be available in the gym at Des Plaines, in adjunct faculty offices, or off-campus. You can also view it later in a recording.

Submit the [commitment form](#) to your division **by Friday of Orientation Week, January 16.**

Commit to attending 6 meetings over the course of the semester for .25 LHE's. Your division meeting during Orientation Week is mandatory – that is the first of your 6 meetings. You are paid .027 LHE/hour for attending. Then attend 5 more; eligible meetings include

- the division meetings,
- monthly department meetings,
- Oakton Board of Trustees meetings,
- On-line Learning meetings, special academic program meetings such as Great Books or WGSS
- Open houses,
- Career Night/fairs
- Futures Unlimited, and
- commencement.

You need to submit [the commitment form](#) by the end of the term's second week, **Jan 23.**

Your union negotiated making this variety of meetings eligible for the six-meeting commitment in this last contract. Keep track of the dates and meetings that you attend as you'll need to submit a form at the end of the semester in May. See section 3.4A of the [AFA Contract](#) for more information.

You can still sign up to participate in the [Persistence Project](#). The first 100 adjuncts to [sign up](#) will receive \$1250 as compensation per our contract (see Article 10.3G in [our contract](#)); there are still seats left. Questions? Email persistenceprojectmail@oakton.edu

Summer is Around Corner: Preference Forms Needed!

You should have received a notice from your dean reminding you to submit Preference Forms for the summer term. Submit them no later than **Jan. 23**. Normally "chairs/coordinators provide notice of assignments to at least 80% of adjuncts who submitted scheduling preference form" by Feb. 9. Finally, "no later than two calendar weeks after receiving course assignment offer," adjunct faculty need to accept or decline the assignment.

Check with your office staff make sure you have enough "room" in your LHE's to do summer work.

Staff Colleagues Need Our Support

Our staff colleagues are in the midst of contract negotiations and need our support. *Check off one of those 6 meetings* you have committed to and attend the January 20 Board of Trustees meeting. *Wear red* to show them (and the Board) our support.

Did you know...?

If one of your **classes has been withdrawn or canceled**, you will be compensated for the work you put into it. If this has happened 3 to 10 calendar days before your class starts, you are entitled to \$160 per section. If the class has been withdrawn or canceled less than 3 days prior to the start, you are entitled to \$225.

If you lost a class through reassignment, the material you created for it is yours. You will be given **24 hours' notice prior** to the reassignment so that you can remove your customized/proprietary content from the D2L course shell. See Article 2.5D of the contract.

Adjuncts have free access to the **Fitness Center**. See 10.5C of [our contract](#).

Join the **Mentorship Program**. Be a mentor and teach the ropes at Oakton to a new adjunct here for .15 LHE per mentee. New and need some guidance here? Be mentored by an experienced adjunct. You'll earn .15 LHE at the completion of the mentorship. The mentorship program requires 6 contact hours.

Have you been approached by an **Honors student** in your class who would like to sign an Honors contract with you? You will earn 1/10 of the normal course pay (see article 2.5 of [our contract](#)).

You Can Take Classes at Oakton for Free

You (or your significant other or children that reside with you) can take up to four free classes during Spring or Fall term. After registering for a class, send [this waiver](#) to HR. ([see Article 10.5D](#))

Have You Traveled Between Campuses?

If you had to travel between campuses on the same day for either classes or meetings, you are eligible for travel reimbursement for each one-way trip between campuses. Submit a travel expense [report](#) for Fall travel to your division office now.

There are a variety of (Paid) Faculty Seminars Being Offered This Term

[A Tutor That Speaks Every Language Your Students Do](#)

8 weeks; Hybrid/DP 1/23 10:30-11:30

[Best Practices to Boost Student Engagement in Online Classes](#)

6 weeks; asynchronous; 2/2 – 3/2

[Converting a 16-Week Course to 8-Week Course](#)

4 weeks; asynchronous; 2/16 - /5/13

[Small Teaching: Making small adjustments to your teaching for oversized effects](#)

8 weeks; in person DP; 2-4 Wednesdays beginning 1/23

[Understanding of Regular Substantive Interaction \(RSI\)](#)

4 weeks; asynchronous; 3/30 – 4/26

Keep in mind that the LHEs awarded for participation in these seminars counts toward your total LHE's. The 8-week seminars are .665 LHEs; the 6-week seminars are .5 LHE's.

Share What You Have Accomplished This Past Year

Have you achieved some special recognition this past year? Had some work published? Given a presentation? Learned a new skill? Got involved in a new project? OR just had a really great experience you'd like to share? Let's connect with each by sharing. Send [Linda Berendsen](#) a short blurb and some photos if you have them before Orientation Week so it can be published in the next newsletter.

