

FAQ:

What is LSUS @ccelerated?

LSUS @ccelerated is a new delivery method for offering classes in a more flexible format for students. Instead of offering a Fall and Spring comprised of 16-week semesters, this new option will allow students to take classes during the Fall and Spring semesters in an 8-week accelerated format.

LSU Shreveport will be offering about 10% of its classes in this new format in the Fall of 2013. If we receive positive feedback from students about their experiences, then we will expand offerings campus-wide in the Fall of 2014.

Why is LSUS considering going to this format?

LSU Shreveport has offered classes in 8-week and even 4-week terms for years in the summer. We have heard increasing demands from students for additional opportunities in the Fall and Spring semesters. With this format, we are responding to two different kinds of requests over the years.

First, for students who are focused on completing their degrees as rapidly as possible, an accelerated format will allow them to finish more quickly. If a student takes three classes per term, he or she will complete 12 classes in a year: Fall Term A (3 classes), Fall Term B (3 classes), Spring Term A (3 classes), Spring Term B (3 classes). If this is done each year for three years, 36 classes will be completed, and most of the degrees at LSUS are completed with 40 classes. If such a student takes a few summer courses and/or brings a few hours in dual enrollment to LSU Shreveport, the entire “four year degree” can be achieved in just three years. This will allow for minimal indebtedness and rapid entry into the workforce.

If a student wishes to take just 2 classes per term in the Fall and Spring (12 hours a semester), he or she can pick up 2 classes in each of the four-week summer terms and still complete 36 classes in three years.

Second, this new format will also be beneficial for another group of students. If a student struggles in a class during the first 8-week term, he or she will be able to drop that class and pick up another one when the second 8-week term begins later in the semester. Such possibilities will allow greater flexibility for students who are required to be enrolled full time at 12 hours a semester.

Who benefits from this new schedule?

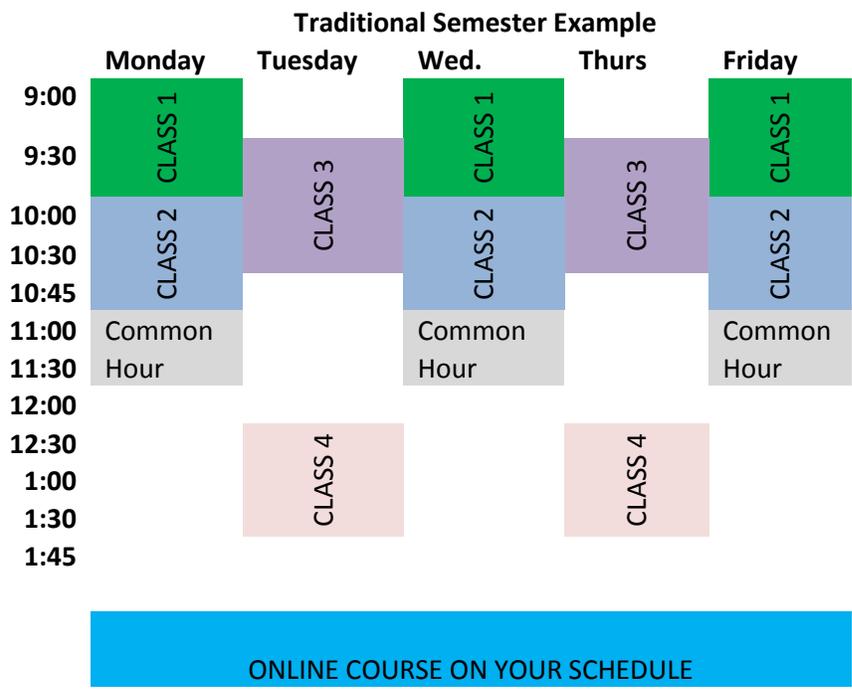
Students who:

- Want to complete a college degree rapidly.
- Want to double major and still finish a degree in four years.
- Find a focused and compressed course format more effective for learning. Many students are more successful in the focused 8-week format and when taking a smaller number of classes at any one time.
- Have jobs that are seasonal in nature and want to focus their semester during different points of the year. For example, a student who has a job that gets especially busy in November and December might elect to take three courses in Fall A and only one in Fall B.
- Have expected life events that occur well into the semester (a job transfer, a marriage, a birth). Such students will be able to take an 8-week course rather than skipping an entire 16-week semester.
- Want to spread their book purchases over the beginning of two terms rather than purchasing all of their books at the beginning of the 16-week semester.
- Want to take certain classes in one semester. For example, some areas such as foreign languages or math are best taken closely together in time.
- Want to take a requisite sequence in one semester: e.g. English 105 (Composition I) and English 115 (Composition II).

How does this new format compare to the current 16-week semester?

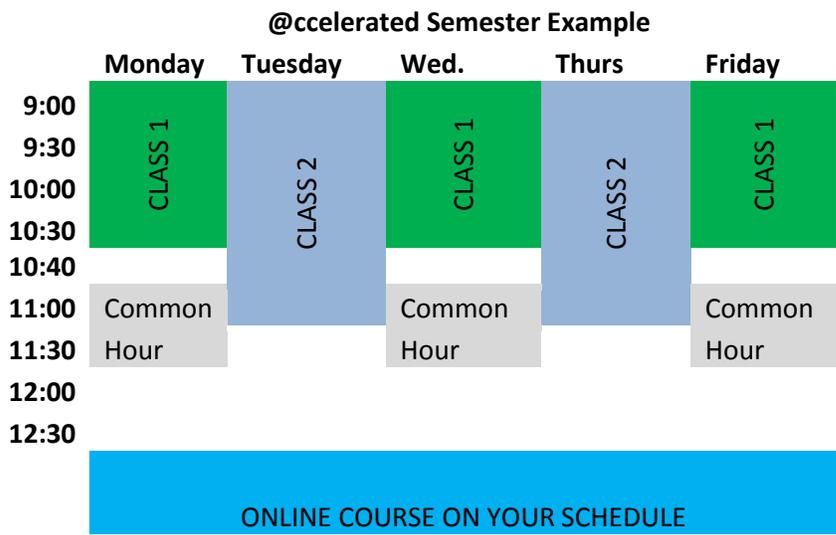
There will be fewer classes per term, and each period will be longer. Instead of taking 4 classes at a time for a 12 credit hour load, a student would take 2 classes per term. Each class will be 300 minutes per week. A MWF class would be 1 hour and 40 minutes long and meet three times per week. A TR class would be 2 hours and 30 minutes in length and meet twice per week.

For comparison, consider a student taking 15 hours in the current format, with one being an online class. The schedule might look something like this:



15 hrs per semester

Under the proposed model, the same student could take three classes in the first 8-week term followed by another three classes in the second 8-week term for a total of 18 hours.



9 hrs per term = 18 hrs per semester

Isn't this the same thing as the quarter system?

Although both systems offer courses over a compressed period of time, the accelerated format is different from the quarter system in several important ways.

- The quarter system offers courses over a 10-week period, while the accelerated format is only 8 weeks.
- The quarter system offers classes in four distinct terms that do not fit in well with transferring to or from other institutions – they start before or end after the normal semester system. Since we serve many students who transfer to LSU Shreveport, we want to make that transfer process as easy as possible and thus are keeping the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.
- Once a quarter has begun, students must stick with their courses for the length of the 10-week quarter. In the accelerated model, students can drop a class in term A and pick up a new course in term B.

How will night classes be affected by this format?

Night classes will have several options. One option is to meet once a week face to face and then have a significant online component to the class (a hybrid model). Another option is to have the classes meet twice a week for 8 weeks.

Will all classes be going to this format?

No, not all classes. If student response is positive to this new format, then most classes will operate on an 8-week term in the Fall of 2014. Some classes may be unable to be offered in this compressed format and will be split across two 8-week terms.

How will this affect the summer schedule?

At this point, the summer schedule will remain the same: an 8-week long semester divided into two 4-week terms.

How will classes in this new format fit into work schedules?

This new approach should offer students equal or greater flexibility to take classes in ways that best fit their schedules.

Will we have more online options in this new format?

In an attempt to meet the needs of our students for increased scheduling flexibility, LSU Shreveport is offering more online courses than ever before. We anticipate that this format will allow more classes to be offered in both the hybrid and 100% online format.

How will this affect financial aid?

LSU Shreveport Financial Aid has worked very hard to make sure that this delivery method will not adversely affect student financial aid.

How will the @ccelerated format impact my plans to transfer from or to another institution?

This new format fits in well with students who are planning to transfer from or to another institution. Since we are keeping the underlying traditional semester format, students will be able to transfer both to and from LSU Shreveport as they always have done.

Will this new format make my classes more difficult?

The format will not affect expected outcomes for classes. Just like summer terms and online classes, we will be offering courses in a variety of delivery methods in order to meet the different needs of our students. We are not changing the content of the classes.

Will this have an impact on breaks?

We will still offer Spring Break and the normal variety of various holiday breaks. For the Spring semester, there will be a week break between the 8-week semesters.

Is this related to LSU 2015?

LSU 2015 was initiated by the LSU Board of Supervisors and is unrelated to LSUS @ccelerated. We have had discussions with the LSU System and they are very interested to see how this approach might offer an area of distinction for LSU Shreveport. For more information, see the [LSU 2015 website](#).