

## CHANGE YOUR DESTINY . . . 8 WEEK SESSIONS AT FLETCHER

Beginning fall 2022, Fletcher is offering all the required courses for most majors in 8-week sessions both online and face-to-face!

### Why 8-week sessions?

**8 week sessions** reduce the number of courses that a full-time student will be taking at any given moment. The classes will meet more hours per week, but for fewer weeks. And students will typically take only two at a time, so they won't divide their attention among four or five classes, like they do in a regular semester. There is an argument for a traditional semester when a person is a full time student living on campus, but it's not unusual for a community college student to have multiple jobs and a family. If you are holding down a job and have one child plus five classes -that is a lot to manage at one time. Reduce that class load to 2 classes each session and life becomes a little more manageable. Fewer, shorter, more intense classes offer the possibility of increased **focus!**

Eight week sessions also allow more **flexibility** and opportunities for success when life gets in the way. In a traditional semester, if a student starts taking five classes in September and a life event causes one to have to drop out of school, the student walks away with nothing and has to start from scratch the following semester. In the eight week format, the student will have already completed classes for the first half of the semester. With a traditional semester, if a student needs to take a break for personal reasons, the student will need to wait four months before getting back on track. Eight week sessions offer **more entry points** for getting back to school. Completions come more quickly and more often.

IN SUMMARY- students are able to focus on fewer classes at a time, focus more intently on difficult subjects, have more entry points for taking classes so they can stay on track to graduate, and transfer more quickly into a 4-year university if desired.

Studies show that students taking 8-Week courses improve student success rates. [http://www.afa-srjc.org/senate\\_AustinGustafson.pdf](http://www.afa-srjc.org/senate_AustinGustafson.pdf)

### What do the different sessions mean?

A session is a name for the 8-week duration of a course(s). There will be 5 sessions during the calendar year:

Session 1 and Session 2 = fall 16-week term

Session 3 and Session 4 = spring 16-week term

Session 5 = summer term

## How does an 8-week schedule differ from a 16-week schedule?

This schedule splits the traditional 16-week semester into two, shorter 8-week sessions. With 8-week courses, students will spend the same number of hours in the classroom in half the time of a traditional 16-week course.

Sample schedule:

EXAMPLESCHEDULE FOR 8 WEEK SESSIONS				EXAMPLE SCHEDULE FOR 16 WEEK SEMESTER	
Session 1 FALL	Session 2 FALL	Session 3 SPRING	Session 4 SPRING	FALL SEMESTER	SPRING SEMESTER
ENGL 1000 MATH 1213	ACCT 2100 CPTR 1100 KYBD 1100	CINS 1350 BUSN 1050	BUSN 1100 KYBD1200	ENGL 1000 MATH 1213 ACCT 2100 CPTR 1100 KYBD 1100	CINS 1350 BUSN 1050 BUSN 1100 KYBD 1200
6 HOURS	9 HOURS	6 HOURS	6 HOURS	15 HOURS	12 HOURS
CREDITS EARNED FOR SESSIONS: 27				CREDITS EARNED FOR SEMESTERS: 27	

This scheduling model gives students added flexibility when planning out their semester, and especially benefits students who cannot commit to an entire 16 weeks for their coursework. This includes: students who arrive to Fletcher late in the semester, students with seasonal jobs, students with planned extended absences during either half of the semester, and more.

## What is considered a full load?

Students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours in a 16-week term are considered full-time. Those 12 hours can be divided up between the sessions to meet student needs (for example, 9 credit hours in Session 1 and 3 credit hours in Session 2; or 6 credit hours in each Session). Students cannot enroll in more than 9 credit hours per Session without approval.

## How will class schedules change for part-time students?

Part-time students may be able to increase the number of classes they take each semester. For example, a student who currently takes two classes per semester may find that they are able to concentrate on two classes per *session* instead, thus completing their program faster.

## How many hours must I enroll in to be eligible for financial aid?

Most types of financial aid require at least half-time enrollment. Financial aid eligibility will be calculated based on your enrollment for the entire 16-week semester, and not each 8-week session individually.

**If I plan to enroll in only one 8-week session this term, may I still receive financial aid?**

Financial aid will be calculated based on your total enrollment within a defined 16-week semester, so you will have to be enrolled at least half-time for the **full** semester (6 hours) or half-time for **each** session (3 hours) to be eligible for loans.

**How will my enrollment impact my financial aid eligibility?**

Financial aid will be adjusted according to actual enrollment at the census date (usually 7<sup>th</sup> calendar day) of each 8-week session prior to disbursement.

**Will all of my financial aid be disbursed at the beginning of the semester or at the beginning of each 8-week session?**

Financial aid will be disbursed after the census date of each 8-week session. Financial aid may only be disbursed according to what you are eligible for (based on enrollment) at the time of disbursement.

**What are the advantages for taking 8-week courses vs 16 week courses?**

<b>8-WEEK COURSES</b>	<b>16-WEEK COURSES</b>
Shorter time frame for completing courses -	Longer time frame for completing courses
Empowers you to go from part-time to full-time status (can take 2 classes each 8-week session to be considered full-time)	Trying to balance 4 classes at a time (12 credits) with work, family and other responsibilities often requires students to go from full-time to part-time status.
FOCUS on fewer subjects at a time	Must take 12 credits at a time to remain full time
Spend more concentrated time with fewer professors	Spread concentration among at least 4 classes and professors over longer time period
Flexibility – can match course schedule to life events (take 2 classes each 8-week session or take 3 classes one 8-weeks; 1 class the next – and you’ll still be full-time!)	Must take 12 credits at a time to be full-time
Stay on track – don’t have to wait a full semester to start taking classes again	If you have to drop early in a semester must wait longer to begin again
Faster-paced – no time to procrastinate	More moderately paced – easily leads to procrastination
Assignments more concentrated (easier to remember content from beginning of session for final exams)	Assignments spread out (harder to retain what you learned at the beginning of the semester for final exams)
Requires a more structured study regimen	Allows for a more flexible study regimen
Averages 3-4 lessons per week	Averages 1-2 lessons per week
More hours of class time per week for each class (but fewer classes)	Less hours of class time per week for each class (but more classes)
Some students may be able to complete more courses each semester than in a traditional 16-week course schedule, which will lead you to earning your degree FASTER!	

### How often will these courses be offered and how do I know what to take?

The 2022-23 Fletcher Catalog has a description of each program of study offered by Fletcher. This description includes a listing of courses required and the sessions in which the courses will be offered. Timing of these Sessions are as follows:

Session	Time of year
1	First half of traditional Fall Semester (typically August)
2	Second half of traditional Fall Semester (typically October)
3	First half of traditional Spring Semester (typically January)
4	Second half of traditional Spring Semester (typically March)
5	During the Summer

The Catalog description also offers a number of “suggested schedules” for completion such as a full time Schedule with no summer classes for students who must take the co-requisite classes in Math and English; a full time schedule with no summer classes, and a “Fast Track” schedule for students wanting to complete their degree requirements as quickly as possible. These are suggested schedules ONLY – a student has the flexibility to take up to three classes per session but can vary their load to meet their life events.