

The Case for Short Sessions

eCore began offering short session (8-week) versions of courses in Summer 2012 (FY 2013) and has steadily increased the number of course sections offered in the 8-week format beginning with 3 sections in the first summer, to 39 sections (including Spanish and Calculus I) in Spring 2014, almost doubling in Spring 2015 to 71 short session course sections offered, and 133 short sessions in Spring 2016.

In FY2015, the Summer 2014 session became all 8-week delivery. In addition to reducing confusion in summer registration for either 8-week or 10-week version of the courses, the summer switch also created an ancillary improvement in instructional design and faculty support, given that eCore courses need to be delivered only in 8-week and 16-week versions. All courses with the exception of the 4-hour lab sciences are now offered in both 8-week and 16-week delivery.

Short Sessions offer a flexible alternative for the student who may be impeded by a full 16-week time commitment. This can often translate to improved success because the student has a shorter time commitment, may be registered in fewer hours during the short session, probably has a higher

concentration of study time, and may have an academic incentive to complete quickly, such as meeting up with a cohort or graduating on time.

Short Session I course students will typically outperform Full and Short Session II performance.

For FY 2016, eCore delivered 356 short session course sections compared to 372 full session course sections.

For FY 2016, the highest successful course completion occurred in Summer 2015 Short I, at 77.60%. The second highest successful course completion occurred in Spring 2016 Short I, at 77.21%.

Successful Course Completion (A-B-C Grades) by Session Type FY 2016

Each year, the enrollment ratio in full-to-short session sections is tracked, starting with a ratio of 8.2 in FY2013. By FY2016, the ratio of full-to-short session enrollment has dropped to 1.2 and is rapidly approaching 1.0. A ratio of 1:1 (1.0) means the enrollment will become equivalent in a FY between full session and short session deliveries.

FY 2016 Performance by Age Bracket

