



Time Use and Course Schedules Review

Context

CU Denver teaches to a predominantly commuter, working student population. The need to work while attending college predictably conflicts with and imposes hardship on the affected learners and instructors. Given CU Denver's aspiration to make education work for all, it is imperative that we rethink and adapt the inherited Carnegie-inspired academic calendar cycles and instructional time grids to meet the multitasking needs of our student populations, in a way that is financially affordable, flexible, and work-life-balance-friendly to all of our learners without compromising academic rigor and quality.

Taking the needs of diverse learners into account, this working group will explore the following questions:

- Is the organization of classes that we currently have meeting learner needs?
- Are there ways to better utilize summer, evening, and weekend schedules to better support our learners' schedules and time to graduation?
- What does our data on classroom availability tell us about students' current scheduling needs?
- What does our data regarding online course engagement tell us about our students' needs for flexibility in course scheduling?

Goal

Explore possibilities for re-envisioned course schedules and instructional time grids that optimize use of learner and instructor time, and account for campus-wide learner supports.

Charge

This working group will study carefully the constraints imposed on the academy by federal financial aid access considerations, credit-hour definition and requirements for accreditation, and other relevant concerns. With these variables in mind, the working group will make recommendations for changes to course schedules and instructional time grids in a manner that allows us to be responsive to the time management and financial needs of our students.

Deliverables

A report detailing factors to consider, justification for each factor, and data sources that feed into a re-envisioned course schedules. This report should include a description of how these changes fit into or depart from already-established structures.

Timeline

April 15, 2024, report due.