



**GREAT FALLS COLLEGE**  
**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

# **8 WEEK ADVANTAGE**

**GREAT FALLS COLLEGE | MSU**

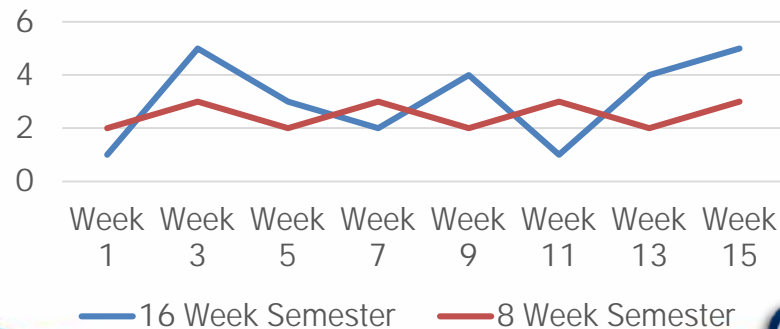
Dr. Leanne Frost – Director of General Studies  
Troy Stoddard – Director of Advising



# Advantages to 8-Week Schedule

## Goal: Increase retention and completion

- Greater immersion in course material
- Increased student focus when taking fewer courses at one time
- Faster completion of prerequisite requirements
- Easier to recover when outside factors impact schooling
- Better able to manage taking more credits





**GREAT FALLS COLLEGE**  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

8-Week Block A

8-Week Block B

16-Week Semester  
*(There will be a one week break  
between blocks.)*



# Sample student schedule (16 credits)

Fall A		Fall B	
MTWR 10:15-11:30	CAPP 131 MS Office (3 credits)	MTWR 10:15-11:30	COMX 115 Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)
F 10:15 – 11:55	COLS 101 Becoming a Successful Student (1 credit)	MTWR 11:45 -1:00	PHL 110 Introduction to Ethics (3 credits)
MTWR 1:15-2:30	WRIT 101 College Writing (3 credits)	MWF 1:00 - 2:40	M 121 College Algebra (3 credits)





# GREAT FALLS COLLEGE MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

## 8 WEEK ADVANTAGE DUAL ENROLLMENT

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Beginning fall semester 2018, most of our classes will be only eight weeks long. **HOW CAN DUAL ENROLLMENT STUDENTS GET THE MOST OF THE 8-WEEK ADVANTAGE?**

**The flexible schedule ADVANTAGE**

Plan your classes based on your extracurricular schedule. For example, if you play a sport during the first 8 weeks of the semester, you can take dual enrollment classes during the second 8 weeks.

**The fast-it-seriously ADVANTAGE**

Successful dual enrollment students are the ones who are **motivated and willing to work hard**. The 8-Week Advantage allows students to focus on content and complete college classes in less time.

**The fast-paced look ADVANTAGE**

In an 8-week course, fast-paced look at content. You can decide if more classes are different the next semester.

2100 18th Ave. S., Great Falls, MT | 406.268.3790 | gfcmsu.edu | dual

## DUAL ENROLLMENT

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Get a jump start on your college degree with dual enrollment

**SAVE MONEY**

High school students receive half price tuition through Great Falls College MSU's Dual Enrollment program.

**SAVE TIME**

Get a jump start on your college degree while still in high school.

**EASE IN**

Get an introduction to college life in a familiar, supportive atmosphere.

**GREAT FALLS COLLEGE**  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

GET STARTED >> [www.gfcmsu.edu](http://www.gfcmsu.edu)

8-Week Advantage

Media Release

Frequently Asked Questions

Dual Enrollment FAQs

Contact Information:

**Leveli Card**  
606.016.0167  
406.273.4622  
levelicard@gfcmsu.edu

Great Falls College MSU is excited to announce, beginning fall semester 2018, the implementation of eight-week block schedules in most general studies courses, with all courses converted by fall semester 2019.

**8-Week Advantage**

What does this mean for you as a student?

- Complete or take 23 three classes per block
- Hands-on experience in class and more research opportunities
- More completion, saving time and money
- Connecting with other students in learning communities

One success at Great Falls College MSU is the goal. We are here to help you find your personal plan and path.

To learn more, schedule a meeting with your advisor. Advising is located in 922cc, at the top of the ramp across from the Academic Success Center. You can also call: 406.277-5100 or email [advising@gfcmsu.edu](mailto:advising@gfcmsu.edu).

If you have a specific question about the 8-Week Advantage, please email Leveli Card at [levelicard@gfcmsu.edu](mailto:levelicard@gfcmsu.edu).

If you have a confidential question, please use the submission form below.

**Block Scheduling Anonymous Question Form**

Submit a confidential question here.

Enter your question about Block Scheduling

# THE EIGHT-WEEK ADVANTAGE

GREAT FALLS COLLEGE | MSU

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS



### GET YOUR BOOKS BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS

Arrive or log in on your first day of class with your books in hand. In an 8-week course, your instructor will dive right into the material. Be prepared on your first day of class.

### GET INTO D2L RIGHT AWAY

D2L, the online learning management program, on the first day of class. You will find assignments, due dates, the syllabus, and other information there.



### DON'T FALL BEHIND

An 8-week course will move very quickly and cover a lot of material in a short amount of time. It's crucial to stay on top of your work. If you fall behind, it will be difficult to catch up.

### PREPARE YOURSELF FOR EACH CLASS

In an 8-week session, you'll only be able to take two or three courses. This will allow you to focus your attention on each class and dive into the material. You'll gain a deep understanding, rather than a shallow level knowledge.



### MAKE CONNECTIONS

In an 8-week course, you'll spend more time with your instructor and fellow students. This will allow you to build strong connections with your teachers and classmates. Form a study group or help quiz each other on course material.

### USE YOUR RESOURCES

The Academic Success Center offers free tutoring. The staff in the Weaver Library can help with research papers. If you're having trouble in a course, talk to your instructor right away. Every instructor has office hours, which are set times that students are welcome to stop by their office and ask for help. Instructors want to help you succeed. Don't be afraid to ask for their help.





# Faculty Experience

- Advantages
  - Faster completion of developmental coursework
  - Ability to receive extra assistance from Adult Education while still completing college level coursework
  - Option to complete courses in same subject area in same semester to meet program requirement more quickly
  - Additional support, such as embedded tutoring
- Challenges
  - Co-requisite courses will need to be redesigned, as well as redesign of developmental math sequence
  - Student “burnout” towards end of second 8-week
  - Changes to finals, since there will no longer be a finals week
  - Reading intensive courses will need to be redesigned



# Student Perspective

- Advantages
  - Opens up schedule to allow students to work
  - Easier to adjust to outside influences that impact academic success
- Disadvantages
  - Concerns about accelerated nature of some courses, especially in healthcare programs and science courses





**GREAT FALLS COLLEGE**  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Questions?